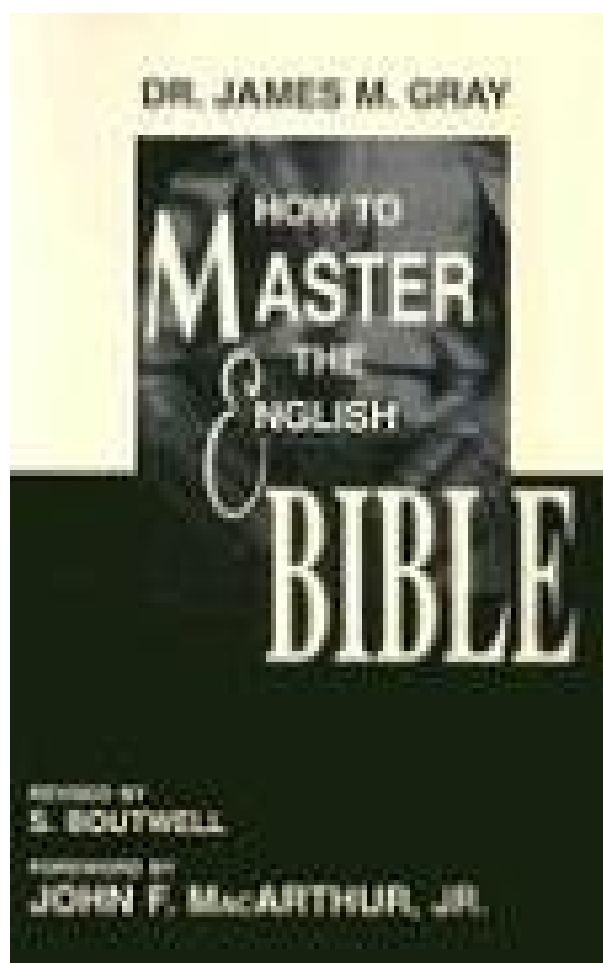
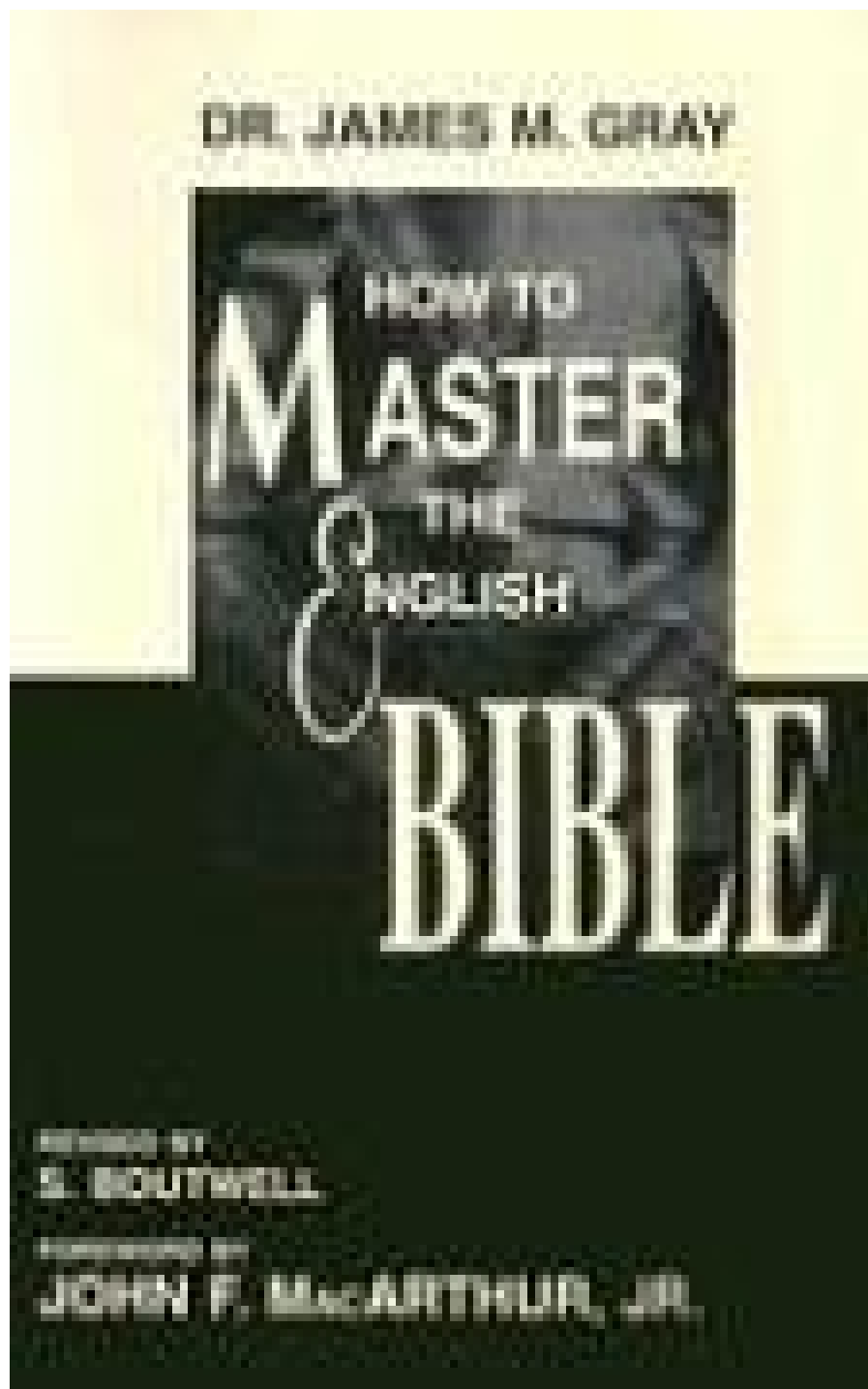


