VCE Texts and Traditions
Units 1–4: 2017–2022

Resources

Some of the print resources contained in this list may be out of print. They have been included because they may still be available from libraries, bookshops and private collections.

At the time of publication the URLs (website addresses) cited were checked for accuracy and appropriateness of content. However, due to the transient nature of material placed on the web, their continuing accuracy cannot be verified. Teachers are strongly advised to prepare their own indexes of sites that are suitable and applicable to the courses they teach, and to check these addresses prior to allowing student access.

General

Books

Bailey, K 2008, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels,* Intervarsity Press, Illinois.

Brown, RE et al. 1990, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs.

Fee, GD 2002, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors, Third Edition,* Westminster John Knox Press, Kentucky.
This book offers step-by-step analysis of various exegetical procedures and references other exegetical and historical literature of the New Testament.

Kaufman, F 2014, *Manual of Jewish Festivals: A Timeless Journey of Faith and History,* Published by Freda Kaufman, Melbourne.
This book offers insight into the development of many of the unique rituals of Judaism.

Levine A & Brettler M (eds.) 2011, *The Jewish Annotated New Testament,* Oxford University Press Inc., New York.
This annotated Bible provides historical and cultural introductions to each of the New Testament books and brief verse-by-verse commentary from a Jewish perspective on the New Testament text.

Moloney, FJ 1986, *The Living Voice of the Gospel: The Gospels Today*, Collins Dove, Blackburn, Melbourne.
In this book each of the four Gospels is reviewed as a whole, followed by a focused study of a particular section in which the author sets out to demonstrate how each Gospel writer works the text to his own theological purposes. The concluding chapter outlines the general intellectual and academic history of this position, making a case about the nature of Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man, and the role of discipleship today.

Moloney, FJ 1981, *Women in the New Testament,* St Paul Publication, Homebush NSW.

Neusner, J & Chilton, B 1998, *Jewish-Christian Debates: God, Kingdom, Messiah,* Fortress Press, Minneapolis.
This scholarly work reveals some of the similarities and differences between Jewish and Christian understandings of biblical concepts such as communion with God, the Kingdom
of God, and the Mystery of the Messiah.

Pitre, B 2011, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist,* Doubleday, New York.
This book seeks to show the continuity between the Jewish Passover festival and the Christian Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Pope Benedict XVI 2007, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco. Pope Benedict XVI 2011, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco.

Pope Benedict XVI 2012, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco.
These three volumes provide a scholarly understanding of the formation of the gospel tradition in general. They explain the various events and teachings of Christ and important figures of speech in the gospels, particularly John.

Sanders, E 1985, *Jesus and Judaism,* Fortress Press, Philadelphia.
This book explores two issues with respect to Jesus: his intention and his relationship to his Jewish contemporaries.

Tomlinson, G & Goosen, M 1994, *Studying The New Testament: An Introduction,* E J Dwyer, NSW.
This book describes the setting of the Gospels and covers literary forms and techniques.
It compares the four canonical gospels and includes diagrams, photographs and maps.

Bender, DL (ed.) 1999, *The Spread of Islam*, Greenhaven Press, Inc., San Diego.
This collection of scholarly essays from both Western and Islamic traditions covers topics
on the background to the tradition, including the early history of Islam, the life of Prophet Muhammad and aspects of pre Islamic Arab culture.

The Gospel according to John

Books

Brown, RE 2003, *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*, ed. FJ Moloney, Doubleday, New York.
This book is a completely revised version of Brown’s two-volume commentary on the Gospel of John. It provides a revised perspective on the historical development of the Gospels, as well as two new sections on Christology and the representation of the Jews in the Gospel of John, both of which were absent in the original commentary.

Byrne, B 2014, *Life Abounding,* St Pauls Publication, Strathfield, NSW.
This recent commentary on the Gospel according to John covers diverging interpretive views of the Gospel and reflects on the challenge to the life and practice of that community for whom the gospel was first written.

