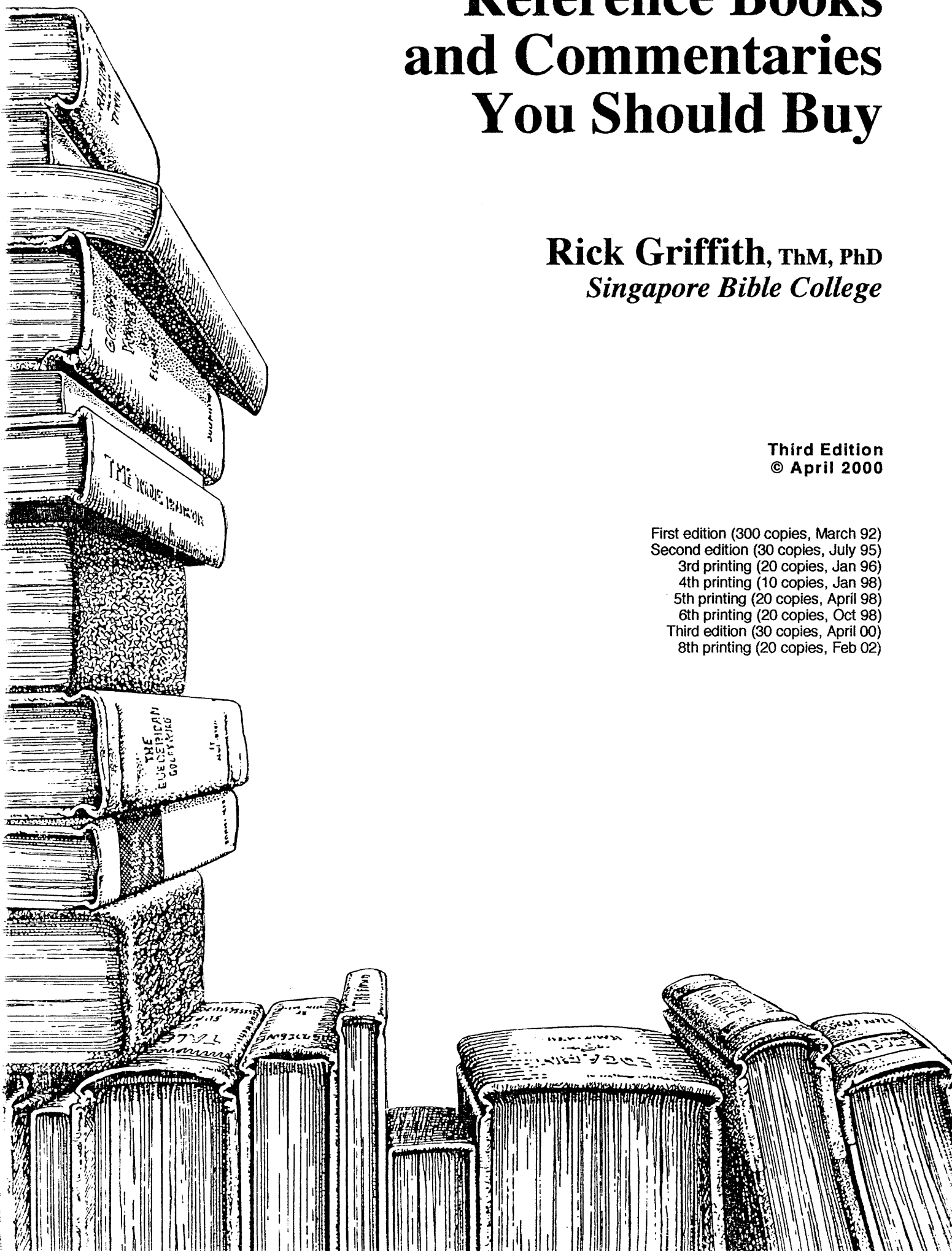


Reference Books and Commentaries You Should Buy

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**Reference Books
and Commentaries You Should Buy**
An Annotated List of over 500 Suggested Volumes

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Abbreviations

AB	Anchor Bible (Doubleday)
BEC	Baker Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament (Baker, formerly WEC for NT)
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries (Hendrickson)
BST	Bible Speaks Today (IVP)
CBD	Christian Book Distributors (www.Christianbook.com)
CC	Communicator's Commentary (formerly Word, now MOT)
DSB	Daily Study Bible (Westminster)
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
EBC	Expositor's Bible Commentary (Zondervan) or Everyman's Bible Commentary (Moody)
Ed(s).	Editor(s), edited by, or edition
Eerd.	Eerdmans Publishers
Expositor's	Expositor's Bible Commentary (Zondervan)
Fort.	Fortress Publishers
hb.	hardback
Herm.	Hermeneia (Fortress)
ICC	International Critical Commentary (T. & T. Clark)
IVP	IVP Press
IVPNTC	IVP Press New Testament Commentary
MOT	Mastering the Old Testament (Word, formerly Communicator's Commentary)
Mult.	Multnomah Publishers
NA	New American Commentary (Broadman)
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary (Eerdmans)
NIBC	New International Biblical Commentary (Hendrickson)
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament (Eerdmans)
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Eerdmans)
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary (Eerdmans)
NIV	<i>The Holy Bible: New International Version</i>
NIVAC	New International Version Application Commentary
NT	New Testament
OT	Old Testament
OTL	Old Testament Library (Westminster)
Pillar	Pillar Commentaries (Eerdmans)
pb.	paperback
pp.	pages (total for the book surveyed)
rev.	revised
RSV	<i>Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible</i>
SBC	Singapore Bible College
Strong	<i>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance</i> by James Augustus Strong
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Eerdmans)
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (IVP)
WEC	Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary (Moody, now BEC in the NT volumes)
West.	Westminster Press
Word BC	Word Biblical Commentary (Word)
Zond.	Zondervan Publishing House

Preface to the Second Edition

Book lists quickly get out of date. The ever-expanding number of helpful reference books has escalated in the three years since the first edition of this study was produced.

