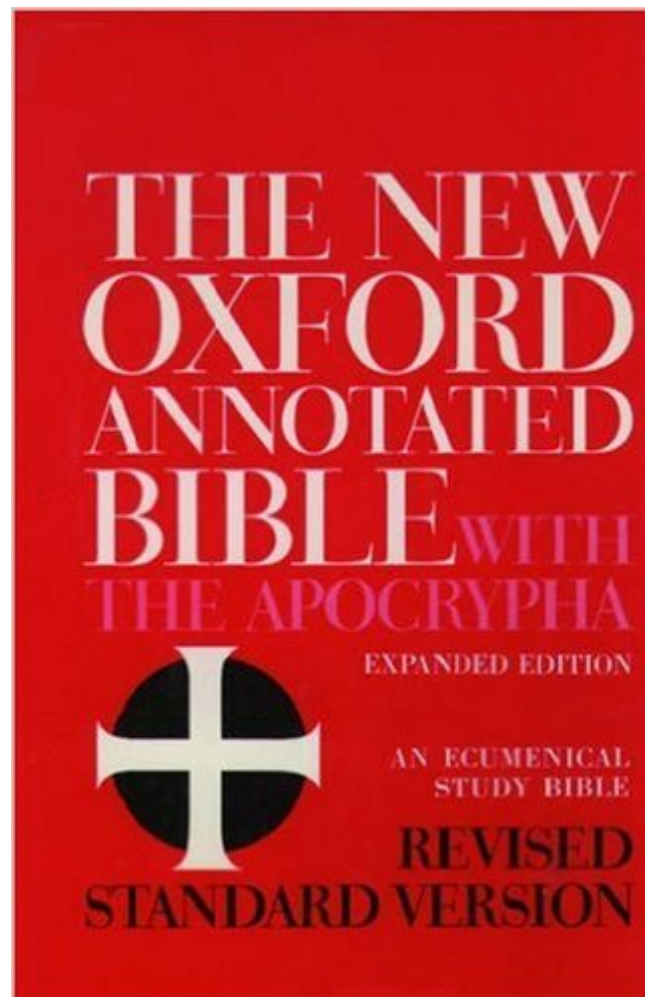


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# The New Oxford Annotated Bible With The Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version



## Synopsis

For decades, the New Oxford Annotated Bible has been the most widely used study Bible in schools, colleges, seminaries, and universities across the nation, meeting the needs of students of all faiths. One of the most celebrated volumes in Oxford's renowned line of bibles, the RSV New Oxford Annotated Bible features an impressive array of supplementary materials to guide in readers' understanding of the scripture. Outstanding biblical scholarship, affordability, and thousands of satisfied readers have proven that the RSV NOAB is the best ecumenical resource available today.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 1904 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Revised Standard edition (May 19, 1977)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195283481

ISBN-13: 978-0195283488

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 2 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (122 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,237 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Additional Texts > Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha](#) #220 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bibles](#) #236 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study](#)

## Customer Reviews

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, RSV, with Apocrypha is an amazing work. It uses the accurate RSV translation, and includes the study notes of great scholars like Bruce Metzger and Herbert May. I found the essays at the end of the Bible helpful as well, especially in an Old Testament class. The RSV (and NRSV) also offers the entire apocrypha/deuterocanon accepted by major Christian churches, which will enhance study. This New Oxford Bible is slightly different than the NRSV version. Many of the notes are identical to those included in the NRSV version, or else they are very similar. The text itself is of course different. The RSV contains archaic language in the Psalms, and has no inclusive language, among other differences. The NRSV however, makes more use of the better texts, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Overall I would say this Bible is written from more of a Christian faith perspective than the NRSV counterpart. One example I noticed is in the Introduction to Isaiah in the RSV, where it mentions Jesus as the incarnate suffering servant. This is omitted in

the NRSV, probably in a desire to make it more ecumenical among Non-Christian religions. Overall I think this is a great Bible to own. The scholarship is excellent and embraces Biblical Criticism, while coming from a perspective of faith. The translation is beautiful and readable. I am proud to include this in my collection of Bibles for both personal and academic use.

I just wanted to make a note to all the reviews referring to this particular item as the NRSV. Look again! It is the RSV, which means no inclusive language and this is a lovely Bible put out by Oxford University Press. So, if you are looking for a nice leatherbound, annotated study Bible of the RSV with the Apocrypha, ISBN 019528335x is the one for you! Nice and traditional with excellent Orthodox notes.

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, RSV with apocrypha is not called the Common Bible without reason. The RSV and Apocrypha is the only Bible translation that the Roman, Orthodox and most Protestant denominations have authorized for use. Although the RSV's successor, the New Revised Standard Version is allowed for personal study in the US Catholic Church, it is not authorized for use in the Liturgy. While the Canadian Catholic Church does use the NRSV in some of its lectionary readings, this is largely because they were prematurely printed and they will be replaced eventually. The Orthodox Church in America has rejected the use of the New RSV for liturgical use AND teaching the faith (such as bible studies within the parish) thought it is OK for personal study. So, as it stands, the RSV is the only translation that is officially used by Roman, Orthodox and most protestant churches. That's enough for me to use it, but it also helps that it is a great translation, though I echo a former commentators view about the translation of Isaiah 7:14, at least the RSV does not go so far as to irregularly use "mortal" for Son of Man (especially in Daniel) in the Old testament and not the New, or use "pale green horse" instead of the traditional pale horse in Revelation. So, I highly recommend the RSV with apocrypha as a great translation for anyone who likes a bible that is current in scholarship, reverent with language and ecumenical in use.[Update: when I wrote this review several years ago, it appeared that the Canadian Roman Catholic Church would be forced to replace their lectionary texts that used the NRSV. I understand now that a "modified" version has been approved by the Vatican.]

I bought this Bible recently as a replacement for my well-worn NIV study bible. I had come to enjoy the RSV after using it along with several other translations on my PC bible software -- it is written at a more advanced level than the NIV and seems to be closer to the original language while still

remaining accessible to modern readers. This RSV is sturdy, easy to read, and has the benefit of a "modern" translation of the Apocrypha. I often find text notes, inline maps, etc. to be merely distracting rather than helpful, and often the notes included with a Bible are somewhat questionable in their merit. (My NIV study bible has more notes than text on many pages.) This RSV edition keeps the notes short, succinct, and scholarly. The maps are all in the back along with some excellent scholarly articles. Kudos to the publishers and editors for such a clean, thoughtful layout. The only thing I'd change is that there's virtually no room in the text or in the margins for making notes. I use post-it notes stuck at the various places, but that's getting cumbersome.

This volume is a joy to sit with and read. The sheer beauty of its supple black leather, gilded (gold) pages, two silken bookmarks and an elegant but very readable font makes this a wonderful bible. I have many Bibles, in all shapes and sizes and translations, and this is already my favorite. As a rather sophisticated Bible reader, I can find no demoninational or doctrinal slant. It is a pure, unadultrated, and beautifully cadenced text with minimal notes, which are of a scholarly nature (alternate words, definitions, places, interesting facts: great stuff). Give this to someone for Christmas, they will be blessed.

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