



NIV, The Sola Scriptura Bible Project: The Complete Collection, Cloth over Board, Navy/Tan: Rediscover the Holy Art of Reading

Biblica (Editor)

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Sola Scriptura, the foundation of the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago, was a call to return to the roots of our faith by embracing **Scripture alone** as our highest authority. The *NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project* shares that vision and invites you back to read the living Word in its most ancient arrangement.

The Old Testament is ordered according to the traditional shaping of the Hebrew Scriptures: the Torah, the Former and Latter Prophets, and the Writings. The New Testament is reorganized by placing each of the four Gospels at the head of four groupings that together bear witness to the central story of Jesus.

In the same spirit of recalling the distraction-free reading of the early church, the *NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project* removes chapter and verse numbers, red letters, and cross references present in most modern Bibles.

Features:

Complete text of the accurate, readable, and clear New International Version (NIV), the world's best-selling modern English Bible translation Complete 4-Volume set includes The Torah and Former Prophets, The Latter Prophets, The Writings, and The New Testament Chapter and verse numbers, footnotes, subject headings, and other additional materials have been removed from text The books are presented according to what scholarship has determined is their natural internal divisions Individual books that later tradition divided into two or more parts are put back together again The books are arranged in an order that helps you better understand the Bible flow Ribbon marker in each book 2-color interior Thick, high-quality paper The Bible text is presented in an elegant 10.3 type size 10.3-point type size

NIV, The Sola Scriptura Bible Project: The Complete Collection, Cloth over Board, Navy/Tan: Rediscover the Holy Art of Reading Details

Date : Published October 24th 2017 by Zondervan

ISBN : 9780310448129

Author : Biblica (Editor)

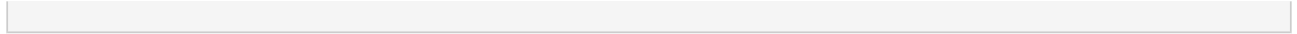
Format : Hardcover 2032 pages

Genre : Religion

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**Download and Read Free Online NIV, The Sola Scriptura Bible Project: The Complete Collection,
Cloth over Board, Navy/Tan: Rediscover the Holy Art of Reading Biblica (Editor)**

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George P. says

When I lived and worked in Southern California, I drove the 405 Freeway every day. A 2013 U.S. Department of Transportation study found the 405 to be the busiest interstate in the U.S. You can imagine how much time I spent looking at an endless line of bumpers in front of me.

I was talking about my commute with a friend, who asked if I'd ever noticed the cows on the east side of the freeway. I laughed. My commute from home to work and back again took me along miles of Orange County's urban sprawl. "There are no cows on the east side of the 405," I replied, with a high degree of confidence.

The next time I drove the 405, however, I noticed the cows. Apuleius said, "Familiarity breeds contempt," and he was right. Thousands of trips up and down the 405 had accustomed my eyes both to see and not to see

Apuleius' apercu applies to the Bible as much as to bumpers and bovines. Longtime readers of the Bible can become so accustomed to it that they stop noticing things. There are several ways to remedy that problem. In my experience, one can read the books of the Bible in a different translation, format, order, and/or way. What I love about *The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project* is that it helps readers do all four.

Sola Scriptura uses the NIV (2011 edition), the aim of which is "to articulate God's unchanging Word in the way the original authors might have said it had they been speaking in English to the global English-speaking audience today." The NIV incorporates advances in the understanding of biblical Hebrew and Greek, as well as changes in English usage since the translation first appeared in 1978. The result is a version that renders the Bible's original languages in good, idiomatic English.

The most revolutionary thing about *Sola Scriptura* is its format. Typical Bibles present the inspired text as a single volume in a two-column format with chapter and verse numbers, headings, footnotes and cross-references. *Sola Scriptura*, by contrast, spreads out the Bible over four volumes. It presents the inspired text in a single-column format and eliminates headings, footnotes and cross-references entirely. Also, instead of interpolating chapter and verse numbers within the text, it discreetly prints the chapter-and-verse range at the bottom of each page.

