

2

OLD TESTAMENT

Historical Books

Mann, Thomas Wingate.

The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Integrity of the Pentateuch.

Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988.

Presents the results of biblical criticism with scant attention being given the writings of conservatives who have long since defended the integrity of the Mosaic corpus. David Gunn writes approvingly of Mann's work: "A sound piece of work. Its holistic, final-form approach reflects the major trend in biblical criticism. It is perceptive, sensitive, thoughtful and stimulating."

Mills, Watson E., and Richard F. Wilson, eds.

Pentateuch/Torah. Vol. 1: Mercer Commentary on the Bible.

Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1998.

Disputes the Mosaic authorship. Advocates most theories long associated with the theological left. Disappointing.

Whybray, R. Norman.

Introduction to the Pentateuch.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

A straightforward and insightful introduction to the contents and themes of the books ascribed to Moses. Designed as an entry-level textbook for colleges and seminaries, this book provides a clear (though theologically liberal) presentation of the issues and data relating to Pentateuchal studies along with a helpful explanation of technical material.

Wolf, Herbert.

An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

With precision and an awareness of the controversies that have plagued Pentateuch studies, Wolf places in his reader's hands a solid, reliable work that ably vindicates the Biblical text from the limbo to which modern criticism has relegated it. It serves as an excellent introduction to the contents and message of the five books of Moses. Each chapter contains a valuable discussion of the problematic issues. The Contents omits "7. Deuteronomy". This book deserves a place in every preacher's library. Buy it!

Genesis

Alexander, T. Desmond, and D. W. Baker, eds.

Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.

The product of international scholars, this dictionary is described by the publisher as a “compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship.” It covers topics from “Aaron” to “Zoology,” and provides users with an abundance of information on critical issues. Longer articles contain bibliographies, some of which are extensive. The traditional JEDP approach to the Pentateuch is here subject to refinement and restatement. The contributors do not believe that Moses wrote the book of Deuteronomy, but that this canonical work dates from the time of Josiah. We are not surprised to note, therefore, that the history and theology of God’s ancient people is treated from a Deuteronomic perspective.

Boice, James Montgomery.

Genesis: An Expository Commentary.

3 vols. Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1982-87.

Now complete, this study deals fairly with the numerous difficulties expositors face as they seek to interpret this portion of God's Word. Boice is fair when it comes to treating points of view that differ from his own. He makes a good case for ex nihilo creation, believes the sons of God are angelic beings, that the flood was universal, et cetera. He treats the contents section by section, rather than verse by verse. His discussion of the life of the patriarchs is excellent. Whereas in the past pastors have relied heavily upon the works of Candlish, Delitzsch, and a few others for background material, in Boice's exposition they now have a new and up-to-date work to consult.

DeHaan, Martin Ralph.

Portraits of Christ in Genesis.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1995.

First published in 1966. These messages comprise the last of DeHaan’s highly readable books. They explore the lives of the men mentioned in Genesis and draw from their experiences the prophetic types that prefigure the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Fohr, S. D.

Adam and Eve: The Spiritual Symbolism of Genesis and Exodus.

Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1986.

Seeks to retrieve the narrative portions of Genesis and Exodus from the limbo to which modern scholarship has relegated them. Develops a symbolic interpretation based upon four ages and a cyclical view of history. Incorporates pagan beliefs of cosmology into the discussion, and used such data to interpret the biblical text.

Ham, Ken, and Paul Taylor.

The Genesis Solution.

Santee, CA: Master Books, 1988.

Shows the importance of a proper understanding of the Book of Genesis. Explains how such an approach to the world's and mankind's beginnings is essential to all other forms of knowledge. A good book. Well-reasoned.

Hamilton, Victor P.

The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1--17. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

Includes sections on the book's title, structure, composition, theology, problems in interpretation, canonicity, the MT, an outline, and a select bibliography. The commentary is based upon the author's own translation, and gives evidence of his extensive knowledge of the ancient Near East, of the writings of others, and of literary and form criticism.

Hamilton, Victor P.

The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18--50.

New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans publishing Co., 1995.

This prodigious and scholarly work provides readers with linguistic, historical, literary, social and theological information on the text of Genesis and the lives of the Patriarchs. It emphasizes God's loyalty to His word and illustrates His faithfulness to His covenant. This volume begins with Abraham's reception of the three "Visitors" and ends with the story of Joseph. Devotional thoughts are interspersed with more technical data., and the result is a work of real merit.

Hughes, R. Kent.

Genesis: Beginning and Blessing.

Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

This well-outlined exposition of 702 pp. (replete with an index of Hughes' sermon illustrations) gives evidence of careful preparation. The stories in the book of Genesis are well-known to us, and here they receive fresh analysis and application. Hughes' critique of human nature is prominent throughout, and he boldly points out the origin of our rebellion against God and continued sinfulness. Also prominent is God's grace freely bestowed upon His undeserving creatures. Preachers will find that this work contains an abundance

Janzen, J. Gerald.

Abraham and All the Families of the Earth: A Commentary on the Book of Genesis 12--50.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

"The ever-increasing interdependency of our postmodern era between all people of the earth--and, between humans and the earth itself--demands that a hermeneutic of salvation history take into account the complexities of world history and embrace the environment. Janzen provides an important contribution toward such a goal by interpreting Israel's ancestral history in Genesis 12--50 within the larger framework of creation in Genesis 1--11."--Thomas B. Dozeman.

Law, Henry.

The Gospel in Genesis.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1993.

Sermons on select verses. Devotional and spiritually edifying, but at times heavily topological.

Phillips, John.

Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001.

First published in 1980. Designed for beginning Bible students, this work contains some valid applications of truth to life, but does not deal convincingly with some of the problems.

Sailhamer, John H.

Genesis Unbound: A Provocative New Look at the Creation Account.

Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1996.

“A startlingly refreshing and innovative interpretation of the text of Genesis 1--2. It is an altogether new way of seeking the much needed rapprochement between the young and old earth Bible believers. Not everyone will adopt all of the features of this reverent treatment of the text, but all will find plenty to challenge their thinking in areas that they might have previously thought were consistent with the biblical text. This volume will be talked about for years to come.”--

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

Swindoll, Charles Rozell.

Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness.

Nashville: Nelson, 1998.

Swindoll's introductions are generally very good. His attempts at relevance frequently deteriorate into trite colloquiums that are “in” today and passé tomorrow. As far as the content of this book is concerned, these chapters lack insight into human nature, sidestep interpretive problems, and emphasize the obvious. What is lacking is the kind of edifying explanation drawn from the lessons of Joseph's life.

Thomas, William Henry Griffith.

Genesis, A Devotional Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988.

Thomas' discussion of Genesis 1--11 attempts to interact with the scientific information current in his day. His treatment of chapters 12--50 is excellent. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., says of his book: "The outstanding feature of [this work] is the way in which he puts the whole book together, carefully weaving the book's purpose, plan, unity, values, and doctrines into a beautiful, but challenging tapestry." This richly devotional work is ideal for lay study as well as for pastors. Highly recommended

Waltke, Bruce Keith, and C. J. Fredricks.

Genesis, a Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

The authors could have written an erudite work, but instead produced a commentary that can be read by an intelligent layperson. There are many excellencies scattered throughout these pages. The authors do not fit into a preconceived mold. They offer a view of creation that allows for a pre-Adamic race before Genesis 1:1; adopt an amillennial approach to Genesis 12:1-3 (that unfortunately blurs the distinction between “Jews, Gentiles and the Church of God in the NT); make allowance for Moses’ use of documents, and believe that the book was brought to its present state by an unknown editor.

Wenham, Gordon J.

Genesis 1--15. Word Biblical Commentary.
Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

This is a work of remarkable erudition. While some will consult it solely to ascertain whether or not Wenham agrees with them on some disputed point, the value of this commentary extends to the writer's discussion of the theology of Genesis, as well as his citation of important contemporary literary sources. While thoroughly conversant with the Documentary Hypothesis, only rarely does Wenham include this information in his treatment of these chapters. This is an exemplary work, and we look forward with anticipation to the publication of vol. 2.)

Wenham, Gordon J.

Genesis 16--50.
Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word Publications, 1994.

Aims at accuracy in interpreting the original text. Here is a work of exceptional merit. It abounds in preaching values, and is to be highly recommended.

Westermann, Claus.

Genesis, a Commentary. 3 vols. Translated by J. J. Scullion.
Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984-86.

Follows the European format for contemporary commentaries with an extensive bibliography preceding each section. Adheres to modern critical assumptions of the text's redaction. While the comments on each biblical passage are not particularly scintillating, this is a wide-ranging, well-informed, well-researched, well-documented commentary, and it is well-deserving of consultation.

Youngblood, Ronald, ed.

The Genesis Debate: Persistent Questions About Creation and the Flood.
Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986.

Twenty-two scholars from different theological traditions debate such issues as the length of the days of creation; the age of the earth; evolution vs. creation; the nature of Cain's offering; and so forth. Both sides of an issue are presented by writers convinced that their position is the biblical one. The result is a very handy volume in which a reader can quickly and easily gain an understanding of the pros and cons of the situation. Recommended.

Exodus

Ashby, Godfrey.

Go Out and Meet God: A Commentary on the Book of Exodus.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Discusses the crucial importance of the events described in the book of Exodus, and explains why the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt is a central event in the lives and beliefs of God's ancient people.

Coats, George W.

Moses: Heroic Man, Man of God.

Sheffield, England: Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 1988.

Treats the early events in Moses' life as mythological. Does not believe that the emancipator's confrontation with Pharaoh is based upon reliable resources. In the end, Coats tries to extrapolate positive truth from a biblical account which he deems to be unreliable. While scholarly, this work is very disappointing.

Sarna, Nahum M.

Exploring Exodus: The Heritage of Biblical Israel.

New York: Schocken Books, 1986.

A companion volume to the author's work on Genesis. This is a study of enormous value and adequately explains Israel's experiences at the time of their emancipation, together with important information on the development of their religion and culture.

Swindoll, Charles Rozell.

Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication.

Nashville: Word, 1999.

Swindoll is a master in the use of drama, and those who have sat under his ministry readily appreciate his acumen. His writings, however, do not reflect this and leave a great figure such as Moses forever (it seems) in the shadows. On the positive side, this is a useful summary of the great liberator's contribution to the lives of his people.

Wilson, Ian.

Exodus: The True Story Behind the Biblical Account.

San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986.

This treatment has a great deal to commend it. Wilson traces the plagues of Egypt (c. 1450 B.C.) to the volcanic eruption which destroyed much of the Mycenaean civilization mentioned by Homer. In doing so, he draws upon new research by H. Goedicke of Johns Hopkins University. His material is highlighted with numerous pictures and provides important sidelights on Egyptian life and culture in the 15th century B.C.

Leviticus

Bailey, Lloyd R.

Leviticus. Knox Preaching Guides.

Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.

Well-outlined. Contains very brief comments on the text. Correlates each chapter of Leviticus with the teaching of the NT. Too succinct to be of lasting value.

Hartley, John E.

Leviticus.

Word Biblical Commentary Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1992.

The emphasis of Leviticus is on true worship and the ordering one's personal life according to the teaching of God's Word. It is from this premise that Hartley interprets this portion of the canon. Prominent, of course, is his exposition of the "Holiness Code." But the Aaronic priesthood also receives special treatment for the Levites were designated by God to be the communicators of His word to the nation (thus laying the foundation for an informed laity to exert an influence for good through Bible teaching) throughout the land. Hartley's exposition is refreshingly free from the *Redaktionsgeschichte* found in so many of the other volumes in this series.

Kellogg, Samuel Henry.

Studies in Leviticus: Tabernacle Worship and the Law of Daily Life.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988.

Stands as one of the best and most thorough expositions of Leviticus ever written. Recommended.

Milgrom, Jacob.

Leviticus 1--16.

Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Treats Leviticus as a handbook of the Levitical priesthood in which living expression is given the static law presented in Exodus. Discusses such diverse matters as sacrifices, dietary regulations, ritual impurity, sexual behavior, ethical precepts, the festival calendar, blasphemy, and the sabbatical and jubilee years. Shows how all the laws focus on the individual and the community relationship with God.

Rooker, Mark F.

Leviticus.

New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.

Holds to the Mosaic authorship. Deals with specific themes (e.g., holiness, sacrifice, atonement, etc.). Explains the meaning and significance of the different offerings, festivals and special occasions. Accurate in its interpretation of these customs.

Numbers

Ashley, Timothy R.

The Book of Numbers. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

“A rigorous, thorough, up-to-date evangelical commentary on Numbers! The author courageously tackles that book’s thorny technical problems [while at the same time] effectively bringing out its important theological message.”--Robert L. Hubbard.

Brown, Raymond.

The Message of Numbers: Journey to the Promised Land.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Brown helps readers explore the main themes of Numbers. His application of the truth is challenging and comes from his heart to ours.

Davies, Eryl W.

Numbers.

New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

Based on the text of the RSV. Comprehensive in scope. Shows the strategic importance of this canonical book in its relation to the Torah and the rest of the Bible. Examines the role of the priest, and lays bare the importance of holiness as one approaches the Lord.

Harrison, Roland Kenneth.

Numbers. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary.
Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

One of the most promising series of commentaries to be launched by an evangelical publishing house. Harrison's work exhibits his remarkable skill in handling the MT. He deals with interpretative problems in a most helpful manner, and his exposition is clear. This book will be referred to by Bible students for many years to come. Recommended.

Maarsingh, B.

Numbers, a Practical Commentary. Text and Interpretation. Translated by J. Vriend.
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.

Condenses a vast amount of information into a concise, readable commentary. Careful attention is paid to details. Readers will find the author's approach helpful.

Sakenfeld, Katherine Doob.

Journeying with God: A Commentary on the Book of Numbers.
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

Although little studied by most Christians, the book of Numbers offers a rich storehouse of material for reflection on the relationship between God and the religious community. This new commentary highlights this theme, and in the process attempts to interpret the many unique stories (e.g., Baalim) that the reader encounters. Sakenfeld gives prominence to the role of women in

Israel, as well as the way in which these women are presented by the Biblical writer and how mention of them is to be interpreted/understood by contemporary Christians.

Deuteronomy

Brown, Raymond.

The Message of Deuteronomy.

The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Covers Moses' addresses to the people of Israel. Deals with the essential truths in a most acceptable manner. Explains the relevance of this material to the present time. Carefully presented. Not as verbose or technical as some other commentaries. Should be in every expository preacher's library.

Payne, David Frank.

Deuteronomy. Daily Bible Study.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

Leans in favor of accepting the Mosaic authorship. Condenses a remarkable wealth of information into a concise, practical commentary. A handy volume.

Weinfeld, Moshe.

Deuteronomy 1--11.

Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1991.

Set in bold, clear type, this volume is easy to read and publisher and author are to be commended for the handsome layout and overall appearance of the book. Weinfeld is one of *the* leading exponents of Deuteronomic history, and readers should expect this to color his exegesis as well as his exposition. The archaeological and cultural, historical and geographical notes are of the utmost value; and throughout one becomes aware of the author's careful work. Contains relatively little data for the preacher, but is a must for the scholar.

Ten Commandments

Reisinger, Ernest C.

Whatever Happened to the Ten Commandments?

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1999.

Reappraises the teaching of the Decalogue for today. Draws extensively on the neglected *Larger Catechism of the Westminster Assembly*. Timely.

Joshua

Boice, James Montgomery.

Joshua: We Will Serve the Lord.

Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1989.

Here is a reliable work that is ideal for lay Bible study. Boice interprets the text literally and applies it accurately. Recommended.

Goslinga, C. J.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth. Bible Students Commentary. Translated by R. Togtman.

Grand Rapids: Regency Reference Library, 1987.

Brief, perceptive comments on each verse of these canonical books. Adheres to the standard evangelical interpretation of major critical issues. In applying the text to life, Goslinga follows a typological approach. As a commentary, this work serves as a handy guide to laypeople studying these books for the first time. Pastors and lay preachers may find the outlines helpful.

Gray, John.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth. New Century Bible. Revised ed.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986.

Based upon the text of the RSV. This is a complete revision of the author's earlier commentary. In this work Gray incorporates some new conclusions which he has reached since his 1967 study appeared. He now includes a section in which he puts forth his thesis that there was a gradual growth on the part of the people of Israel from the militant core of worshippers of Yahweh which became localized in Ephraim, to a wider group including an underprivileged proletariat attracted by the social ethic of the "new faith." The fact that this thesis cannot be maintained from evidence within the books of Joshua and Judges does not stop Gray from presenting his ideas as if they were some new revelation.

Wiersbe, Warren Wendell.

Be Strong.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993.

Discusses the Book of Joshua. Shows readers how to put God's power to work in their lives. An excellent resource for adult discussion groups.

Judge and Ruth

Barber, Cyril John.

Judges: A Narrative of God's Power.

Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2004.

First published in 1990. James Rosscup, in his *Commentaries for Biblical Expositors*, wrote: "[This is] a well-organized conservative exposition arising out of much study and skill in showing how alive biblical passages are.... Barber uses captivating headlines for sections, a vivid flow, arousing descriptions, analogies, illustrations, and applications. He deals with many problems

awarely, using notes that sometimes are lengthy and meaty.... He is competent, thought-provoking, and often sharp in exposing the timeliness of the book for life today.”

Barber, Cyril John.

Ruth: A Story of God's Grace.

Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2003.

First published in 1983. Frederick A. Tatford wrote in the Foreword that the author “has deftly and capably demonstrated the relevance of Ruth’s story to the present day. Not only has he given us an extremely satisfying exposition of the OT book, but he has deduced from it many lessons that are pertinent to us in our [present] circumstances.

Block, Daniel.

Judges, Ruth. Vol. 6: New American Commentary.

Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.

An exceedingly valuable exegetical and theological exposition. Based on the NIV, though Block gives evidence of working from the Hebrew text. Readers will find this a learned, discerning discussion that readily explains the meaning and message of these twin books. Recommended.

Bush, Frederic W.

Ruth, Esther.

Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1996.

The treatments accorded Ruth and Esther are of uneven length. More space is devoted to Ruth than to Esther (though Esther is three times longer). The critical data (authorship, date, etc.) raises more problems that it solves. Furthermore, the informed reader soon gains the impression that most conservative rebuttals to longstanding arguments by liberals, have been ignored. On the positive side, however, the exegetical comments are generally insightful, and Bush’s erudition is evident on every page. The bibliographies are very full, and scholars will find them valuable.

Campbell, Donald Keith.

Judges: Leaders in Crisis Times.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989.

A well-informed, judicious exposition that combines a timely handling of the text with a practical application of it. Ideal for adult discussion groups. Recommended.

Fausset, Andrew Robert.

A Critical and Expository Commentary on the Book of Judges. Geneva Series.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1999.

One of the finest expositions on Judges available today. Deals fairly with interpretative problems. Of great value to the expository preacher. Recommended.

Hamlin, E. John.

At Risk in the Promised Land: A Commentary on the Book of Judges. International Theological Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

A fresh, original, imaginative commentary. Each chapter concludes with "Perspectives" on the text that take the form of reflections on the historic context.

Lindars, Barnabas.

Judges 1--5: A New Translation and Commentary.

Edited by A. D. H. Mayes. International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. And T. Clark, 1995.

Lindars died before completing his exegetical commentary on Judges. What he has provided is a detailed, technical exposition that follows the Hebrew text verse-by-verse and phrase-by-phrase.

Wiersbe, Warren Wendell.

Be Available.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994.

Greed. Immorality. Disregard for moral absolutes. These "modern" lifestyles and attitudes were also prevalent during the era of the Judges. In the darkest of times, God raised up unique individuals to do His will. Here is their story. *Be Available* is a book for each one of us. It breathes encouragement. Read it and see.

Wilcock, Michael.

