

A. Philip Brown II and Bryan W. Smith (Hebrew and Aramaic OT), and Richard J. Goodrich and Albert L. Lukaszewski (Greek NT), eds., *A Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2020), pp. xxviii + 1652 (OT) + 585 (NT), ISBN 978-0310109938. £70.00

The second edition of Zondervan's *Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*, edited by Philip Brown II and Bryan W. Smith, is an excellent resource for the regular reading of Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic biblical texts. It can be profitably used by the student who has a year of learning under their belt and is expanding their vocabulary as well as the expert who prefers a hard copy for their daily reading.

This edition has an updated New Testament section. The text used is the eclectic text that underpins the NIV. This is based on the NA28/UBS5 critical text, but textual decisions vary at some points. Any differences between this text and the UBS5 are footnoted. As with other Reader's Bibles, glosses of words are given. They are given in footnotes for words that occur less than thirty times, otherwise they are given in a short lexicon. Quotations of the Old Testament and Apocryphal texts are helpfully given in bold.

The Old Testament section is retained from the first edition. The text is of the Westminster Leningrad Codex 4.4 (which is almost identical to the BHS – an appendix lists differences). Definitions for Hebrew words occurring less than one hundred times and Aramaic words occurring less than twenty-five times are footnoted with glosses (which are contextual selections; p. xviii). Hebrew words occurring more than one hundred times are listed in a glossary, but no Aramaic glossary is included. Hebrew proper nouns that occur less than one hundred times and Aramaic proper nouns that occur less than twenty-five times are in grey. Kethib-Qere variants are marked in text with K and Q superscripts.

While the Greek uses capitals for names, the Hebrew has no such indicator. Therefore, the greying of proper nouns in the Hebrew text is an extremely helpful aid for the student. In my earlier days of reading it saved me much time to know that a particular word was a name and did not need parsing. The glossing system is helpful for enabling faster reading. As the editors note, these are contextual and not definitions. This means the gloss is intended to be appropriate to the specific word in its specific context and is not necessarily applicable to other occurrences of the same word. Their



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specific purpose is to aid with faster reading. Thus it would be beneficial for the student to continue to learn some of the less frequent words as they pick up fluency. The lack of much parsing information for verbs may bother some readers. It would have been helpful to include person, gender and number in the notes (although overuse of such helps may slow development of reading ability).

I was initially sceptical of the inclusion of both Old and New Testaments into one volume due to the size. However, it has proven remarkably easy for me to use. Some may find it inconvenient due to it being quite a hefty tome, but others will appreciate having the whole in one location. It can definitely be of benefit if you intend on reading both Old and New at the same time each day. Overall, I would highly recommend this *Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*, especially if you are looking for an all-in-one edition.

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