The present edition has several improvements over the first. It adds some categories in the reference section (NT biblical theology, study Bibles, historical theology) and corrects some typographical errors in the first edition. The greatest improvement, however, lies in the selection of commentaries. It expands the commentary section from the two to five suggestions per biblical book in the first edition to five to eight commentaries. This was accomplished with help from Tremper Longman's *Old Testament Commentary Survey*, which was given only marginal consultation in the first edition. (In fact, many entries simply abbreviate Longman's study, though I do not list the books in the same order of priority.) Also, annotations have been expanded and more bibliographic data provided, such as prices, number of pages, etc. where this could be obtained. In addition, a Table of Contents now provides an overview of the study and makes finding the appropriate book faster. I have also added biblical book titles to divide sections in the commentary portion for easier reference. These match the two summary pages (pages 24-25) with the same numerical choice for each biblical book. These two pages may at first look very complex, but with the help of a ruler to guide the eye, one can see all the recommended OT or NT volumes on a single page. These pages are the only ones I have ever seen in existence in the several bibliographies consulted.

No bibliography is without its bias, including this one. Therefore, at the outset, I would be the first to admit that my "seven year tribulation" (1983-90) and two degrees (ThM, 1987; PhD, 1990) at Dallas Seminary have influenced my values and theology, placing me clearly within the conservative camp. However, since numerous recommended volumes in this book depart from this tradition it becomes the reader's responsibility to separate the wheat from the chaff in each book consulted.

What criteria are used to rate these books? The following characteristics are kept in mind:

1. *Evangelical*: This study gives priority to evangelical over liberal works. This is primarily because liberal ones often waste pages of text on issues which evangelicals accept, such as seeking to disprove authorship of a biblical book which the text makes quite plain. However, one's particular question about a specific verse is often not answered or even addressed by ten or more brief evangelical commentaries; therefore, oftentimes liberal works are most highly recommended.
2. *Exegetical*: I tend to recommend exegetical (semi-technical or technical) works over expositional ones. Despite the fact that my chief concern in biblical studies is accurate, expository preaching, priority is given to those works which address the text clearly and scholarly since this is the foundation for good preaching (and no commentary can really teach how to preach well). This means those commentaries which address the Hebrew and Greek text are generally rated higher than those that do not provide this insight. The reader should not shy away from these works because of inability to read the original, for even when skipping these terms much can be gained from the exegetical commentaries as a whole. The exegetical works generally have much more complete bibliographies for further study as well.
3. *Exhaustive*: I suggest purchasing the book that will answer the most questions of the reader. This must be kept in check, though. If a commentary takes ten pages to say what can be said in a single page, then it is generally rated lower than one which is concise yet thorough.
4. *Premillennial*: This study recommends books in line theologically with my personal convictions. Also, while premillennial authors often respond to views of their amillennial colleagues, the same is often not reciprocated. In fact, many amillennial scholars write as if the premillennial perspective does not exist. This is true even of many commentaries exceeding 600-800 pages! Therefore, since a premillennial work often gives more variant views than a corresponding amillennial book, it is recommended to provide the reader with the most options for interpretation. However, several amillennial works will also deal with opposing views and so are also recommended in this study. Further, it is helpful to own volumes from different perspectives, so the best from each view is offered.

5. *Newer*: In general, more recent works rate more highly than older ones. This is because more current scholars have the advantage of building upon the work of their predecessors. However, at times classic works are recommended due to their enduring nature.
6. *Readable*: Due to the limited English ability of most of my students, preference is given to the more easily read tools for study. This need not mean less scholarly, for a true scholar knows how to put even complicated issues into understandable language.
7. *Available*: It does little good to recommend volumes that are difficult or impossible to obtain in Asia. Therefore, this study generally avoids suggesting out-of-print volumes, monographs, or books printed by obscure publishers. Most good reference books are printed by well-known, reputable publishers, so these are given priority unless a good reason exists to do otherwise. Also, while many excellent journal articles could be cited relating to the books, only books are surveyed due to their better availability and broader scope (i.e., commentaries cover an entire biblical book, which is generally not the case for an article).
8. *Affordable*: This book list does *not* always advocate the least expensive option. In fact, to get the better book one must often pay more. Yet at times when books are deemed of equal value academically, preference is given to the more modestly priced volume, which often is that one available in paperback rather than hardback (abbreviated "pb" and "hb" respectively). When available, prices for books are included in the bibliographic information.
9. *Separate*: In general a commentary on one biblical book bound by itself is preferred over a commentary which covers several biblical books, though exceptions do occur in the study. This particularly becomes relevant in the Minor Prophets when a scholar's lifetime devotion to a specific prophetic book is shared in contrast to another who comments on several prophets.
10. *Fair*: Commentaries should fairly list and evaluate alternate viewpoints on difficult texts. Those which discuss all possible meanings, evaluate them, and suggest their own view are awarded highest marks, even over those which agree with this author's conclusions but are scanty and unbalanced in their treatment of problem passages. This point is similar to point 3 above (exhaustive), but actually quite different; some longer works may *appear* to address the various possible interpretations due to their length, but in fact they actually only provide extra attention to defending their view without attention to the views of others. Commentaries that at least discuss exegetical options are preferred as they provide the reader the opportunity to evaluate these interpretive viewpoints and come to his or her own opinion.