The Message of Judges: Grace Abounding.

The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Covers the contents in eight chapters. Focuses on the major issues revealing mankind's inherent sinfulness and God's grace. Too brief to be of lasting value.

Books of Samuel

Anderson, Arnold A.

Second Samuel. Word Biblical Commentary.

Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989.

Another valuable contribution to this series. Anderson's erudition is evident on every page. Because the emendations of the MT are confined to the "Notes," pastors can benefit from the "Comments" without having to sift through critical data that is of interest only to scholars. Well-researched. Treats problems in the text in a fair and objective manner.

Baldwin, Joyce G.

First and Second Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Clear and concise. Incorporates a vast amount of research into a handy, easy-to-read format. While seeming to favor textual redaction in the introduction, the comments of the text are generally free from such speculation, and may be read with profit by lay people

Barber, Cyril John.

The Books of Samuel: Vol. 1, The Sovereignty of God Illustrated in the Lives of Samuel, Saul and David.

Eugene, OR: Wopf and Stock, 2003.

First published in 1993. Of this book Warren W. Wiersbe wrote, “How I wish this book had been available years ago when I as was a young minister tried to preach on the life of King Saul. My intentions were noble, but my preparation was inadequate.... But Dr. Cyril Barber has now solved the problem for all of us! He has given us a commentary on 1 Samuel that balances dependable information, spiritual interpretation, and practical application. I predict that in years to come this volume will be a standard reference work for serious Bible students and careful expository preachers.”

Barber, Cyril John.

The Books of Samuel: Vol. 2, The Sovereignty of God Illustrated in the Life of David.

Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2003.

First published in 2000. “Here is a commentary on 2 Samuel that seeks to combine careful scholarship with the practical application of Biblical truth. Behind every twist and turn in Israel’s history is a sovereign God who orchestrates events so that His purposes will be fully accomplished.... All who read [this commentary] will derive a new appreciation for the work of God in human history.”—Erwin W. Lutzer.

Bruggemann, Walter.

First and Second Samuel. Interpretation, a Biblical Commentary for Teaching and Preaching.

Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.

Designed for lay use. Succeeds in opening up the text. Follows (without warning the readers) many of the critical assumptions pertaining to the text and its interpretation. Helpful, if used with discretion.

Calvin, John.

Sermons on 2 Samuel, Chapters 1--13.

Translated by D. Kelly. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1992.

Never before available in English, these 43 sermons cover David’s years as king of Judah and then his early years as king over all Israel. They blend the history of his times with the application of the principles of his administration to our own times. Recommended.

Chafin, Kenneth L.

One [and] Two Samuel. The Communicator's Commentary.

Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989.

Pastoring a church with a good seminary library close by enabled Chafin to have access to the finest literary resources available. His treatment of the lives of Samuel, Saul, and David is helpful, even if it lacks depth that a thorough knowledge of human personality would enhance. In spite of this, preachers will find these chapters clearly outlined and their contents ably articulated.

Gnuse, Robert Karl.

The Dream Theophany of Samuel: Its Structure in Relation to Ancient Near Eastern Dreams and Its Theological Significance

Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984.

Focuses primarily on the complete literary and theological context of 1 Samuel 3. Re-evaluates the passage in light of folklore and dream phenomena, not as a word from God. An interesting and informative discussion, but fails to distinguish between natural and divinely revealed truth.

Polzin, Robert.

Samuel and the Deuteronomist.

New York: Harper and Row, 1991.

Critics of the Bible hold that 1 Samuel is a pastiche of various sources strung together by an editor. At one time the general date for the compilation of 1 Samuel was late in the history of the tribes of Israel and Judah. Polzin refutes these theories. He offers convincing proof that 1 Samuel is a unified historical account composed and the product of highly literary minds. His facile handling of the text will provide fresh insights for students as well as scholars.

Polzin, Robert.

Samuel and the Deuteronomist: A Literary Study of the Deuteronomist History.

San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989.

A sequel to *Moses and the Deuteronomist*. Seeks to uncover the literary style of the author. Portrays Samuel as a manipulative, egotistic prophet whose control of the people during his prime was virtually absolute.

Robinson, Gnana.

Let Use Be Like the Nations: A Commentary on the Books of 1 and 2 Samuel.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

Follows the Biblical narrative. Draws many parallels from Indian and Asian contemporary life to throw light on Bible times. Provocative.

Books of Kings

Barber, Cyril John.

The Books of Kings 2

Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2004.

“A plain, highly readable study that pastors, college students, seminarians, and lay people will find helpful.”

Dilday, Russell H.

One [and] Two Kings. The Communicator's Commentary.

Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

A well-articulated commentary. The Introduction is brief and to-the-point. Dilday sees the purpose of these book as illustrating the "Sovereign Lord of History using men and nations to work out his redemptive purposes." Throughout there is evidence of the author's wide reading. Prominence is given, however, to liberal and Baptist writers (a strange mix when one considers the historic roots of the Southern Baptist movement). The comments on the text are very brief. While the chapters are well-written, they lack a homiletic outline. They do follow the text, and Dilday's rhetorical acumen is evident on every page.

Long, Burke O.

Second Kings.

Forms of the Old Testament Literature. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991. Walter Bruggemann wrote of this book, "Long has written a shrewd, discerning, and comprehensive study that will become an enduring point of reference for future study. It is evident that Long knows all the literature in a thorough and masterful way. He is, moreover, intentional about method, and works his method with power and insight.... The focal point of his study is form analysis ... [and] in his case the study of the text spills over, well beyond form criticism into a wealth of analytic and interpretive insight. His book is a model for mobilizing detail into a sensible and illuminating whole."

Nelson, Richard D.

First and Second Kings. Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.

Examines the Books of Kings, treating the text as theological literature. Emphasizes the literary impact this work had when it was first released. Disregards the inspiration and authority of the text in favor of its canonical importance. Deftly draws readers into an examination of the text.

Wallace, Ronald S.

Readings in I Kings: An Interpretation Arranged for Personal and Group Bible Study, with Questions and Notes.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

"In this concise, practical commentary on I Kings, Wallace succeeds in giving 'fresh thoughts fresh clothing.'... He draws readers into biblical characters' lives ... and his love for the Bible is evident as he bridges the centuries to show each stories' modern practicality. He sees 'persons like ourselves in situations that we can easily match with our own today,' and he pulls no punches exposing their human foibles and weaknesses."--*Bookstore Journal.*

Books of Chronicles

Allen, Leslie C.

One [and] Two Chronicles. The Communicator's Commentary. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Allen believes that "the heartbeat of Chronicles is a concern for spirituality. In this respect its key word is to 'seek' God." And because the Chronicler was essentially a preacher of practical theology, Allen sees in these biblical books essential teaching for those in the ministry today. While much of this commentary is taken up with Allen's translation of the biblical text (and no one should minimize the labor involved!), his comments or exposition is therefore brief. What is found between these covers, however, is insightful and helpful. This is one of the most important volumes in this series

Barber, Cyril John.

1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles: The Faithfulness of God to His Word Illustrated in the Lives of the People of Judah. 2 vols.

Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2004.

Far from occupying a subordinate place among the books of the Bible, Barber shows that these works (probably written by Ezra) were designed to encourage the exiles that had returned from Babylon with the assurance that God was faithful to His promise and would bless them if they obeyed His Word. Barber's exposition builds upon an understanding of the original text and the history and culture of the times, yet contains a strong devotional emphasis.

Braun, Roddy.

First Chronicles. Word Biblical Commentary.

Waco, TX: Word Books, 1986.

An exacting and enlightening study which demonstrates thorough research, and must rank among the finest treatments ever produced on this portion of Scripture.

DeVries, Simon J.

First and Second Chronicles. Forms of Old Testament Literature.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989.

"DeVries' form-critical analysis of these books provides a thoroughly competent treatment of this difficult and much-neglected portion of the OT. The writer's well-balanced, solid treatment provides a most reliable guide through much uncharted territory and will be welcomed by all serious students of the Bible."--Brevard Childs.

Dillard, Raymond B.

Two Chronicles. Word Biblical Commentary.

Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

More conservative than some of the other volumes in this series. Presents the literary structure of this canonical book and ably correlates the teaching of other portions of God's Word with the purpose of the chronicler. The result is a work of distinction. While not necessarily the kind of commentary a pastor will pick up and use, this study does lay a foundation for a new understanding of the dynamics of restoration and renewal. Recommended.

Japhet, Sara.

First and Second Chronicles: A Commentary.

Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

This book, by the professor of Bible, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, takes its place among the foremost works ever written on this canonical book. The MT and RSV are provided together with extensive critical notes and commentary. Though there is no index, bibliographic sources are cited in the text. All things considered, this is an exceptional work.

Selman, Martin J.

First Chronicles/Second Chronicles. 2 Vols.

Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Leicester, UK: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

Interprets the books of Chronicles as one man's approach to and interpretation of the teaching of specific OT texts. The exposition is based upon the NIV. The style is clear and direct. Footnotes are judicious and place readers in touch with relevant scholarly literature. While not intended to be an erudite discussion of the contents of these two historical books, Selman's treatment does reveal his extensive reading and vast learning. Moderately conservative.

Thompson, J. A.

One [and] Two Chronicles.

New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.

Though not outstanding, this commentary explains the meaning of the text in sufficient depth to satisfy the busy pastor and lay Bible student. Helpful.

Wilcock, Michael.

The Message of Chronicles: One Church, One Faith, One Lord. The Bible Speaks Today.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

While evangelical in tone and content, this work is hermeneutically weak. It succeeds, however, in following David's line and highlights the principle lessons to be learned from the lives of the kings.

Ezra

Blenkinsopp, Joseph.

Ezra-Nehemiah, a Commentary. Old Testament Library.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

"This is a significant new work and one that will add still further to the awareness of the central role in the development of Jewish life and thought that was played by Ezra and Nehemiah. The commentary is a very thorough and well-researched treatment, and lucidly presented. The full range of literary and historical issues are carefully examined and [the author] is not afraid to arrive at fresh conclusions of his own."--Ronald E. Clemens.

