

PRAISE FOR THE NINTH EDITION

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Professor of Old Testament
Wheaton College and Graduate School

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Seminary Librarian
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“My students approach me constantly with questions about library building and commentary recommendations. I am delighted to be able to direct them to Glynn’s *Commentary and Reference Survey*. His assessment of student needs and quality of reference works are consistently on-target. If you want to do Bible study, this is the help you need.”

—JOHN H. WALTON
Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew
Wheaton College and Graduate School

COMMENTARY & REFERENCE SURVEY

TENTH EDITION
FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED

COMMENTARY & REFERENCE SURVEY

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO BIBLICAL
AND THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

JOHN GLYNN

FOREWORD BY DARRELL L. BOCK

 **Kregel**
Academic & Professional

To my parents,
Jack and Ann Glynn,
for imparting to me a love of reading
and a moral compass.

*Commentary and Reference Survey: A Comprehensive Guide
to Biblical and Theological Resources*

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Tenth Edition

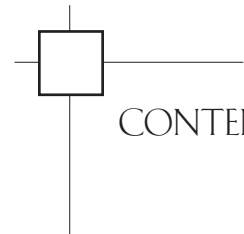
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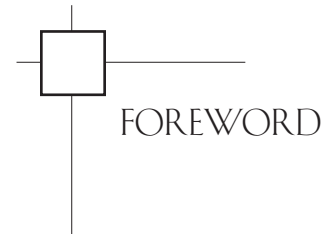
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This survey is a genuine service to the student of the Bible. Often, I am asked what books are best for the serious study of Scripture, and many times I am forced to make the question more precise because of the varied elements that go into serious engagement of the Bible’s message and background. Now I have a place to which I can send students that gives them both a clear array of choices and good guidance.

John Glynn started work on this survey as a labor of love years ago as a seminary student. He has run it by dozens of professors, and has written publishers to stay current on what is coming next. The book has gone through multiple editions and updates. It is as thorough a presentation of works on biblical studies as one could hope to find, a ready reference into the seeming maze of serious Bible study. But that maze, once understood, can be a source of rich reflection.

In Glynn’s survey, he classifies works by theme and theological orientation. One can consider the various types of commentaries on any book or the themes that the book raises by consulting the “Special Studies” sections.

Like a map taking one on a great tour of a wonderful city, this survey orients the student about where to find the rich and varied discussion that is a part of biblical study. So pick up the map and begin the tour. In this book you have a faithful and helpful guide.

—DARRELL L. BOCK

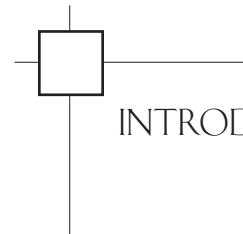


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank two fellow students at Dallas Theological Seminary—John Day and Barry Gin—who provided invaluable data-entry help for the first three self-published editions of my survey back in the day when I was computer illiterate.

Also, I am indebted to Dr. Robert Chisholm for my third-semester class on Hebrew exegesis. There, most students learned that glad-handing papers wouldn't suffice. Dr. Chisholm taught me the meaning of true exegesis and that standard references are not always right.

Finally, Parableman (aka Jeremy Pierce) was extremely helpful in keeping me in the loop concerning forthcoming commentaries at <http://parablemania.ektopos.com/archives/2006/05/forthcombook.html>.



INTRODUCTION

In the late springtime of 1992, while I was fishing through the “missionary” basket where departing Moody Bible Institute students left behind items they didn’t care to take home for summer, I discovered a copy of Douglas Moo’s edited *Annotated Bibliography of the Bible and the Church*.¹ Having just begun to build a personal reference library in preparation for attending Dallas Theological Seminary, I was immediately interested, especially because it contained sections on the best available commentaries at that time.

When I arrived at Dallas Theological Seminary, I found that the school bookstore had surveys that had been compiled by the Old Testament and the New Testament departments. Comparing Moo’s book and the surveys, I began to get a better idea of which commentaries I should purchase—and purchase I did. Over the next several years, I continued to acquire other surveys and sources, periodically refining my list and adding additional categories to cover other examples of extrabiblical literature.

Now, after fifteen years of analyzing and reviewing books, I can safely say that I have received an additional theological education. However, one maxim I have continued to observe is that I should maintain only a library that will continue to be useful, even if only a few pages of a certain book clarifies an answer that I am seeking.

What are the salient features of this survey? About 40 percent of the total books mentioned in this survey are commentaries, which

1. Douglas Moo, *Annotated Bibliography of the Bible and the Church*, 2d ed. (Alumni Publications, 1986).

comprise the largest single category. Given the high cost of most commentaries, it is imperative that readers derive from each volume as much value as possible. Therefore, commentaries mentioned herein are noted in each biblical book in two categories: Technical and Semitechnical for the student trained in the original languages, and Exposition for the informed layman or pastor who has more general biblical training. Technical, or exegetical, commentaries concentrate principally on the interpretation of the original languages *in the main text*, whereas semitechnical commentaries generally relegate grammatical, textual, and historical problems to footnotes. Because the main text of semitechnical works are primarily expositional, they can also be used by the informed layman.

Commentaries that are geared toward application are subsumed under the Exposition rubric. These include titles from Zondervan's NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC), InterVarsity's Bible Speaks Today (BST) and IVP New Testament Commentary (IVPNTC), the Interpretation series from Westminster John Knox (IBC), and The Preacher's Commentary (TPC; previously titled the Communicator's Commentary) published by Thomas Nelson.

Furthermore, given the wide range of theological perspectives in most categories, each entry is further delineated by the following codes:

- E = Evangelical
- E/Cr = Evangelical/Critical
- C/M = Conservative/Moderate
- L/Cr = Liberal/Critical
- All = Edited volumes with essays across a theological spectrum

What this means is that commentaries on a specific biblical book may run the gamut from evangelicals who affirm "the idea that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact"² to Liberal/Critical scholars who believe that the Bible

2. Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine* (Zondervan, 1999), 487.

contains clear errors and may or may not affirm what it says about itself and God. Between these two perspectives exist varying degrees of inerrancy where the Bible could be in error concerning some minor historical facts (Evangelical/Critical), or that it only affirms what is normative in faith and practice rather than in historical or scientific detail (Conservative/Moderate).³ The titles are listed alphabetically, and boldfaced entries represent titles that I highly recommend and consider the "best of the best." The full names of series mentioned can be found under "Abbreviations."

