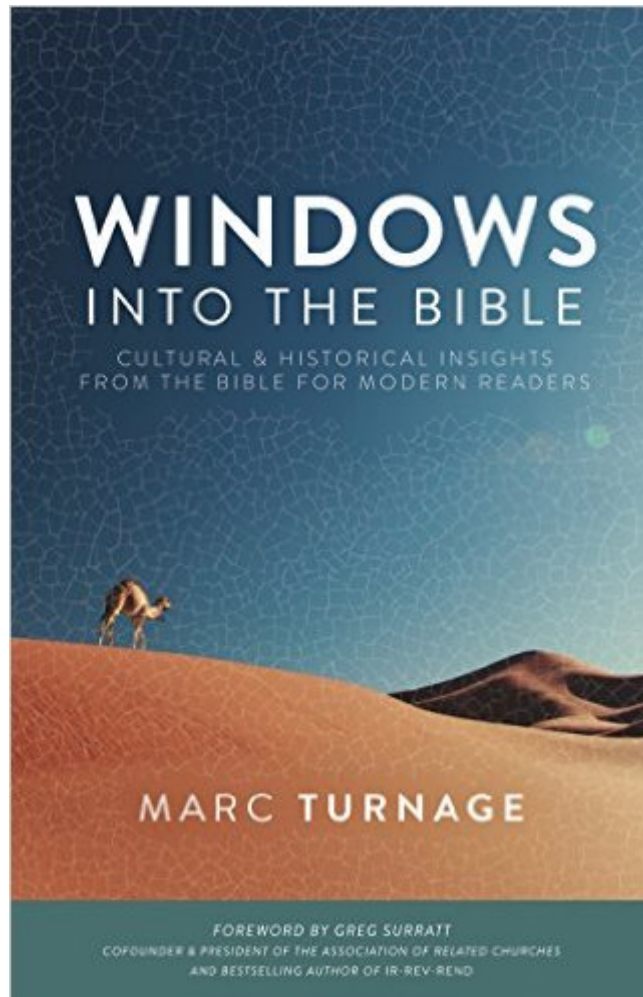


The book was found

Windows Into The Bible: Cultural And Historical Insights From The Bible For Modern Readers



Synopsis

While many endeavor to help people read and study the Bible, few take seriously the four-dimensional approach necessary to understand God's revelation in time and space. These four aspects must be synthesized to answer the question, What did the Bible mean? They function like four lenses of a camera that, when pointed and focused on an object, are adjusted until the picture comes into focus. By looking through the spatial, historical, cultural, and spiritual lenses, people can step back into the world of the Bible, as best as they are able, and hear the message as its authors intended. They find themselves at the feet of Jesus, hearing Him as His original audience did. And once people enter into the world of the Bible, they can reenter their own world and answer the question, What does this mean today?

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Customer Reviews

This review first appeared at [InfluenceMagazine\[dot\]com](#). "The past is a foreign country," wrote British novelist L. P. Hartley; "they do things differently there." We modern Bible readers would do well to keep Hartley's dictum in mind. Why? Because the question, "What did the Bible mean?" takes precedence over the question, "What does the Bible mean for me?" We cannot correctly apply biblical wisdom to our lives until we understand what the Bible said in its original context. *Windows into the Bible* by Marc Turnage looks at the Bible's original meaning through four "windows": spatial, historical, cultural, and spiritual. Turnage is not systematic and exhaustive in his treatment of these issues. In other words, he does not offer a complete introduction to the spatial, historical, cultural, and spiritual world of the Bible. Rather, he is episodic

and illustrative. After introducing the four “windows” concept, he provides 28 examples of how these ways of looking at the Bible should shape (and in some cases reshape) our understanding of it. Let me offer three examples. Chapter 1, “The Land Between,” describes the geography of ancient Israel. Turnage writes: “[Israel] functioned as a strategic land bridge connecting the continents of Asia and Africa.” It was a crucial trade route between these areas, but it was also the battleground of the dominant empires of those areas, Mesopotamia and Egypt. “Because of its strategic location, the land of Israel never existed in isolation from the nations surrounding them. Or existed in peace. Unlike Mesopotamia and Egypt, Israel also had no major river to supply water for consumption and irrigation of farmlands. (If you’ve ever seen the Jordan, you know what I mean.) It depended heavily on rain.

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