

BIB213 “Background Paper” Select Bibliography

Library resources specifically focused on Backgrounds:

IVP Bible Background Commentary (NT)	R 225.95 K26 1993
IVP Bible Background Commentary (OT)	R 221.95 W239 2000
Dictionary of New Testament Background	R 225.9503 D554 2000
Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary	R 225.7 Z87 2002

Other helpful Bible Encyclopedias & Dictionaries in our Library:

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible	R 220.3 B167
Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible	R 220.3 E26d 2000
The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible	R 220.3 I61d
Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary	R 220.3 N432i 1986
New Bible Dictionary	R 220.3 N532b 1996
The New Unger's Bible Dictionary	R 220.3 U57n 1988
Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary	R 220.3 T299z
Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible	R 220.3 Z87
Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia	R 220.3 W977

Sample NT topics might include (but are not in any way limited to):

- **Samaritans:** Who were they, why did the Jews hate them, and how did Jesus treat them (perhaps with special focus on the Parable of the Good Oxymoron in Luke 10).
- **Heart:** What do the biblical authors mean when they speak of our “heart” and how does it compare to the way we view heart (emotions) and head (mind/reason) today? How does the “heart” in the Bible compare to other things like mind or spirit or soul?
- **Wine:** What was it in Bible times and how was it made? When and how was it used in Jewish and Greco-Roman culture?
- **Dead Sea Scrolls/Essenes:** What are they and where were they found and what is their significance for the reliability of the Old Testament? What is the importance of the group that wrote/collected these scrolls?
- **Feast of Passover:** What was it and how was it celebrated by Jews in the first century and how does this unique feast illuminate the Last Supper in the Gospels?
- **Slavery:** What was it, who were they, how many were they, and how was first century slavery similar to and/or different from slavery in America?
- **Stoic Philosophy:** What did these philosophers teach and where did they come from and how does a knowledge of them and their beliefs illuminate the NT (e.g., John's use of the Greek word *Logos* in John 1:1 or Paul's speech to the philosophers in Acts 17)?

Your emphasis is not to be on the text of Scripture so much as it is the **world** into which the text came. The more we know about that world (=historical context), the better we will ultimately understand God's word.