

A Guide to New Testament Background

This pathfinder for NT Background is based on resources in the Michigan Theological Seminary Library. It is intended to assist with initial research on NT Background. The MTS Library has a wealth of other resources in this field of study. Please visit the library during open hours or contact the library staff at (734) 207-9581 x-323 for further assistance.

General Historical-Cultural Background

- BS 2407 .B69 F. F. Bruce. *New Testament History*. (1969).
Bruce weaves the history of NT times into the larger fabric of the history of the Greco-Roman world insofar as the latter pertains to NT history.
- BS 2530 .E93 Craig A. Evans. *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies*. (2005).
An introduction to the various extra-biblical literature which informs New Testament interpretation, such as the Apocrypha, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.
- BS 2312 .D53 Craig A. Evans. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. (2000).
A wealth of Jewish and Greco-Roman background.
- BR 129 .F47 E. Ferguson. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (1987).
Helpful introduction, remarkably comprehensive and concise. The bibliography will guide the student to more detailed study in each area.
- BS 2555.2 .D53 Joel B. Green. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. (1992).
Bible-encyclopedia-length articles on subjects related to Jesus and the gospels contributed by evangelical scholars.
- BS 2650.2 .D53 Gerald F. Hawthorne. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. (1993).
Bible-encyclopedia-length articles on subjects related to Pauline literature and theology contributed by evangelical scholars.
- BS 2410 .J44 J. Jeffers. *The Greco-Roman World of the N. T. Era*. (1999).
An ancient history professor examines various aspects and issues of Greco-Roman society.
- DS 109.912 .J413 Joachim Jeremias. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. (1967).
An investigation into economic and social conditions during the New Testament Period.
- PA 3316 .N48 S. Llewelyn. *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity*. (1981)
Series offers reproductions and reviews of Greek inscriptions and papyri.
- BS 2625.5 .D53 Ralph P. Martin. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament*. (1997).
Bible-encyclopedia-length articles on subjects related to early Christian history, literature, theology and practice by evangelical scholars.
- BS 2410 .R44 B. Reicke. *The New Testament Era*. (1968).
Exposition of the history and background from 500 B.C. to A.D. 100.
- BS 2312 .I89 Daniel G. Reid. *The IVP Dictionary of the New Testament*. (2004).
A compendium of articles from the above four dictionaries.
- DS 122 .S43 Emil Schürer. *A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ*. (1890).
Multi-volume work for historical information.



- BS 2545 .S55 S73 J. E. Stambaugh. *The NT in Its Social Environment*. (1986).
A nontechnical introduction to the society and history of NT times.
- BS 2410 .W55 Ben Witherington III. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. (2001).
An exploration of the influences that shaped the social and political climate of the NT world.
- BT 590 .J8 Y69 Brad H. Young. *Meet the Rabbis: Rabbinic Thought and the Teachings of Jesus*. (2007).
An introduction to rabbinic thought, literature and the rabbis themselves from a professor of Biblical Studies at Oral Roberts University.

Primary Sources from the NT era

- BS 692 .M47 *The Apocrypha of the Old Testament*. (2005).
Revised Standard Version.
- BS 2832 .S35 W. Schneemelcher, ed. *New Testament Apocrypha*. (1991).
Two volumes of apocrypha with introductions to each.
- PA 3621 J65 Josephus.
10-volume set in the Loeb Classical Library.
- DS 116 .J8 Flavius Josephus. *The Complete Works of Josephus*. (1981).
Complete works in translation with index.
- PA 4268 .A2 Philo.
12-volume set in the Loeb Classical Library.
- B 689 .A4 E5 *The Works of Philo*. (1993).
Complete in one volume with subject and scripture indices.
- BS 2410 .B28 C. K. Barrett. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. (1989).
Excerpts from primary sources.
- BS 1830 .A3 J. H. Charlesworth. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* (1983).
Two volume set.
- BM 487 D82 A. Dupont-Sommer. *The Essene Writings from Qumran*. (1973)
English translation.
- BM 500 .I948 I. Epstein, ed. *The Babylonian Talmud*. (1935-1952).
Rabbinic legal code compiled in 4th-5th centuries A.D.
- BM 517 .M62 E5 H. Freedman and M. Simon, eds. *Midrash*. (1951).
Rabbinic scriptural exposition.
- BR 129 .K44 Kee. *The Origins of Christianity: Sources and Documents*. (1973).
Also excerpts from primary sources.
- BM 497.5 .E5 N48 J. Neusner. *The Mishnah: A New Translation*. (1988).
2nd century rabbinic legal code. Note this prolific author's many works on Judaism
- BT 1391 A3 J. M. Robinson, ed. *The Nag Hammadi Library*. (1990).
A variety of ancient texts, including Gnostic gospels
- BM 487 V44 G. Vermes. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. (1987).
English translation.