Apparently, one reviewer of my last edition did not think I was skeptical enough, while another thought I was too skeptical. To the first charge, the orientation of the boldfaced recommendations in the survey proper broke down as follows:

- 163 Evangelical
- 83 Evangelical/Critical
- 55 Conservative/Moderate
- 68 Liberal/Critical

3. The gospel of Matthew is an example of how these criteria can be applied. For example, although no explicit references to Matthew as the author of the gospel exist, Craig Keener accepts on the basis of the earliest patristic materials that the author is indeed Matthew. His approach is evangelical. Donald Hagner, WBC, 2 vols. (Word/Nelson, 1993–95), on the other hand, fudges around on some historical issues, suggesting a single feeding rather than two in 14:13–21 (5,000) and 15:29–39 (4,000), though Jesus himself refers to two (16:9–10). Likewise, Hagner gets antsy over the resurrection of the dead, suggesting this miracle makes little historical sense (Matt. 27:51–52). Thus, even though Hagner's commentary is essentially evangelical, the occasional nods to critical scholarship call into question the absolute veracity of the text and is, thus, Evangelical/Critical. As for W. D. Davies and Dale Allison's massive work, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to St. Matthew*, ICC, 3 vols. (T & T Clark, 1988–97), they essentially conclude that we can accept on face value what Matthew affirms about faith and God, but the historical events must be evaluated independently. This earns them the Conservative/Moderate moniker. Finally, Ulrich Luz's first two volumes of a projected three-volume project in the Hermeneia series (Fortress, 2001–) is so thoroughly form and redaction-critical that virtually any assertion by any so-called author is to be regarded with a thorough-going skepticism. In this approach, Luz even goes so far as to suggest that Matthew was written in the mid-second century. Thus, he is classified as Liberal/Critical.

In “The Ultimate Commentary Collection” in the back of this book, the disparity is even greater:

- 75 Evangelical
- 35 Evangelical/Critical
- 15 Conservative/Moderate
- 22 Liberal/Critical

In this edition, the emergence of key evangelical treatments in the past few years has tipped the scale even more. That said, here follows a paradigm of the previously mentioned criteria.

Matthew

Technical, Semitechnical

- L/Cr 1. Boring, Eugene. NIB, vol. 8 (Abingdon, 1995).
 E 2. **Carson, D. A. EBC, vol. 9, rev. ed. (Zondervan, 2006).**
 C/M 3. **Davies, W. D., and Dale Allison. ICC, 3 vols. (T & T Clark, 1988–97).**
 E/Cr 4. Gundry, Robert. *Matthew*, 2d ed. (Eerdmans, 1994).
 E/Cr 5. **Hagner, Donald. WBC, 2 vols. (Word, 1993–94).**
 E 6. Keener, Craig (Eerdmans, 1999).
 L/Cr 7. Luz, Ulrich. *Hermeneia*, 3 vols. (Fortress, 1998–).
 C/M 8. **Nolland, John. NIGTC (Eerdmans, 2005).**

Exposition (Partial list)

- E 1. **Blomberg, Craig. NAC (Broadman & Holman, 1993).**
 C/M 2. Davies, W. D., and Dale Allison. *Matthew: A Shorter Commentary* (T & T Clark, 2005).
 E/Cr 3. **France, Richard. TOTC (Eerdmans, 1988).**
 E 4. Green, Michael. BST (IVP, 2001).
 E 5. **Keener, Craig. IVPNTC (IVP, 1997).**

A Special Studies section, which includes particularly useful monographs, augments each book list of commentaries. Asterisked footnotes throughout the survey generally indicate forthcoming titles to appear and provide a capsule summary of the present and future possibilities

of what might actually constitute an ideal library. Numbered footnotes, however, offer more detail on a particular book or subject.

The rest of the survey covers resources for other biblical and theological disciplines, including Biblical Hebrew, New Testament Greek, Systematic Theology, and Church History. Here, too, outstanding entries are listed in bold. In addition, a list of computer resources and Internet sites are offered.

Finally, I have included a few special features to elucidate further specific recommendations. “On Commentary Series” provides the big picture of the individual titles alluded to in each biblical book. Please read “Building a ‘Must-Have’ Personal Reference Library.” When approaching the daunting task of assembling a library (which might cost the equivalent of a good secondhand car), it is advisable to develop a consumer strategy. This might not be a consumer report, but it might help steer you clear of unnecessary frills.

Also for your benefit, “The Ultimate Commentary Collection” charts the best exegetical and expositional commentaries for each book. Here, I have done my best to list the primary exegetical choice first, followed by the best expositional commentary.

For sake of brevity, all subtitles are omitted unless they are absolutely necessary to explain a book’s contents. Since this volume is primarily a buyer’s guide, I have omitted the name of the city of the publisher. Often, I will simply add a short note for explanation.

Appraisal

First, although I have not read all of the approximately 2,500 books listed in this survey, I rely principally on the consensus of other published bibliographies and surveys. Second, each quarter I photocopy reviews from twenty-five theological journals (British journals also inform me of books of which I might be otherwise unaware).⁴ Third, I receive review copies from more than a dozen publishers.

4. Periodicals worth considering are the *Ashland Theological Journal*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Churchman*, *Denver Journal* (online at denver-journal.densem.edu), *Expository Times*, *Interpretation*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Review and Expositor*, *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, *Themelios*, *Trinity Journal*, and the *Westminster Theological Journal*.

When I receive a new book, I first check the endorsements. An author's reputation has already raised the level of anticipation attending the release of a new book. The reputation of the author's endorsers adds further weight to how well professors, pastors, and other interested professionals might receive it. Generally, subsequent reviews of new books appearing in journals follow the suit of endorsements (if the reviewer is of the same persuasion as the endorser and the author).

Next, I'll turn to the table of contents and select sample sections to peruse. From these, I am able to discern the general thrust of the authors' approach and how they have handled a particular interpretative issue. Bibliographies and indices are also of great interest to me. I often refer to the author index to note which commentators the author cites most often. If the richness of citation matches an informed and current bibliography, things are looking good.

Finally, I scan each book's bibliography religiously to spot titles that are being mentioned continually by different authors. Thus, this survey attempts to represent the best books available in each category.

