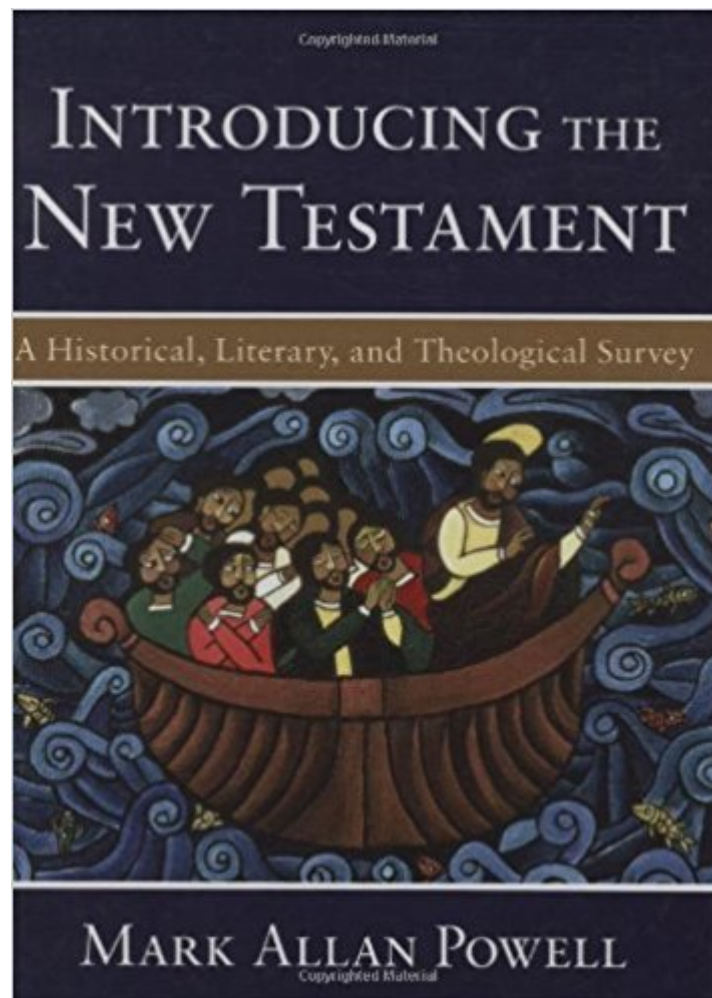




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Introducing The New Testament: A Historical, Literary, And Theological Survey



Synopsis

This beautifully written and engaging survey offers an up-to-date New Testament introduction for undergraduate students and general readers. Powell presents disputed and controversial issues fairly, neither dictating conclusions nor privileging skepticism over faith-based perspectives. The book is written in a lively and engaging style and includes helpful sidebars, maps, tables, charts, glossary, diagrams, and suggestions for further reading. In addition, this full-color book includes beautiful artwork illustrating the reception of the New Testament through various times and cultures. A companion Web site through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources features a video introduction from the author and a wealth of additional resources for students and instructors. Resources for students include introductory videos, chapter summaries, chapter objectives, study questions, flash cards, extra sidebars and charts, self quizzes, and bibliographies. Resources for professors include discussion prompts, pedagogical suggestions, PowerPoint outlines, and a test/quiz bank.

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Customer Reviews

"Drawing on several decades of effective classroom teaching, Mark Allan Powell has produced the quintessential 'user-friendly' introduction to the New Testament, which should be a welcome addition to any New Testament teacher's pedagogical resources. Three features distinguish this introduction from most others in the field, and all of them serve to draw the reader into the world of the New Testament text in compelling and attractive ways. First, Powell encourages and empowers

his readers to engage the issues raised by the New Testament documents and the solutions to those issues but without drawing definitive (and for the reader, perhaps premature) conclusions. Second, with stunning effect, Powell uses visual images (maps, historical photographs, and especially examples from the history of Christian art) both for their aesthetic appeal and as examples of the text's continuing influence on subsequent culture. Third, throughout the text Powell provides markers that point to a companion Web site that contains additional material for further study and reflection beyond the book and course. Powell has put student and teacher alike in his debt, and for this we are all grateful."--Mikeal C. Parsons, Baylor University

"Introducing the New Testament is just what today's students need: the length is right, the perspective balanced and fair, the choice of content perfect, the layout reader-friendly and attractive, and the author is a respected New Testament scholar and popular classroom teacher. Adopting this book as the primary text for introductory Bible courses (in a college, seminary, or church) is a no-brainer. I recommend it highly."--Craig A. Evans, Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia

"Beautifully presented, accessibly written, clearly organized, and attentive to the beginning student. Both students and faculty will benefit from engaging this book."--Stephen E. Fowl, Loyola College in Maryland

"Introducing the New Testament is a real gem, a true diamond, not in the rough but well polished. Like a diamond, it reflects the multifaceted beauty of the New Testament text. Like a diamond, it is a concentrate of years of scholarship. Like a diamond, it is a thing of beauty, with its artistic reproductions and useful illustrations. Like a diamond, it is valuable, with a wealth of information that is not readily available elsewhere in any one place."--Raymond F. Collins, The Catholic University of America and Brown University

"This splendid introduction to the New Testament is vivid, engaging, and designed to reach a broad audience. Its clear and accessible style invites contemporary readers into the biblical world, while the colorful graphics catch the eye and stimulate the imagination. Historical, literary, and theological questions are addressed in ways that invite readers to venture further into the scriptures. As a resource for teachers and students, it is excellent."--Craig R. Koester, Luther Seminary

Mark Allan Powell (PhD, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond) is the Robert and Phyllis Leatherman Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He is the general editor of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary as well as the author of numerous articles and books. Powell has also served as the chair of the SBL Historical Jesus Section and is the former New Testament editor of the SBL Academia Biblica dissertation series.