Obviously, few if any books meet all of the above criteria, so judgment calls must always be made after seeking to balance the pros and cons of a particular book. This study is neither the last word nor the best word on suggested books, so a bibliography of bibliographies (!) is included at the end that each reader might compare these suggestions with those of others. This study represents my personal views alone and does not represent any official endorsement by Singapore Bible College or any of its faculty. Your suggestions are welcome for future editions.

May this study point you to resources for a deeper, more understandable study of the best Book.

Rick Griffith, ThM (Pastoral Ministries), PhD (Bible Exposition)
Singapore Bible College
July 1995

Preface to the Third Edition

Someone once counted over 500 translations of the Bible into English! Of these, less than 70 are in print today. If only this enormous effort were put into translations which have yet to receive their *first* Bible in their language!

Nevertheless, since numerous English commentaries, study Bibles, and other reference tools do exist and we must be wise stewards of God's money, I designed this new edition to keep you from wasting this money on books not worth buying. So this edition updates the books to include some worthy works that have appeared in the past five years since the last edition. It also corrects some errors in the second edition, fills in additional data on existing entries, and includes some CDs and more commentaries for each biblical book than in previous editions.

Rick Griffith, ThM (Pastoral Ministries), PhD (Bible Exposition)
Singapore Bible College
April 2000

Reference Books

Introduction

No matter how good a full time Christian worker's theological training has been, learning at the institutional level is always incomplete. What *should* be learned though, is *how* to learn. This is where a good theological library can be a constant resource for lifetime learning in the years following seminary or Bible College. However, most students struggle with not knowing *which* books should be purchased first.

This list aims at filling in that gap and is designed for those who have had theological training such as offered at Singapore Bible College. It is designed to be implemented from beginning to end, recommending first that a study Bible be purchased, then a concordance, then a Bible dictionary, etc. (see the following categories). Under each entry the best four or five options are listed in order of preference (not alphabetically). For example, it is suggested that a person purchase one of the following study Bibles, then one of the concordances, then one of the Bible dictionaries, then a systematic theology, etc. until one book from each category is owned. Then individual commentaries for the various biblical books are suggested, which is the bulk of this present study.

All prices listed are in US dollars, as many of the books must be purchased from America anyway. The best source I know of is Christian Book Distributors, P.O. Box 6000, Peabody, MA 01961-6000 USA. You can direct dial the CBD telephone number from Singapore at 001-1-508-977-5000 or call up their website (www.Christianbook.com).

- * Designates books numerically coded to the *NIV Exhaustive Concordance*, *New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance*, and *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* to facilitate usage by students without a knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.

NIV Study Bibles

A new study Bible appears on the market almost every week, so evaluating them all is impossible. Since about 70% of English Bible readers use the New International Version today, only the most popular NIV study Bibles are reviewed below. However, many of these are available in other translations such as the KJV, NASB, TLB, RSV, etc. All prices are from CBD and relate only to hardcover editions (bonded leather Bibles cost about \$14.00 more). Shipping to Singapore costs an additional 20%.

- 1 *Ryrie Study Bible*. Expanded ed. By Charles Caldwell Ryrie. Chicago: Moody, 1986, 1994. 2292 pp. (including 15 maps). CBD \$29.95 hb. *Here's one of the best buys for your money, which has recently been expanded from 8000 to 10,000 study notes, easier-to-read layout, expanded topical index, and 200 new maps, charts, and diagrams inside the text. Footnotes are brief and to the point in Ryrie's readable style with both listing and evaluation of alternate interpretations with a consistently premillennial interpretation so the notes do not contradict one another (most study Bibles are cooperative efforts with several authors of contradicting theological views). It has plenty of white space for adding one's own notes; brief book introductions with a timeline of each book and more detailed outlines than any other study Bible; the most extensive column references nicely tied into the double column text; the highest quality and most numerous colour maps of any study Bible (a map index and 15 maps from Beitzel's Moody Atlas listed in this study), the most complete study Bible concordance (164 pp. with 35,000 references); includes an excellent 21 page "Synopsis of Bible Doctrine" and numerous other helps (topical index, survey of church history, intertestamental history and literature, charts, timelines, harmony of the Gospels, etc.); however, it is weaker in application than the Life Application Bible and it lacks a dictionary. Also in NASB and KJV.*
- 2 *NIV Study Bible*. Kenneth Barker, ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985; rev. ed., 1995. 2142 pp. + 13 colour maps. CBD \$24.95 hb. *Expanded (e.g., new Harmony of the Gospels added) and improved (e.g., new typeface) in the 10th anniversary edition, the best line drawings and graphic presentations of the study Bibles (reproduced in The Bible Visual Resource Book by Gospel Light); excellent book introductions, 44 in-text maps and 35*