Breneman, Mervin.

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther,

New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Press, 1993.

Based on the text of the NIV. Provides exegetical and theological insights from which pastors may gain much help. The exposition is clear and historic facts are carefully interwoven into the narrative. Should encourage preachers to teach the message of these books to their congregations. Helpful.

Nehemiah

Barber, Cyril John.

Nehemiah.

Revised ed. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1991.

The cover carries the title: *Nehemiah and the Dynamics of Effective Leadership* that correctly reflects the contents of the book. This reissue of the author's ground-breaking work contains discussion questions that were formerly published separately. His treatment is characterized by a careful balance between sound exposition and practical application.

Barber, Cyril John.

The Dynamics of Effective Leadership: Learning from Nehemiah.

Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2004.

Stuart Orr wrote in the Foreword, "Although the book was originally printed in 1976—before there was a personal computer on every desktop—the principles and personal dynamics it develops transcend time and technology and are as informative and refreshing today as they were when first written."

Boice, James Montgomery.

Nehemiah: Learning to Lead.

Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1990.

A delightful series of devotional studies. Adequately opens up this long-neglected book while explaining the relevancy of the message of this historical work to contemporary Christian leaders. Recommended.

Walls, David.

Ordinary Heroes: When the Walls of Life are Crumbling.

Denver, CO: Accent Books, 1991.

Uses the Book of Nehemiah as the basis for developing a model of effective leadership. Tends to base his interpretation of the Bible on a spiritualization of Scripture.

Wiersbe, Warren Wendell.

Be Determined.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992.

This commentary on the Book of Nehemiah is for lay people. Wiersbe writes: "God's work is never easy, and in these last days it is getting more and more difficult to serve. The enemy is

hurling his ammunition at us as never before and is setting his subtle traps where we least expect them.... But the same great God who enabled Nehemiah to finish building the walls of Jerusalem will enable us to finish our course with joy and accomplish the work He has called us to do. There is no reason to quit or even to despair.” Whatever Wiersbe writes is always worth reading!

Esther

Peterson, Eugene H.

The Message: The History Books.

Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002.

The Library of Congress classification data describes this work as “the OT history books in contemporary language,” and so it is. Peterson paraphrases Joshua through Esther in an easy to read manner. Kenneth Boa wrote of this work, “Through a remarkable convergence of theological acumen, spiritual perception and literary craftsmanship, Peterson has given us a fresh and relevant perspective on the timeless message of [this section of Scripture].”

Swindoll, Charles Rozell.

Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity.

Nashville: Word, 1997.

Before the author became president of Dallas Seminary he was the pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton, CA. This book is based on his sermons delivered during his pastorate. His dramatic skills and platform oratory made these sermons a delight to hear. In their present form they lack the verve of Swindoll's spoken presentation and appear bland and uninspiring. Though lay readers may find these chapters helpful, preachers will be disappointed by the content.

Poetic Books

Bullock, C. Hassell.

An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books. Revised and expanded ed.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.

Covers the five books of Job--Song of Solomon. These books have been described as "some of the most potent literature of human history." It is imperative, therefore, for students of God's Word to gain an understanding of the major problems/ emotions faced by men and women in every era of history-- issues so poignantly treated in these poetic writings of the OT. While Bullock denies the Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes, he has an excellent discussion of wisdom theology. He also explains how believers should read Job for a proper understanding of the dialogues between Job and his friends. His comments on interpreting the imprecatory psalms are judicious and well-reasoned.

Farmer, Kathleen A.

Who Knows What Is Good? A Commentary on the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Aims at making these OT books come alive for the church. With anecdotes that are at times humorous and at other times sober, Farmer explains the relevance of OT wisdom literature in the light of contemporary social, political, and economic trends. This is a book for the pastor and the theologian. *International Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991.

Job

Bullinger, Ethelbert William.

The Book of Job.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1990.

Long before the symmetrical analysis of the text of the OT became the pursuit of post-Redaktionsgeschichte scholars, Bullinger made available to his readers his insights into the biblical text. He was a competent scholar, and this commentary deserves careful reading.

Clines, David J. A.

Job 1--20. Word Biblical Commentary.

Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989.

Few studies can equal the erudition of this exposition of Job, chapters 1--20. Cline's research is awesome, the way he marshals his evidence is exemplary, and his treatment of the text leaves his readers in his debt. The manner in which Clines develops the theological themes of Job differs from Habel and others, and the originality of his discussion is going to enrich the sermon preparation of pastors throughout the English-speaking world. Recommended.

Green, William Henry.

Conflict and Triumph: The Argument of the Book of Job.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1997.

First published in 1874. Green was one of the outstanding OT scholars of his era. Within these pages is all a pastor could wish for—and more. Recommended.

Hartley, John E.

The Book of Job. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

Cyrus H. Gordon wrote of this work, "Hartley has given us a scholarly and at the same time down-to-earth and readable commentary. He presents a thorough introduction, translation, and explanation with learned but lucid notes."

Janzen, J. Gerald.

Job. Interpretation.

Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

A controversial work which succeeds in bringing to the fore numerous challenging and thoughtful ideas that deserve fuller consideration. At the same time, real discrimination is evidenced in the author's amplification of appropriate Hebrew words.

Mason, Mike.

The Gospel According to Job.

Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994.

Contains 215 two-page meditations on selected verses in the Book of Job. Mason's comments do not always follow the Biblical text even though they do provide a wealth of pertinent information on each verse cited.

Morris, Henry Madison.

Remarkable Record of Job: The Ancient Wisdom, Scientific Accuracy, and Life-Changing Message of an Amazing Book.

Santee, CA: Master Books, 1988.

Topical studies based on the Book of Job and demonstrating the consistency of the patriarch's statements with the findings of modern science. A most interesting discussion.

Powell, Paul W.

When the Hurt Won't Go Away.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1986.

Uses the Book of Job as the springboard for these messages on suffering. Plain; practical.

Simundson, David J.

The Message of Job: A Theological Commentary.

Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.

Concentrates on the message and theology of Job. Assesses the complexities and ambiguities of life, and provides a wholesome account of "faith under fire."

Wiersbe, Warren Wendell.

Be Patient.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991.

Here is a brief but masterful presentation of the teaching of the Book of Job. It is ideal for use in adult discussion groups. Preachers, too, will find it useful for its quotations and illustrations. Recommended.

Wolfers, David.

Deep Things Out of Darkness: The Book of Job, Essays and a New English Translation.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

As Wolfers shows, the Book of Job tackles the most perplexing religious issue of its time, in fact, of all time, namely, *Why do good people suffer?* To Job this comes down to one basic question, "Who broke the sacred Covenant, God or his people?" He is unaware of any sin in himself, and he fears to charge the Almighty with any failure. And so he is left with a bewildering dilemma.

The answers given by his “counselors” are spacious, and his own human reasoning is insufficient to explain his excruciating mental, emotional and physical pain. Both, therefore, leave him unsatisfied. Wolfers, an M.D., shows that in the Book of Job there are issues as momentous as those found in any other religious writing, and the explanation given is far in advance of the wisdom of any culture in the ancient Near East.

Psalms

Broyles, Craig C.

The Conflict of Faith and Experience in the Psalms: A Form-Critical and Theological Study. Sheffield, England: Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Press, 1989.

Represents the substance of the author's doctoral thesis. The research is most thorough and the results enhance one's understanding of select psalms. Of interest are the motifs Broyles has discerned in Israel's hymnic literature. This is an enlightening work that readers will come to appreciate.

Bruggemann, Walter.

Israel's Praise: Doxology Against Idolatry and Ideology. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.

Seeks to awaken scholars to the need to build upon Gunkel's Gattungen while also adhering to Mowinckel's cultic approach to Israel's hymnic literature. Weighted down with these two approaches, Bruggemann still tries to make his work relevant to pastors. His emphasis upon the social reality of the Hebrews is valuable. Readers will find that this study contains some valuable insights, but what has been written will need to be read with discernment.

Crenshaw, James L.

The Psalms: An Introduction. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

This is not a commentary *per se* but rather an approach to the Psalter that enhances one's understanding of Israel's hymnic literature. The author deals with different kinds of psalms (e.g., as aids in prayer) and provides an excursus on wisdom psalms. This is followed by four specific readings illustrated by the author's discussion of Psalms 73, 115, 71 and 24. A notable weakness is his discussion of the imprecatory psalms.

Davidson, Robert.

The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans/Edinburgh: Handsel, 1998.

“This commentary bridges the unfortunate gap between scholarship and [a] devotional use of the psalms. Exegetical problems are squarely faced, and then readers are led to a point where the text can address their own lives.”—Leslie C. Allen.

Draper, James T., Jr.

Trusting Thy Word.

Nashville: Broadman Press, 1989.

A handy, homiletic study of Psalm 119. Rich in devotional application.

Kraus, H. J.

Theology of the Psalms. Translated by K. Crim.

Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.

First published in German in 1979. Kraus is a leading advocate of the mythological element in Israel's hymnic literature. He also discusses the "theology" of the psalms. While scholarly and well-researched, Kraus discards the traditional categories of theology and uses a deductive procedure based upon his reconstruction of the supposed Deuteronomistic history. Readers of his *Worship in Israel* will appreciate this companion study. The use of the three supposed elements in Israel's cultic tradition--which Kraus made famous--negates special revelation, however, and leaves his followers at the mercy of his own subjectivity.

Kraus, Hans-Joachim.

Psalms 60--150: A Commentary. Translated by H. A. Oswald.

Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1989.

This volume completes Kraus' trilogy on the psalms: *Theology of the Psalms* (1986), *Psalms 1--59* (1988), and the present volume. The treatment of the MT contains some profound insights; the citation of relevant literature saves readers time in research through a plethora of materials, and the theological dimensions of each discussion are clear and stimulating. .

Lockyer, Herbert, Sr.

Psalms: A Devotional Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1992.

This commentary extends over 790 pages. The introduction is very brief; the exposition of each psalm is succinct with illustrative quotations well-chosen and apropos.