HOW TO MASTER THE ENGLISH BIBLE BY JAMES M. GRAY



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HOW TO MASTER THE ENGLISH BIBLE BY JAMES M. GRAY PDF

Boutwell republished this Christian classic because the modern church pulpit has gotten away from expositing the Bible, indeed Boutwell maintains that many parishioners would barely recognize the Bible if actually quoted. HOW TO MASTER THE ENGLISH BIBLE is for the typical layperson who wants to learn to read God's Word for themselves, and know what God is really saying to us. It teaches the reader how to read the Bible in an expository manner (explaining what the Bible means by what it says). Gray teaches that rather than analyzing a passage of Scripture (taking it apart), it should be synthesized (how a specific passage fits within the whole of a book of the Bible or the Bible as a whole). Scripture explains the meaning of passages of Scripture, as God has written His Word in toto over a period of time through human authors in time and space. If you want to really understand the message of Scripture, use this book to learn to teach yourself!

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A Lost Treasure

By Robert S. Scott

It's out of print and hard to find, but is worth the search and should've never gone out of print. What a hidden treasure. I've taught Bible study methods for over 20 years and no book I've ever seen has captured and revealed to key to mastering the Bible as well as this book. For the Christian knowing the Bible is not an option. We live not by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God Matt 4:4. Therefore our quest must be to we take in the entire Bible, yes, all of it. This is where Dr. Gray's instruction is invaluable. He is clear. He is simple. He is compelling, convicting and convincing. And it's only 76 pages. Amazing! The Bible tells an unfolding story and to learn it you must start from the beginning read to the end and reread and reread tracking the storyline until you've mastered it. I could not more wholeheartedly endorse any book.

General editor of Secret Sex Wars: A Battle Cry For Purity

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Simple!

By Captain America

Doctor James M. Gray, past president of Moody Bible Institute wrote, How to Master the English Bible in 1904. This book now reprinted and revised by Shawn P. Boutwell delivers a profound yet simple message in 76 short pages.