charts; 153 page concordance; a recently expanded subject index (compared to the 39 page one in the original edition); helpful map index and chronological colour charts for both OT and NT; available in a compact edition without deleting data; most comprehensive notes of the major study Bibles, application is expanded in the 1995 edition but still weaker than the Life Application Bible; Unfortunately, it contains but 5 essays on sections of the Bible and the intertestamental era, and notes sometimes provide too little help on controversial (e.g., eschatological) passages by simply listing views without supporting one; also no topical index or dictionary. An abbreviated version of this Bible is the newer (1989) NIV Topical Study Bible which replaces the footnotes with 250 in-text topical notes and 750 topics overall. It's 500 pages shorter and not as helpful in understanding the biblical text but more helpful topically.

3 *Life Application Bible*. Bruce B. Barton, gen. ed.; Kenneth Kantzer, theological ed. Wheaton: Tyndale (hardcover editions) and Grand Rapids: Zondervan (leather editions), 1988-1991. 2427 pp. + 13 maps. CBD \$24.95 hb. *The most massive study Bible in print and the best in application (75% of the content relates to application of over 10,000 passages!); interdenominational effort of nearly 100 contributors; very readable single column text and notes; has the most attractive page design of any study Bible, including almost 500 small in-text maps and charts (helpfully indexed in the back), character studies, and the most extensive notes of any study Bible; gospel events are numerically coded to a 250 event Harmony of the Gospels; a 90 page Index to Notes provides access to the many in-text topics; book introductions include the first-ever application-oriented themes of each biblical book and an attractively displayed "Vital Statistics" (timeline, purpose, author, setting, etc.); also, this study Bible is the only one of the five recommended in this study which has the words of Christ in black (not red). It is available in two translations: NIV (red cover) and NLT (green cover). It also has a companion volume, The Handbook of Bible Application (published by Tyndale, 1992), which is 665 page devotional guide listed by topic, each topic including an introductory question, Bible reading, and related biblical principles. On the negative side, the Life Application Bible columns have very few cross references, book outlines are too brief (though nicely summarized in paragraph form in a parallel column), it lacks a concordance, a dictionary, and an index for the 13 color maps, and the book is very bulky (24 cm. high, 17 cm. wide, and 5 cm. thick). Also, the application notes tend to moralize as if every person and event in Scripture is given as an example for us of what to do or not to do, thus depreciating their uniqueness. This study Bible is recommended to supplement Ryrie's or the NIV Study Bible rather than being used on its own.*

4 *Thompson Chain-Reference Bible*. 4th ed. Frank Charles Thompson, ed. Previous editions (including KJV) 1908, 1917, 1929, 1934, 1957, 1964, 1982. Indianapolis, IN: B. B. Kirkbride, 1990. 1933 pp. + 14 maps. CBD \$31.95 hb. *The original study Bible with 3 million in print in the various versions; has the best encyclopedia-like articles in the back (600 pages of helps!) with 7000 topics/names and over 100,000 references (even an archaeological supplement). Unfortunately, there are no footnotes at all and very few references on the double-column Scripture pages themselves, plus too brief biblical book introductions and no dictionary. This is more like a Bible with a Bible dictionary than a Bible with textual help on particular passages.*

5 *Disciples Study Bible*. Nashville: Holman, 1988. 1947 + 8 maps. CBD \$25.95 hb. *The only Bible with a practical "Life Helps" section which gives answers to common problems (How to have a quiet time, how to defeat anger, etc.); strong in theological issues with a glossary of theological terms (7 pp.), 27 major Bible doctrines outlined, summaries of doctrines (30 pp.), and a history of doctrines (30 pp.); excellent notes; produced by Southern Baptist Convention contributors. Unfortunately, it's weak in too brief of a concordance (76 pp.), no topical index or dictionary, and has only 8 maps.*

Readers may also want to investigate (in order) the *New Scofield Study Bible* (dispensational), *New NIV Student Bible* (good for teens), *Serendipity Bible* (for small group study), and *Full Life Study Bible* (charismatic/Pentecostal)—all in the NIV. For a refreshing new paraphrase, Eugene Peterson's *The Message* (NavPress, 1993) puts the New Testament and Psalms into contemporary English (excellent for reading out loud with shorter sentences and North American vernacular).

One disadvantage of all the above Study Bibles is that none includes the Apocrypha, which, although not inspired, has much helpful data in understanding the New Testament. (Inclusion of these 15-18 books would confuse most Protestants regarding their authority, so they were left out.) Catholic sources such as the *Catholic Study Bible*, *New Jerusalem Bible* or ecumenical works such as the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* or *Oxford Study Bible* are recommended for these additional 15 apocryphal books. (Some editions of the *Good News Bible* have the Apocrypha too.) See additional comments under the NT Introductions and Backgrounds section.

