



One Perfect Life: The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus

John F. MacArthur Jr.

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Read the best news the world has ever been given about the most significant life in all history—Jesus Christ. In *One Perfect Life*, Dr. John MacArthur shares with us the complete story of the Eternal Christ from Genesis to Revelation. Using Matthew as the base text, Dr. MacArthur blends the gospels and other biblical material about Jesus into one continuous story that will help you better understand Scripture and grow stronger in your faith. No other harmony of the Gospels includes such extensive study notes to help you unpack the meaning of each verse.

Features include:

Verse-by-verse explanations from one of the most important pastor-teachers of our time

Every verse connected to Christ from Genesis to Revelation

A harmony of the Gospels that demonstrates the inerrancy of Scripture

New King James translation

One Perfect Life: The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus Details

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From Reader Review One Perfect Life: The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus for online ebook

Kristin Bush says

If you ever wanted a blended version of the gospel. Then this is the book for you. John MacArthur blends all four gospels together to tell a poignant story of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It also takes different accounts from the Old Testament (the prophecies of his impending birth and life). From this account of Jesus Christ's life you can get everything you would get in the bible just all together in the same time-line. Plus there are verse by verse break down so that you, the reader, can actively understand the scripture. FYI...it is NOT the whole bible but only an account of Jesus Christ's life through the four gospels. There are even footnotes in the text which would be reminiscent of a study bible.

I will warn that there is no scripture index in which you can look up where a verse or passage came from. So I'd tell you to read along with your own study bible and take notes. This book can easily become part of your widely used collection (at least it will in mine).

Michael Boling says

Noted pastor, author and speaker Dr. John MacArthur, in his latest book One Perfect Life: The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus provides what can rightly be described as a harmony of the gospels on steroids. Unlike other harmony of the gospel texts such as by scholars such as A. T. Robertson or Stanley Gundry that merely present a side by side comparison of similar gospel texts, MacArthur provides that same approach while also including pertinent Old Testament prophetic texts as they relate to the passages presented.

Such an approach demonstrates the seamless and consistent presentation of not only the biblical drama, but more importantly, it allows the reader to reflect on how the entirety of Scripture portrays a movement towards redemption centered on the coming of the Messiah, his sacrifice, and his return for his bride. Each page of One Perfect Life is brimming with information in the form of footnotes that provide salient and relevant background to the passages contained on that particular page. The quality, depth, and insightfulness of the footnotes is reminiscent of those contained in the Expositor's Bible Commentary series which is well known almost as much for its footnotes as it is for the scholarly exegesis on the passages each commentary in that series addressed.

For example, on the page outlining the passages that speak of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, there is an excellent and thorough footnote on Caesar Augustus. Why would anyone care you might ask about reading a half a page historical overview of Caesar Augustus? It is relevant because it demonstrates the historical reliability of Scripture, thus affirming once again Scripture is not a bunch of stories written by man, but conversely, are in reality a depiction of events that actually took place in history under the purview of an almighty God who orchestrated these events in keeping with His covenant promises. For those who might not be particularly interested in matters of history, One Perfect Life is replete with salient definitions such as properly defining what the term "only begotten" means, a phrase often used by cults to try and demonstrate Christ was a created being and not the Son of God as Scripture declares. MacArthur rightly addresses such issues to enable individuals not only to have a better understanding of a definition, but also to provide a sound apologetics background for believers to use in their discussions with those who would take issue with

biblical truth.

One Perfect Life has an extremely useful table of contents; something vitally necessary given the format of this book takes passages from various parts of Scripture that speak to similar topics. No table of contents would have made this text largely unusable as the reader would have to search through the book to find the set of passages they wanted to read. Furthermore, the book is divided into eleven parts that take the reader on a journey to include passages that outline the anticipation of Christ's arrival to New Testament passages that reflect on the significance and importance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This excellent method of formatting also allows the reader to select a certain time period to study, something other harmony of the gospel texts have often not provided.