His premise is simple,

"The Bible must be mastered before it can be studied, and its the failure to see this which accounts for other failures on the part of many earnest would-be Bible students."

Gray believes that there are many ways to study the Bible, but there is only one way to master it.

The plan, as he calls it, began to develop at a Christian conference where he received an answer to prayer in the form of practical advise. His prayer for months had been that he may come to know how to master God's word.

A layman who attended the same conference demonstrated "a peace, a rest, a joy, a kind of spiritual poise" that he did not possess. When he inquired of this man what he did to be in possession of such necessary attributes the layman said, "By reading the epistle to the Ephesians." The layman said he had read Ephesians through in one sitting 12-15 times and by the end of it he not only possessed Ephesians, but it possessed him.

The first principle, which he calls, "the most important secret of his trade," is to read a whole book of the Bible in one sitting. He proceeded to do this with Genesis several times until "the book and its great outlines had practically become mine" and on through each book of the Bible. He made an exception for Psalms and Proverbs "and a couple of others," which don't necessarily lend themselves to the purpose of this type of reading plan.

The blessings brought by this type of reading were many: strengthened his conviction in the integrity and plenary inspiration of the Bible, gave him understanding of God's plan throughout history, purified his life, and lightened his labor in ministry, which he described as being burdensome and wearisome, but now were a "continual joy and delight."

As a preacher and a teacher of preachers, Gray found this principle of reading the Bible to move preachers from "sermonizing" to true biblical expository preaching.

Gray calls his method "a synthetic study of the Bible," which looks to put the Bible together, rather than take it apart. Synthetic Bible study is to look at the Bible with a telescope before looking at it with a microscope.

The synthetic method has six rules:

- 1) Study the Bible "where God began to write it" (Genesis).
- 2) Read the book. As simple as it sounds...read it.
- 3) Read it continuously without paying attention to chapter division and verses and in a single sitting.
- 4) Read it repeatedly.
- 5) Read it independent of commentaries or other aids until you can come up with an original book outline.
- 6) Read it prayerfully. The most important rule.

This section of the book was the most convicting. Gray challenges the teacher with zingers such as, "Should you wish to teach others, how could you communicate to them that sense of your own mastery of the subject so vital to a pedagogue had you never really dealt with it at first hand?" Oh how many times have I quickly gone to the commentaries or the TMSB when I've come to a difficult passage.

I was truly convicted of my mental laziness here, but Gray cautions that going to commentaries or helps

initially not only prevents you from developing intellectual powers, but also distracts you from understanding the overarching context.

He quotes F.B. Meyer,

"We have become so occupied with the hedge rows and the copses of the landscape as to lose the conception of the whole sweep and extent of the panorama of truth." And when doesn't, the mention of prayer cause us to be "dismayed and greatly afraid" like Saul and all Israel were at Goliath (1 Sam. 17:11)? Because "the Bible is a supernatural book, it can be studied or mastered only by supernatural aid" and Gray quoting William Luff writes,

"It is the Spirit's Bible! Copyright every word! Only His thoughts are uttered, only His voice is heard!" This challenge to depend on the Holy Spirit may seem rudimentary, but how often I jump straight into the text (or audio of it) without first praying.

The last two parts deal with Expository Preaching, which Gray calls "the most useful for of preaching." He writes,

"...expository preaching affords inducement and occasion to the preacher to declare the whole counsel of God. It keeps him from neglecting many important doctrines and duties which otherwise would almost necessarily be overlooked. It gives a symmetry and completeness to his pulpit efforts. It promotes variety and enables him to escape ruts."

I recommend this book, which can be read in a short sitting and it will spur you on to reading the Bible.

"Oh brethren of the ministry and the laity, get back to the Bible! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. Let us preach the preaching that God bids us. Diminish not a word. Let us be as His mouthpieces, nothing more, nothing less, taking forth the precious from the vile, for who knoweth if He will return, and leave a blessing behind Him?"

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A must

By A Customer

This book is a must read, and should be in every serious Bible student's library!

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