We used this book as a supplement to a graduate level NT class. Powell does a wonderful job of presenting both conservative and liberal points of view on issues in the NT, without his own prejudices creeping in. His information is well-researched and accurate. Each chapter gives a quick overview of a NT book, background/history of the author and time, and presents the major themes found in the NT book. Powell's writing style is fluid and approachable, which makes the book a joy to read (yes... even for a 'textbook'). Readers of all backgrounds and education levels will get much from this read. Highly recommend.

I am a now-retired pastor with an academic background who teaches in a lay-training program for our Lutheran synod. I ordered this as a possible text to use for a New Testament class. It took only a short time to decide that I needed to look no farther: this is the text I will use. Among its features:-- A reasonable price for a quality hardback, especially in comparison to other NT Intros (a significant matter with lay volunteer students)-- Many maps and pictures--always a plus in my mind-- Especially laudable is access that is given to a website with a plethora of materials from background information to time-lines to lists and explanations of names (or terms or coins) to descriptions of topics (e.g., Jewish religious 'parties' or popular Greco-Roman philosophical 'schools') to extensive and wide-ranging bibliographies for each chapter, any or all of which the user can download for his/her notebook for personal use, or print for a Sunday-School or adult class he or she may be teaching in his/her own congregation.-- As the author points out, the chapters of the book can be used in the order they come, or they can be shuffled around to use in a different order (as I intend to do). Each chapter can stand on its own, and does not assume that the reader has already dealt with the previous chapter(s). This means, of course, that there is some repetition here and there, but it's not burdensome, and sometimes repetition brings a topic back to mind.-- The author states in his introduction that there is often a wide variety of views on just about any New Testament topic (take authorship of virtually any book, for example); he says he intends to offer the arguments of the major 'sides,' but unlike what other NT Intros often do, he does not then push his own opinion on the reader, but may note where the majority seems to stand and let the teacher and/or student make their own decisions. He is very even-handed on these topics.-- The author writes in a relaxed, conversational style; reading is not a matter of plowing through a lot of dense text.-- For each NT book the author offers an introduction, a kind of precis for the book, then a discussion of major topics or concerns in the book, followed by a conclusion.-- The author reflects general 'mainstream' scholarship regarding the New Testament, and does not try to beat his own idiosyncratic drum, so this text can be used across a spectrum of denominations with adults of various ages, and probably

even with (serious) senior-high students..... All in all, an excellent resource and highly recommended.

This is a great textbook to help anyone come to a better understanding of the New Testament. My husband and I are Christian Ministry majors at a local college and this was the required text for our New Testament Literature class. We are so pleased with the layout, design and easy reading that we have decided to use it to teach our children, who are homeschooled, about the Bible (especially our son who has desired to be a minister since he was about five years old). If you want a more understanding of the New Testament, this book is the one to help you. The chapters in this book coincide with the chapters in the Bible, but the design is such that you can study in any order...just like the Bible. It would be awesome if the publisher developed an equal for the Old Testament.

Well-written history of the Bible and the church. Powell presents the information fairly and without bias. I used this book for a college course 3 years ago and have kept it because it is a great reference to have when reading through the New Testament. I would recommend this book to anyone - Christian or not - who is interested in learning more about the Bible from an objective standpoint.

Perfect for me, that is. It met my needs and expectations exactly, and I could not be more pleased with this textbook, though I bought it not as a formal student but as a lay person wanting a richer understanding of the New Testament and its parts. Powell provides helpful background and introduction to the NT as a whole, introductions to the several categories of NT literature (gospels, Paul's letters, etc.), and introductions to each book in the NT. While his background and convictions appear to be on the evangelical spectrum, his information is balanced and inclusive of a variety of scholarly opinions. Though I am a life-long student of the NT, his book has enriched my understanding greatly. I could not be more pleased.

Mark Allan Powell has produced an excellent book which anyone can understand and enjoy. He starts the book with a marvellous Preface in which he speaks to the reader directly - it is as though he is having a conversation with you. He uses simple language to get his message across which provides the book with much clarity. The maps, historical photographs and examples from the history of Christian art as well as the companion website which offers additional material for study, greatly enhances this book. As a historian and a student of Theology, another important feature of this book

is the author's ability to use simple language to explain the dynamic world of the New Testament which is critical to understanding the context in which the New Testament was written. Introduction to the New Testament is truly a beautifully written book and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in understanding the New Testament.

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