A Word on Exegetical Forecasting

Though recommending forthcoming commentaries may seem a bit presumptuous, my rationale is as follows. Of the more than seventy new evangelical titles slated to appear in the next few years (delays, however, are inevitable), more than half are from scholars who have already written one or more studies. For instance, D. A. Carson has written two semitechnical commentaries (Matthew and John) as well as several other books. He is scheduled to write two technical commentaries (Hebrews and 1–3 John) and two semitechnical works (Galatians and Revelation), which will ultimately place him in the exalted company of F. F. Bruce, C. K. Barrett, and I. Howard Marshall as a premier commentator on the New Testament. Peter O'Brien finds himself in such company with his recent, outstanding semitechnical effort on Ephesians, technical commentaries on Philippians and Colossians/Philemon, and a forthcoming commentary on Hebrews (PNTC). I think it fair to say that we can expect more of the same from these men (although, admittedly, this is not always the case). But bear in mind that it is possible for a commentary to be reassigned or delayed significantly.

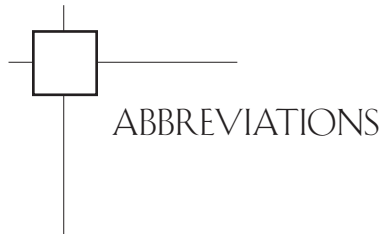
In many instances, you will discover that a particular book, such as Genesis or Romans, is already well served. A small percentage (5–10 percent) of the books in this survey may also be currently out of print, but some publishers such as Good Books and Wipf & Stock specialize in reprinting discontinued titles. Occasionally, the original publisher will reprint one of their backlisted titles. I think it important to mention these inasmuch as they can often be obtained secondhand (see Internet Web Sites: Used Books) or can be found in theological libraries for purposes of study.

You might want to consult the used booksellers if you would like to sell some of your library to finance newer acquisitions. The best of new commentaries, of course, will still take into account the old masters, but they will especially focus on commentators of the last twenty-five years.

These are the methods by which I keep this survey current, in both reassessing aging titles and assessing the new titles that have emerged. The purpose of my survey is to evaluate the length and breadth of current scholarship; it is not intended as a history of interpretation.

In an effort to keep this survey as current and useful as possible, please send any suggestions or criticisms to me at the following address or telephone number.

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Bible Versions

AMPLIFIED	<i>Amplified Bible</i>
ESV	<i>English Standard Version</i>
HCSB	<i>Holman Christian Standard Bible</i> (Broadman & Holman)
KJV	King James Version
MSG	<i>The Message</i> (NavPress)
NASB	New American Standard Bible (various publishers)
NCV	New Century Version
NIV	<i>New International Version</i> (Zondervan)
NKJV	New King James Version
NLT	<i>New Living Translation</i> (Tyndale)
NRSV	<i>New Revised Standard Version</i> (various publishers)
RSV	Revised Standard Version
TNIV	<i>Today's New International Version</i> (Zondervan)

General Abbreviations

AB	Anchor Bible (Doubleday)
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ABS	American Bible Society
ACCS	Ancient Christian Commentary on the Scripture (IVP)
AGNT	Friberg, Timothy and Barbara. <i>Analytical Greek New Testament</i> . Baker, 1981.
ANE	Ancient Near East
ANTC	Abingdon New Testament Commentary

AOTC	Abingdon Old Testament Commentary
Apollos	Apollos Old Testament Commentary Series (IVP)
<i>ATJ</i>	<i>Ashland Theological Journal</i>
BAS	Biblical Archaeology Society
BBC	Blackwell Bible Commentary
BCBC	Believers Church Bible Commentary (Herald)
BCOTWP	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament: Wisdom and Psalms
<i>BDAG</i>	Bauer, Walter, Frederick Danker, William Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3d ed. University of Chicago Press, 2000.
<i>BDB</i>	Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford, 1907.
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
<i>BHL</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Leningradensia</i>
<i>BHS</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i>
<i>BibSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i> (Dallas Theological Seminary)
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries (formerly Harper's New Testament Commentaries [HNTC]) (Black/Harper/Hendrickson/Continuum)
BSC	Bible Study Commentary (Zondervan)
BST	The Bible Speaks Today (IVP)
BTCB	Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible (Baker)
CAH	Cambridge Ancient History
CBC	Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (Tyndale)
CCNT	Crossroad Companions to the New Testament
DBC	Doubleday Bible Commentary
<i>DJG</i>	<i>Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels</i> (IVP)
<i>DLNTD</i>	<i>Dictionary of the Latter New Testament and Its Developments</i> (IVP)
<i>DNTB</i>	<i>Dictionary of New Testament Background</i> (IVP)
<i>DPL</i>	<i>Dictionary of Paul and His Letters</i> (IVP)
DSB	Daily Study Bible (Westminster John Knox)

DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
EBC	Expositor's Bible Commentary (Zondervan)
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary
<i>EDB</i>	<i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>
<i>EDNT</i>	<i>Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament</i> (Eerdmans)
EGGNT	Exegetical Guides to the Greek New Testament (Eerdmans)
<i>Emmaus</i>	<i>Emmaus Theological Journal</i>
EPSC	Evangelical Press Study Commentary
Epworth	Epworth Commentary Series
EvBC	Everyman's Bible Commentary (Moody)
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FOTL	The Forms of the Old Testament Literature (Eerdmans)
GAP	Guides to the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha (Sheffield)
GBS	German Bible Society
G/K	Goodrick/Kohlenberger
GNT	Greek New Testament
<i>GTJ</i>	<i>Grace Theological Journal</i>
<i>HALOT</i>	Koehler, L., and W. Baumgartner. <i>A Hebrew-Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . 3d ed. Brill, 1994–2002.
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament (Peeters)
<i>HCSB</i>	<i>Holman Christian Standard Bible</i> (Broadman & Holman)
Hermeneia	Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary (Fortress)
HOTE	Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis (Kregel)
IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (Westminster John Knox)
IBR	Institute for Biblical Research (Baker)
IBT	Interpreting Biblical Texts (Abingdon)
ICC	International Critical Commentary (T & T Clark)

