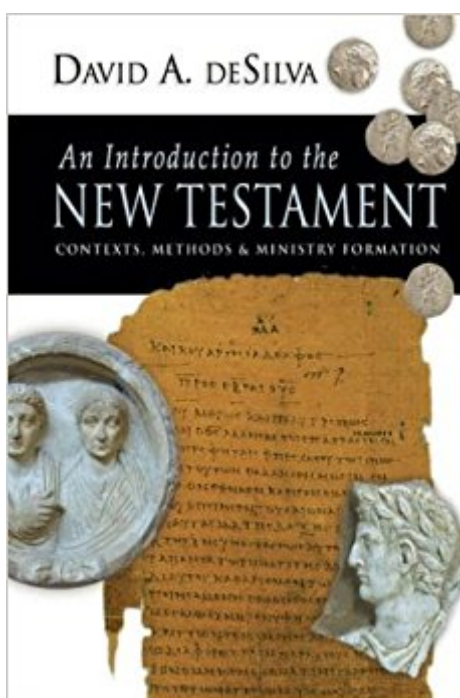


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# An Introduction To The New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation



## Synopsis

A 2005 Gold Medallion finalist! Some introductions to the New Testament highlight the historical contexts in which the New Testament literature was written. This introduction gives particular attention to the social, cultural and rhetorical contexts of the New Testament authors and their writings. Few introductions to the New Testament integrate instruction in exegetical and interpretive strategies with their customary considerations of authorship, dating, audience and message. This introduction capitalizes on the opportunities, introducing students to a relevant facet of interpretation with each portion of New Testament literature. Rarely do introductions to the New Testament approach their task mindful of the needs of students preparing for ministry. This introduction is explicit in doing so, assuming as it does that the New Testament itself--in its parts and as a whole--is a pastoral response. Each chapter on the New Testament literature closes with a discussion of the implications for ministry formation. These integrative features alone would distinguish this introduction from others. But in addition, its pages brim with maps, photos, points of interest and aids to learning. Separate chapters explore the historical and cultural environment of the New Testament era, the nature of the Gospels and the quest for the historical Jesus, and the life of Paul. This introduction by David A. deSilva sets a new standard for its genre and is bound to appeal to many who believe that the New Testament should be introduced as if both scholarship and ministry mattered.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 975 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic (May 8, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830827463

ISBN-13: 978-0830827466

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,315 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > New Testament #115 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > New Testament #243 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament

## Customer Reviews

"This excellent introduction meets a special need, especially for seminarians concerned about how their academic study of the New Testament relates to ministry. David deSilva is conversant with a wide range of scholarship for the entire New Testament canon, its historical setting, and both traditional and more current approaches to the text (including rhetorical, literary and social approaches). His concern for ministry application is a valuable and unique feature, and his extensive proficiency in the ancient sources, already demonstrated in his earlier works, makes him an especially trustworthy guide in this area." (Craig S. Keener, Eastern Seminary)"If the textbooks available are not adequate, write one that is! This is precisely what David deSilva has done in his new interdisciplinary introduction to the New Testament--to the benefit of his students, and likewise for all who aspire to apply New Testament content to the ministry needs of the world today. . . . This book is highly recommended, and Professor deSilva is to be thanked for welcoming the rest of us into his classroom!" (Paul N. Anderson, George Fox University)"David deSilva provides us with a reliable, thorough and eminently useful introduction to the New Testament that allows students to experience the spiritual and historical significance of these writings for communities of faith. . . . His writing is remarkably clear and interesting, covering material of such significance that many students will find here a textbook that they will want to keep, one to which they will return repeatedly long after the course is over." (Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary)"This compendious handbook to the New Testament writings will prove an invaluable resource in the classroom and study. The approach is lively and topical, with a special section devoted to the application of scholarship to ministry--a feature not often found in quality books like this. . . . In all, here is a volume that carves for itself a distinctive place in what is an overcrowded market, and will be welcomed by hard-pressed students and alert pastors alike. Well done!" (Ralph P. Martin, Fuller Theological Seminary)"This introduction helpfully and without apology attends to both the intellectual and spiritual formation of the reader. . . . I am happy to commend this introduction to a whole range of readers--students, pastors and educated laypersons." (Ben Witherington III, Asbury Theological Seminary)"David deSilva has written the New Testament introduction that I have wanted to use (and wish I had written). It is not only readable and comprehensive, but it also incorporates the latest in scholarly approaches to the New Testament. In this work we really do discover the New Testament in its historical, rhetorical and social context. Furthermore, it reads the New Testament as a pastoral and practical work. What more could one ask for? What more could one offer to students? I am indeed excited about this work." (Peter H. Davids, Tyndale Theological Seminary (The Netherlands))

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This book can be used as the textbook for a New Testament survey course at the graduate or seminary level. David DeSilva provides a wealth of historical, cultural and literary background information to help us understand the 1st century message of each book in the New Testament. He helps us to think about the pastoral motivation behind each gospel and letter in the New Testament. What audience were these gospels/letters written to and what were the pastoral needs of that audience. These concerns helped shape the contents of each book that makes up our present New Testament. In addition DeSilva provides an easy to understand introduction to source criticism, redaction criticism, literary criticism, feminist criticism and many other tools of scholarship that help us understand the New Testament. I highly recommend this introduction to the New Testament.

Truly a testament to biblical scholarship. As a scholar of OT, this volume pulled me in and made connection I never even knew were there. If you're looking for a definitive guide to the NT look no further.

Oh, I have used this for so many bible study references, its a great resource book to have. Purchased for NT class and glad the instructor insisted we buy, could not have made it through class without it.

This is excellent. Lots of material, insights, pictures and photographs. Insights and depth. Could be multiple books, but instead is in one volume of almost 1000 pages!

DeSilva kept me hooked as I read through the New Testament letters. This text has been recommended now a few times to some of the guys around my church. As a pastor / teacher, and seminary student with an undergrad in Religion, I've compiled a few NT books and commentaries, and so far this has been at the top of the list. It's not a commentary, but is inviting in its approach to bring the reader into the setting, history, and in-depth context of each book. Certainly a worthy investment, in my opinion, to have in your study library.

I've had the great pleasure of being one of Dr. deSilva's students at Ashland Seminary and the somewhat lesser pleasure of having read nearly every chapter in this book in the process. The main weakness in this book is in the editing. The writing could be more concise and clear in many places. This makes it difficult to read from cover to cover, but presents less of a problem when using the book as a reference. It almost seems as if each chapter was written to stand on its own. Many of the same points are made repeatedly throughout the book as they apply to different books of the New Testament. That said, the book also has many strengths. At the end of each chapter is a section on "ministry formation" which draws practical lessons for ministry and discipleship based on the previous reading. I found these to be very insightful and the most interesting and valuable parts of the book. The "exegetical skill" and "cultural awareness" sections that are sprinkled throughout the book are also very good. Separating the exegetical skill material from the main text makes it easy to find and apply to study of parts of the NT other than the immediate context in which the particular sections appear. Overall this book is very good seminary level course and reference material that I know will be very useful to me in the future. It's a poor substitute for the lively and highly interactive teaching that you would get in one of the author's classes, but it's a lot less expensive.

One of the best and most thorough New Testament Survey books I have ever read.

deSilva does a great job of giving background of before talking about the New Testament and really does a great job of depicting the new testament in an understandable way. Creates some very good questions without taking merit from the bible or its authors.

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