

# the voice™

## ENDORSEMENTS

“Translating ancient Hebrew or koine Greek into colloquial English can feel like trying to represent a Monet painting with a potato stamp. *The Voice* opened up to its writers a full range of techniques and tools to render the rich sense and varied tone of the Bible’s languages into an engaging English form. The result is a moving and thought-provoking representation of God’s Word for today’s readers.”

—Kristin M. Swenson, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Virginia Commonwealth University

“In a recent news article in Belgium, guitarist Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones was quoted as saying ‘I read the Bible some but I find it deadly dull.’ Past and present generations are looking for a Bible version that is both current and captivating. Boring preachers and publications have negligible impact. *The Voice*, however, is the first to blend cutting-edge literary creativity with the characteristics of a true translation. When I gave *The Voice of Matthew* to a friend, she read it in one sitting. Artists and academics have teamed up and succeeded in giving us a Bible that is a page-turner. Tell Keith not to give up yet.”

—W. Creighton Marlowe, PhD  
Old Testament Professor  
ETF Leuven, Belgium

“In *The Voice*, readers will (re)encounter the power of the Scriptures. Whether you are a seasoned student of the Bible or just curious about its content, *The Voice* will prove to be a trusted pathway to an encounter with the God of the Scriptures. Produced in creative collaboration between artists, scholars, and visionaries, *The Voice* captures the message of each biblical author and offers it to 21st-century readers in a cutting-edge literary style. Embedded within the translation are briefings on key background data and interpretive issues that will help the reader to hear and engage the message of the Bible in all of its transformative power and richness.”

—Brian D. Russell, PhD  
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies  
Asbury Theological Seminary

“*The Voice* provides a fresh opportunity for us to discover God’s heart and character as well as guiding us to our mission in serving Him and our world.”

—Eric Bryant  
Navigator (Executive Pastor) at Mosaic, Los Angeles  
Author of *Peppermint-Filled Pinatas: Breaking Through Tolerance and Embracing Love*

“Faithful to the original, this fresh translation will be difficult for readers to put down. I encourage both seasoned and new readers of the Bible to further their study of Scripture with *The Voice*. It will transform your understanding and perhaps even your life.”

—Tremper Longman, PhD  
Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies  
Westmont College

“*The Voice* project for me started out as a favor for a friend. Yet it grew into something that had me intrigued. I am strongly committed to communicating the scripture in contemporary language, for it was written in the language of that day, not a religious language far removed from that day. But I had to ask whether the people who were asked to do the retelling in contemporary language were up to the task? My pleasant surprise was that I and other scholars were given the task of correcting these retellings if we felt that they were not retelling what the original language actually said. So it seems to me that what we have in *The Voice* is a happy convergence. People have done the retelling who are not conversant with the original language but who are conversant with contemporary idiom, while scholars have been asked to make sure that the contemporary retelling was accurate. This reverses the usual form of translation in which scholars do the first draft and then English editors make suggestions to help the scholars be more readable. That order makes good sense if the scriptures were not already in a language in multiple translations. *The Voice’s* order makes sense since there are multiple translations in English and we had the opportunity to build on that base with fresh retellings that are also true to the original languages.”

—Rev. Prof. Peter H. Davids, PhD  
Professor of Biblical Theology  
St. Stephen’s University

“Presenting the biblical contents in a lyrical and narrative manner is another way of teaching and preaching the Bible. This is what *The Voice* does, opening up the opportunity to hear old stories in a fresh way or allowing one to hear them for the first time in an engaging way.”

—Darrell Bock, PhD  
Research Professor of NT Studies  
Dallas Theological Seminary

“Every generation faces the challenge of translating the Bible into the idioms of that generation so that it can communicate with the startling freshness of the original texts. *The Voice* does just that. It speaks in a contemporary idiom that will lead both new and experienced readers of the Bible to a new encounter with the voice of the scriptures.”

—Alan Culpepper, PhD  
Dean, McAfee School of Theology  
Mercer University

“When Chris Seay and I first began to talk about the possibility of retelling the stories of the Bible in an artful and accessible way for contemporary audiences, I knew that this was the project of a lifetime. As a novelist and teacher, the stories I love all tend to come eventually from my faith tradition. So why not tell those stories in as beautiful a way as we can? That’s the heart of *The Voice* project for me. Getting to write the Gospel of Mark and retell the Hebrew stories of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel has been a challenge and a joy, and I’m pleased with the way the writers, the scholars and linguists, and the editorial team have created *The Voice*, a Bible for the 21st century.”

—Greg Garrett, PhD  
Professor of English  
Baylor University

“How would Scripture sound if we left years of doctrinal programming and presupposition behind? *The Voice* answers that question. It is a retelling of God’s Word with first-time hearers in mind.”

—Kenneth L. Waters, Sr., PhD  
Professor of New Testament  
Azusa Pacific University, School of Theology