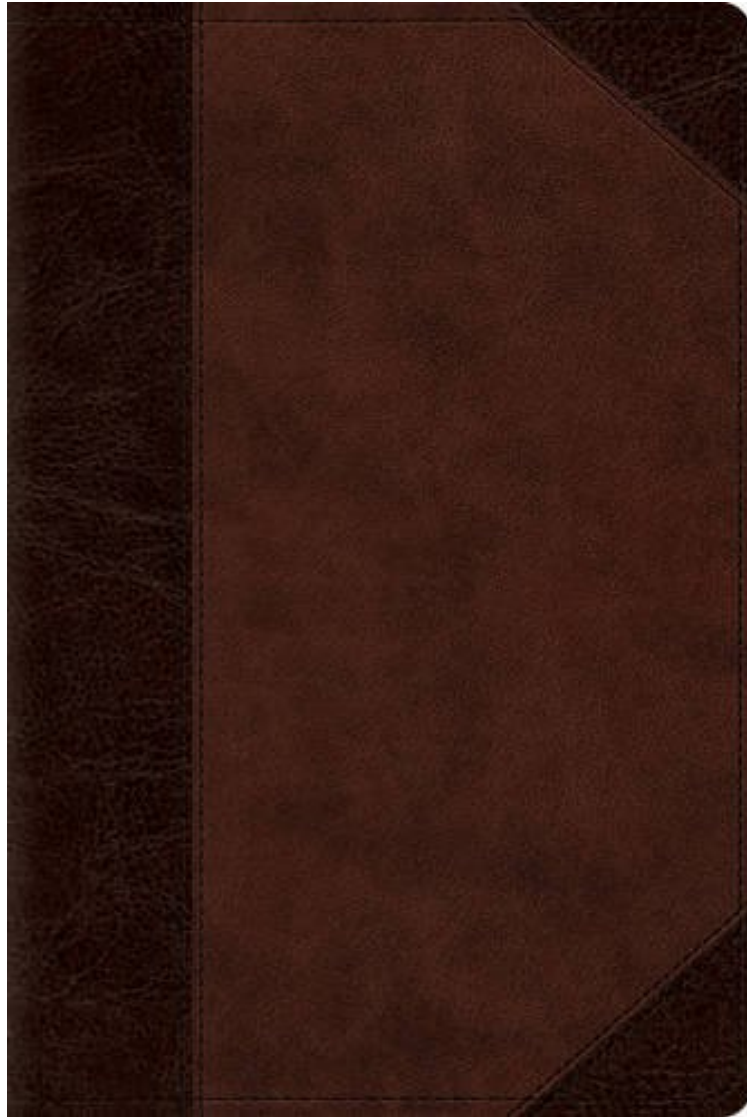


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ESV Reader's Bible (TruTone, Brown/Walnut, Portfolio Design)

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ESV Bibles by Crossway : ESV Reader's Bible (TruTone, Brown/Walnut, Portfolio Design) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised ESV Reader's Bible (TruTone, Brown/Walnut, Portfolio Design):

125 of 126 people found the following review helpful. Finally! Beautiful execution of a long-overdue conceptBy David ChristopherI just received this Bible as a wedding gift and I LOVE it!I have owned and read a number of different Bibles over the years (a whole shelf of my bookcase is dedicated to Bibles), many of them study Bibles, and I am very thankful for their value as study tools (my favorite so far has been the ESV Study Bible). The ability to have