Coloe, M 2013, *A Friendly Guide to John’s Gospel,* Garratt Publishing, Melbourne.
This book looks at each chapter of John, especially the Prologue, through the lens of Jesus’ hour, and his life, death and resurrection.

Culpepper, RA 1998, *The Gospel and Letters of John,* Abingdon Press, Nashville.
This book considers both the Gospel and the Epistles attributed to John, offering a summary of the distinctive thought and language.

Hengel, M 1989, *The Johannine Question*, Trinity Press International, Philadelphia.
This book examines issues related to the authorship and origin of the Gospel according to John.

*Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: The Gospel of John,* 2003, Ignatius Press, San Francisco.
This book provides a verse-by-verse commentary of the Gospel according to John, and a concise introduction to Biblical interpretation and notes on the historical context of the writing of the Gospel.

Lee, DA 1994, *The Symbolic Narratives of the Fourth Gospel: The Interplay of Form and Meaning*, JSNTS 95, JSOT Press, Sheffield.
The book examines six long narratives of the Fourth Gospel, arguing that they are best understood as 'symbolic narrative': the narrative unfolds the symbol and the symbol draws out the narrative.

Lindars, B 1990, *John. New Testament Guides*, JSOT Press, Sheffield.
This analysis of the Gospel according to John includes an introduction to the particular biblical book, a survey of issues, suggestions about critical appropriation of the text by the contemporary reader, and a commentary on the Biblical text.

Moloney, FJ 1998, *The Gospel of John. Sacra Pagina*, vol. 4, Michael Glazier Liturgical Press, Collegeville, USA.
This commentary of the Gospel according to John explores the manner in which the historical Gospel speaks to contemporary readers without denigrating historical critical questions.

Talbert, CH 1992, *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles*, SPCK, London.
This book concentrates on the literary and theological distinctives of the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles. It offers a commentary of the entire scope of these works attributed to John, their literary settings and particularities, and their continuing theological importance to the Christian story.

Yee, GA 1989, *Jewish Feasts and the Gospel of John*, M. Glazier, Wilmington, Delaware.
This book provides a layperson’s guide to the premise that in John, Jesus replaces the four Jewish feasts: Sabbath, Passover, Tabernacles, and Dedication in his special relationship to the Father, making them obsolete. As such it focuses particularly on the Book of Signs [John 1:19-12:50].

Hebrew scriptures

Books

Cohen, A 1950, *The Soncino Books of the Bible – Ezekiel*, The Soncino Press, London.

Cohen, A 1949, *The Soncino Books of the Bible – Jeremiah*, The Soncino Press, London.

These Soncino Press books provide new translations at the time of the books of Ezekiel and Jeremiah with commentary anthologies from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabinnic sources.

Eben, A 1968, *My People – The Story of the Jews*, Random House, New York.
This book is a history of the formative years of the Israelite Nation as well as the period and demise of the first Commonwealth. It provides a contextual backdrop to the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Eisemann, M (trans.), 1977, *The Artscroll Tanach Series, Ezekiel Vol I, II, III*, Mesorah Publications, Brooklyn.
This book provides a new translation at the time of the Book of Ezekiel with commentary anthologies from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabinnic sources.

Lau, B 2013, *Maggid Studies in Tanakh, Jeremiah: the fate of a Prophet*, Maggid Books, Jerusalem.
This book uses a thematic structure rather than chronological to cover events and ideas in the Book of Jeremiah. It provides context and broader historical understanding of the time period of the prophet.

Sacks, J 2009, *Covenant and Conversation Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*, Maggid Books, Jerusalem.