IES	Israel Exploration Society
<i>ISBE</i>	<i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i> . Edited by G. W. Bromiley. 4 vols. Eerdmans, 1979–1988.
ITC	International Theological Commentary (Eerdmans/ Handsel)
IVP	InterVarsity Press
IVPNTC	IVP New Testament Commentary
<i>JBI</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Interpretation</i>
<i>JBMW</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood</i>
JEDP	Documentary hypothesis sources
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JPS	Jewish Publication Society
JPSTC	Jewish Publication Society Torah Commentary
<i>JPT</i>	<i>Journal of Pentecostal Theology</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KECOT	Kregel Expository Commentary on the Old Testament
LEC	Library of Early Christianity (Westminster John Knox)
LEH	Lust, Johan, Erik Eynikel, and Katrin Hauspie, eds. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . GBS, 2003.
LXX	Septuagint; Greek translation of the Old Testament
Mentor	Mentor Old Testament Commentary (Christian Focus)
MT	Masoretic Text
NA ²⁶	<i>Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece</i> . 26th ed. GBS, 1979.
NA ²⁷	<i>Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece</i> . 27th ed. GBS, 1993.
NAC	New American Commentary (Broadman & Holman)
NACSBT	New American Commentary Studies in Bible and Theology
<i>NBC</i>	<i>New Bible Commentary</i> (IVP)

<i>NBD</i>	<i>New Bible Dictionary</i> (IVP)
NCamBC	New Cambridge Bible Commentary (Cambridge University Press)
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary (Eerdmans/Sheffield)
NIB	The New Interpreter's Bible (Abingdon)
NIBCNT	New International Bible Commentary on the New Testament (Hendrickson)
NIBCOT	New International Bible Commentary on the Old Testament (Hendrickson)
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament (Eerdmans)
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Eerdmans)
<i>NIDNTT</i>	<i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i> (Zondervan)
<i>NIDOTTE</i>	<i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> (Zondervan)
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary (Eerdmans)
NIVAC	The NIV Application Commentary (Zondervan)
<i>NIVTDNTW</i>	<i>NIV Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Zondervan)
NT	New Testament
NTC	New Testament in Context Commentaries (Trinity)
NTG	New Testament Guides (Cornell/Sheffield Academic Press)
NTL	New Testament Library (Westminster John Knox)
NTT	New Testament Theology (Cambridge University Press)
OT	Old Testament
OTG	Old Testament Guides (Cornell/Sheffield Academic Press)
OTL	Old Testament Library (Westminster John Knox)
PCA	Presbyterian Church in America
PNTC	The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Eerdmans)

Q	Siglum for the Synoptic sayings-source
REC	Reformed Expository Commentary (Presbyterian & Reformed)
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>SBJT</i>	<i>Southern Baptist Journal of Theology</i>
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SHBC	Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> (Eerdmans)
THNTC	The Two Horizons New Testament Commentary
<i>TJ</i>	<i>Trinity Journal</i>
<i>TLNT</i>	<i>Theological Lexicon of the New Testament</i> (Hendrickson)
<i>TLOT</i>	<i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Hendrickson)
<i>TMSTJ</i>	<i>The Master's Seminary Theological Journal</i>
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Eerdmans)
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (IVP)
TPC	The Preacher's Commentary (Thomas Nelson)
<i>TWOT</i>	<i>Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament</i>
UBS	United Bible Societies
UBS ⁴	Aland, B., et al., eds. <i>The Greek New Testament</i> . 4th ed. UBS, 1993.
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary (Word/Thomas Nelson)
WBComp	Westminster Bible Companion
WEC	Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary (Moody)
<i>WTJ</i>	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
ZEC	Zondervan Exegetical Commentary
<i>ZIBBC</i>	<i>Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary</i>

1

BUILDING A “MUST-HAVE”
PERSONAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

How do you build a basic working reference library? Which books do you absolutely require when you find yourself in the perplexing position in which you can find no satisfactory solution to an apparent exegetical conundrum?

While perusing the libraries of various pastors, I have observed that ministers often either do not possess the essential tools necessary for quality inductive Bible study or simply could make better choices. Many such mini-libraries are cluttered with titles destined to gather dust or disseminate inferior information. Paradoxically, I have also witnessed fully equipped libraries accumulated by those who never end up in full-time ministry.

Thus, in attempting to determine a list of titles for an ideal “must-have” personal reference library, one must discern between the “must-have” volumes and the “dare-not” titles for the benefit of the occasional pathological bibliophile (such as myself) who lies in perpetual danger of sacrificing his final semester’s tuition (if a pending Bible college or seminary graduate) in the pursuit of the “ideal” reference set. With this concern in view, I have tried to construct a recommendation geared for the layman, the student, and the pastor of a church, each of whom lacks a nearby Bible college or seminary library on which to fall back. First, every Christian should purchase a core group of resources for the benefit of his or her own study.

For Laymen

To learn how to conduct an inductive Bible study, I would recommend that the informed layman begin by reading Duvall and Hays.¹ For more advanced students, a more excellent guide is Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard.² Then, having learned how to conduct an inductive Bible study, both layman and student must acquire the minimum number of basic tools. The start-up cost of the following titles is approximately \$450 retail.

Bibles³

1. Barker, Kenneth, ed. *Zondervan NIV Study Bible, 10th Anniversary Edition* (Zondervan, 2002). Thought for thought.⁴
2. Blum, Ed, ed. *The Holman Christian Standard Bible* (Broadman & Holman, 2004).⁵
3. *New Living Translation* (Tyndale, 1996). Provides general nuance; dynamic equivalence (thought for thought).
4. Packer, J. I., ed. *English Standard Version* (Crossway, 2001). The ESV, an outstanding translation, is like a cross between NASB and the RSV.

References

1. Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas* (Broadman & Holman, 1999).

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1. Scott Duvall and Daniel Hays, *Grasping God’s Word*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2005); and idem, *Grasping God’s Word Workbook*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2005).
 2. William Klein, Craig Blomberg, and Robert Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, 2d ed. (Thomas Nelson, 2004).
 3. Other possibilities for strong consideration are John Kohlenberger, ed., *The Essential Evangelical Parallel Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2004); and idem, *The Evangelical Parallel New Testament* (Oxford University Press, 2004). The first parallels the NKJV, ESV, NLT, and MSG. To these the second adds the NIV, HCSB, TNIV, and NCV.
 4. Many prefer the NIV because so many commentary series are based on it (i.e., IVPNTC, NAC, NICNT [partial], NIVAC, PNTC, TOTC, etc.).
 5. *The Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)* by Broadman & Holman Publishers strives for the middle ground between the NASB and NIV. Also, there is a companion *HCSB Pocket Bible Concordance* (Broadman & Holman, 2005).

