

Jerry L. Sumney, *The Bible: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press
(www.fortresspress.com), xxxvi + 432. Paper, \$42.00.

“The Bible is a dangerous book” (395). Sumney shows how readers can critically access this book and the “ways it has nourished faith” (xxxiv). A companion website to this introduction exists at www.fortresspress.com/sumney. Two of the many didactic aspects of this book are the judicious use of colors and charts and the framing of the chapters with sections, “At a Glance,” “Let’s Review,” “Key Terms,” “Questions for Discussion and Study,” and “For Further Reading.” The treatment of the formation of the canon, textual criticism, translation theory and types, and inspiration and truth of the Bible (11–45) are plusses for this introduction. So is the section “Between the Testaments” (197–224), that includes discussion of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish parties in New Testament times. Hopefully, the second edition, should it occur, would include the Catholic canon of the Old Testament in the chart on p. 10 and the Jewish numbering of the Decalogue in that on p. 85. Students will find this introduction refreshing and informative.