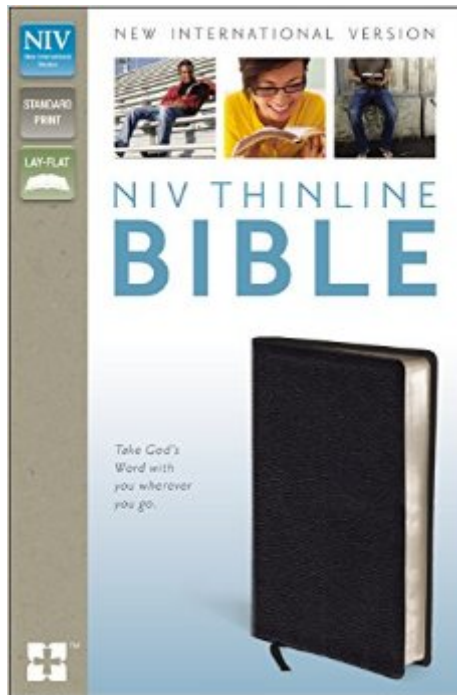


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# NIV, Thinline Bible, Bonded Leather, Black, Red Letter Edition



## Synopsis

Lightweight. Functional. Ready to travel. Whether you're going to church, heading to work, or touring the globe, the NIV Thinline Bible is ready to go with you. Its size makes it easy to keep God's Word at hand, no matter where life takes you. Features:

- Extra-thin edition • less than one inch thick
- Presentation page • ideal for gift giving
- Words of Christ in red
- Ribbon marker

Testimonials:

- "The overall size and format is perfect for an everyday carry-along Bible. It is perfect for home, work, or church and Sunday school. The thinness of the Bible is just right."
- Melissa • "This is my first Bible, and I wanted it to be well made and something I could see being with me for many years • and it is! Having Christ's words in red and the NIV translation make this Bible nothing short of satisfying."
- Sarah • "I've found this to be the most convenient Bible I've ever had. It is easy to hold and read, easy to find passages, and it's a cinch to transport."
- Hector

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the only Kindle Bible I have found (including free Bibles from non sources) which has a full table of contents. Each Book is easily accessed from the TOC and there is a clickable numeric list of chapters in each book when you open it. I don't understand how T. Heyn could have misread this. Maybe he had an earlier Kindle version which has since been updated. I can find John 3:16 or any other verse in this Bible in just a few seconds. Buy this one and you will not be disappointed.

NOTE: This review was written for a first generation Kindle. Kindles have changed considerably since then so the following review should be considered in that context. This review will simply

address the mechanics of this version of the Holy Bible in regards to the Kindle. I will refrain from any comments regarding the nature of the translation, leaving that for those far more learned than myself. I have downloaded several versions of the Holy Bible and I am pretty pleased with this one. The Table of Contents is easy to access. The individual books listed are centered and run down the middle of the page. After selecting a book, you are taken to that book with the first line(s) being a list of selectable chapters followed by the beginning of the text of that book. You can start to read or you can select a line of chapters which will take you to a sub-menu which allows you to select the specific chapter you want. The main problem I had with this set-up is the centering of the text sometimes made it difficult to select a specific book without occasionally hitting the one on top or bottom and having to go back and try again. Also, the Chapter list sub-menu seems to be an annoying additional step. The best "Kindle" set-up I've found so far is the Holy Bible: New American Standard Bible (NASB) (Kindle Edition) by The Lockman Foundation. The TOC is set up with a right justification so the text is right next to the cursor. Once you select a book, you are taken to a right justified chapter list. Selecting a chapter takes you right to the text, avoiding the sub-menu step. This, for me, has proven to be the most efficient style of navigation for Bible Study and reading. I will continue my collection of Kindle Bible versions, but I'm not going to waste any more money on versions which are not optimized for the Kindle with right justification of selectable lists.

In March 2011, the copyright owners of the most popular modern translation of the Bible in English, the New International Version (NIV), published the first revision of the NIV since 1984. As a pastor who did not like the over-reaching political correctness of the Today's New International Version (TNIV, copyright 2002), I was concerned when I heard that the NIV itself was going to be revised. But after studying the digital early release version in numerous passages, I have been pleased that it is more accurate, but disappointed that while the use of gender-neutral language does not go as far as the TNIV, it still goes too far. The new NIV retains 95% of the words of the 1984 edition, but where there are changes, it communicates the original meaning better to modern readers and more accurately than before. Let me address several issues: gender-neutral language, omission of words, and accuracy of translation. First, the most controversial issue of the TNIV (the earlier failed attempt to revise the NIV) was its gender-neutral language. The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution in June 2011 saying they "cannot commend" the 2011 NIV. Why is that? The 2011 NIV does not go as far as the TNIV. In Hebrews 12, where scripture speaks of God disciplining us like a father, the TNIV changed "father" to "parent." This implied that God was a gender-neutral "parent" rather than our "heavenly Father." I'm glad to report that the new NIV has "father," just as the 1984