Longman, Tremper, III.

How to Read the Psalms.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Ablely introduces the Psalms so that users of this handbook will derive maximum benefit from the devotional reading of this portion of God's Word.

Parry, Arthur E.

Finding God in the Psalms: His Holiness, His Provision, His Response.

Baltimore, MD: Publish America, 2002.

Brief devotional messages that highlight the subtitle.

Perowne, John James Stewart.

Commentary on the Psalms.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1989.

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., writes "[Of all Perowne's works] it was his two volumes on the Psalms that had the greatest impact on his day and ours. His comments on each of the Psalms are always filled with a judicious balance between an appropriate overview of the message of the whole psalm and a careful selection of the necessary background of technical and critical details. Especially noteworthy is his long discussion of the theology of the Psalms in his elaborate introduction. While he takes up such theological topics as the spiritual appreciation of the ceremonial aspects of the Law, assertions of innocency and uprightness by the psalmist, imprecations or cursings in the Psalms, and the hope for a future life in the Psalms, his longest and best discussion is reserved for the important issue of the interpretation of the messianic hope in the Psalms." Highly recommended.

Phillips, John.

Sermon Outlines on the Psalms: Alliterated Outlines for All 150 Psalms.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1988.

A prolific author and respected Bible expositor, Phillips has made available homiletic outlines on each portion of Israel's hymnic literature. These will be of value to harried preachers in need of "pegs" on which to base their own research.

Scroggie, William Graham.

A Guide to the Psalms: Four Volumes in One.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1995.

Able to introduce ancient Israel's hymnic literature. Follows Thirtle's view in assigning superscriptions to the end of the preceding psalm. Though the exposition is brief, Scroggie provides something good on every chapter. This work is ideal for lay people who want a devotional study of this book, or pastors who desire a basic book upon which to build their own exposition of the text.

Spurgeon, Charles Haddon.

Psalms.

2 Vols. Crossway Classic Commentaries. Edited by A. E. McGrath and J. I. Packer. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993.

An abridgement of Spurgeon's 6 volume set. Recommended for lay reading.

Stott, John Robert Walmsey.

Favorite Psalms, Selected and Expounded by John Stott.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.

Brief, devotional messages. Beautifully illustrated.

Swartz, David.

Dancing With Broken Bones: Blessed Are the Broken in Spirit for God Can Make Them Whole.

Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1987.

This contemporary exposition of Psalm 51 draws on a variety of sources in order to apply the biblical text to life. A relevant treatment.

Sweeting, George.

Psalms of the Heart.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1988.

Brief, devotional messages on 15 psalms. Applies the teaching of each psalm to the life of the believer.

Westermann, Claus.

The Living Psalms. Trans. by J. R. Porter.

Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989.

For centuries the OT psalms have stood as a treasured possession of human literary and religious culture. In his book Westermann provides a new and most valuable introduction to the Book of Psalms. He revitalizes the reader's understanding and appreciation by clearly drawing out the meaning of the psalms while demonstrating their abiding religious significance and their relevance to present-day concerns. After a short introduction to Israel's hymnic literature, there follows a discussion of approximately 50 psalms under eleven headings. The book concludes with three examples of how the psalms are connected to the work of Christ.

Proverbs

Estes, Daniel J.

Hear, My Son: Teaching and Learning in Proverbs 1—9.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Estes synthesizes the teaching of Solomon into a systematic statement of the theory of education and personal formation that lies behind the text. He organizes his material into the standard categories of pedagogy, viz., worldview, values for education, goals for education, curriculum for education, the process of instruction, the role of the teacher, and the role of the learner. An important discussion.

Garrett, Duane A.

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.

New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Works on the Bible's wisdom literature is growing, and this volume deserves special consideration as an outstanding, detailed exposition of these three canonical books. Conservative in theology and thorough in scope, Garrett interacts with the different approaches to these books, comments on each verse, and treats technical matters in footnotes. The contents is readable and will be particularly apropos to pastors, Bible class teachers, and lay people desiring to study these seldom read portions of God's Word.

Goldberg, Louis.

The Practical Wisdom of Proverbs.

Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999.

Provides a commentary on chapters 1—9 with subsequent chapters devoted to “God and Man,” “The Believer and His Emotions,” etc. As Joseph M. Stowell points out in his Foreword, “There is a core of common-sense principles that keeps us safe and sane in the challenging enterprise of life itself,” and these principles are explained by Goldberg in his book. Stowell continues, “After studying Proverbs through the lens of this book, your heart will be equipped to live wisely to the glory of God.”

Hicks, Robert.

In Search of Wisdom: Timeless Insights for the Practice of Life.

Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995.

Takes verses from Proverbs and groups them together under 15 different topics. Explains how the Scriptures apply to different personality types. The result is a practical work that underscores the truth of God’s Word while also providing wise guidance in different difficult areas of life.

Ironside, Henry Allan.

Proverbs.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1995.

First published in 1908. Explains each proverb, often illustrating the truth from the experiences of men and women mentioned in the Bible. The format makes this book easy to use. The use of the KJV as the basis of Ironside’s exposition is a major drawback. With so much having come to light in recent years--data that has a bearing on the manners and customs, linguistic and speech patterns in vogue in the ancient Near East--the revisers could have used a modern translation (like the NKJV) that would have brought out these fine distinctions. In that way this exposition could have served the needs of succeeding generations. This work, however, still overflows with helpful insights. Pastors, in particular, will find it valuable for its illustrative material.

Peterson, Eugene H.

Proverbs.

Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995.

Fresh and instructive. Peterson makes the ancient idioms come alive. Though not accurate enough for serious study, the contemporary style makes these proverbs a pleasure to read.

Phillips, John.

Exploring Proverbs. 2 Vols.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1994.

Base on the AV, this full and factual study shows a better-than-average awareness of wisdom literature genre. The illustrations reveal the author’s breadth of learning. This is a work preachers will appreciate!

Pritchard, Ray.

The ABC's of Wisdom: Building Character with Solomon.

Chicago: Moody, 1997.

Contains 100 short topical essays based on the book of Proverbs. Insightful and helpful.

Waltke, Bruce K.

The Book of Proverbs, Chapters. 2 vols. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004-05.

Within these covers readers are treated to an exposition that lays bare a lifetime of scholarship. Waltke elucidates the structure, authorship, and theology of the book of Proverbs, giving prominence to the contribution of exegesis to exposition. He then carefully applies the teaching of each verse and section to the life of the believer. This is a work that Bible students will treasure!

Ecclesiastes

Crenshaw, James L.

Ecclesiastes, A Commentary. Old Testament Library.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1987.

Posits the possibility of four writers, not one, contributing to the material found in Qohelet. Establishes the value of this book on its canonicity, not its inspiration. While up-to-date, sober, and instructive, what is presented here is highly critical. In spite of this, Crenshaw is an acknowledged specialist in wisdom literature, and there is much to learn from his judicious remarks.

Davidson, Robert.

Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. Daily Study Bible.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

Seeks to show the relevancy of these books to believers today. Directs the attention of readers to the importance of developing a strong Godward relationship.

Ellul, Jacques.

Reason and Being: A Meditation on Ecclesiastes. Trans. by J. M. Hanks.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

Ellul offers an exposition of three intertwining themes of Ecclesiastes: Vanity, wisdom, and God. While interacting with recent scholarship, his approach to Koheleth's thought is unique. His treatment highlights what he believes to be the books irony of contradictions, and this casts light on some of the enigmas of life.

Kaiser, Walter Christian, Jr.

Quality Living.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

The reissue of *Ecclesiastes: Total Life*. A clear, definitive exposition of the theme of this portion of God's Word. Highly recommended.

Keddie, Gordon J.

Looking For the Good Life: The Search for Fulfillment in the Light of Ecclesiastes.

Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1991.

A unique, popular approach to the book of Ecclesiastes. Covers the text in 13 chapters, each with questions for discussion. Addresses each of the pointed questions posed by the Biblical writer. Points the way out of depression and despair to a life of hope. Discusses the *basics* of a philosophy of life, the *problems* that inevitably arise, the quest for *answers*, and the *decisions* that must be made. Ideal for use in adult discussion groups.

Longman, Tremper, III.

The Book of Ecclesiastes. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

The author provides an extensive introduction to Ecclesiastes, explores the traditional background matters as authorship, language, genre, structure, literary style, and theology. Longman argues that the author of Ecclesiastes is not Solomon, but a writer who adopts a "Solomonic persona." In his verse-by-verse commentary this OT scholar clarifies what to many is the confusing message of Ecclesiastes.

Murphy, Roland.

Ecclesiastes.

Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1992.

Murphy's Introduction is extensive, and his bibliographies are of the utmost importance. Of particular significance is his interpretation of the text. It is clear, but not without its reliance on *Redaktionsgeschichte* and other higher critical theories. To Murphy, the key to understanding what "the preacher" has written is to be found in his (i.e., Murphy's) definition of faith (i.e., trust) which he further defines as "accepting God on His terms." Murphy then explains the stages of this book with this definition in mind.

Ogden, Graham.

Qoheleth.

Sheffield, England: Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 1987.

A concise, scholarly exposition that readily draws out the meaning of the original.

Olford, Stephen F.

A Time for Truth: A Study of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Chattanooga, TN: AMG, 1999.

Practical, relevant messages covering all aspects of the subtitle. Robert G. Witty wrote of this book: "Focuses upon life's inescapable problems." Here is an example of what expository preaching can and should be. Recommended.

Wiersbe, Warren Wendell.

Be Satisfied.

Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990.

A timely, valuable introduction to the teaching of Ecclesiastes. Ideal for adult discussion groups. Those who neglect this important little monograph do so to their own detriment.

Song of Solomon

Curtis, Edward M.

Song of Songs. Bible Study Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Lamplighter Books, 1988.

Contains an extensive introduction and evaluates the different approaches to the interpretation of the Song. The exposition is brief but helpful. This book is ideal for lay use. Recommended.

