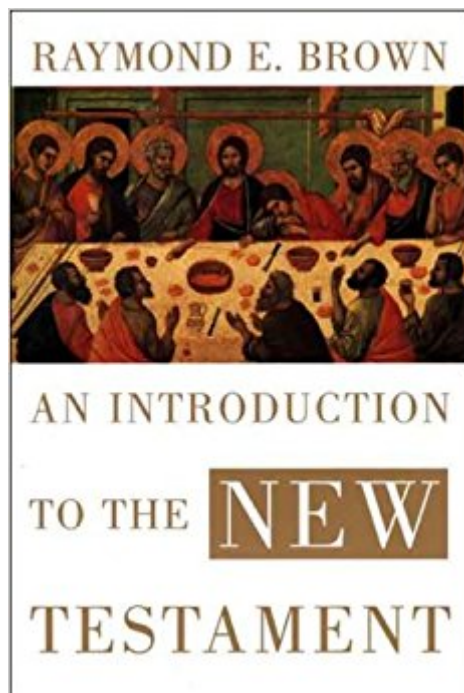




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# An Introduction To The New Testament (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library)



## Synopsis

From the experience of a lifetime of scholarship, preaching, teaching, and writing, Raymond E. Brown covers the entire scope of the New Testament with ease and clarity. He walks readers book by book through the basic content and issues of the New Testament. While a wealth of information is contained in these pages, the work's most impressive features are the basic summaries of each book, a historical overview of the ancient Greco-Roman world, discussions of key theological issues, and the rich supplementary materials, such as illustrative tables, maps, bibliographies, and appendixes. Using this basic data, Brown answers questions raised by today's readers, relates the New Testament to our modern world, and responds to controversial issues, such as those raised by the Jesus Seminar. Every generation needs a comprehensive, reliable Introduction to the New Testament that opens the biblical text to the novice. Raymond E. Brown's *An Introduction to the New Testament* is the most trustworthy and authoritative guidebook for a generation seeking to understand the Christian Bible. Universally acknowledged as the dean of New Testament scholarship, Father Brown is a master of his discipline at the pinnacle of his career. Who else could cover the entire scope of the New Testament with such ease and clarity? This gifted communicator conveys the heartfelt concern of a beloved teacher for his students, as he walks the reader through the basic content and issues of the New Testament. Those opening to the New Testament for the first time and those seeking deeper insights could not ask for more in a primer to the Christian Bible.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From its earliest days as a renegade religion in the Roman Empire through its various schisms and splits to present-day disagreements between Eastern Orthodox followers, Roman Catholics, and hundreds of different Protestant denominations, Christianity has been a source of great controversy--most of it centered on the reading of Scripture. There are those Christian conservatives who view the Bible as the literal word of God and the events detailed therein as historical fact. Other, more liberal Christians see the Good Book primarily as literature, a metaphor for how people should live. Mine the pages of the Biblical Archeological Review and you'll find scientists trying to prove or disprove the historical reality of Old and New Testament events and structures--everything from the Ark of the Covenant to King David's palace. In *An Introduction to the New Testament*, author Raymond E. Brown, a Catholic priest, ignores the swirl of conflict surrounding the Bible as historical artifact, concentrating instead on the message it contains. Father Brown analyzes each of the 27 books in the New Testament, devoting painstaking attention to sources, dates, and authorship, as well as commentary on the spiritual, historical, and thematic aspects. He believes that modern-day Bible readers can only interpret it within its historical context. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, read with a Bible in hand, can only enrich and deepen your understanding of that germinal religious text.

