

B. History and Culture

1. Sources and tools: this is too big a subject to deal with in depth, but we may make a few suggestions on basic helps for the interpreter:

a. Bibliographies--this is one of the best ways to find good literature

France, R.T. A Bibliographic Guide to New Testament Research. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1979.

Osborne, G., ed. An Annotated Bibliography on the Bible and the Church. Published by the Faculty of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, available from Trinity Beacon Bookstore, Deerfield, IL. *Very useful*

Scholer, D. A Basic Guide for New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973.

b. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Buttrick, G.A., ed. The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible and Supplement. 5 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962-77. Most widely used by mainline denominations. More liberal in its orientation to matters of historical and literary criticism.

Douglas, J.D., ed. The Illustrated Bible Dictionary. 3 vols. Wheaton: Tyndale, 1980.

Tenny, M., ed. The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

c. Archeology

Finegan, J. Light from the Ancient Past. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959.

Yos, H.T. Archeology of Bible Lands. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

d. Geography

Pfeiffer, C.F. and H.F. Yos. The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands. Chicago: Moody, 1967.

Beitzel, B. The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands. Chicago: Moody, 1985.

- e. History and culture--the literature here is enormous. Consult the various bibliographies at the end of dictionary articles, in the notes of commentaries, etc. Note too that one mark of a good commentary is that it provides the student with significant historical-cultural background.