Glickman, Craig,

Solomon's Song of Love.

West Monroe, LA: Howard, 2004.

Subtitled "Let the Song of Songs Inspire Your Own Romantic Story." This is Glickman's second exposition of the Song of Solomon. Paul Meier wrote of this study, "*Solomon's Song of Love* is an absolute work of art, weaving thousands of years of wisdom together to paint a verbal portrait of the meaning of deep romantic love. From King Solomon's three-thousand-year-old writings to songs and movies from the third millennium A.D., Craig Glickman paints a vivid word picture of emotional and sexual intimacy."

Longman, Tremper, III.

Song of Songs. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

The author is unclear as to whether or not this Song was written by Solomon. He does not believe that the story is about Solomon, but rather that this anthology is about a man and a woman involved in a sexual relationship. He does not believe that there is any uniform plot, nor does he see in the text grounds for allegorical meanings. Scholarly. Contains excellent word studies.

Patterson, Paige.

Song of Solomon. Everyman's Bible Commentary.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

A study of the courtship, marriage, and relationship of Solomon and his Shulamite bride. For laypeople.

Snaith, John G.

Song of Songs.

New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

Disputes the Solomonic authorship; considers seriously the possibility of the contents being used by a fertility cult, and on this account follows a literal interpretation of the text with application to the debasing practices of these pagan customs. Has some good material, but not enough to warrant adding this book to your library.

Prophetic Books

Bullock, C. Hassell.

An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

The conclusion forced upon the reader after working through this work is that the author has condensed a vast amount of research and scholarship into a remarkably factual, concise, and reliable overview of OT apocalyptic literature. Recommended.

Miller, John W.

Meet the Prophets: A Beginner's Guide to the Books of the Biblical Prophets.

New York: Paulist Press, 1988.

"Miller has made an important contribution to biblical studies in his comprehensive treatment of the prophetic literature. Particularly helpful is the author's ability to bridge the gap between the classical prophets and our own day. Scholar and student alike will find useful insights in this sensitive study."--John H. C. Neeb.

Mills, Watson E., and Richard F. Wilson, eds.

The Prophets. Vol. 4: Mercer Commentary on the Bible.

Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1996.

Contains brief expositions of Isaiah through Malachi. The introductory articles set the stage for the discussions that follow. Each book is outlined and its theme explained. Often the explanation is too brief to determine the writer's stance. Moderately conservative.

Peterson, Eugene H.

The Message: The Old Testament Prophets in Contemporary Language.

Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2000.

Presents the writings of the OT prophets in contemporary language that is sometimes startling and often revealing. The books that comprise *The Message* (and other paraphrases) should not be used for study purposes, for they are designed to render the idiom of the OT and do not provide the kind of accuracy that is required if one is to come to grips with the essence of a particular book or passage. However, for general reading they shake us loose from our complacency and present in a dramatic way the experiences of God's ancient people Israel.

Smith, James E.

The Major Prophets.

Old Testament Survey series. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Company, 1992.

An excellent volume. Peers through the mists at these giants of a bygone era and expounds their prophecies (including Lamentations and Daniel) in the best evangelical tradition. Complete with charts, diagrams, and maps.

Isaiah

Motyer, J. Alex.

The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

A wise and winsome guide by an acknowledged evangelical Bible scholar. Isaiah's prophecies are strung out along a historical timeline. Motyer finds three central, recurring themes--the Messiah presented as King, Servant, and Anointed Conqueror. Preachers will find this work exceedingly helpful. Amillennial.

Oswalt, John N.

The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1--39. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986.

This is a very extensive, scholarly and generally reliable commentary, discussing the historical background, unity, date, and authorship of Isaiah's prophecy. Oswalt assesses the prophet's theology under four topics: the nature of God; humanity and the world; sin; and redemption. He follows this with a lucid exposition. Pastors will find his handling of the text most helpful.

Oswalt, John N.

The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40--66. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Though Oswalt's main introduction to his work will be found in his volume on Isaiah 1--39, he opens his commentary with an important discussion on the state of the scholarly debate on the unity/diversity of this canonical book. He then provides a verse-by-verse exposition giving attention to the message of the prophet for his own time and its relevance to readers today. He handles Messianic texts with skill though his amillennial leaning minimizes the literalness of the millennium.

Roth, Wolfgang.

Isaiah.

Knox Preaching Guides. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1988.

Presents a theological-thematic discourse analysis of the Book of Isaiah. Gives today's preachers a new resource from which to draw valuable information. Roth's unique contribution is based upon his master theme approach to the 66 chapters. He rejects both the deutero- and tritero-Isaiah theories in favor of assessing the contents of Isaiah as a whole. He sees the Book of Isaiah as a bridge in the canonical body of literature that spans from Genesis to Malachi.

Sawyer, John F. A.

Isaiah. 2 vols. Daily Study Bible.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984-86.

Attempts to capture the message of God to His people. Explains the hope of the righteous, and seeks to relate the message of this prophecy to the "peace, security and success" of the Messianic age.

Watts, John D. W.

Isaiah 34--66. Word Biblical Commentary.

Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Continues the excellent work begun in the author's earlier volume. The bibliographies are particularly helpful. While not designed for the preacher, the notes are very discerning and highlight problematic words or phrases. The "Form/Structure/Setting" format places each portion of the MT in the context of its times.

Widyapranawa, S. H.

The Land Is Savior: Faith in National Crisis. A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah, 1--39.

International Theological Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

This ecumenical work presents an Indonesian theologian's contemporary interpretation of Isaiah, chapters 1--39. According to the author we see in Isaiah the dynamics of faith in a turbulent world, and we hear the prophetic admonition to uphold faith in the Lord and oppose secularism, false prophecies, and sinful, cultic practices. Widyapranawa draws many interesting parallels between the 8th century B.C. and our own time.

Wildberger, Hans.

Isaiah: A Commentary.

In process. Translated by T. H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Part of a "Continental Commentaries" series. Scheduled for three volumes (covering chs. 1--39).

A scholarly commentary providing exegetical comments on the text. For the scholar.

Jeremiah

Carroll, Robert P.

Jeremiah, A Commentary. Old Testament Commentary.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

This is an authoritative work which meets a real need in biblical studies. It sheds new light on the extraordinary personality of Jeremiah as well as the messages he delivered. Because of the complex, often topical structure of Jeremiah, it has been neglected by commentators. In this treatment we have an important contribution to understanding of the *Sitz im Leben* of the people of Judah prior to their exile. Carroll's overall acumen should make this a standard work for several years to come.

Clements, Ronald Ernest.

Jeremiah. Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching.

Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988.

A learned work which condenses a vast amount of material into the size of book that lay people will appreciate.

Davidson, Robert.

Jeremiah and Lamentations. Daily Study Bible. 2 vols.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

Offers a human portrait of Jeremiah that readily reveals how he grappled with his emotions while endeavoring to reconcile God's acts with his own finitude. Presents the prophet as a man "of like passions," but also a man of courage, loyalty, and conviction. Insightful.

Goddard, Burton L.

Meet Jeremiah: A Devotional Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1991.

In 31 brief, informative chapters the writer takes his readers through the prophecy of Jeremiah. An excellent introduction.

Holladay, William L.

Jeremiah 1: A Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, Chapters 1--25. Edited by P. D. Hanson. Hermeneia.

Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Prefaced with an extensive introduction which covers all the issues. The bibliographical references are particularly complete. The commentary exhibits exemplary scholarship. While some of the works in this series are very technical, this one is of value to pastors for the nuances of the text are presented in a most usable and useful manner.

Jones, Douglas Rawlinson.

Jeremiah.

New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.

Based on the text of the RSV. Comprehensive in its range and scope. Analyzes the literary qualities of Jeremiah as a prerequisite to drawing any historical or theological conclusions about the prophet and his writings. Not surprisingly, Jones adopts his own hypothesis concerning the structure and composition of Jeremiah, and he presents an interesting and novel explanation of the "Jeremiah tradition." Scholars will delight in Jones' ideas, but preachers will find little value in what he presents.

Keown, Gerald L., Pamela J. Scalise, and Thomas G. Smothers.

Jeremiah 26--52.

Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1995.

Of value for its treatment of the prophet's themes contained in these chapters. Like the other commentaries in this series, this one is concerned with the sources of the Biblical information. The linguistic data, as well as the historic and cultural information make this a valuable resource.

Kidner, Derek.

The Message of Jeremiah. The Bible Speaks.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

Exhibits Kidner's usual thoroughness. Interprets Jeremiah's prophecies in light of the history of the times. Treats the prophetic content from an amillennial perspective. In spite of this, the scope of Kidner's work opens up this portion of God's Word in a new way.

Ryken, Philip Graham.

Jeremiah and Lamentations: From Sorrow to Hope.
Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.

The sermons which comprise this book cover 767 pages and conclude with endnotes, a Scripture index, and a general index. Unlike other sermonic works on these biblical books that tend to be either dry or superficial, or both, these expositions are both interesting and relevant. Ryken also makes good use of poetry and hymns in describing the background of Jeremiah's exhortations and warnings, and his application of the truth is particularly pertinent. He sees the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31 as having been fulfilled at Christ's [first] coming and uses Galatians 3:28 to show that distinctions between Jew and Gentile have been abolished. This is a rewarding work!

White, Reginald Ernest Oscar.

The Indomitable Prophet: A Biographical Commentary on Jeremiah; the Man, the Time, the Book, the Task.

Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991.

"This untechnically written book shows Jeremiah to have been a sensitive, well-informed adherent to the Mosaic covenant. His lasting theological contribution was to predict that Israel's communal faith would be transformed into a spiritual relationship between the individual and God. The author gives his own interpretation of various problems relating to Jeremiah's life and work, and stresses his significance for all subsequent biblical theology."--R. K. Harrison.

Lamentations

Provan, Iain W.

Lamentations.

New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991.