2. Elwell, Walter, ed. *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 4 vols. (Baker, 1992).⁶
3. Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*, 2d ed. (Baker, 1998); or Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology* (Zondervan, 1994).
4. Marshall, I. Howard, et al., eds. *New Bible Dictionary*, 3d ed. (IVP, 1996).
5. Wenham, Gordon, et al., eds. *New Bible Commentary: Twenty-First Century Edition* (IVP, 1994).

For Bible College and Seminary Students

Assuming that the previously mentioned titles have been secured, the next order of business for the prospective ministry student is to begin assembling language resources that will facilitate study while he or she is in school. For first-year Greek students, whether in Bible college or seminary, at least a basic grammar, a workbook, and a copy of the Greek New Testament will be required texts.⁷ Once you have ascertained which school you will be attending, you might want to “get a leg up” by calling the school bookstore to determine if a standard text is used in all beginning Greek courses.

Many professors will also require the purchase of the *BDAG* lexicon (see the following list), if not a Greek-English concordance and an exhaustive concordance to the Greek New Testament (which lists every occurrence of a Greek word). In any case, all of these tools will continue to be of value in future ministry and can be obtained for around \$250.

The titles that I suggest for a basic Greek reference set are as follows:

1. Bauer, Walter, Frederick Danker, William Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, 3d ed. (University of Chicago, 2000).

6. Advanced students should purchase *ISBE* instead.

7. Either E. Nestle, and Kurt Aland, eds., *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27th ed. (GBS, 1993), which gives the most comprehensive listings of variant readings, or Barbara Aland et al., eds., *The Greek New Testament*, 4th ed. (UBS, 1994), which is the same text with a shorter evaluation of variants. Both editions are now available with Newman’s *Concise Greek-English Dictionary*.

2. Guthrie, George, and Scott Duvall. *Biblical Greek Exegesis* (Zondervan, 1998). Intermediate, advanced; selected readings, grammatical and semantic diagramming, how-to-do exegeticals; companion to Daniel Wallace’s *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Zondervan, 1996).
3. Kohlenberger, John, Edward Goodrick, and James Swanson. *The Exhaustive Concordance to the Greek New Testament* (Zondervan, 1995). UBS⁴ text.
4. Kohlenberger, John, Edward Goodrick, and James Swanson. *The Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament* (Zondervan, 1997). NIV text; G/K numbering system.
5. Mounce, William. *Basics of Biblical Greek*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2003). Includes interactive study aid CD.
———. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Workbook*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2003).

Then you will need to acquire a basic set of language helps to fertilize your growing knowledge of the New Testament in its original tongue. Elementary helps include an analytical lexicon to the GNT, which indicates every form of a Greek word found in the New Testament and provides its lexical root and basic definition.⁸

An interlinear Greek-English New Testament also proves to be of inestimable help in a pinch, especially when double-checking your own translation and comparing the various ways Greek words have been translated in English versions.⁹ A sister-companion to an interlinear translation is Timothy and Barbara Friberg, *Analytical Greek New Testament*, which parses the GNT word by word and has placated many of the frantic nights when paradigm memorization failed me.¹⁰

8. Either William Mounce, *The Analytical Lexicon to the GNT* (Zondervan, 1992), which features the G/K numbering system, or the Friberg, Friberg, and Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the GNT* (Baker, 1999), which is based on the NA²⁷ and UBS⁴ texts.

9. Options include J. D. Douglas, ed., *The New Interlinear Greek-English New Testament* (Tyndale, 1990), which is based on the NA²⁶, the UBS⁴ corrected, and the NRSV texts.

10. Timothy and Barbara Friberg, *Analytical Greek New Testament* (Baker, 1981).

Nevertheless, learning New Testament Greek is nothing of which to be afraid (which, for that matter, is also true of Hebrew). By exercising diligence, one can master both of the sacred languages, eventually rendering some helps anachronistic.

Two other Greek helps will produce dividends later in one's pastorate, yet they will be most beneficial during second and third year Greek while the student is preparing the daunting exegetical paper. These resources are an intermediate Greek grammar, to explain the interrelationship of Greek words in phrases and sentences (syntax),¹¹ and the word-study reference edited by Colin Brown, *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*.¹²

A student can borrow reference titles from other students or photocopy relevant passages in the school library. However, the same tools that *assist* in learning while one is in training are the same tools that enable the minister to *persist* in learning when the graduate moves on.

Some of the tools you can sell secondhand (e.g., first-year grammars, *AGNT*, and analytical lexicons) before departing school. Thus, the "must-have" cost of a library for a Bible college or seminary graduate (with Greek training) is to date approximately \$1,300.

The same basic components will ensure future proficiency for Hebrew study: a *BHS* Hebrew Bible,¹³ a basic grammar and workbook, a lexicon, a Hebrew-English concordance, and an exhaustive concordance. Depending on the specific requirements of your school's language department, I recommend the following:

1. Even-Shoshan, Abraham. *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*, 2d ed. (Baker, 1989).

11. Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Zondervan, 1996). For pastors, a helpful supplement to Wallace with some variegation of syntactical categories is Richard Young, *Intermediate New Testament Greek* (Broadman & Holman, 1994).

12. Colin Brown, ed., *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, 4 vols. (Zondervan, 1975–1978).

13. K. Elliger and W. Rudolph, eds., *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, 5th ed. (GBS, 1997). The *Biblia Hebraica Quinta* is currently in the process of publication and ultimately will be superior to *BHS*.

2. Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and John Stamm, eds. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Study Edition*, 2 vols. (Brill, 2001).¹⁴
3. Kohlenberger, John, and James Swanson, eds. *The Hebrew-English Concordance to the Old Testament* (Zondervan, 1999).
4. Pratico, Gary, and Brad Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2007).¹⁵
———. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2007).