Bible publishers call this kind of formatting a "Reader's Bible." I find Reader's Bibles easier to read than typical Bibles. Instead of being formatted like a reference work — two columns with scholarly apparatus (numbers, headings, etc.) — Reader's Bibles are formatted like normal books. I can't help but wonder whether the reason why so many Christians spend more time reading novels and biographies than their Bibles is because their Bibles are formatted like dictionaries, encyclopedias and textbooks.

Even splitting the Bible into four volumes helps readers. To get all of Scripture between two covers, typical Bibles present the inspired text on thin paper, in two columns over more than a thousand pages. *Sola Scriptura* uses a larger font and thicker paper, and each volume is about as long as a standard novel or nonfiction book. I have found that I am able to read Scripture for longer periods of time — sometimes an entire book of the Bible in one sitting! — because of the Reader's Bible format.

Another great innovation is *Sola Scriptura*'s revised order of the books of the Bible. Typical Bibles follow

the Septuagint's order of Old Testament books. (The Septuagint was a Greek translation of the Old Testament.) *Sola Scriptura*, on the other hand, revises the Hebrew Bible's order of books.

Traditionally, Jews have organized the Hebrew Bible — what Christians call the Old Testament— into three main sections: Law (*Torah*), Prophets (*Nevi'im*), and Writings (*Ketuvim*). If you hear a Jewish friend refer to Scripture as *Tanakh*, this is simply an acronym for the three major divisions. The Law encompasses Genesis through Deuteronomy. The Prophets are divided into Former Prophets (Judges–2 Kings) and Latter Prophets (Isaiah–Malachi, minus Lamentations and Daniel). The writings include everything else (1 Chronicles–Song of Songs, plus Lamentations and Daniel).

Volume 1, “The Torah and Former Prophets,” follows both the Hebrew Bible's and Septuagint's order of books from Genesis to 2 Kings. It presents the story of Israel from creation to exile in one volume.

Volume 2, “The Latter Prophets,” uses the Hebrew Bible's list of books but departs from its ordering of them. *Sola Scriptura* arranges the prophets according to the four historical periods in which they ministered: (1) “as the empire of Assyria was growing” (Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah); (2) “when the Assyrian empire was crumbling and the Babylonians and Egyptians were jockeying to become rulers of the region” (Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk); (3) “when the Babylonians conquered Judah and deported much of its population” (Jeremiah, Obadiah, Ezekiel); and (4) when the Jews “returned from Babylon to Judea under Persian rule” (Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, Malachi). This allows readers to read the prophets in roughly chronological order. (There are scholarly disputes about some of the dates of these books.)

Volume 3, “The Writings,” again uses the Hebrew Bible's list of books but departs from its order. *Sola Scriptura* groups the books under four headings: (1) “collections of song lyrics” (Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Songs); (2) “wisdom” books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job); (3) “historical books” (1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther); and (4) Daniel, which is “half history and half apocalypse.”

Traditionally, the New Testament has been organized in several blocks: history (Gospels–Acts), Paul's letters (Romans–Philemon, longest to shortest), general letters (Hebrews–Jude, longest to shortest) and Revelation. *Sola Scriptura*'s fourth volume, “The New Testament,” uses the four Gospels as its organizing principle. “The traditional priority of the stories of Jesus is retained, but now each Gospel is placed at the beginning of related books.”

So, Luke–Acts is paired with Paul's letters, which are organized chronologically. Matthew is grouped with Hebrews and James. Mark, who early Christian tradition associated with the apostle Peter, is grouped with 1 and 2 Peter and Jude. And John is grouped with 1–3 John and Revelation.

Obviously, Volumes 2–4 depart from the traditional order of biblical books in significant ways. I personally found this helpful, however. For example, I read the New Testament every month. Doing so using *Sola Scriptura*'s New Testament order feels less repetitive than when you read the Synoptic Gospels sequentially. It feels more organic when you read Luke and Acts together than when you read John in between them. Reading 1 Thessalonians long before Romans shines a new light on the unfolding of Paul's theology. Reading John's Gospel and letters with Revelation shows thematic linkages between them all. I could say something similar about Volumes 2 and 3, but you get the point.