Sacks, J 2010, *Covenant & Conversation Exodus: The Book of Redemption*, Maggid Books, Jerusalem.
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ essays on the weekly Torah portions within Genesis and Exodus fuse Jewish tradition, Western philosophy and literature to present his understanding of the human condition under God’s sovereignty. Sacks alludes to many themes and current and historical ideas that are relevant to the study of the books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Samuels, R 1977, *Pathways through Jewish History Revised Edition*, KTAV Publishing House, New York.
This book provides basic and chronological knowledge of the history of the Jews prior to and during the period of the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Yerushalmi, S 1994, *The Torah Anthology, The Book of Yirmiyahu Vol I and II*, Moznaim Publishing, New York.
This book includes a translation of the Book of Jeremiah and a variety of commentaries on verses of the text. It also includes an introduction to the historical background of Jeremiah.

Yerushalmi, S 1997, *The Torah Anthology, The Book of II Kings*, Moznaim Publishing, New York.
This book includes a translation of the Book of II Kings. It contains the background and succession of Kings in Israel prior to and during Jeremiah’s ministry, providing a source for the historical context for the Prophet’s career.

The Gospel according to Luke

Books

Bock, Darrell L 1994, *Luke*, InterVarsity Press, Illinois.
This commentary includes intertextual references from the Hebrew Scriptures. It includes a discussion on authorship, Luke’s audience, the date of the writing of Luke and proposed purposes for its writing. There is some reference to the original Greek text but transliterated into English.

Bock, Darrell L 1996, *The NIV Application Commentary: Luke*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids.
The Gospel is discussed in short passages, with commentary on the meaning within the gospel and passage, meaning for the original audience, and meaning for contemporary audiences.

Byrne, B 2000, *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke’s Gospel,* St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.
This commentary examines Luke’s Gospel using the lens of hospitality.

Culpepper, RA 1996, *The New Interpreter’s Bible: Luke – John (Volume IX)*, Abingdon, Nashville.
This commentary has a reflection for Christians today at the end of each passage. These reflections are mostly also applicable to the original intended audience.

Evans, CA 1990, *New International Biblical Commentary: Luke*, Hendrickson Press, Peabody, Massachusetts.
This book includes a brief introduction to the Gospel according to Luke as a whole. There is an overall interpretation for each passage and then additional notes for significant words and phrases.

Fitzmyer, JA 1985, *The Gospel According to Luke,* Yale University Press, New Haven and London.
A two-volume work including discussion on the writer and the original audience, composition and language of the Gospel, and theology within the Gospel.

Green, J 1997, *The Gospel of Luke, Eerdmans,* Grand Rapids, Michigan.
This commentary offers a close examination of the text.

Johnson, LT 1991, *Sacra Pagina: The Gospel of Luke*, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.
This commentary breaks the Gospel into shorter passages, and presents verse-by-verse annotations on words and phrases. It also has an interpretation of the passage as a whole.

Karris, RJ 2006, *Eating Your Way Through Luke*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.
This book relates to the theme of table fellowship.

Morris, L 1995, *Luke,* Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester, England.
This book includes sections on the background of the Gospel of Luke.

Mullins, M 2010, *The Gospel of Luke,* The Columba Press,Blackrock, County Dublin.
This book presents a discussion of overall meaning and Lukan themes, and examines passages, looking at specific words and phrases within the context of each passage.

Tannehill, RC 1996, *Luke,* Abingdon Press, Nashville.
This book includes attention to literary forms, techniques and structure. For each passage,
it discusses how members of the Lukan audience would understand the passage.

Wright, T 2004, *Luke For Everyone*, Westminster John Knox Press, Kentucky.
This book interprets the Gospel into a modern context.

Online resources

Darrell L. Bock on the Purpose of Luke and Acts
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXOmE-lls7k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXOmE-lls7k)

Darrell L. Bock on the Gospel and the Holy Spirit in Luke and Acts
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhy0e4r5SVU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhy0e4r5SVU)

Darrell L. Bock on Luke’s Christology
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUCuDalPNfc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUCuDalPNfc)

Quran

Books

Al-Ghazali, M, 2001, *A Thematic Commentary on the Qur’an*, Islamic Book Trust, Selangor, Malaysia.
This exegetical approach identifies each surah’s (chapter) unique character. It then presents a major subject or a number of interrelated themes that help the reader to identify the main subject of the surah.