For Hebrew, the suggested counterparts are as follows:

1. Kohlenberger, John, ed. *The NIV Hebrew-English Interlinear Old Testament* (Zondervan, 1987).
2. Owens, John. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*, 4 vols. (Baker, 1989–92).
3. VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*, 5 vols. (Zondervan, 1997). G/K numbering system.
4. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1990).

Worth mentioning are features contained in both Owens and the *NIDOTTE*. Owens actually does double duty as a Hebrew-English Old Testament (RSV) and a parsing guide. Passage by passage, it parses

14. The most important feature of this lexicon is that it is alphabetized according to how each word appears in *BHS* rather than by root. It is also eminently more current than *BDB* relative to etymology and ANE parallels. If not for its exorbitant cost (\$180 retail), it would be vastly preferable to *BDB*. Nevertheless, obtain it.

15. Other options include Allen Ross, *Introducing Biblical Hebrew* (Baker, 2000); Russell Fuller and Kyoungwon Choi, *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew* (Kregel, 2006); and Duane Garrett, *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (Broadman & Holman, 2002). For second-year Hebrew and rusty pastors, *From Exegesis to Exposition* (Baker, 1999) by Robert Chisholm is useful for exegetical papers and sermon preparation.

every Hebrew word in the Old Testament, identifies the page number where it appears in *BDB*, supplies the root for verb forms, and lists the frequency of occurrences of each word. This feature makes it a valuable tool for exegetical papers. The *NIDOTTE* does much the same as its New Testament counterpart (providing the ancient Near Eastern, OT, LXX, Qumran, Rabbinic, and NT background to each Hebrew word). But it does one better by including a volume on topical entries (such as biblical concepts, places, persons, and events) and an index of semantic fields. Its contributors are evangelical.

The cost to date for the Hebrew-Greek graduate, which includes the basic reference set (\$450), Greek grammars and language helps (\$650), and the Hebrew grammars and language helps (\$900), is \$2,000.

For Pastors

Students in seminary and Bible college should plan to acquire a working set of commentaries while they are still in school. By scanning for book sales on bulletin boards, trolling the used-book room at the school bookstore, and taking advantage of the occasional publisher discounts, significant savings can be realized.

But why, you might ask, should I burden myself with so many books that I will rarely read from cover to cover? First, commentaries equip the pastor with a ready answer to any biblical question. One never knows when an inquiry concerning Obadiah or Jude could come your way. Otherwise, you could end up ruining the day for lack of references.¹⁶

Second, commentaries can furnish comprehensive coverage against shaky sermons, if, in a weak moment, the pastor's usual caution gives way to a homiletic flight of fancy. Commentaries suggest not only a range of possible solutions to problem passages but also a wealth of theological, literary, and cultural background material to ensure that the general tenor of a pulpit message remains sound.

16. I am not suggesting that a pastor replace an already existing working library. First, as a general rule, libraries need to become fully equipped (expanded). Then, older commentaries and references can be updated as needed. Computer options enable the user both to update language and reference helps and to save enormous time in sermon preparation.

The kind of commentaries one buys must be reflective of the training that one has received. For the seminary-trained professional, a mix-and-match, hodge-podge approach to commentary collecting is still the best route to follow because many complete testament or Bible series are uneven in quality and might cover a wider theological spectrum than that with which you are comfortable.

A pastor should have two technical (or one technical and one semi-technical) commentaries on each book of the Bible and an expositional commentary to provide a general overview of each book (with an eye toward application) if the budget allows. The pastor can assume that approximately two-thirds of his "must-have" library will consist of commentaries and commentary sets. Thus, the cost for a library of 100–120 commentaries alone can be expected to approach \$3,200.

I recommend both the technical Word Biblical Commentary series (WBC) and the semitechnical New International Commentary series on both testaments published by Eerdmans (NICOT, NICNT). It would be better to substitute deficient titles in either series with available titles from Eerdmans' New International Greek Testament Commentary (NIGTC), the Eerdmans Critical Commentary (ECC), Broadman & Holman's whole-Bible New American Commentary (NAC), the newly emerging Apollos Old Testament Commentary, and the Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (BECNT) series.

For Bible college or M.A. students with two to three years of Greek background, the best combination is WBC (Word/Thomas Nelson) and NIGTC (Eerdmans) series in the New Testament. For those with less Greek background, NICNT (Eerdmans), Pillar New Testament Commentary (Eerdmans), and BECNT (Baker) are to be preferred. In the Old Testament, a combination of the NICOT (Eerdmans), the NAC (Broadman & Holman), Hendrickson's The New International Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament (NIBCOT), the Apollos Old Testament Commentary (IVP), and another IVP series, the Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (TOTC), would be your best choices. Depending on the number of paperbacks purchased (TOTC and NIBCOT), the overall commentary costs for Greek-only ministers comes to approximately \$2,500–\$3,000.

Finally, for the pastor or layman without training in the original

languages, several very worthwhile preaching, application, and expository commentary series are available.¹⁷ Of these, the best combination for the New Testament is The NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC) by Zondervan, the Pillar series (PNTC) by Eerdmans, the Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (CBC) by Tyndale, and a collection of four other series.¹⁸ The Old Testament is best covered by the NIVAC, the TOTC (IVP), and The Bible Speaks Today series (BST), also by IVP. The estimated price for a solid expository library is approximately \$1,300.

Now that I have gone to the wire (and the limits of your expense account) in championing the fat commentary bookcase, I am compelled by the ghosts of Hebrew and Greek professors to extend a caveat. Commentaries are not intended to take the place of your own intensive Bible study (and use of language helps and references where applicable) as illustrated in hermeneutics texts. They are meant to be an *aid* to study, such as gaining a perspective on background, or analyzing phrases with cultural, historical, or theological nuance, or as a last line of defense in double-checking the integrity of your own conclusions.

Owning and soaking in your own message is vital to your own growth and that of your congregation. The last thing you need is a videotaped sermon rented from a commentary (at the expense of the Holy Spirit). Having said all that, and having spent this much money, following are fourteen more titles that you should obtain.

1. Alexander, Desmond, et al., eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (IVP, 2000). Three parts: introductory articles, individual book theologies, 215 (A–Z) topics.