I've talked about translation, format and order, so let me close with a note about how *Sola Scriptura* provides a different way to read Scripture. I mentioned above that the Reader's Bible format makes it easier to read long sections of Scripture in a single sitting. This is a key deficiency in most people's Bible-reading habits.

Perhaps I can put it this way: *We spend too little time reading the Bible, and we read too little of the Bible in the time that we do spend.* We read verses instead of paragraphs, paragraphs instead of chapters and chapters instead of entire books. We focus on inspirational sayings — e.g., Jeremiah 29:11, John 3:16, Philippians

4:17 — rather than seeing the larger historical and literary context in which they are uttered.

By presenting Scripture in a different translation, format and order, *The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project* helps readers see God's Word in a different way, one that connects the parts to the whole, the individual stories in the Bible to the Grand Story God tells us through the Bible in its entirety.

Book Reviewed

The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project, 4 vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017).

P.S. I wrote this review for InfluenceMagazine.com, and it appears here by permission.

P.P.S. If you found my review helpful, please vote "Yes" on my Amazon.com review page.

Dan says

This four volume work is a the entire Bible produced with the intention of readability and cohesiveness. The arrangement of the books of the Bible has been done so that the metanarrative is easier to grasp and thus allow the reader to see the big picture of Scripture.

I found this work to be very easy to read and the appreciate the four volume design. It makes finding a particular book of the Bible easier and seeing the weaving of the complete story which can be sometime lost. I also appreciated the care with which the collection was produced. The bindings are solid and the box set allows for the volumes to stand upright without spinal wear and tear.

I hope that a premium edition of this will be created later with a leather binding. The hardbacks are nice and look great but an added value of a leather edition would be a nice gift.

*I received a complimentary copy of this collection from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Sarah Smith Storm says

The presentation of the Scriptures in this 4 Volume hardcover set of NIV Sola Scriptura from The Bible Project without the verse and chapter divisions makes reading the Bible, like reading a book. It will give the opportunity and desire to read Gods word in a more informal fashion because you aren't seeing the numbers and aren't focused on the chapters, which at times can give the effect of reading out of habit and not out of desire. What I love is that this format encourages the reader to dive in and read in complete context, while enjoying the scriptures in a new format.

The NIV text of the scriptures are broken up into four volumes. The Torah, former prophets, latter prophets, the writings and the New Testament. This doesn't feel like your typical standard Bible. It has a great font size that is readable. This isn't a study Bible with cross references, maps or pictures, but straight words.

The presentation of this four volume series is stunning and well crafted in a hard bound set, with navy and beige in metallic red for the titles. It is volume of Bibles that I will be keeping on my shelves for years to come. I love the navy ribbon sewn into each volume. This would make a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone. I give the NIV Sola Scriptura 5/5 stars. Thank you to the publisher for providing a complimentary copy. A favorable review was not required.

John says

The resurgence of the Reader's Bible has cultivated a refreshingly simple reading experience that is designed to present the Bible with minimal distractions. There are several variations of such on the market in both single-volume and multi-volume formats for a number of widely used English translations. The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project by Zondervan is among the newest contestants in the multi-volume arena and offers readers a unique experience unlike any other Reader's Bible currently available.

The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project is an attractive four-volume set clothbound and packaged within a sturdy slipcase. The cover and binding are beautifully designed and constructed for the durability of everyday use. Moreover, the attention to detail that Zondervan has sought to uphold with this set is impressive. The paper is extremely thick and opaque, and a single-column format is nicely complimented by a generously-sized (10.3-point) and readable font (Karmina). I found long reads enjoyable with minimal strain. There are also nice detailed touches that can be found throughout the set, such as the marbled paper artwork that lines the cloth-over-board cover of each volume, the clothbound slipcase that was printed to balance the pattern of the set, or the black text with red accents throughout.