Concordances

- 1 **The NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Eds. Edward W. Goodrick and John R. Kohlenberger III. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. *Includes every word in the NIV keyed by number to the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word from which it is translated, has newer and more accurate numbering system than the old Strong/NASB's but cross-references to these older numbers to facilitate usage of other tools keyed to Strong/NASB's system, lists total number of occurrences of each translated word but is cumbersome to discover the verses where a Greek or Hebrew word is used (for this consult Englishman's).* SBC Library Call #220.2 (R) GOO.
- 2 **New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Robert L. Thomas, gen. ed. Nashville, TN: Holman, 1981. *Includes every word in the NIV keyed by number to the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word from which it is translated but according to NASB and unfortunately based on the older (less accurate Strong's) numbering system.* SBC Library Call #220.2 (R) NAS.
- 3 **New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Lynchburg, VA: The Old-Time Gospel Hour, n.d. *Includes every word in the NIV keyed by number to the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word from which it is translated but according to KJV and originally based on an older, less reliable numbering system. James Augustus Strong was a nineteenth century pastor who painstakingly produced this first exhaustive concordance long before the computer age. Since his time discoveries of previously unknown languages (such as Ugaritic) have been unearthed which give us much better comprehension of biblical Hebrew. However, in this "New Strong's" edition his old system has been revised (though works keyed into it indicated in this study with an asterisk [*] still use the old Strong's system). The need for a new numbering system has also led to an updated numbering system employed in the NIV concordance above.* SBC Library Call #220.2 (R) STR.
- 4 *The NIV Complete Concordance*. Edward W. Goodrick and John R. Kohlenberger III, eds. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. 1044 pp. *Computer generated based on the New International Version, lists all references to every word it lists but does not include insignificant words ("a," "the," "and," etc.); Greek and Hebrew indexes with numbering system not included so get this one if you wouldn't look up the Greek and Hebrew anyway.*

Note: It is best to buy the concordance for the translation you use most frequently. Computer generated, complete concordances are available for most versions now (GNB, LB, RSV, etc.).

Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- 1 Tenney, Merrill C., gen. ed. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975, 1976. *Conservative, evangelical, comprehensive, well illustrated, key themes and doctrines of the Scripture emphasized.*
- 2 Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, and Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 1984. 1204 pp. *For those who do not want to spend the money required for the 5 volume Zondervan work above, this will prove an excellent option—also evangelical in nature with 1250 concise articles and extensive cross-referencing. Elwell teaches biblical and systematic theology at Wheaton College Graduate School.*
- 3 Bromiley, Geoffrey W., gen. ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Leicester, England: Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship. 1982. *Revises the*

series published in 1907 and revised in 1928; comprehensive, but not as conservative as ZPBE above due to a number of contributors from Fuller Seminary who do not uphold inerrancy (also lacks representation of premillennial and/or dispensational scholarship).

- 4 Douglas, J. D., ed. (organizing) and Hillyer, N. (revision). 3rd. ed. *The New Bible Dictionary*. Wheaton: Inter-Varsity, 1962; 2d ed., Wheaton: Tyndale, 1982, 1997. 1298 pp. *The standard single volume evangelical Bible dictionary edited by one of Singapore Bible College's own former lecturers, based on the RSV, 200+ maps and diagrams, produced largely by Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical Research using British scholars.*
- 5 Douglas, J. D., ed. Rev. ed. *The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. 3 vols. Wheaton: Inter-Varsity, 1980, 1998. *This contains the text of the New Bible Dictionary supplemented by hundreds of colour photographs, relief maps, diagrams, charts, and line drawings. Highly recommended!*
- 6 ———. *New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991. 2d ed. 896 pp. *A single volume with numerous short articles which explain key persons, places, theological concepts, cults and denominations, and many other words associated with Christianity. Especially good for new Christians to orient them to what is considered common knowledge by older Christians!*

One Volume Commentaries on the OT or NT

- 1 Walvoord, John F. and Zuck, Roy B., eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: SP Pub., Victor Books, 1983 (NT, 991 pp.), 1985 (OT, 1589 pp.). *The best single buy in a Bible commentary, based on NIV, excellent book outlines, maps, charts, cross references, book introductions, evangelical, readable, gives special attention to difficult texts (in contrast to many single volume commentaries which skim or skip controversial passages), theologically consistent (whereas most single volume commentaries are by authors of various theological persuasions and thus have inconsistent data, all BKC authors are present or former faculty of Dallas Theological Seminary, which makes it consistently dispensational premillennial—i.e., one part does not contradict another part within the same set).*
- 2 Wiersbe, Warren. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: SP Pub., Victor Books, 1989. *All of Dr. Wiersbe's very popular "Be..." commentaries bound together in OT and NT volumes, lay level, excellent in exposition for use as a teaching or preaching aid. He is president of the Back to the Bible radio broadcast ministry and dispensational premillennial.*
- 3 Barker, Kenneth L. and Kohlenberger III, John R., eds. *The Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. 1500 and 1250 pp. *Abridges the 12-volume Expositor's Bible Commentary by replacing footnotes and technical data with study helps (maps, charts, pictures, and NIV Exhaustive Concordance numbers for Greek or Hebrew terms being discussed). Evangelical though the theology is less consistent than in the above works.*

Note: I have yet to find a one-volume commentary which effectively sheds light on all Scripture. However, *The New Bible Commentary*, 5th edition edited by Gordon Wenham, Alec Motyer, D. A. Carson, and R. T. France, published jointly by IVP and Eerdmans, 1998, may prove most helpful. It has commentary contributors from differing countries and conservative theological persuasions (except for a near absence of premillennarians), is based on the RSV (in contrast to the KJV-based first edition in 1957), and includes twelve general articles.

