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Foreword to the Revised Edition

This book is a lifetime investment. It is one of the top fifteen books that ought to be in every Christian's library. For nearly two decades and twenty printings this work has been the standard in the field. It has had a significant influence in my own life, as well as the lives of scores of thousands who have purchased the book. What is now even better is that General Introduction has been thoroughly revised, expanded, and updated.

There is really no book like this one on the market that covers the whole gamut of topics in bibliology, including inspiration, Apocrypha, the process of copying, and the multitude of Bible translations. If you want to know how we got our Bible, how we know which books belong in it, how we can be sure it was copied accurately, and the history of modern translations of the Bible, then this book is a must.

Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix combine their academic backgrounds and a generation of teaching in Bible, history, and apologetics to put together a most comprehensive treatment of the Bible "from God to us." It is simply and clearly written, with numerous illustrations and charts, glossary of terms, Scripture, author and topical indexes, a comprehensive bibliography, and a helpful appendix listing more than 1,100 English translations of the Bible.

This revised edition of General Introduction promises to be a useful book for years to come. It is a pleasure to commend it to all who seek to know more about the nature, background, and history of the greatest book ever written, the infallible and inerrant Word of God.

JOSH MCDOWELL

Preface to the Revised Edition

Since the first edition of *A General Introduction to the Bible* (1968), significant developments have necessitated a more thorough treatment of the questions about the inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of Scripture. The discoveries at Ebla and Nag Hamadi have occasioned additional discussion relating to the canon and text of Scripture.

This revised and expanded edition of *General Introduction* has been re-organized into four sections: inspiration, canonization, transmission, and translation. In addition to revising and updating all of the chapters, some completely new chapters have been added (chaps. 8 and 9). Several chapters have been substantially enlarged (chaps. 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32). Numerous charts have been revised or added. Of special interest are the new charts on the New Testament (chap. 1), on various theories of inspiration (chap. 10), on the reliability of the New Testament documents (chap. 11), on the genealogy of the English Bible (chap. 16), on the history of the Old Testament text (chap. 21), on the history of the New Testament text (chap. 22), and on the language families (chap. 30). The new Appendix, "A Short-Title Checklist of English Bible Translations," contains more than 1,100 entries. The emergence of the debate among proponents of various textual traditions that incorporate the "majority" text and "eclectic" text methodologies is an important new topic of analysis in this edition as well.

Since the first edition, numerous new translations of the Bible have been produced, including those from almost every major private group and religious body. Hence, the section on Bible translations has been separated and significantly expanded.

In all the various areas of general introduction to the Bible, efforts have been made to offer a comprehensive survey and critical evaluation of representative positions. The result of more than thirty years of study in this area has deepened our conviction that the committee translations of the English Bible are careful renditions of the Hebrew and Greek texts that accurately transmit the infallible and inerrant Word of God.