Extensive in-text notes help readers to understand the message of Scripture and apply it to their lives in a practical way.

I love my Life Application Study Bible, NASB. I had gone through another Bible when I learned that NASB is the best modern translation. I was reluctant to let the other go because it was highlighted and noted from beginning to ending. I could find things in the old Bible. Nevertheless, I began once again on page one.

It did not take long to discover that, yes, this is the Bible to read. What makes it so enjoyable includes several reasons. First of all, I love the translation. It maintains that sacred tone while in modern speech. Those who believe the King James translation is the only authentic version don't realize that it is a translation into the language of the King James court in England (during Shakespeare's time). A translation is never going to be an exact one because of language and cultural differences, but the NASB is certainly noteworthy.

Another winning factor is the abundance of study guides for each book: timelines, vital statistics including summary and application for each book, maps, outline of the book, charts and diagrams, and megathemes. I looked forward to these with each book. I read them both before and after each chapter and made simple notes in the margins.

Another winning aspect of this version is the Harmony of Old Testament scripture with New Testament passages. Jesus is first referenced in Genesis 1:26--Let Us make man in Our image... The footnote provides the Harmony. From Colossians 1:16 we know that Christ, God's Son, was at work in the creation (6). This continues throughout the Bible.

In fact the footnotes are where important life applications are found. Here is one example: Gen. 1:27: God made both man and woman in His image...From the beginning the Bible places both man and woman in the pinnacle of God's creation. Neither sex is exalted, and neither is depreciated (7).

Then there are the profiles of major characters interspersed throughout the chapter. For Adam there is a summary of his role, then a listing of his strengths and accomplishments, his weaknesses and mistakes, lessons
form his life, vital statistics, and key verses. This same list is provided for each profiled person.

This is an example of Vital statistics, an important part of chapter study, applied to Genesis: a stated purpose, author, to whom written, setting, key verses, key people. Very concise, very orderly.

If the student of Gods Word starts at the very beginning of this translation and this study guide, s/he will finish about a year later much wiser and more knowledgeable of Gods plan and our place in it. Then begin over because one reading is only a start. However, Life Application Study Bible, NASB is a great place to begin a life-long journey of spiritual growth.

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