Bible Atlases

- 1 Beitzel, Barry J. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*. Chicago: Moody, 1986. xviii+234 pp. CBD for \$50.31 or SBC Book Centre for \$54.18 (with student discount). *Evangelical, excellent in both physical geography (70 pp.) and historical geography (119 pp.) with maps superior to the NIV Atlas below, maps nicely tied in with the text; weak in that it lacks regional maps. often lacks Scripture references on the maps themselves (though cited*

in supporting material), sometimes gives too many details in the text, and has few full colour photographs. One advantage of this atlas is that 44 of its maps are available as colour transparencies from CBD for US\$130, though even at this price these transparencies lack titles! Beitzel teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS) in Deerfield, IL.

- 2 Rogerson, John. *Atlas of the Bible*. New York: Facts on File [distributed by Thomas Nelson], 1986. 237 pp. CBD for \$32.50. *Visually stunning, includes regional maps and many full colour photographs (Beitzel's weaknesses), but weak in physical geography and too-brief summaries of biblical events (Beitzel's strengths).*
- 3 Pritchard, James B., ed. *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. 254 pp. CBD for \$34.95. *Most of the 134 maps are two pages and complemented by smaller maps, charts, diagrams, colour photographs, drawings and text; comprehensive (covers from 1.5 million BC [!] to AD 600, though only one map addresses Genesis 1–11); maps and detailed full-colour paintings of terrain have a three dimensional look, appearing as if viewed from the ground or on larger maps taking into account the curvature of the earth's surface; probably the best atlas for backgrounds (other ancient peoples, pagan temples, writing, commerce, archeology, practices of everyday life, etc.); indexes include summaries of events in the lives of significant biblical characters and a map index which includes variant, Arabic, Palestinian Grid Reference numbers, and Modern Hebrew names for cities. However, a Scripture index is lacking (despite the book's huge size) and some maps are difficult to read due to lack of compass directions and excess supplementary material; the 50 contributors (primarily British and Israeli) from varied perspectives (Christian, Jewish, liberal, etc.) are moderately critical in the narrative and hold to late date for the Exodus. The book is also difficult to fit upright on most bookshelves due to its enormous size (nearly 11" x 14 1/2" or 27.5 cm. x 37 cm.).*
- 4 Rasmussen, Carl G. *The Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Regency Reference Library. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989 and Jerusalem: Carta, 1989. 256 pp. CBD for \$29.95. *Similar in features to Beitzel with a comprehensive geographical section (57 pp.) and historical section (131 pp.), so purchasing both Beitzel and Rasmussen will have much overlapping. However, they are not the same. This is better than Beitzel in its topological overview of Palestine, extra graphs and diagrams, and its inclusion of excellent regional maps but worse in that the maps throughout are poorly colored and not tied into the text with coordinates as is true of Beitzel; too few color photographs (Beitzel's weakness too but strengths in Rogerson and Pritchard). Rasmussen is former dean of the Institute in Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem.*
- 5 Dowley, Tim., ed. *The Atlas of the Bible and the History of Christianity*. London: the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1997. 160 pp. *An unusual atlas that covers both the Bible and church history up to 1990; 160 full-colour maps, 50 full-colour photographs.*

Systematic Theologies

- 1 Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Chicago: Moody, 1989. 688 pp. \$21.95. *Most handbooks of theology are fairly brief works of about 150 pages consisting of brief articles that explain doctrines, heresies, movements, and leading men in the field of theology. However, this massive work is divided into five parts that cover biblical theology (in 16 chapters that survey the theology of all major biblical sections), systematic theology (bibliology, theology proper, christology, etc.), historical theology (surveying the major theological teachings of the ancient, medieval, Reformation, and modern eras), dogmatic theology (with chapters on Calvinistic, Arminian, covenant, dispensational, and Catholic theology), and contemporary theology. It has 45 chapters and an epilogue, 55 simple-to-understand charts, a 24 page glossary of terms and names, and several indexes (persons, subjects, and Scripture references), endnotes identifying sources quoted, and helpful bibliographies. Enns is a ThM and ThD graduate of Dallas Seminary and currently provost and academic dean of Tampa Bay Theological Seminary, New Port Richey, Florida. The simple writing style of this work makes it appropriate for Bible institute, college, and seminary students and graduates as well as for lay persons interested in learning more about theology. This volume is highly recommended as no other work is so comprehensive. understandable (using lay language yet scholarly with excellent*