The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project was designed with intentionality. Its purpose is to create an experience that allows readers to rediscover Bible reading. Still, it should be noted that the books are not presented in the traditional order that readers are likely used to finding them, especially in the New Testament where editorial decisions have resulted in a significant canonical reordering of books. The Old Testament closely follows the structure and organization of the Hebrew Bible: (Vol. 1) Torah and the Former Prophets, (Vol. 2) the Latter Prophets, and (Vol. 3) the Writings. The New Testament (Vol. 4) uses each of the four Gospels to divide the canon into four groups of writings that best complement each other historically and literarily. For example, Luke and Acts have been joined together as a single two-volume work and paired with the Pauline Epistles in historical order rather than by size because of the traveling companionship between the two. Matthew has been paired with Hebrews and James because of a similar audience. Mark has been paired with the Petrine Epistles and Jude because of the Petrine focus of the Gospel and the similarities of 2 Peter and Jude. John has been paired with the Johannine Epistles and Revelation because of shared authorship.

My overall impression of The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project is favorable. I sincerely enjoy the style of the NIV as a Reader's Bible option. I have used the ESV Reader's Bible (six-volume set) for over a year and have thoroughly appreciated it in almost every regard. The NIV is an excellent alternative translation in general and the Reader's Bible format allows the readability of the NIV to shine brightly. The quality of The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project is tremendous and readers will notice such immediately upon opening the set. My only complaint concerning the quality is the functionality of the slipcase. It is far too difficult to get a volume in-and-out of the slipcase than one would expect, which is a shame because the slipcase is both good looking and well-constructed. Lastly, concerning the organization of the volume, I will admit that I was somewhat puzzled at the decision to reorder the books. It seemed unnecessary and cumbersome for a Bible that aims to remove distractions and allow readers room to simply read. However, after spending time with the set and setting aside my preconceived expectations, I was sincerely impressed by the insights gained from reading within the presented order—especially within the New Testament volume. In other words, what I expected to be a great hurdle actually catapulted me deeper into the Bible as a reader. It was unexpected and wholeheartedly welcomed.

The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project by Zondervan is more than simply another Reader's Bible option. The quality is superb and the experience therein is unique if approached with a desire to read the Bible in a fresh way. Undoubtedly, some readers will find the reorganizational freedom of the editorial team to be outlandish

and unconventional because it doesn't adhere to a tradition. Still, those who humbly sit down and start to read will quickly find that the level of intentionality in the details of this set extends far beyond others on the market. The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project is outstanding by nearly every count and should be used often. It comes enthusiastically recommended.

Create With Joy says

I've had the pleasure of reviewing many wonderful Bibles over the years, but to say that the NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project completely wowed me would be an understatement. This Bible is like no other!

The NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project is designed to help us read the living Word of God in its most ancient arrangement. To do this, the editors have re-ordered the modern structure of the Old Testament according to the traditional shaping of the Hebrew Scriptures: the Torah, the Former and Latter Prophets, and the Writings. They've also restructured the entire layout of the New Testament by placing each of the four Gospels at the head of four groupings of books that make sense to group together (such as the gospel of John, the epistles of John, and the book of Revelation).

Finally, the editors have removed all chapter and verse numbers, red letters, and cross references present in most modern Bibles, and published the Bible in a 4-volume set on premium paper in a highly legible, elegant 10.3 point type.

Although the concept of reading the Bible without verse references to denote may seem a little strange at first, when I sat down to read the NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project, I found myself totally immersed in the Bible in this brand new way. I found it easy to get caught up in the "story" of the Bible and to see and hear things in a new way. It was also a pleasure to read the Bible on quality paper, without the distraction of seeing through words bleeding through from the other side of the page!

If you are looking for a Bible for your home library, for your personal reading pleasure, or as a gift for someone who you know loves reading God's Word, then I highly recommend the NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project to you!

This review contains an excerpt from the original review that is published on my blog. To read my review in its entirety, please visit [Create With Joy](#).

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own, based on my assessment of this book.