During his career, Brown (emeritus, biblical studies, Union Theological Seminary, New York) has enlightened and challenged scholars. Here he brings his extensive knowledge to bear in a volume primarily for beginners, though it will serve equally well those who are not. Because of the intended audience, he has made certain choices about content and form. First, he focuses on the established 27-book New Testament canon based upon the "wide agreement about the twenty-seven works to be included in a normative or canonical collection." Second, he deemphasizes the prehistory of the documents (sources, editions, and so forth) and emphasizes the documents in their canonical form. He begins most chapters with a "General Analysis of the Message" and addresses issues such as authorship, date, and composition afterward. So, for example, readers are helped to understand the individual messages of Matthew, Mark, and Luke without getting bogged down in the "synoptic problem." Due to his emphasis on the finished form of the New Testament documents, even those who disagree with some of the author's critical judgments will benefit from this volume. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. ?Craig W. Beard, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham

Not for the faint of heart. Brown is excellent and exhaustive. Definite value here for the serious student or scholar

It was very interesting to read a summary of scholarly thinking about the Bible written by someone who clearly believes in the Bible (Dr. Brown is a Catholic Priest). The questions raised in this book make me wonder how the spiritual/revelatory value of a book of scripture is affected if it turns out that the book was not written by the person tradition may claim was the author. For example, almost uniformly, Bible scholars do not believe that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews. Does Hebrews still have spiritual value to me if its author was someone whose identity is lost to the ages? I believe that it does. So long as that person was divinely inspired to write what he did in Hebrews, and God wanted Hebrews included within our canon of scripture, why does it matter who actually wrote it? The same thing goes for the letters to Timothy and Titus, although the question there is trickier because in those books, if we believe the vast majority of the Bible scholars, the pseudepigraphal author pretends to be Paul and was actually writing these letters many, many years after Paul's death. More troubling for me, however, as a believing Latter-day Saint, is the relatively uniform belief among Bible scholars that John -- the apostle who was the brother of James, sometimes called John the Beloved -- did not write the Gospel attributed to him or the Book of Revelation. There is at least one chapter in the Book of Mormon and a Section of the Doctrine and Covenants that demand that John be the author of those books. According to Dr. Brown, the scholarship on the authorship of John's Gospel and Revelation is not uniform, and thus, it could just be that most Bible scholars are wrong. Unfortunately, Dr. Brown's "Introduction" was not detailed enough -- even at 900 pages -- to allow me to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the several points of view on this issue. I need to get some more books . . .

This is a great commentary! Brown's work is exceptional because he fully explains scholarly arguments in detail rather than simply expecting his readers to accept the authority of academics. Ultimately, it offers his audience the freedom to develop their own hypothesis within the boundaries of good research. Out of all the commentaries, I have found this one to be the most useful for the students in my New Testament class at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Raymond Brown writes in a style anyone can understand. His style is appealing. He writes for every

person. His language is clear and unpretentious, but with the simple sophistication that theology and the study of Scriptures demand. When given the option between a Raymond Brown book and any other writer/theologian, you will never be sorry if you go with Raymond Brown.

For NT students, this text is invaluable. MUCH better than the NT overview text-Barnhart?- I read for EFM and the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. Brown's scholarship is incredible: this man knew his subject; anyone familiar with Brown and Fitzmeyer knows what I'm talking about. Even better than Vincent Taylor's Mark commentary (opinion) in that Brown knows his Greek as well, but gives more interesting exegesis of it in English.

Great scholarly presentation of a complex subject! I have gained a lot of theological insight that I had missed over the 30 years of church distilled dissemination of Bible related information. I now have a better sense of the time line of recorded data within the Bible. This should be a great textbook for a scholarly review of an introduction to the New Testament.

This book is not the New Testament but a study guide for an introduction to the NT. Father Brown provides detailed descriptions of socio-economic conditions of the people in those times. It is very clearly written and well organized. Highly recommend it for deepening your NT understanding.

This book is used as the text for a class I am taking in New Testament studies. I LOVE this text! It came highly recommended, and now I know why. Biblical Scholars, Professors of New Testament Studies, Priests and Seminarians all refer to Raymond E. Brown, when it comes to studying the New Testament. I cannot say enough good things about this book. It is informative, enlightening, and understandable. I am learning so much! May the Good Lord bless Raymond E. Brown!

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