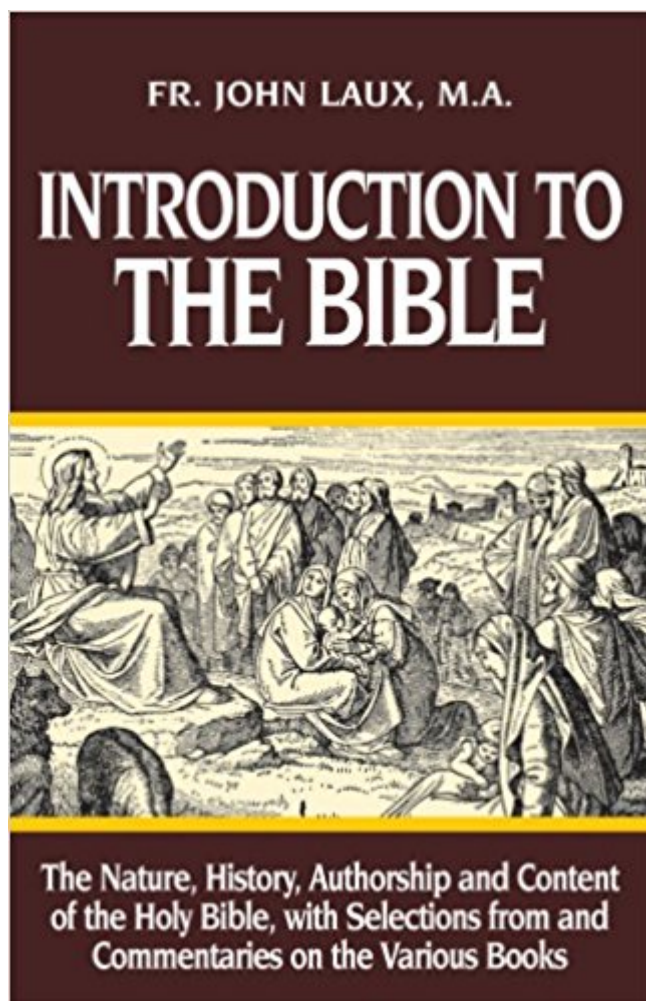


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Introduction To The Bible



Synopsis

This book includes the true meaning of Inspiration, guidelines to understanding the Bible and the Church's role as the Bible's official interpreter. Also gives an introduction to each of the Bible's 72 books, with well-chosen Scriptural passages from most of the books that render a representative example of what they are like and about. First published in 1932, it is nevertheless not dated; the information contained here remains as valid as the traditional Catholic teaching it presents.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Father John Laux, M.A., was a high school religion teacher who wrote his own Catholic curricular books after spending a large number of years teaching and researching. His works were first published in 1928 and include Catholic Apologetics, Mass and the Sacraments, Introduction to the Bible, Catholic Morality and Church History. He capsulated the Catholic faith extremely well, thanks to his lively prose and succinct way of accurately explaining the details of theology. Though Father Laux originally wrote his books for high school students, they remain very informative for those in college and even adulthood as well. He wrote in a timeless, direct and to-the-point style that continues to present Catholics with in-depth explanations of their faith today.

Father Laux's INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE is a very useful, instructive assessment of the Bible, biblical history, and "secular" history of the Ancient Middle East. Father Laux gives readers very good historical background to the Bible, and readers whether they are Catholic or not can benefit

from this book. This reviewer disagrees with Father Laux on The Documentary Hypothesis of the Torah or first five books of the Bible. In spite of this fact, this disagreement does not undermine the value of the book. Had Father Laux lived long enough to examine the Dead Sea Scrolls and other recently discovered sources, he may have modified his views. Father Laux is obviously a partisan of Catholicism and the Catholic Church. Anyone who criticizes him for that is wasting their time. Father Laux was very clear about his religious loyalties. Readers should know this in no way detracts from the value of the book. Father Laux's presentation of other books of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament is very enlightening. He gives readers the political forces and challenges faced by the Ancient Hebrews, and he explains the religious disputes among different Judean factions. The book gives readers a concise view of Ancient Hebrew social history which in turn gives the reader a better understanding of irate Ancient Hebrew Prophets who railed against social injustice, violations of religious codes, and blatant hypocrisy. Father Laux's placing the Prophetic Books and Books of Poetry in proper historical context make reading the Bible easier and with more understanding. One feature of Father Laux's book was his handling of Hebrew poetry such as Job, the Psalms, Proverbs, etc. Father Laux did a masterful job in enlightening readers to this part of the Bible. While this reviewer disagrees with Father Laux's interpretation of the book titled Canticles of Canticles or Song of Songs, Father Laux's commentary is very good. Father Laux gives readers excellent coverage of the Apocrypha. Readers may know that the Catholic Bible has seven books that are not in most Protestant bibles. These books are Judith, Tobit or Tobias, Ecclesiasticus not to be confused with Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, and First and Second Maccabees. His explanation of why the Early Church Fathers accepted these books as canonical is clear and understandable. His remarks re St. Jerome (346-420) inclusion of these books in St. Jerome's Vulgate Bible gives readers good reasons of why the Catholic Church includes these books. Father Laux's explanation of the New Testament is just as good as his explanation of the Old Testament. He gives the reader some insight to the use of the Aramaic and Greek languages. He explains the Synoptic problem and offers intelligent solutions. A very valuable part of his explanation of the New Testament is his careful description of the differences of the "Jewish" Christians who originated in Judea and the Gentile Christians who originated outside of Judea. He cites the differences between Jewish traditions and those of the Greeks and Romans. One can follow the Pauline Epistles and other sections of the New Testament easier by referring to Father Laux's book. Father Laux was sure but not arrogant in writing this book. When biblical scholars are not sure or he (Father Laux) is not sure, he is honest enough to admit it. He gives different views and logically explains his own views. Father has placed useful maps in this book to assist readers. He has sections titled Suggestions for Further Study

which present thoughtful questions to readers as well as useful bibliographies. Any reader interested in a solid understanding of the Bible would do well to carefully read this book. This reviewer read it because he was impressed with Father Laux's CHURCH HISTORY. Father Laux's INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE is a valuable to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible

great home school text book. well written

Fr. Laux's books will never go out of style in our homeschooling family. Good, solid, Catholic doctrine and explanations.

Excellent overview of the Bible for Catholics.

Good Condition.

Good book! We use it in homeschooling curriculum.

Great book

Fr. Laux always give great info. He also helps advance your studies by giving reference to more study materials. I have all of his books now and can't complain about any of them. I have used them for my daughter's homeschooling as well as my own enrichment.

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