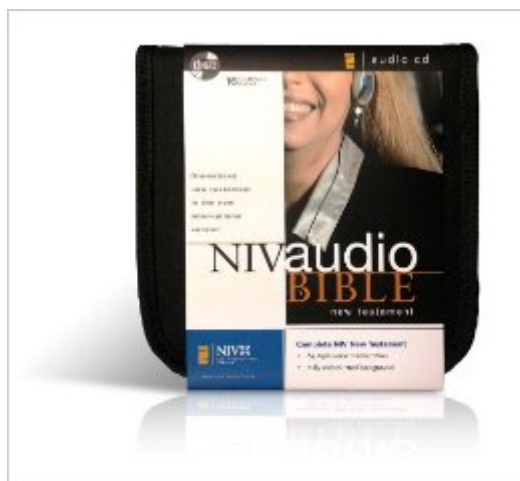


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NIV Audio Bible New Testament Dramatized CD



Synopsis

Hands down the finest audio Bible you can own. The NIV Audio Bible is more than a Bible to listen to. It's an experience that helps you enter into God's Word ... so God's Word can enter into you. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION --today's most read, most trusted translation MULTIPLE-VOICE DRAMATIZATION brings the Bible to life with world-class narration and colorful, true-to-text character renderings FULLY ORCHESTRATED BACKGROUND with sound effects provides maximum enhancement of the text reading DIGITAL ENGINEERING from start to finish delivers the ultimate in clarity and listening enjoyment LIFETIME GUARANTEE Complete NIV New Testament * Multiple-voice dramatization * Fully orchestrated background

Book Information

Series: NIV Audio Bible

Audio CD: 16 pages

Publisher: Zondervan; Unabridged edition (September 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310920280

ISBN-13: 978-0310920281

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #524,931 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Religion & Spirituality > Bible #373 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity

#835 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > General

Customer Reviews

Consisting of 16 audio CDs in plastic sleeves in a zippered box, here you have the entire text of the NIV New Testament in audio format. A brief overview of the strengths, weaknesses, and benefits of this great product:Strengths:1. Overall it is very respectful.2. The voices are generally not overly dramatic, and yet sufficiently expressive.3. The voices are very clear and pleasant to listen to.4. The music and sounds are mostly calm, appropriate and respectful.5. Using different voices for different speakers enhances the hearing of the text and the listening experience.6. There are different narrators for different Bible books, giving some variety in style.7. The text is exactly the NIV text, word for word.8. There are helpful brief introductions to each Bible book.9. Each chapter is on a separate track, so it is easy to select which chapter to listen to.Weaknesses:1. The sounds and

music are sometimes overly dramatized, occasionally detracting from the Biblical text.² The decision as to which voices should be used is sometimes subjective and interpretive. To be fair, the audio Bible simply follows the interpretation suggested in the headings of the NIV translation, so this is more of an issue with the translation, not the recording.³ Although the chapters that are on each CD are printed on the CD itself, an additional booklet with this information would be helpful.⁴ Some Bible books are read somewhat too fast by the narrator.⁵ This product only contains the New Testament, and the package containing both Old and New Testament is not significantly more expensive.

Benefits:¹ You can listen to it while you are travelling or are busy doing other things.²

Reasons for buying this:^a The NIV is a very good translation.^b It's a good memorization tool.^c It's a good aid to your Quiet Time and Bible Study (especially when driving long distances in the car equipped with a CD player).^d Some people learn better visually. Others learn better audibly. Others learn by doing. This is good for people who learn well audibly.^e This is well-made as evidenced by it being a winner of the 2002 Audie Award (no small feat).^f I liked the multiple voices. It makes it easier distinguishing when different characters are speaking. Most of the characters' voices are very well-done.^g Effective sound effects (e.g., storm in the boat; groaning voices in Revelations).^h The narrator has a good, clear voice.

Reasons for not buying this:^a Jesus' voice lacks passion. Even in passages when Jesus was angry (e.g., when he was whipping the money-changers out of the temple in John 2) or when Jesus was very sad (while being "deeply moved" during Lazarus' resurrection in John 11), the emotion in Jesus' voice hardly changes. Most of the time, he sounds like a scientist narrating fact after fact.^b It would be nice if each book starts on a new CD, but Zondervan decided it was too important to minimize the number of CDs. Why can't the book of John start in its own CD?^c Not a biggie, but the "good guys" have "nice-guy" voices, and the "bad guys" have relatively "evil" voices. Some of the "bad guys" in the Bible are actually well-intentioned but misled people.^d You may not like the background music (others may not agree, but I wouldn't have minded if they matched the background music with the tone of the particular passage).^e

SUMMARY: This is not for people who (1) often listen to audio books and (2) are distracted by over-acting. Coming from the perspective of one who (1) listens to a LOT of audio books and (2) worked 3 years in the acting industry, this recording of the Bible is NOT for everyone. Although it may be perfectly suitable for many people (perhaps most), to others -- like myself -- it is not the best option as it is extremely distracting on many levels. To people like me, a simple reading (perhaps like Max MacLean's) is the best option.

(1) There is constant music throughout the entire thing, it

never lets up, there is never silence behind the text except for the 2 seconds it takes to go to the next song. Some of the music is okay and doesn't really distract from the text, but much of it is very cliché and used as a tool to provoke the "right" emotion of the moment with trite musical mechanisms.(2) Although most of the narrators actually did quite well, most of the voice actors in this production seem like they were pulled from Christmas pageants -- over-acting, melodramatic, fake. This too is extremely distracting. Instead of letting the text pull them into emotion, they try to force the text into whatever emotion they think they are suppose to have at the moment -- a common mistake in untrained actors. It seriously hampers the text's communication.(3)

Direction/Production made some poor decisions, especially in narrative sections. For example, often when it is said that a group of people said something, they actually have a group of people say something all at the same time, which really just makes me laugh because it sounds so ridiculous -- again, distracting to the text.

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