17. Expository as opposed to technical, exegetically based commentaries often succeed better at providing the general theological and applicational thrust of a given passage or biblical book. Therefore, they can be equally valuable to the seminary-trained pastor. Indeed, some series such as the NIVAC (Zondervan), Interpretation (Westminster John Knox), the IVP New Testament Commentary (IVPNTC), and The Preacher's Commentary by Thomas Nelson are designed specifically for preachers. Also, the New Interpreter's Bible commentary series (Abingdon) follows each block of commentary with a very helpful "Reflections" section.

18. The Tyndale New Testament Commentary (TNTC) from Eerdmans, Black's New Testament Commentary (BNTC) from Hendrickson Publishers, the NAC (Broadman & Holman), and the IVPNTC series (IVP).

2. Arnold, Bill, and Hugh Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (IVP, 2005).
3. Baker, David, and Desmond Alexander, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: The Pentateuch* (IVP, 2002).
4. Carson, D. A., and Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, rev. ed. (Zondervan, 2006).
5. Davids, Peter, and Ralph Martin, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments* (IVP, 1997).
6. Dillard, Raymond, and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2d. ed. (Zondervan, 2006).¹⁹
7. Ellwell, Walter, ed. *Baker Theological Dictionary of the Bible* (Baker, 1994, 2001). Formerly *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, or Ellwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2d ed. (Baker, 2001).
8. Evans, Craig, and Stanley Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds* (IVP, 2000). Highly academic (i.e., Qumran documents, apocryphal writings, etc.).
9. Green, Joel, Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP, 1992).
10. Hawthorne, Gerald, Ralph Martin, and Daniel Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP, 1993).²⁰
11. Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (IVP, 1993).²¹
12. Porter, Stanley, and Lee McDonald. *Early Christianity and Its Sacred Literature* (Hendrickson, 2000).
13. Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman. *A Biblical History of Israel* (Westminster John Knox, 2003).

19. For courses requiring more survey than introductory material, choose Andrew Hill and John Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2000); or Colin Smith, *Unfolding the Bible Story*, 4 vols. (Moody, 2002), whose two Old Testament volumes are ideal for two-semester surveys.

20. For a condensation of the four NT volumes, see Daniel Reid, ed., *The IVP Dictionary of the New Testament* (IVP, 2004).

21. For a comprehensive, single-volume treatment of the cultural, political, and religious environment during New Testament times, another alternative is Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d ed. (Eerdmans, 1993).

14. Walton, John, Victor Matthews, and Mark Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* (IVP, 2000).

The “must-have” cost of a personal biblical reference library is as follows:

Seminary-trained student (about 165 volumes):	\$5,700 ²²
Bible college with Greek (about 145 volumes):	\$4,400
Computer programs (15–25 print resources):	\$2,900
Layman (about 120 volumes):	\$2,300

2 ON COMMENTARY SERIES

For specific recommendations on whole sets, I recommend both the Word Biblical Commentary (WBC) and Eerdmans’ New International Greek Testament Commentary (NIGTC), which are technical. Also, excellent choices are the semitechnical New International Commentary on both testaments, also published by Eerdmans (NICOT, NICNT); Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (BECNT); and the nascent Apollos Old Testament Commentary (IVP),¹ which is formatted like the WBC with a theological emphasis in the explanation section following each pericope. It is also advisable to consult commentaries from series that generally run moderate-liberal in their persuasion.

The WBC series, formerly published by Word and now carried by Thomas Nelson, has a fairly equal combination of evangelical and moderate (with some liberal) commentators. A commentary with an evangelical bias would typically subscribe to the belief that all Scripture is absolutely inerrant, that is, the Bible is written with full historical and scientific accuracy on all matters that it affirms and thus is completely truthful. A moderate view would affirm that the inerrancy of Scripture is restricted to its theological content rather than its historical or scientific statements. A moderate, for instance, could hold that the actual author of 2 Peter is someone other than the

22. Retail cost. Taking advantage of discounts, used books, and selling of the language helps that are designed specifically for seminary use should reduce each number by 40 percent. Consider this a wise investment. A library that is approximately the same cost as a semester of school will help you retain three to four years of learning. Second, the average time a pastor spends on preparing a weekly message or two (over a period of thirty to forty years) amply justifies the initial down payment. In my mind, that’s the best way to stretch your ministry dollar.

1. Specifically intended for pastors, Apollos follows the format of the WBC series with special emphasis on theological reflection and applicational possibilities in the corresponding “Explanations” section. As such, it is more scholarly than the applicational series mentioned below, with some commentaries indicating an evangelical/critical slant (i.e., Gordon McConville on Deuteronomy).

apostle himself but that its theological truths are still consistent with the rest of Scripture. A liberal view, however, would generally assert that Scripture's claim to divine origin is dubious (i.e., the JEDP documentary hypothesis of Pentateuchal redaction).

In recent years, evangelicals have been forced to play catch-up in writing commentaries that supply the advanced philology, text-critical notes, theological implications, socioliterary background, and extrabiblical parallels that have characterized liberal scholarship for decades. Particularly noteworthy liberal commentary series are *Hermeneia* (Fortress), and the *Old Testament Library* (OTL)² and the *New Testament Library* (NTL), both from Westminster John Knox. Series of mixed theological persuasion (including liberal, evangelical, and moderate commentators) that deserve mention are the *Eerdmans Critical Commentary* (ECC), the revising ICC series (T & T Clark), and the *Anchor Bible* (Doubleday).

Other options include the new wave of commentaries that exclusively address cultural and literary backgrounds. Rather than following the verse-by-verse format of the traditional grammatical-historical commentaries, these generally exposit blocks of text. This format includes the *New Testament in Context* (NTC) by Trinity Press International and the socio-rhetorical commentaries published by Eerdmans.

Some of the series that I include are semitechnical as well as expositional, namely, Broadman & Holman's whole-Bible *New American Commentary* (NAC)³ and the *Pillar New Testament Commentary* (PNTC) series, which are designed specifically for the serious student and the general reader alike. As such, these commentaries usually are better than more technical treatments for grasping the overall flow of

the passage. In some cases, I have included them under Technical, Semitechnical references.

For expositional recommendations in addition to those mentioned earlier, I would also recommend the *NIV Application Commentary* (NIVAC),⁴ the *Tyndale Old Testament Commentary* (TOTC), *The Bible Speaks Today* (BST), the *Black's New Testament Commentary* (BNTC), and an emerging series to watch from Hendrickson Publishers, the *New International Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament* (NIBCOT).

