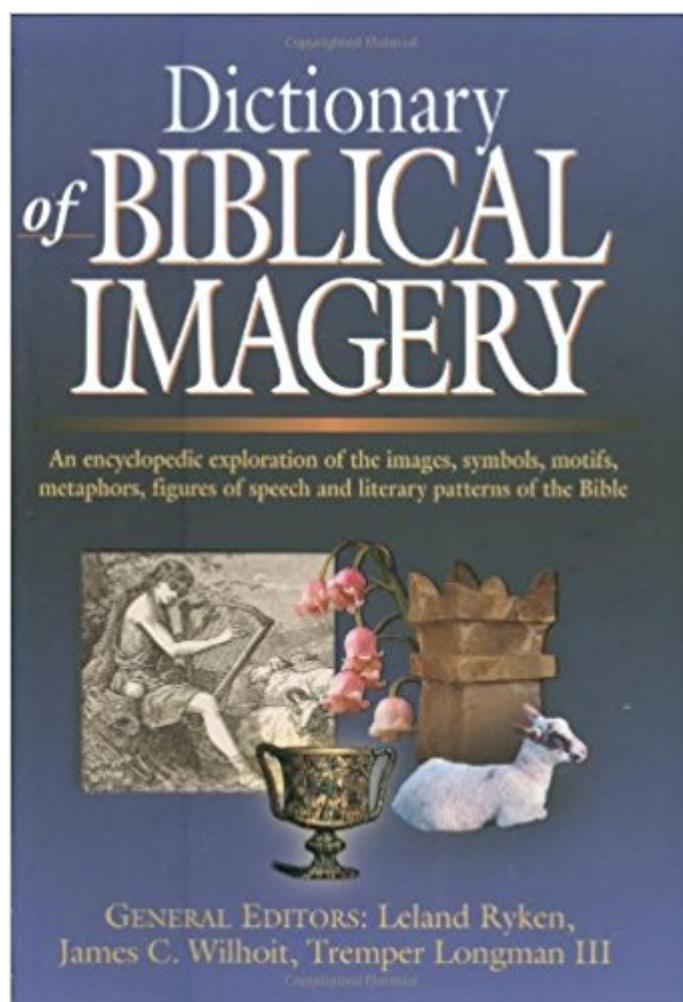


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# Dictionary Of Biblical Imagery



## **Synopsis**

A Christianity Today 1999 Book of the Year! Every reader of the Bible has encountered the powerful, comforting and sometimes puzzling imagery of Scripture. These concrete pictures with their hidden force have struck sharp and lasting impressions on our minds. Their imprint has etched itself on the language and grammar of Christian faith and Western culture. Why then do traditional Bible dictionaries and reference works offer so little help to explorers of the Bible's galaxy of verbal pictures? They excel in describing the climate, borders and location of Galilee or Sinai. But they are often blind to the artistic expressions and deaf to the musical meanings that echo from within the world of the biblical text. The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is the first contemporary reference work dedicated to exploring the images, symbols, motifs, metaphors and literary patterns found in the Bible. More than that, it examines the Bible's universal archetypes or master images--including the plot motifs and character types that recur throughout life, literature and the Bible. This unique dictionary explores the dazzling variety in which the Word of God comes dressed in clothes of everyday life. It traces the trail of images from Eden to the New Jerusalem. It captures the plotted patterns of biblical narrative. It surveys the imaged texture of each book of the Bible. In short, The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is an inviting, enlightening and indispensable companion to the reading, study, contemplation and enjoyment of the Bible.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 1058 pages

Publisher: InterVarsity Press; 1st edition (December 2, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830814515

ISBN-13: 978-0830814510

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #93,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Dictionaries & Encyclopedias #189 in Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Reference #1254 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study

## **Customer Reviews**

Leland Ryken (Ph.D., University of Oregon) is Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton

