Q&A about the NIV Zondervan Study Bible

1. **Is the NIV Zondervan Study Bible replacing the NIV Study Bible?**
   
   No. The **NIV Zondervan Study Bible** is not an update to or a replacement of the **NIV Study Bible**. It is an **entirely new** study Bible **built from the ground up** using the **latest Biblical scholarship**. General Editor, D.A. Carson, with a team of more than 60 contributors crafted all new study notes, book and section introductions, and other study tools that unpack God’s story book by book.

   The **NIV Study Bible** will remain in print. With **over 10 million** copies sold over 30 years, this bestselling study Bible will continue to help readers come to a deeper understanding of God’s Word.

2. **Should I buy both the NIV Zondervan Study Bible and the NIV Study Bible?**
   **What’s the difference between them?**

   Yes. Both study Bibles feature effective tools for helping people come to a deeper understanding of God’s Word but they take different approaches that complement each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIV Zondervan Study Bible</th>
<th>NIV Study Bible</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reflects the latest scholarship</td>
<td>A trusted classic that has been honed and refined over 30 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservative-focused approach to theology</td>
<td>Broad evangelical approach to theology</td>
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<td>Book-by-book approach</td>
<td>Topic-by-topic approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single-column text</td>
<td>Double-column text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black letter</td>
<td>Red letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both have in-depth study notes, book introduction, and full-color charts, maps, and photos.</td>
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Who is D.A. Carson?

D.A. Carson is:

- A prominent and influential leader among conservative evangelicals
- The co-founder (with Tim Keller) and president of The Gospel Coalition (TGC), a global network of evangelical pastors and churches
- Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, one of the largest seminaries in the world
- Author of nearly 60 books
- A sought-after preacher and active guest lecturer in academic and church settings worldwide
- An outspoken supporter of the NIV translation and his involvement as General Editor of the NIV Zondervan Study Bible speaks volumes to the faithfulness, accuracy, and readability of the NIV.

Full bio from the back ad:

D.A. Carson, General Editor, is Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He is the president and a founding member of The Gospel Coalition, an influential network of evangelical pastors and churches. Carson has served as assistant pastor and pastor and has done itinerant ministry around the world. He is a sought-after preacher, author, and an active guest lecturer in academic and church settings worldwide. Carson received a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Seminary in Toronto and the Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament from the University of Cambridge. He has written or edited nearly 60 books, many of which have been translated into other languages.

What is the NIV Zondervan Study Bible?

The NIV Zondervan Study Bible, featuring Dr. D. A. Carson as general editor, is an all-new study Bible available exclusively in the NIV. Built from the ground up to reflect the most current 21st century scholarship, Dr. Carson, along with a team of over 60 contributors, crafted all-new study notes, book and section introductions, a library of articles, and other study tools that specifically focus on Biblical theology.

What is Biblical theology?

Three of the principles of Biblical Theology include:

- There is one main story to all of the Scriptures – the story of redemption.
- The Bible wasn’t given all at once. It was progressively revealed over time.
- It is important to understand & appreciate the theology, perspective, purpose, and contribution of every author, book, and section of Scripture. Each one makes a unique contribution to the themes of Scripture and to the overall plot of the Bible.
The Biblical theology method answers questions such as:

- Where in the timeline of history does this writing take place?
- What did this author know about God and his purposes?
- What didn’t this author know because it hadn’t yet been revealed?
- What is the writer trying to teach?
- How does the message of this book contribute to the major themes of the Bible and its overarching story of salvation?

How is the Biblical theology approach different than the systematic theology approach used in most other study Bibles?

The illustration below contrasts some of the differences between a systematic theology approach and the Biblical theology approach found in the NIV Zondervan Study Bible. The placement of the cover images reflects the approximate influence that systematic theology plays in the NIV Study Bible and that Biblical theology plays in the NIV Zondervan Study Bible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systematic Theology</th>
<th>Biblical Theology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focused on the complete, finished revelation of Scripture</td>
<td>Focused on the progressive unfolding of God’s revelation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organized around the topics of the Bible</td>
<td>Organized around the overarching story of the Bible, the story of salvation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largely dependent on logical analysis</td>
<td>Largely dependent on historical analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draws a circle around all references to a Biblical theme</td>
<td>Draws a line that traces the development of Biblical themes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primarily concerned with the whole Bible’s witness to each topic</td>
<td>Zeroes in on the unique context of each author, book, and section of the Bible</td>
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Why does the marketing headline read “Unpacking God’s Story Book by Book”?

The Biblical theology approach that the NIV Zondervan Study Bible takes focuses on how each book of the Bible contributes to the one overarching story of salvation.

What is the significance of “Zondervan” in the title of the NIV Zondervan Study Bible?

The Zondervan name has grown to be a trusted source for Bible resources that are academically solid and accessible to the lay Bible student, such as the Zondervan Handbook to the Bible, the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary and the Zondervan Atlas of the Bible.

The NIV Zondervan Study Bible includes material of the same high quality as other Zondervan-labeled resources—up-to-date, from some of the best evangelical scholars around the world, and presented in a way that is friendly to the average adult reader.

Tell me about the notes of the NIV Zondervan Study Bible

The NIV Zondervan Study Bible unpacks God’s story in each book of the Bible first through an introduction that reveals the structure and message of each Bible book. The notes help readers zero in on the unique and essential voice of each Biblical book and writer, developing the perspective, purpose, and contribution each one makes to the major themes of Scripture and to the overarching story of salvation.

Tell me about the theological articles of the NIV Zondervan Study Bible

One particularly valuable feature of the NIV Zondervan Study Bible is its library of concise theological articles that unpack God’s story by tracking the development of Biblical themes as they are progressively revealed throughout the Bible.

Notable scholars and leaders such as D.A. Carson, Timothy Keller, Kevin DeYoung, and Douglas Moo address theological topics such as “sin,” “creation,” “shalom,” and many more. These short articles provide the perspective that the book-by-book notes cannot: an overarching view of the Bible’s message and teaching—and in particular, how the gospel of Jesus Christ relates to these topics.