

Announcing a new Arabic Van Dyck Cross-Reference Bible!



The most widely-used Arabic cross-reference Bible is over a hundred years old. Produced in 1905, it has been one of the popular Bible resources for Church leaders and teachers in the whole Arabic-speaking world.

Yet, after a century, the old plates were simply worn out; the faded pages a source of frustration and the references indistinct. Furthermore, as the references were not based on the Arabic translation, some were confusing or irrelevant. And because the text was unvowelled, mistakes in reading could be made. A second Bible was often needed for clarification.

In 2003, the Bible Society of Egypt began the task of major revisions, involving all the major confessions in Egypt. Each reference had to be reviewed to ensure a clear and logical connection in Arabic, with new references added as well. The footnotes, which bring the reader closer to the original text, were revised and the presentation of this information adapted as well. Two punctuation marks in all of the references had to be changed to a more proper, modern mark. It was a work of constant review, as the various revisions were continually checked at all steps along the way to make sure the final corrections were entered correctly! The technical challenge was to provide a layout using the fully vowelled text along with all of the reference indicators, and there were many difficulties and delays in doing this.

Ten years later, the final result is a much more attractive and easy-to-read layout. This is the first time to print the Arabic

Van Dyck Bible in two colors, with paragraph headings and indicators in a different color.

This long-awaited cross-reference Bible was launched January 22nd at the Cairo International Bookfair 2014. Our first print run is selling much faster than expected. People are very eager to receive this new product, and the cream-colored paper is a hit! Even our luxury editions are selling very well. Many have already commented they are grateful that reader's aids have been included, such as the Dictionary of Hard Words, supplemental maps and charts, and a handy reference guide to various Bible passages.

This essential resource will serve the individual in personal study, the local congregations and study groups, and the masses that are reached through Christian satellite programs broadcast around the world. We believe and pray that this new cross-reference Bible will be a blessing to millions of Arabic speaking people worldwide in the years to come.