commentary at your fingertips can be really useful and clarifying. However, all of that commentary can also be distracting. I often find myself chasing so many rabbit trails in the footnotes that I lose the big picture of the actual *story* that I'm reading. That's where the ESV Reader's Bible comes in. It is obviously designed to read like a novel instead of an encyclopedia, and it succeeds. When my copy arrived in the mail, even though I knew it was coming I didn't recognize the box at first because it is smaller than any other Bible I've bought (except for those crazy small pocket Bibles). The size is on par with classic hardback novels, and about as thick. The Bible comes in a nice box sleeve (reminds me of a Lord of the Rings box set my parents owned) and looks really nice (I have the "cloth over board" hardcover version). Inside, the Bible is super readable - again, similar to a novel. Front matter is kept to a minimum, and there are no references at the back except for 4 maps (2 pages front and back) printed in tastefully subdued colors. Everything else is just the text of scripture, with no annotations or footnotes except for very discrete chapter numbers alongside the text, plus a "chapter and verse range" printed at the top of each page, and a page number at the bottom of each page. These reference numbers are all printed in a muted red font to let the black font of scripture be the reader's main focus. I have had the Bible for less than a week, yet already I've found myself feeling more engaged in the stories and picking up on nuances that I must have missed before. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the ESV translation feels more "natural" to read in this format (I have always struggled with the ESV feeling more cumbersome than the old NIV that I grew up on). Now it is easier for me to get lost in a story and forget about which chapter I am in. The quality of construction is also excellent and I get the impression that this book will last me a long time. It is not gaudy (no gold leafing on the edges of the pages), just very well made. Bottom line: This well-produced Bible is now my go-to choice for devotional reading, and would also be an excellent choice for giving to friends, whether mature, new, or not-yet-believers. I highly recommend it. ***UPDATE: 03/02/2016*** I noticed I misspelled the word "discrete" in my original review, and figured while I was coming back to fix that, I should give an update. :) The Bible has held up well after 1.5 years of use, and I still enjoy it thoroughly. The gold lettering on the spine has started to rub off a little (understandable), and a few threads that run vertically on the seam of the cover (where the brown fabric stops and gray begins) came loose and dangled until I snipped them with some scissors or yanked them off. However, all in all, it is proving to be a well-made Bible and I'm very thankful for my purchase. I'm just now wrapping up a yearly Bible reading plan (missed the New Year's target date... oh well), so I can say that after inspecting 95% of the pages, I haven't seen any defects. :) I would buy/request this Bible again in a heartbeat. (At the \$15 current price, it's an excellent value! I think it was \$25 when I received mine as a gift.) 79 of 82 people found the following review helpful. Comparing TruTone and Hardcover By mmoriarty For those who may want to know, the TruTone Brown/Walnut edition comes in a clamshell cardboard box, not a slipcase like the hardcover cloth-over-boards edition (and it really is honest-to-goodness cloth over boards, not paper). The TruTone has rounded page corners and gilded page edges; the hardcover has right-angle page corners and plain white page edges. Both editions have two brown ribbon markers. The TruTone has a rounded spine and the TruTone material is pleasant to handle. The dark material covers the entire back of the book, the spine, and one-third of the front cover of the book; the lighter-colored material is used only on the front cover. The spine is blind-stamped with the words "Holy Bible," "ESV," "English Standard Version," and "Crossway," and there is brown stitching around the edge of the covers and on the front of the volume as part of the "portfolio" design. The TruTone edition has plain light brown endpapers; the hardcover has a diamond-patterned light brown and grey endpapers. Marbled endpapers, suitable to each edition, would have picked the design of the book up a notch. The text-block, of course, is exactly the same in both, as is the paper weight, which is light flexible bible paper. It seems to me that the experience of reading the hardcover edition is more like reading a well-crafted book; reading the TruTone edition is more like reading a well-crafted bible. All the visual and tactile cues of the hardback say "book," while those of the TruTone say "bible." The TruTone's rounded spine and flexible cover make the book rest comfortably in the hand. Both it and the hardcover edition lay open easily and seem to "present" the text for reading. Gazing at these pages, one realizes the many thoughtful technical decisions that had to be made to craft such a pleasing work of the printer's art. I think what I appreciate most is the sense of intentional restraint that the pages display -- the subtle pleasure of the use of red ink on the page, the balance of the single-column text block, the absence of the visual clutter of footnotes and cross references, or running chapter and section headings. The page offers a kind of unmediated approach to the text at the same time that one appreciates the intelligence of the design. Crossway has published a beautiful book, and I think it will find many appreciative readers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very helpful for the big picture By Alan M Dionne This is a wonderful edition for its intended purpose. It helps that I'm a fast reader. If you want to get the sweep of an entire narrative, this is the way to go. I can plow through Genesis in a couple of hours without getting distracted by footnotes and cross-references. On my Kindle ESV, I frequently tap a footnote page when I want to just move on. This edition avoids that problem. For more in-depth study, back to the footnotes, of course.

The ESV Readers Bible was created for those who want to read the books of Scripture precisely as they were originally written. Verse numbers, section headings, and translation footnotes are helpful navigational and interpretive tools, but they are also relatively recent conventions. In the Readers Bible they have been removed from the Bible text,

and the result is a new kind of Bible-reading experience in a volume that presents Scripture as one extended storyline. On the top of each page a verse range is included for navigation. Other features include a single-column text setting, readable type, and a book-like format. The Readers Bible is a simple but elegant edition, and is perfect for devotional reading or extended Bible reading that focuses on the overarching narrative of the Bible. Features: Size: 5.25 x 7.75 9-point Lexicon type 1,840 pages Black letter text Single-column, paragraph format No verse numbers or footnotes Illustrated maps Two ribbon markers Smyth-sewn binding Lifetime guarantee Packaging: clamshell box (TruTone), permanent slipcase (cloth over board)