If I had any criticism at all, it would be the title of this book might be a bit misleading. When I originally saw this book, the title gave me the impression it was a theological or exegetical journey through the life of Christ, something akin to an overview and engagement of pertinent events in the life of Jesus. With that said, that criticism does not detract at all from this book at all and honestly, it would make me rate this book as a 99.99% out of a 100%. Just be advised as to what type of book this is. In all honesty, even though it is more of a harmony of the gospels book, the theological acumen provided throughout the text is rather unparalleled for a book of this type. The reader will find their understanding of scripture to be greatly broadened, a true hallmark of any book worth reading, especially one that interacts with the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One Perfect Life will be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of any believer desiring to have a more holistic, cogent and theologically sound understanding of Scripture.

I received this for free from Thomas Nelson Publishing via Booksneeze for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Rachel Menke says

This book is a harmony of all that the Bible has to say about Jesus. Since Jesus primarily appears in the four Gospels the majority of the book walks the reader through the earthly life of Christ in chronological order by reading the events of his earthly ministry in a unified text (taking all the texts on that event from all the Gospels and combining them together in a cohesive unit).

However, as helpful as those sections were, the real win on this book for me were the harmonies of the non-gospel texts on Jesus' importance beyond his earthly life: His role in creation, and all the promises of His coming and what He will do, as well as summarizing of the other NT texts on the value of Christ's death, Resurrection, and return! But my very favorite was the last section combining the texts that our salvation and our hope is found in Christ alone! It's amazingly beautiful and can't help but encourage worship!

The text of this book is only Scripture (along with some helpful footnotes by the author) and it would be great supplemental reading to your daily Bible reading (this is how I used it). Whether you just want to know more about Jesus, develop your Christology, better understand the chronology of Christ's life, or grow in your love for Jesus this is a wonderful and helpful resource that I will be turning back to again and again!

Anna Marie says

Fantastic compilation of the gospels

Charlie says

Wow! This was completely different from any other book I've read by the author. This is the story of Christ, not in a narrative style with scripture verses for support. It takes all 4 Gospels and places the scripture in chronological order using JUST scripture. He includes the prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. There are 11 sections each with sub chapters and at the end of each section JM has his study notes for all chapters in that section. After all 11 sections there is the complete New Testament in the New King James Version with references back to the earlier sections. While a great book, it is a much slower read than his other books, but that should be expected as scripture itself deserves and requires a good slow read!

David Harris says

One Perfect Life is a Bible. It is a sort of combination of a harmony of the gospels and a chronological Bible.

Unlike a chronological Bible, it is just focused on Christ. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are there, plus primary Old Testament passages that point us to the Lord Jesus (creation, fall, messianic prophecies, etc) and explanations of the significance of those events from the Epistles.

Unlike a harmony of the gospels, it is not a parallel reading, but a narrative reading that combines elements of several books at once. The book is divided up into chapters (215 total). At the beginning of each chapter, there is a title and list of Scripture references involved.

This is a wonderful resource, and the fruit of decades of faithful expositional ministry. Good for reference or devotion.

Sarah says

One Perfect Life is a 'Harmony of the Gospels' type of compilation. MacArthur notes in his introduction that, "The Holy Spirit gave us four Gospels and, specifically, three of them are synoptic ...so that the truth concerning our Lord and Savior might be established on the basis of two or three witnesses." Using Matthew as a base text, MacArthur uses these four witnesses to piece together their complete picture of the life of Christ. Instead of putting the Gospels in parallel columns, the accounts are morphed together forming one account. For instance, sentences from Luke fill in spaces that are not recounted in the same account given by Matthew. To keep a distinction between the accounts, listed beneath each 'chapter' heading are the chapter and verse numbers of each of the Gospel accounts blended in that particular chapter. In the chapter itself, tiny superscript abbreviations of the names of the Gospels are used to mark the transition of one verse from Luke(LK), for instance, into Matthew(MT).

Instead of starting at the birth of Christ, Macarthur starts before Christ came to earth, using particular verses from prophecies of Him and accounts of His pre-existence and divinity taken various Old Testament texts and from the letters of the Disciples. To give you an idea of how this works, here is how the whole account starts, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.(Gn)In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. He was made in the beginning with God. And all things are made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.(1Jn)." And again, the superscript is tiny, not large as it is in my quote, so the individual verses actually flow right into each other. And, instead of immediately ending at Christ's ascension, the book ends with a blending of the Apostles' and Disciples' recountings of the Gospel from their letters, how the prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled, how we are to be living in light of this, and our expectation of Christ's coming again.