The book of Lamentations has shared the fate of the man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and was accosted by thieves. Left on the roadside to die, he was neglected by those who passed by. So it is that churchgoers are aware of a book called Lamentations, but they pay no attention to it and neglect its message. Several years ago Walter C. Kaiser placed us all in his debt

when he published a fine devotional commentary on this neglected portion of God's Word. Now Provan introduces us to the structure, style, and contents of the five poems that make up this book. He places emphasis on the meaning of the text and leads his readers to a deeper and richer understanding of this OT book. His exegetical insights are valuable, and preachers will find much in these pages to slake the thirst of their flock.

Ezekiel

Allen, Leslie C.

Ezekiel 1--19.

Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1994.

Follows the usual format of this series. The "Comments" are particularly full and helpful. Throughout his exegesis of the text, Allen gives evidence of a remarkable knowledge of the structure of Ezekiel's prophecy. This work will long be a standard. It replaces Brownlee's commentary in this series.

Allen, Leslie C.

Ezekiel 20--48. Word Biblical Commentary.

Dallas, TX: Word Publishers, 1990.

A work of exemplary scholarship. Gives evidence of the writer's vast reading and thorough familiarity with the latest critical theories.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph.

Ezekiel. Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching.

Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1990.

Blenkinsopp introduces his work as follows: "It is important to bear in mind that the prophet, unlike the mystic, is addressing a quite specific historical situation To approach a prophetic book with the idea that it will impart 'timeless truths' is to risk serious misunderstanding. The prophet's message is in time and must be understood within the constraints and challenges posed by the historical situation in which it was uttered. Our task, then, is to inquire how a word spoken in that situation can apply to our quite different situation." Of practical value to preachers.

Block, Daniel I.

The Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 1—24. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

An extensive introduction helps to orient readers to the times, object lessons, and message of the prophet. Of special interest are the literary features of the book that Block discusses with great skill. His treatment of each unit is accompanied by a fresh translation and technical notes. Special attention is paid to the rhetorical methods Ezekiel used to get his message across. Amillennial.

Block, Daniel I.

The Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 25—48. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Completes Block's two-volume study. Seeks to answer questions that contemporary readers bring to the text by examining the language and message of this OT prophet. Shows how ancient wisdom is still much needed today.

Brownlee, William H.

Ezekiel 1--19. Word Biblical Commentary.

Waco, TX: Word Books, 1986.

A scholarly treatment which is of particular value for its use of extra-biblical material to highlight or explain the text. Uses freedom in amending the MT. The discussion of critical issues is particularly full.

Calvin, John.

Ezekiel I.

Translated by D. Foxgroven and D. Martin. Calvin's Old Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1994.

Steeped in devotion, pastors and students and lay readers will welcome these reprints. Each volume breathes the air of authenticity and manifests a power and wisdom that is seldom found in modern treatises. In this volume, each chapter concludes with a prayer. These are significant not only as models of devotion, but as valuable glimpses of Calvin's inner life. Amillennial.

Enns, Paul P.

Ezekiel. Bible Study Commentary.

Grand Rapids: Lamplighter Books, 1986.

Builds upon a clear analysis of the text. Deals honestly with the complexity of this prophetic work. Provides one of the best introductory expositions available. Designed essentially for laypeople. Recommended.

Fairbairn, Patrick.

Commentary on Ezekiel.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1989.

Fairbairn sets aside the historical and literary interpretation in favor of a typology that can be applied to Christians. Peter M. Masters says of this unique work, "In this commentary, Fairbairn provides a translation, a detailed interpretation, and an abundance of technical justification for his conclusions, which are accommodated in lengthy footnotes in order to keep the main interpretation readable. His treatment of the opening vision--the four living creatures and the four wheels--secures the reader's immediate respect and enthusiasm. Fairbairn's strong prose (there are many marvelously warm descriptive passages) couples with the logical way he unravels his view, always conveys the divine meaning and purpose of Ezekiel's imagery. . . . Irrespective, however, of the user's millennial views, Fairbairn's masterly interpretive descriptions will prove of incalculable help."

Gowan, Donald E.

Ezekiel.

Knox Preaching Guides. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

A topical (and partially thematic) approach to Ezekiel's prophecies. Too brief to be of lasting significance.

Greenhill, William.

An Exposition of Ezekiel.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1994.

First published in five volumes between 1645-1667, and reprinted in one volume in 1827.

Spurgeon said of this series of sermons, "We always get something out of Greenhill whenever we refer to him. He had not, of course, the critical skill of the present day, but his spiritual insight was keen. He rather commented on a passage than expounded it."

Schmitt, John W., and J. Carl Laney.

The Messiah's Coming Temple: Ezekiel's Prophetic Vision of the Future Temple.

Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1997.

"Together [the authors] address the most crucial questions Christians ask concerning the future Temple, presenting in a reliable way the Temple's biblical importance and prophetic significance.... May all who long for the days of the Messiah and the culmination of God's purpose through Him on earth be stimulated to greater expectation through this book!"—J. Randall Price.

Vawter, Bruce, and Leslie J. Hoppe.

Ezekiel: A New Heart.

International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991.

This commentary, begun by Vawter, was completed by Hoppe after Vawter's death. It is a theological interpretation of the Book of Ezekiel. Written originally to a group of people wrenched from their homeland by the Babylonians, and now living in exile, Ezekiel wrote to remind them of God's fidelity in spite of their infidelity. While he defends the destruction of Jerusalem as God's judgment on an unfaithful Judah, He promises a new experience of His presence that will be accompanied by a "new heart" and a fresh start.

Daniel

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Anderson, Robert.

Daniel in the Critics Den: A Defense of the Historicity of the Book of Daniel.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1990.

Reprinted from the 3d (1909) edition. Refutes F. W. Farrar's liberal approach to the Scriptures in general and the Book of Daniel in particular. Tackles each of the supposed "problems" of Daniel and offers a clear, logical explanation.

Bultema, Harry.

Commentary on Daniel.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988.

Originally published in Dutch in the 1920s. Aably explains each prophetic vision from a premillennial point-of-view. Well-researched; informative.

Calvin, John.

A Commentary on Daniel. 2 vols. in 1.

Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1986.

Reprinted from the 1852-53 edition produced by the Calvin Translation Society. Exemplifies the expositors art. Blends exegesis with a devotional exposition of the text, coupled with an application of Daniel's visions to the social and political issues of the end times.

Calvin, John.

Daniel I.

Translated by T. H. L. Parker. Calvin's Old Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

Though perhaps best known for his celebrated *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John Calvin left behind an even more substantial legacy in his commentaries on the books of the Bible. Most of these were compiled from his expository sermons. And they remain, after five and a half centuries, like an artesian well from which contemporary preachers can draw truths that will refresh the souls of their hearers. Amillennial.

DeHaan, Martin Ralph.

Daniel the Prophet.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1995.

First published in 1947. Contains recorded messages delivered on the Radio Bible Class. An excellent introduction to Bible prophecy. Ideal for lay people.

Dykes, David O.

Character Out of Chaos: Daring to be a Daniel in Today's World.

Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

The author's simple style belies his research and the value of these studies. Here is a book lay people will enjoy.

Getz, Gene A.

Daniel: Standing Firm for God.

Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

"This exposition of the book of Daniel, more so than any other commentary which I have read, is distinguished by its practical application and the reduction of difficult doctrines to explanations

that anyone can understand. The challenge to us to be completely obedient to God in the most difficult circumstances is the outstanding message of the book.”—John F. Walvoord.

Goldingay, John E.

Daniel. Word Biblical Commentary.

Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1989.

Adheres to all the critical assumptions about the dating of Daniel and the implications of his prophecies. The research is impeccable and the exposition of the text unconventional. The author's insights--historical and philological--are of value to both the scholar and the teacher.

Ironside, Henry Allan.

Daniel.

Revised ed. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1995.

First published in 1911. Contains an introduction and outline by John Phillips. Here is a book that is well-deserving of a lay person's careful study. It explains the scope of God's plans for Jew and Gentile, confirms the accuracy of Holy Scripture, and grounds the Christian beliefs in the Kingdom program. Though ideal for young adult and adult Bible study, the needs of the new generation would have been better served had Ironside's use of the KJV been replaced with the text of a modern version (e.g., NKJV). As it stands, this work still provides readers with an indispensable introduction to the Book of Revelation.

Jeremiah, David, and C. C. Carlson.

The Handwriting on the Wall.

Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1992.

A timely, relevant exposition of the Book of Daniel. Explains his prophecies in clear, understandable terms. From Daniel's example Jeremiah shows readers how to live faithfully each day in spite of the pressures exerted by one's pagan surroundings.

Lang, George Henry.

The Histories and Prophecies of Daniel.

Miami Springs, FL: Conley and Schoettle Publishing Company, 1985.

First published in England in 1940, and then by Kregel Publications in 1973. Now a part of the Lang reprint series. The author set an example of scholarly piety, and his treatment of Daniel's visions is at once clear and revealing. Under his faithful handling of the text, the far-reaching scope of this portion of inspired revelation is seen to hold the key to the unfolding of God's prophetic word. Premillennial, post-tribulational.

MacRae, Allan A.

The Prophecies of Daniel.

Singapore: Christian Life Publishers, 1991.

Linguist and theologian, MacRae has given us welcome addition to the corpus already available on this prophecy. His work contains excellent discussions on different terms (e.g., Son of Man) and specific passages (e.g., Daniel 9:24-27). Recommended.

Phillips, John, and Jerry Vines.

Exploring the Book of Daniel.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1990.

Deals cogently with the life experiences of Daniel as well as "the times of the Gentiles." Focuses on Daniel's commitment to holiness, and treats fairly the risks as well as the rewards of righteous living. Pastors as well as lay persons will find this work helpful.

Stortz, Rodney.

Daniel: The Triumph of God's Kingdom.

Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

This is a most disappointing work. The author fails to come to grips with the scope of Daniel's prophecies and appears to concentrate on word associations in the OT and NT without properly interpreting the OT text. It is difficult to determine the writer's theological position, though he appears to favor amillennialism. Without a doubt, this is the weakest volume in this series.

Minor Prophets

Boice, James Montgomery.

