

# NEW TESTAMENT ABSTRACTS

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G. RAVASI, *La sacra pagina. Come interpretare la Bibbia*, Lapislazzuli (Bologna: Dehoniane, 2013, paper €7) 84 pp. Bibliography. ISBN: 978-88-10-55802-7.

Ravasi, a cardinal and president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, contends that biblical knowledge, especially in Italy, is often based on folklore. He intends this short guide for interpreting the Bible for readers familiar with Christian traditions. He first addresses conflict and harmony in biblical interpretation, with attention to the theme of violence in the Bible: the word of God and tradition; the presences in the Bible—divine and human authors, collective and individual readers; and the incarnation of the word and of tradition (including discussion of whether the biblical God is violent and vindictive). Next he looks at methods of biblical interpretation: correct interpretation, the meaning of violence, language, and interpretative approaches (historical-critical, rhetorical, narrative, semiotic, canonical and traditional, sociological and psychological, and liberationist and feminist). Then he explores biblical interpretation in the life of the church, focusing on theological reading, biblical interpretation and the Spirit, the path of Nehemiah 8, and rediscovering the word.