This compilation is definitely a favorite of mine. I highly recommend getting it. One of the interesting discoveries I made while reading it was that some of Christ's discourses in the Gospel accounts that I thought were parallel with one another, often having almost the exact same discourses, are not necessarily parallel, but are rather repetitions. It seems that Christ said the same thing in various places. It is interesting to think that God had Matthew, Mark, Luke and John remember and recount the same sayings of Christ yet where one of them, Matthew for instance, might remember Him saying certain things at a certain place and time, but John remembers Him saying the same things on another day and in another town.

Also a major component of this work is commentary by Macarthur underneath the texts. I do not agree with all of his opinions, for instance on the so called 'exception clause' when Christ is speaks of divorce and remarriage. But a lot of the commentary I am sure will be quite helpful. I like one insight in particular, when he comments on Christ's parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. When the Rich Man dies and is in Hades he asks Abraham across the great gulf if he can go back to earth and warn his brothers about this place. Abraham answers and says, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." Macarthur comments, "This speaks powerfully of the singular sufficiency of the Scripture to overcome unbelief. The Gospel itself is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16)...Since unbelief is at heart a moral, rather than an intellectual problem, no amount of evidences will ever turn unbelief to faith. But the revealed Word of God has inherent power to do so..."

All in all, I thought it was very interesting to read the life of our Lord from this combined perspective.

I received this book as a complimentary copy from BookSneeze® in exchange for my review(which does not have to be favorable).

Jason Reed says

Have not finished fully, but plan to over time. Rich, deep, and exhaustive teaching.

Rick says

This is a harmony of the Gospels in novel form; easy to read and quite enjoyable.

Becky says

The subtitle of One Perfect Life is, "The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus." And complete it is, compiling Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation in the New King James translation. There are eleven parts of the story divided into 215 readings. Each reading has a handful of MacArthur's study notes. So for those wanting to learn more, to understand more of the text, it's there.

The focus of the entire book is, of course, on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and on the gospel. The book not only reveals who Christ is, it reveals who we are--with or without Christ. The very last reading is a great invitation to come to Christ and be saved.

One Perfect Life is a powerful, compelling read.

Rod says

Every Christian should be forced to read this book. (In a loving way of course: with a hot chocolate and bowl of popcorn.)

Simply, MacArthur took all of the bits in the Bible that refer to Jesus and made one story out of them. Couldn't have done it better myself. Actually i would still be trying to come up with a cool cover like he did.

Many people may not know that Jesus is featured throughout the entire Bible; Old and New Testament. From prophecies to appearances to the meaning of all existence. It took me years to properly understand this. Jesus is in every book of the Bible - but it takes some study and serious thinking to see how this plays out. Thankfully John has helped us along with this. His commentaries are incredibly effective and appear on every page.

The Bible is of course our ultimate source on Jesus. But what John MacArthur has helped us do is carefully focus on the specifics of Jesus' story.

Rod Innis says

This is one of my favorite books. It takes the four gospels and puts them together as one complete story.

Adrienne says

Immediately re-reading and much recommended!

Jeff Diederiks says

Unique, Fresh View of The Gospels

The first 20% of this book shows the Gospel accounts tremendously blended together in chronological order. All the words are scripture minus very, very few connecting words. The value comes from the fresh view of books I've read many times.

TonyB says

I think this is one of those rare books that I will keep and read again and again. Truly, I have a much better understanding of Jesus and his ministry. The knitting together of the gospel writers' accounts of His story unfold like a novel of Jesus' life that becomes a page turner of epic proportions. The footnotes help to educate the reader and should be read in parallel with the text. It's not often that I would write to an author and say thank you for your work. But, this one deserves high praise. The amazing thing is that the story is written all with biblical text - no writer commentary or interpretation or spin. So you have a book that reads like a novel about the life of Christ in God's own words. And, it was there all along right before us in the bible. Now it has been arranged chronologically to flow like the amazing story that it is.

Love this book.