College in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of more than one hundred published articles and essays, and he has written, edited or contributed to more than twenty-five books. His books include The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation (Crossway), The Christian Imagination: The Practice of Faith in Literature and Writing (Shaw), Dictionary of Biblical Imagery (InterVarsity Press), The Discerning Reader: Christian Perspectives on Literature and Theory (Baker) and A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible (Zondervan). James Wilhoit is Scripture Press Professor of Christian Education at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered, coeditor of the Dictionary of Biblical Imagery (IVP Academic) and coauthor, with Leland Ryken, of Effective Bible Teaching. Tremper Longman III (PhD, Yale University) is Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. He is also visiting professor of Old Testament at Seattle School of Theology and Psychology and adjunct of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He lectures regularly at Regent College in Vancouver and the Canadian Theological Seminary in Calgary. Longman is the author or coauthor of over twenty books, including How to Read Genesis, How to Read the Psalms, How to Read Proverbs, Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation, Old Testament Essentials and coeditor of A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible. He and Dan Allender have coauthored Bold Love, Cry of the Soul, Intimate Allies, The Intimate Mystery and the Intimate Marriage Bible studies.

Usually dictionaries are not my idea of leisure reading, but InterVarsity Press's Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is as at home on my bed stand as it is on my desk. From Head to Toe and Happiness to Hanging, the 980 pages between A-Aaron's rod and Z-Zion contain a wealth of information on the rich imagery and literary patterns of the Bible. So often we approach the Bible from a theological point of view, but God, in His multi-faceted wisdom and creativity, has given us His truth wrapped in dazzling layers of imagery, metaphor, and symbols that engage our affective, emotional faculties as well as our cognitive. He uses story and all its literary conventions to present situations to which our human spirits can relate and experience the lessons therein. His Word is replete with metaphors and motifs that appeal to our image-making faculties. Although aware of the power of pictures, most of us have only a cursory understanding of the layers of meaning they convey, whether universal or contextual. How is my body like a tent? My daughter like a corner pillar? My prayer like an arrow? We have many theological resources available to us, but until now, have had little to open the doors to the literary treasures of the Bible. Editors Ryken, Wilhoit, and Longman have provided us with an informative, engaging, and much needed biblical tool that "explores the patterns that the

biblical writers have imposed on life, with a view toward understanding what those patterns clarify about life."This ambitious work speaks to a large audience. Clearly written, The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, will appeal to the lay reader, as well as the scholar. It will help preachers to enrich their presentations of the literal biblical text with a deeper understanding of the concrete images, themes and archetypes common to the human experience. And--a particular bonus to writers-- the treasure trove of plot structures, motifs, metaphors, and archetypes contained within these pages will provide writers with enough information and inspiration to sit right down and crank out that elusive masterpiece.

I first found this in the reference section of a seminary library while researching an exegetical paper. I quickly discovered that it was something I needed for my personal library. The writing style is engaging enough to actually make me want to read sections on a daily basis just for fun. The price point is surprisingly low for the quality of the content and printing. The only thing that would make it better is if it was available electronically.

Sat on shelf for several months, have recently spent numerous hours within its pages. Appreciate its concise and clearly presented articles thus far. It will take a significant period of time to determine its overall value to me personally, at this time I am pleased I made the purchase.

I just received this book last month and it is already one of my favorite resources for Bible study. You can look up information by topic or scripture reference. The writers do a great job of connecting topics throughout the bible. For example, if you want to know the significance of Jesus using bread to represent his body, just look up bread and the article gives you a complete picture of the use and importance of bread throughout the bible. Great book! I highly recommend it.

Can't Imagine research without this text. Just look at the names of the editors to get an idea of the quality of this volume. Imagery explained, but this advanced level text also breaks down (to a summary degree) many books of Scripture. Great source.

This is a very good resource for studying the Bible. There were a couple of things I wanted to look up that weren't in there which is why I gave it 4 stars instead of 5. But, overall, it was definitely worth the money.

This is a wonderful and amazing resource, when used along side commentaries and concordances the depth of inside to the Word of God is amazing.

This book has a lot of information and is a all inclusive reference, more information than I was looking for but I'm still glad I purchased it.

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