edition had. However, the new NIV, like the TNIV, does use gender-neutral "brothers and sisters" when the context clearly means all believers. Since modern English speakers use both genders, "brothers and sisters," when addressing all believers, not just the masculine "brothers," it makes sense that the Bible they are reading do the same. However, this may not be acceptable to all readers, particularly in passages like Psalm 1, where the masculine pronoun is often associated with a reference to manhood. In the 1984 NIV, Psalm 1 says, "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked... He is like a tree planted by streams of water..." but the 2011 NIV renders it, "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water..." The 2011 NIV changes "fathers" to "parents" in Malachi 4:6, although the Hebrew word is *ab*, fathers. Also, Ezekiel 22:30, the famous "stand in the gap" passage used by Promise Keepers to challenge men, has been changed from "man" to "someone." A favorite verse of the men's group, Promise Keepers, was Proverbs 27:17, because it said that as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. However, the 2011 NIV changes "man" to "person." These kind of changes can be found hundreds of times throughout the Old and New Testaments in the 2011 NIV. However, the 2011 NIV continues to say "sons" in Romans 8:14 and "sonship" in Romans 8:15 in a discussion of spiritual adoption which refers to the male heir. Thus it does not use gender-neutral language in places where it would impact theology, but it does use gender-neutral language in some places that have traditionally been interpreted as references to manhood. The revised NIV also continues to maintain clear sexual distinctions between the genders in passages like Genesis 1:27, which reads, "So God created mankind in his own image... male and female he created them." The second translation issue is the omission of words. One of the biggest criticisms of the 1984 NIV was that sometimes words in the Greek text simply were not translated. The most notorious example was the Gospel of Mark, which makes frequent use of the Greek word *euthus*, "immediately." For some reason, there were many verses in the 1984 NIV that simply ignored this word. But the 2011 NIV is careful to translate it as "immediately" or "as soon" etc. in every place where it is used. I have been doing a verse-by-verse study of Romans in the Greek, and comparing the old and new versions of the NIV, I found that where the old NIV omitted the word "or" at the beginning of Romans 3:29, the new NIV restored the word. And in Romans 4:1, the old NIV omitted the words "according to the flesh," but the new NIV put the phrase back in. The third translation issue is the accuracy of translation. In an attempt to be easy to read, the NIV has been less precise in translating words and phrases. It's a difficult balance for any translation, but sometimes the 1984 NIV paraphrased the text in places that caused the reader to miss the technical point that the Biblical writer was making. For example, the 1984 NIV translates Romans 3:28, "observing the law."

But the 2011 NIV translates it, "works of the law." The Greek phrase is literally, "works of the law." In Romans chapter 8, Paul uses the word "flesh" as a metaphor for the sinful nature. The 1984 NIV translates it "sinful nature," which gets the idea across, but thereby obscures the deliberate play on words in Romans 8:3 when Paul says that when we were weakened by the flesh, God sent Jesus in the flesh. The 1984 NIV has "sinful nature" in these verses, but the 2011 NIV uses the literal word "flesh." In Romans 8:4, the 1984 NIV says that Jesus' sacrifice satisfied the "righteous requirements" of the law. However, the Greek word translated "requirements" is singular. The 2011 NIV changes it to the singular "requirement." This might seem a minor distinction, but theologically the singular implies that God covers the entirety of our sin, not just some sins. In Romans 10:4, the 1984 NIV reads, "Christ is the end of the law..." The Greek word translated "end" is *telos*, which means completion. Paul does not mean the law will stop, but that it will be fulfilled. Thus the 2011 NIV reads, "Christ is the culmination of the law..." Another example is Galatians 5:22, where the 1984 NIV lists "patience" among the fruit of the Spirit. The problem is, that there are two Greek words for patience: one word means patience with circumstances, and one word means patience with people. The word used in Galatians 5:22 means patience with people, so the 2011 NIV translates it "forbearance." The 2011 NIV has improved the accuracy of many passages in the Old Testament, as well. Psalm 93:1 reads in the 1984 NIV, "The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved." This is similar to the KJV, which was misinterpreted centuries ago to mean the universe revolved around the earth. But the Hebrew word means stability, and so the 2011 NIV translates it, "The world is established; firm and secure." Psalm 107 gives four stories of people who have reason to thank the Lord. Thus Psalm 107:2 reads in the 2011 NIV, "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story," which is an improvement of the 1984 "Let the redeemed of the Lord say this." Different readers will have different opinions about the appropriateness of gender-neutral language in the revised NIV. Some will like it, and others will not. Personally, I can understand the change to "brothers and sisters" or "mankind" when the context clearly refers to all people, but when the context is not clearly gender-neutral, the translation should not be gender-neutral. It is unfortunate that this issue may cloud the discussion of this revision, which is otherwise more accurate than before. People who love the NIV and do not object to gender-neutral language should embrace this revision with even more confidence in its accuracy, and people who object to the gender-neutral language will prefer translations such as the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) or English Standard Version (ESV).

NOTE ON THE KINDLE EDITION: Navigating to the books of the Bible may seem slow in the Kindle edition, but I have found a faster way than going back to the Table of Contents. If you click on the Menu button and then click on "Search this Book," you can enter the

title of the book, followed by the chapter number, and when you hit "find" you can go directly to the beginning of that chapter.

The NIV is my favorite version of the Bible. I am not rating the content of the Bible, but the ebook format. I bought this for my Kindle in the hope of quickly navigating to the scriptures in church or Bible study. For this purpose, it is not very good. I have to go back to the Table of Contents each time, trudge down the list of books of the Bible to find the book I'm looking for and then chapter and verse. If I had my regular print Bible with me I'd be at the verse much faster. If your goal in getting the NIV is for actually reading through it, instead of quickly locating a verse, I would highly recommend this version. It is great for reading, just not great for quick reference. I do wish they would come out with an NIV Bible that showed Book and Chapter at the top or side of each page...

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