

## COOL BIBLE READINGS!

I believe that the majority of Adventists have grown up in an environment where we did not feel the need to question our teachers who were instrumental in bringing us to the Cross of Christ. The only resource for understanding our beliefs was the King James Version of the Bible. Today, the Bible is read for enjoyment as well as study. Which version you use is dependent upon your preferences –for study or spiritual maturity.

However as we observe in the earthly ministry of Jesus, there was a need to get the Holy Scriptures into the hand of the ordinary folk on the street. This attempt to bring the scriptures was written in what became known as Koine (or common) Greek. It was the language of the street, not that of the scholar. Today, the same need exists for us to get the gospel message out on the streets and into the hands of ordinary people. This attempt has produced a plethora of versions, translations, and paraphrases. Here are a selection of such Bibles that I can recommend to facilitate the nurturing of your relationship with God and your spiritual growth.

I want to cite as my first recommendation, **The Message Bible**, written by Eugene Pedersen. This makes for wonderful reading of the Bible for sheer enjoyment of its narratives. It is fresh and exciting by its modern and colloquial language and his wide usage of descriptive and colourful words. Try the reading of Romans 12 the section titled 'place your life before God' as his language brings home very graphically what it means to give yourself to God on a daily basis.

**The Street Bible** by Rob Lacey is an interesting rendition which tells the historical accounts in manageable chunks for easy digestion. Don't look too close for the actual word correlation, but look for the essence of the stories and their truths. It brings the Word of God to life. Don't use it for deep theological Bible studies, but for fresh insights and application for everyday use.

**The Green Bible (The Revised Standard Version)** refers to itself as "a green letter edition", which is a play on the traditional rubric bibles that feature the words of Christ printed in red ink...the passages of scripture that speak directly to the projects core message (green) in this edition are printed in green soya ink. Features at the back of this Bible include: 'The Green Bible Trail Guide', which leads the reader through a selection of Bible passages touching on six green themes that appear throughout the Biblical narrative. "You can use this guide for your own personal study, or you might gather a group of friends and work through these readings together".

There is also a section on practical steps that can be taken by individual, family and groups and a list of green organizations to contact called 'Where Do You Go From Here?'. There is also a 'Green Subject Index' or concordance. (comments by Paul James Cocksedge) This is an excellent edition of the Bible that will hopefully correct a widespread misunderstanding in certain parts of the Church that green issues are not a Christian concern...

**The New Century** has been around for a while now and the publishers have produced several variations for differing interests groups but the one that still holds my interest is the youth edition. Some say that if you find the NIV too taxing and the Good News too easy, then the New Century is a perfect balance. The 'life files' with its application and subject index for many teenage and youth experience are a neat resource for you guys. **The Brick Testament** is a story approach for children and is especially recommended for parents with younger children.

**The NIV archaeological study Bible** is for those desiring a more ‘in depth’ look at the Bible and its culture. Some of its features include over 500 colour photos, it emphasises the trustworthiness of the Word and seeks to satisfy a wide-expressed interest in Biblical archaeology, making the subject accessible to all readers.

I hope that some of these renditions of the Bible will re-ignite the desire for the Word or will further grow your interest in deeper study of the Word of God.

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