

THE COMPANION BIBLE

The Companion Bible is a unique and very useful study Bible. It has an extensive system of notes with the text. It also has 198 appendixes covering a wide variety of Biblical topics. The authors of this study Bible selected their information with the goal (as stated in the preface) “not merely to enable him [the reader] to interpret the Bible, but to make the Bible the interpreter of God’s Word, and Will, to him.” This certainly reminds us of the teaching in our ministry that the Word interprets itself when rightly divided. The majority of the information the authors selected has proven to be accurate in light of the additional research that has been done by our ministry; therefore, this Bible is of great value to the serious Biblical student.

The text of The Companion Bible is the King James Version. Within the text different tpestyles call attention to various things. For example, in the New Testament, all quotations from the Old Testament are placed in boldfaced type. The text of the Bible usually occupies about one-half of the page, with the rest of the space devoted to a large margin that contains extensive notes. A word in the text preceded by ° will appear with a note in the margin following its verse number. Other superscript markings in the text indicate the verse number in the same chapter where a note has already been given on the same word. These notes cover an enormous variety of topics, including important variant readings from Greek and Hebrew texts, transliterations of Greek and Hebrew words, figures of speech and their bearing on the interpretation, the spiritual significance of numbers, the first occurrences of important words and expressions, information from archaeological discoveries, explanations of Eastern manners and customs, the meanings of proper names, and the structures of passages of scripture. The appendixes contain detailed discussions of many Biblical topics, including “Prepositions,” “The ‘Others’ Crucified with the Lord,” “The Synonymous Words for ‘Preach,’” and chronological charts.

An example of the depth of information contained in The Companion Bible can be found by looking at Genesis 10:25 on page 16.

Genesis 10:25:

And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one *was* °Peleg; for in his days was the earth °divided; and his brother’s name *was* Joktan.

Checking the notes for verse 25 concerning the word “Peleg” tells us that “Peleg = division.” The notes go on to refer us to chapter 11, verses 10-27. In Genesis 11:17, “Peleg” is tagged with another note that refers us to Luke 3:35, “Phalec.” Luke 3:35 includes the name “Phalec” with a note in the margin that tells us that Phalec is the same person as the Old Testament Peleg. The context of verse 35 shows us that Peleg is counted as part of the ancestral lineage of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

The word “divided” from Genesis 10:25 is also noted. The Hebrew is *pālag*, to cleave. The usage of this word is then compared to other Hebrew words translated “divide.” If you follow the references through, you can see the differences in meaning. Looking up Deuteronomy 32:8 leads to some interesting additional information. Here the note for the verse discusses uses of the word “divided” and refers the reader to Appendix 50.I. Appendix 50 is the “Chronological Charts, and Tables.” This appendix begins on page 40, and in the chart on pages 49 and 50 are some interesting notes on Genesis 10:25 and Peleg:

Gen. 10:25 and I Chr. 1:19. “The name of the one was Peleg because in his days the earth was divided.”

In both places the word is...(*pālag*) to divide, or cleave. Hitherto the earth had been one and undivided, and apparently surrounded by the waters. (Gen. 1:9,10.)

In the days of the 15th from Adam the earth was “divided,” cloven, broken up into its present condition of continents and islands, and intersected in every direction by the “Seas.”

It is clear that these verses contain no reference to the event referred to in Deut. 32:8 because the word there is...(*nāhal*) which is used solely of “inheritance.” The word from which Peleg derives his name, points to a violent disruption of the earth itself, a cataclysmic cleaving or dividing of the earth (Heb. the dry) into its present scattered condition.

This short “note” in Gen. 10:25 is pregnant with meaning, & probably contains the key to many ethnographical problems.

As you become familiar with The Companion Bible, you will appreciate the wealth and depth of information in this excellent work. The serious Biblical student can profit from the vast amount of material presented here throughout a lifetime of Biblical study.

The Companion Bible is available from The Way International Bookstore in two different types of binding:

1. The leather-bound copy (genuine leather) works well for those who prefer to use this Bible as their main Bible for studying and teaching.
2. The hardbound large-print copy works well for those who use the Bible primarily for reference in their Biblical research and study.