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The Clear Word

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The Clear Word lets the power of ancient texts come through today. As the meaning of Scripture becomes more transparent, you see more of God’s grace and love. The Clear Word has renewed the devotional lives of thousands of people. Let it renew yours. The convenient format makes it easy to navigate the Old Testament. Each chapter is a separate, numbered track, so you can listen sequentially or select a specific book or chapter.

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As a theology student, I regularly do exegetical research looking at the original Greek and Hebrew of the Bible. I also use paraphrase Bibles so that I can get a quick overall understanding of the passages that I’m studying...I have compared the New Living Translation, the Message Bible, and the Clear Word. These represent different levels of paraphrasing the Bible. The New Living Translation is the most accurate of the paraphrases. The NLT is a "thought-for-thought" translation. The Message Bible is a more looser paraphrase in very upbeat contemporary language and is an inspiring devotional because it puts messages in a new light. But I found that it is actually the worst when it comes to reinterpreting passages and putting the translator’s own preconceived understandings into the passage. That’s why I enjoy the Clear Word. Yes, Jack Blanco elaborates on some passages to explain what he thinks they mean--and that is why this is a "Devotional" Bible (its not meant for serious Bible study)--but I find that Blanco is far more faithful to what the text originally meant than the Message Bible. The Clear Word deserves five stars for "faithfully" communicating what the Bible is trying to say in modern, contemporary language and for its
excellent readability. It has pretty much the same goal as the Message Bible, but I think the Clear Word is more faithful. However, for studying the Bible and preaching, never use a paraphrase Bible.

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