The following overview presents a list of series arranged according to my recommendations:

Evangelical and Technical, Semitechnical⁵

1. *New International Greek Testament Commentary* (NIGTC)
2. *New International Commentary* (NICOT, NICNT)
3. *Baker Exegetical Commentary* (BECNT)
4. *Pillar New Testament Commentaries* (PNTC)
5. *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (Apollos)

Mixed, Technical, Semitechnical⁶

1. *Word Biblical Commentaries* (WBC)
2. *International Critical Commentary* (ICC)
3. *The Anchor Bible* (AB)
4. *Eerdmans Critical Commentary* (ECC)
5. *Black's New Testament Commentaries* (BNTC), formerly *Harper's New Testament Commentaries* (HNTC)

2. The *Old Testament Library* was inaugurated by Westminster, but since merging with John Knox, the name of the publisher is Westminster John Knox. Also, titles in the *Interpretation* series were originally published by John Knox, but are now also available through Westminster John Knox. I have tried to make these distinctions throughout the book, including the WBC volumes.

3. Particularly outstanding in the NAC series and able to be used as a semitechnical commentary include David Garland on 2 Corinthians, Richard Taylor and Ray Clendenen on Haggai/Malachi, Duane Garrett on Hosea and Amos, Robert Bergen on 1–2 Samuel, Daniel Block on Judges and Ruth, David Howard on Joshua, Dennis Cole on Numbers, Doug Stuart on Exodus, and Mark Rooker on Leviticus.

4. The NIVAC series is the best homiletic set current. It breaks the interpretation into three categories: original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance, thus following the accepted pattern for preparing sermons.

5. Note that the AB, *Hermeneia*, IBC, NIB, NICNT, NICOT, NIGTC, NIVAC, NTL, OTL, PNTC, and TNTC are all printed on acid-free paper, promising years of durability and clarity.

6. The commentaries of Milgrom, Christensen, Klein, McCarter, Cogan, Hobbs, Japhet, Williamson, Fox, Clines, Seow, Murphy, Andersen, Freedman, Barrett, Cranfield, Thrall, Best, Johnson, Achtemeier, Smalley, Boxall, and Schnackenburg are among those of the moderate-to-liberal persuasion (primarily in the *Hermeneia*, OTL, AB, ICC, and WBC series) that are considered as desirable selections for conservatives.

6. Sacra Pagina
7. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries (ANTC), Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries (AOTC)
8. New Century Bible Commentary (NCBC)
9. New Testament in Context Commentaries (NTC)⁷

Liberal, Technical

1. Hermeneia, Continental Commentaries
2. Old Testament Library (OTL), New Testament Library (NTL)

Exposition

1. New American Commentary (NAC)
2. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (TOTC)
3. New International Biblical Commentary: OT and NT (NIB-COT, NIBCNT)
4. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (CBC)
5. New Interpreter's Bible (NIB)⁸
6. Tyndale New Testament Commentary (TNTC)
7. Expositors Bible Commentary (EBC)
8. Believer's Church Bible Commentary (BCBC)
9. Daily Study Bible (DSB)

Preaching and Application

1. The NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC)
2. The Bible Speaks Today (BST)
3. IVP New Testament Commentary (IVPNTC)
4. Interpretation (IBC)
5. The Preacher's Commentary (TPC)

7. The NTC abbreviation is used for this series rather than the New Testament Commentary by William Hendriksen and Simon Kistemaker (Baker) because of more recommended titles.

8. Especially Walter Kaiser on Leviticus, Choon-Leong Seow on Kings, Leslie Allen on Chronicles, Ralph Klein on Ezra/Nehemiah, Clinton McCann on Psalms, Raymond Van Leeuwen on Proverbs, Christopher Seitz on Isaiah 40–66, Kathryn Pfisterer Darr on Ezekiel, Alan Culpepper on Luke, Gail O'Day on John, Robert Wall on Acts, Tom Wright on Romans, and Richard Hays on Galatians.

OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION, SURVEY, AND THEOLOGY

Old Testament Introduction

1. Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, rev. ed. (Moody, 1994).
2. Dillard, Raymond, and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, rev. ed. (Zondervan, 2006). Historical, theological, and literary background.
3. Dumbrell, William. *The Faith of Israel*, 2d ed. (Baker, 2002). Especially theology.
4. Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Hendrickson, 2004).
5. Kaltner, John, and Steven McKenzie. *The Old Testament* (Abingdon, 2006).
6. LaSor, William, David Hubbard, and Frederic Bush. *Old Testament Survey*, 2d ed. (Eerdmans, 1996).
7. Matthews, Victor, and James Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*, 2d ed. (Hendrickson, 2005).

Old Testament Survey*

1. **Arnold, Bill, and Bryan Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament* (Baker, 1999).** Includes multimedia, interactive CD-ROM, companion reader (*see under* Old Testament Background: Ancient Near East Parallels).

* Forthcoming: David Howard, *Invitation to the Old Testament* (Kregel). Probably the best combo is Sailhamer (Pentateuch), Hamilton (Historical), Estes (Wisdom), Wilson (Psalms), and Chisholm (Prophets).

2. Dyer, Charles, and Eugene Merrill. *Nelson's Old Testament Survey* (Thomas Nelson, 2003)
3. **Hill, Andrew, and John Walton.** *A Survey of the Old Testament, 2d ed. (Zondervan, 2000).*
4. Walton, John, and Andrew Hill. *Old Testament Today* (Zondervan, 2004). Introductory, college-level.

Introduction to the Pentateuch*

1. **Alexander, Desmond.** *From Paradise to the Promised Land, 2d ed. (Baker, 2002).*
2. Hamilton, Victor. *Handbook on the Pentateuch, 2d ed. (Baker, 2005).*
3. **Sailhamer, John.** *The Pentateuch as Narrative (Zondervan, 1992).*
4. Schnittjer, Gary. *The Torah Story* (Zondervan, 2006).
5. **Wenham, Gordon.** *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch (IVP, 2003).*
6. See Critical Introductions.

Introduction to the Historic Books

1. Campbell, Antony. *Joshua to Chronicles* (Westminster John Knox, 2004).
2. Chisholm, Robert. *Interpreting the Historical Books* (Kregel, 2006).
3. **Hamilton, Victor.** *Handbook on the Historical Books (Baker, 2001).*
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