Denfer, VD 2011, *Ulum al-Qur’an: An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur’an*, the Islamic Foundation, Leicestershire.
This book aims at helping the reader toward a better understanding of the message of the Qur’an while providing information on its setting as well as its framework and circumstances. Furthermore, it provides a descriptive account of the traditional subject of the Sciences of the Qur’an and its branches.

Ahmed, H 2005, *A New Approach to the Study of the Quran*, Good Word Books, New Delhi.
The book presents a new and constructive approach to the study of the Quran. It explores the various literary techniques and style used in the Quran as well as the themes and language of the Quran.

Ushama, T 1995, *Methodologies of the Qur’anic Exegesis*, A. S. Noordeen, Kuala Lumpur.
This book aims to provide a critical and meaningful introduction to the various methodologies of the exegesis of the Quran. It looks at the approaches adopted by various sects and schools of thought to interpret some verses of the Quran.

Philips, AAB 2006, *Tafseer Soorah Al-Hujuraat*, International Islamic Publishing House (IIPH), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
This book is a comprehensive study of the 49th surah of the Quran, which was one of the important surahs revealed in Medina to address issues relevant to the growing Muslim community and their neighbours. The study includes an introduction to the general study
of Tafseer (exegesis) covering topics on the subject of the Sciences of the Quran such as schools of Tafseer, transmission of Tafseer and the requirements for the commentator of
the Qur’an.

Usmani, MT 2000, *An Approach to the Quranic Sciences*, Darul-Ishaat, Karachi, Pakistan.
Originally written in Urdu, this book underlines the principles and basis of exegesis. The author discusses how the Quran was revealed, the reality of Wahy (revelation), the sequence and period of revelation, as well as Mecca and Medina revelation. The distinction between the two types of revelation and how this helps in the interpretation of the Quran is also highlighted. Aspects of the hadith are also covered in the book.

Asad, M 1984, *The Message of the Qur’an*, Dar al-Andalus, Gibraltar.
This book is considered one of the most influential translations and interpretations of the Quran in the modern era and written by one of the most influential European Muslims of
the 20th Century.

Qadhi, AAY 1999, *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur’an*, Al-Hidaaya Publishing and Distribution, Birmingham, UK.
Yasir Qadhi is a renowned modern American Islamic scholar who has produced a great number of written as well as audiovisual documents on the Quran and its interpretation. In this book he introduces concepts that scholars of the past had discussed under the topic of Quranic Sciences. The book gives the reader a general understanding and introduction to this field.

Khalil, SA 2001, *Atlas of the Qur’an*, Darussalam, New York.
This atlas consists of pictures and maps of places, peoples and important figures that are mentioned in the Quran.

Qutb, S 2001, *In the shade of The Qur’an*, The Islamic Foundation, London.
Sayyid Qutb’s interpretation borrows heavily from the literary analysis of known scholars in that field. His works also includes some structural features of classical commentaries and making faith the central theme.

Al-Faruqi, IJ 1998, *Tawhid: Its Implications for Thought and Life*, International institute of Islamic thought (IIIT), Kuala Lumpar.
This book aims to give the reader a clearer understanding of Islam. The author looks at the doctrine of Islam from different perspectives, covering elements such as Islamic history, comparative religion and other disciplines.

Online resources

[www.kalamullah.com/](http://www.kalamullah.com/)

[www.bayyinah.tv/](http://www.bayyinah.tv/)

[www.alim.org/](http://www.alim.org/)

[www.englishtafsir.com/](http://www.englishtafsir.com/)

[www.altafsir.com/Books/Asbab%20Al-Nuzul%20by%20Al-Wahidi.pdf](http://www.altafsir.com/Books/Asbab%20Al-Nuzul%20by%20Al-Wahidi.pdf)