- endnoting), and well laid out. *Dispensational premillennial*. Enns does not, however, address recent developments in "progressive dispensationalism" which have come about since 1989 through Robert Saucy, Darrell Bock, and Craig Blaising. Another weakness is the brevity of the ecclesiology section.
- 2 Lewis, Gordon and Demarest, Bruce A. *Integrative Theology*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Academie Books (Zondervan), 1987 (vol. 1: prolegomena, nature of God, 394 pp.), 1990 (vol. 2: anthropology, soteriology, 574 pp. \$22.95), 1994 (vol. 3: pneumatology, ecclesiology, eschatology). Another fine, recent series, though in a different format from above in that it integrates (thus the title) historical, biblical, systematic, apologetic, and practical theology all in various articles on theological issues. In other words, six steps are involved within areas of theology: (1) defining a distinct problem relating to that area of theology, (2) alternate approaches to solve the problem, (3) summaries of OT and NT teaching, (4) a statement of the doctrine relating it to other doctrines/knowledge, (5) defending this formulation against other opinions, and finally (6) applying these convictions to life and ministry. This last step is particularly useful in making theology practical, but also included in each entry are both review questions and related ministry projects. It also has excellent endnoting with complete general and scriptural indexes, and the volumes often cover areas neglected in other theologies. Its limitations are that the format makes finding a specific subcategory of a doctrine more difficult than in Enns' work and it contains no charts or glossary like Enns does. Both authors are professors at Denver (Conservative Baptist) Seminary. Both authors are nondispensational (p. 428) and premillennial (pp. 408, 428-29), though Lewis is pretribulational (pp. 418-19) while Demarest is posttribulational (p. 422).
 - 3 Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Leicester, England: IVP & Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. 1264 pp. An evangelical, massive work in simple English but with fresh insights. Includes a bibliography of other systematic theologies by perspective and page numbers, as well as personal application questions and popular hymns and choruses with each topic. Grudem teaches at Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL. Nondispensational premillennial, posttribulational, moderate Calvinist viewpoint. Unfortunately, Grudem teaches errant but inspired prophecy (called "inaccuracies of detail," p. 1052) and an imminent but posttribulational return of Christ (pp. 1100-1105).
 - 4 Erickson, Millard J. 2nd ed. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983-1985 (originally 3 separate volumes), 1985; 1998 (single volume in 1312 pp.) US\$45.00 hb. Evangelical (e.g., upholds inerrancy), exhaustive, readable, good with alternate views, highly useful for preaching and teaching due to Erickson's extensive pastoral experience, considers the central theme of theology to be the magnificence of God, footnoted (better than the endnoting in both Enns and Lewis/Demarest above but not as helpful as them in bibliography and transliteration of Greek and Hebrew), no charts or glossary like in Enns and unfortunately holds to the progressive creationist view. Erickson is dean and professor of theology at Bethel Theological Seminary. Nondispensational premillennial, moderate Calvinist viewpoint.
 - 5 Thiessen, Henry C. *Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949, rev. 1979. 454 pp. Readable, evangelical, scholarly (but few footnotes), well outlined, incredible indexes (the Scripture index has 4000 entries). The late Dr. Thiessen taught at Dallas Seminary and Wheaton College while Doerksen teaches at Talbot Seminary. *Dispensational premillennial*.
 - 6 Ryrie, Charles Caldwell. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Wheaton: SP Pub., Victor Books, 1986. 544 pp. An even more readable volume than the above works but not very well documented (sources not cited and indexes too brief), evangelical, excellently outlined, concise style, nice charts, includes chapters on central passages and definitions. Until his retirement in 1982, Ryrie was Professor of Systematic Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. *Dispensational premillennial*.
 - 7 Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Major Bible Themes*. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1926, 1953. Rev. ed. by John F. Walvoord. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974. The 52 brief chapters (approx. 6 pages each) include study questions and work nicely as a year long

introduction to theology. Dr. Chafer was founder of Dallas Theological Seminary in 1924 and died in 1953. Dispensational premillennial.

OT History and Backgrounds

- 1 Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987. 546 pp. *A new work worth consulting as it traces Israel's mediatorial role between God and the nations. Provides helpful background material on other Near Eastern nations such as Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt. Dr. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary, dispensational premillennial.*
- 2 Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3d ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981; reprint, 1997. *The standard critical work in this area, moderately liberal, views the exodus of Israel from Egypt to Canaan as a series of migrations over an extended time as opposed to the biblical account (he doubts the OT sources here), but otherwise exhaustive and reliable, amillennial.*
- 3 Wood, Leon J. *A Survey of Israel's History*. Revised by David O'Brien. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970; rev. ed., 1986. xv+416 pp. *A standard conservative text on Genesis 12 to Nehemiah written in a popular style but weak in covenant and prepatriarchal background and interaction with liberal views. This revision helps in the latter weakness and adds an excellent chapter on the intertestamental period. Premillennial dispensational.*

NT History and Backgrounds

- 1 Niswonger, Richard L. *New Testament History*. Grand Rapids: Academie, Zondervan, 1988. 332 pp. *A sequential history of Palestine from the Greek era (332 BC) to the end of the first century. Chronologically addresses Roman, Jewish, and pagan issues and their influence upon Jesus and the early church.*
- 2 Metzger, Bruce M., ed. *The NRSV New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*. Expanded ed. with 3-4 Maccabees and Psalm 151. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1977, 1989. 1904 pp. *The easy-to-read New Revised Standard Version revision of the 1977 RSV, which includes the 18 uninspired Apocrypha books (very helpful for background information) written between 250 BC and AD 100. Includes a brief (11 page) introduction to the Apocrypha, numerous annotations, and an index to the annotations.*
- 3 Coleman, William L. *Today's Handbook of Bible Times and Customs*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1984. 303 pp. *Many cultural insights which aid understanding of both the OT and the NT, short chapters on subjects such as marriage customs, dress, education, music, etc; many photographs but no drawings.*
- 4 Josephus: *The Essential Writings*. Translated by Paul L. Maier. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1988. 413 pp. *A new, condensed version of Josephus' Jewish Antiquities and The Jewish War. Much more readable than Whiston's 1737 translation. Many maps, charts, and drawings.*
- 5 Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. England: Nelson, 1969; reprint, Garden City, NY: Anchor (Doubleday), 1971. 462 pp. *The most complete evangelical book on NT backgrounds, insightful, but difficult for those new to the subject and poorly outlined and illustrated.*
- 6 Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishna: Translations from the Hebrew with Introductory and Explanatory Notes*. Oxford, 1933. 876 pp. *The standard translation of this authoritative collection of the rabbis' writings in the first three centuries AD. Contains the legal and procedural practices of the intertestamental and first century oral tradition followed by the Pharisees, such as Sabbath regulations.*
- 7 Metzger, Bruce M., ed. *A Concordance to the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical Books of the Revised Standard Version*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans and London: Collins Liturgical Pub.,