The Minor Prophets. 2 vols.

Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1983-86.

Heralds the return to the kind of Bible commentary made famous by the Reformers. Boice deals clearly, concisely, and adequately with this sorely neglected segment of the canon. His handling of the text serves as a model of how preaching through these prophetic writings can be relevant to the times and meet people's needs. Indexed. Recommended.

Ironside, Henry Allan.

The Minor Prophets.

Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

First published in 1904, and with the text entirely reset, this exposition ably explains the gist of each "minor" prophet's message. Premillennial.

Hosea

Calvin, John.

Hosea. Vol. 1: A Commentary on the Twelve Minor Prophets.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1986.

First published in Latin in 1559, and in English in 1567. These expository messages deal honestly with ethical, social, and practical issues. "Not only superior to any that preceded it, but it has continued ever since, and continues to this day, to be regarded by competent judges, as a work of the highest value."--William Cunningham.

Garrett, Duane A.

Hosea, Joel. New American Commentary.

Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.

Based on the NIV, this work expands the 19th Century *American Commentary*, providing a helpful and enlightening exposition of the text. Well outlined. Garrett's exposition gives evidence of extensive research and a comprehensive mastery of the relevant literature. However, the reader is left uncertain about God's future plans for Israel as the author confuses Israel and the Church as well as eternity and the millennium. All things considered this is a good commentary provided the reader has clearly in his/her own mind important eschatological distinctions.

Hubbard, David Allan.

Hosea, an Introduction and Commentary. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989.

Captures the essence of Hosea's life, ministry, and message to the nation. Contains information both old and new.

Joel

Finley, Thomas J.

Joel, Amos, Obadiah.

Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Here is an important, fresh commentary on three long neglected OT books. The author's scholarship is unquestioned. His handling of the text is in the best evangelical tradition. The comments are apropos, not overly technical, and the theme of each book comes through clearly. This is a book which pastors will welcome. Recommended.

Hubbard, David Allan.

Joel and Amos: An Introduction and Commentary. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990.

A clear explanation of the imagery of these prophetic writings. Ties in the church's eschatological vision with God's words to Israel. Also seeks to awaken the conscience of God's people through a careful handling of Amos' vision. Contains valuable comments on the original text.

Ogden, Graham S., and Richard R. Deutsch.

A Promise of Hope--A Call to Obedience: A Commentary on the Books of Joel and Malachi.

International Theological Library. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

First published in England in 1987. This book moves beyond the traditional grammatical-cultural-historical approach to interpretation to a descriptive-historical exposition of the text. The authors probe the genre of lament literature on the one hand and the religious, moral, and social aspects of the early post-exilic Jewish community on the other. In the process they uncover some unique and interesting facets of these canonical books.

Prior, David.

The Message of Joel, Micah and Habakkuk. The Bible Speaks Today.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

These prophets ministered in trying times. Their writings deal with such questions as How can God allow suffering? Where is God in times of disaster? And, What are God's people to do when confronted with the moral collapse of society? An enlightening exposition.

Amos

Beeley, Ray.

The Roaring of the Lion: A Commentary on Amos.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1997.

First published in 1970. Written by a Reformed Wesleyan minister. Provides brief comments on each verse. Discusses different theories of interpretation. Eschatologically weak.

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King, Paul J.

Amos, Hosea, Micah--An Archaeological Commentary.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

"In this book King tells us by word and picture just what the real-life situation of the 8th century B.C. was like. He explains numerous references or obscure allusions in the prophetic books--the kind of things we have all wondered about but lacked the background knowledge to explain satisfactorily. From Amos' plumb line to Hezekiah's tunnel, from the language of poet and peasant to the rituals of the temples, from the amenities of the royal court to the manners of ladies in the city--all these come under scrutiny, and the passages of the Bible relating to the varieties of human experience are illuminated from the rich store of archaeological finds for this period and outside of Israel."--David Noel Freedman.

Paul, Shalom M.

Amos.

Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

This is an excellent exegetical work that is the result of several decades of research on the part of the author. He argues for the literary unity of the work, and exposes the fallacies of those who use

either form criticism or redaction criticism. The comments on the text are lucid and the inclusion of illustrative material is helpful. Recommended.

Obadiah

Alexander, Desmond, David W. Baker, and Bruce K. Waltke.

Obadiah, Jonah, Micah: An Introduction and Commentary. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Compacts considerable scholarship into easy-to-read chapters that readily explain the biblical text. Amillennial.

Jonah

Hawkins, O. S.

Jonah: Meeting the God of the Second Chance.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1990.

An erudite exposition in which the author causes the events of the Book of Jonah to take on contemporary significance. He adopts the theme of God's sovereignty, and he applies this consistently and with appropriate application to our own milieu. Recommended.

Keddie, Gordon J.

Preacher on the Run: The Meaning of Jonah.

Welwyn, Hertfordshire, England: Evangelical Press, 1986.

Timely, practical expositions. Aably correlates the teaching of the OT with the NT.

Limburg, James.

Jonah; a Commentary.

Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

Contains valuable exegetical insights. Also discusses the book of Jonah in Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical literature, the early church, Judaism, Islam, and in the writings of the Reformers.

Sasson, Jack M.

Jonah.

The Anchor Bible. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1990.

The author obliquely sidesteps the historicity of the person of Jonah and seeks instead to draw meaning from "how [the book] works as narrative." His notes are extensive and his six excurses are helpful. The material has been well-written. However, this work is unreliable as an exposition.

Micah

Smith, Ralph L.

Micah--Malachi. Word Biblical Commentary.
Waco, TX: Word Books, 1990.

Adheres to the format established for this series. Handles textual problems adroitly. Discusses the theological implications of these writings, and provides a variety of insights into the text. A necessary volume. Bound upside down.

Nahum

Achtemeier, Elizabeth.

Nahum--Malachi. Interpretation, and Introduction and Commentary.
Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1986.

Not a historical-critical commentary. The contents takes the form of expository essays which explain these Minor Prophets as canonical Scripture, and as such a part of the church's literary corpus. The comments deal with passages as a whole rather than with individual words or verses. Exegesis and homiletics is ably integrated into each expository essay.

Baker, David Weston.

Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah: An Introduction and Commentary.

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

This readily comprehensible commentary treats with admirable skill God's prediction concerning Nineveh, the Neo-Babylonian empire's chastening of Judah, and Zephaniah's prediction of the Day of the Lord. Approaches the prophetic portions of these books first from an historical point of view, and then from the perspective of amillennial hermeneutics.

Robertson, O. Palmer.

The Books of Habakkuk and Zephaniah. New International Commentary on the Old Testament.
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

"[This] is a first-class theological commentary with unique applications to the present day. His conclusions are balanced and well aimed with regard to the particulars of the immediate historical situation as well as with regard to the overall canonical stance of the ongoing drama of revelation."--Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

Habakkuk

Szeles, Maria Eszenyei.

Wrath and Mercy: A Commentary on the Books of Habakkuk and Zephaniah. International Theological Commentary. Edited by G. A. F. Knight.

Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

First published in the United Kingdom in 1987. Neither Habakkuk nor Zephaniah is very well known today. And most likely, after a casual perusal, their message would be misunderstood. These OT prophets were contemporaries of Jeremiah and were a part of the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in a sequence of conquests culminating in 587 B.C. This book is strongly sociological. An honest attempt has been made to interpret the biblical text in light of the times. In the final analysis, however, it is Szeles' handling of theodicy that leaves a lasting impression upon one's mind.

Zephaniah

Allen, Ronald Barclay.

A Shelter in the Fury: A Prophet's Stunning Picture of God.

Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1986.

A clear, concise exposition of the book of Zephaniah. Shows it to be the key to understanding major issues in biblical theology, and a practical guide for living the life of faith in a faithless world. Recommended.

Haggai

Merrill, Eugene H.

An Exegetical Commentary [on] Haggai, Zechariah [and] Malachi.

Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.

While the comments on each verse are brief, they are adequate. Throughout there is a pleasing balance between exegesis and exposition. Pastors will find this volume a great resource for their sermons, and they are sure to appreciate the devotional hints that are scattered throughout. Recommended.

Meyers, Carol L., and Eric M. Meyers.

Haggai, Zechariah 1--8: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary.

The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1987.

Treats the linguistic, social, and historical milieu of the post-exilic era. Opens up the literary artistry, theology, and purpose of these prophetic writings.

Moore, Thomas V.

A Commentary on Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1993.

A Reformed commentary first published as *The Prophets of the Restoration* (1856). Designed for lay reading. Amillennial.

Patterson, Richard D.

Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.

The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Part of an auspicious beginning to a now defunct series of commentaries. Patterson blends scholarship with an evangelical commitment to the MT. The result is a work of merit. He explains to his readers the poetic skill of Nahum, the heartbeat of Habakkuk, and the desire for holiness expressed by Zephaniah. Valuable. Buy it before it goes out-of-print!

Zechariah

Baron, David.

Commentary on Zechariah.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988.

One of the truly great expositions on this OT prophecy. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., says of it: "Baron has given us a rich treat of theology and exegesis in this study. He even succeeds his own high standard of delivery when he delves into such messianic passages as Zechariah 3:8-9; 6:12; and 9:9. Few expositors can handle the concluding important eschatological message of Zechariah 12--14 as well as he does. . . . By any fair standards of comparison, this work is still one of the monumental statements of all time on the meaning and significance of Zechariah."

Petersen, David L.

Zechariah 9--14 and Malachi.

Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.

This long-awaited publication completes Petersen's exposition of the last three prophets before the "four hundred silent years." There is a good balance between critical scholarship and the citation of secondary literature. What is lamentable is the author's failure to treat the Messianic passages as such and show how they contribute to a sound Christology. Disappointing.

Malachi

Hill, Andrew E.

Malachi. Anchor Bible.

New York: Doubleday, 1998.

This is a very full commentary that scholars will appreciate. The introductory data provides thematic and rhetorical outlines, translation, and introduction. The commentary is meticulous and focuses on the different interpretative schools. It is also helpful on key issues.