1983. 479 pp. *Very helpful for looking up verses in the Apocrypha (see above) given that most Bible students are unfamiliar with these books.*

- 8 Schürer, Emil. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (175 BC-AD 135)*. 5 vols. (incl. index) Rev. ed. Geza Vermes, Fergus Millar, and Martin Goodman. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1886-90; rev. 1973-87, reprint of 1st ed., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995(?). 2144 pp. Rev. ed. \$239.80 (\$155.95 CBD). Orig. ed. \$199.95 hb. (\$49.95 CBD). *This is the standard and exhaustive work on NT backgrounds, covering history, Jewish sects, messianic movements, and pertinent Greek and Jewish literature. Unfortunately, the revised edition, does not have an index yet. This is generally too expensive for most students, but CBD has an incredible bargain in the original edition with an extra index but more difficult to read and without modern updates in archaeology, language (e.g., Ugaritic) and history.*
- 9 Cook, Edward M. *Solving the Mysteries of the Dead Sea Scrolls: New Light on the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. 191 pp. \$12.95 pb. (\$9.95 CBD). *The most recent book on the DSS research by a research scholar with the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project in Cincinnati; good surveys of the historical background of the scrolls and possible parallels with the NT, written at a popular level for wider readership.*
- 10 Vermes, Geza. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. 3d ed. Sheffield, 1988. 320 pp. \$45.00 hb. (\$33.95 CBD). *An introduction to the vast literature in DSS research by an eminent scholar in the field. For the most current research here one must consult recent editions of the magazine Biblical Archaeology Review.*

OT Introductions/Surveys

- 1 Benware, Paul N. *Survey of the Old Testament*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1988. 267 pp. *A popular-level, concise, clear, conservative treatment of the OT by a professor of Bible and theology at Moody Bible Institute; brief presentations of the OT books; contains many helpful charts, maps, and appendixes (about 4 pp. each) on Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, views on origins, OT names for God, the date of the Exodus, Israel and the nations, and the extermination of the Canaanites. This book is recommended over the others below as it is inexpensive and brief, yet accurate and relevant. Benware sees the new covenant as the major theme of the Bible, especially in his companion Survey of the New Testament.*
- 2 Arnold, Bill T. and Beyer, Bryan E. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. 512 pp. US\$50.00 hb. with CD. *The nicest layout of OT surveys in its use of colour and supplemental CD with more pictures, quizzes, etc. However, it tries to do too much by covering background and survey in a single volume so that neither is treated in enough detail, though it is good at a popular level. This may be compensated, though, by also using the companion volume, Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study.*
- 3 Hill, Andrew E. and Walton, John H. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. 461 pp. *Conservative; helpful maps, charts, questions for further study and discussion, and bibliography; holds an early date for the Exodus, but too brief outlines and questions Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes. The authors teach at Wheaton College and Moody Bible Institute, respectively.*
- 4 Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody, 1974. 537 pp. Pb. ed., 1997. *Shortest of the recommended introductions but thoroughly evangelical and contains many responses to critics (but not as thorough with the text as Harrison). Easier to understand than Harrison due to better outlining and conciseness. Archer also adheres to inerrancy, authorship of Daniel by Daniel himself, and Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes. Archer teaches at Trinity International University (formerly Trinity Evangelical Divinity School).*
- 5 Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. 1325 pp. *The most massive evangelical OT introduction covering every angle and even over 100 pages of comment on the various Apocryphal books. and chapters on evolution. Hebrew*

poetry, chronology, evangelical responses to higher criticism, and many more. Unfortunately, has an inadequate four page subject index and no mention is made of inerrancy, perhaps because Harrison attempts to reach a wide audience. Takes an inductive approach including brief outlines and the message of each OT book. Harrison is Professor of Old Testament at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

- 6 LaSor, William Sanford; Hubbard, David Allen; and Bush, Frederic William. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. 696 pp. Clear, nicely footnoted scholarship by three OT professors at Fuller Theological Seminary. However, difficult to find as the authors change the order of OT books to fit their own chronological order, attempts to be conservative without adhering to inerrancy, holds to a 4th or 5th century date for Daniel, denies Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, adheres to a late date for the Exodus and ascribes to non-Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch while simultaneously holding to "inspiration."

NT Introductions/Surveys

- 1 Benware, Paul N. *Survey of the New Testament*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990. 304 pp. A popular-level, concise, clear, conservative treatment of the NT by a professor of Bible and theology at Moody Bible Institute; helpful historical and religious background to the NT (23 pp.) and brief presentations of the NT books around the New Covenant theme. Contains many helpful charts and maps. This book is recommended over the others below as it is inexpensive and brief, yet accurate and relevant. It has a companion volume, *Survey of the Old Testament*.
- 2 Wilkinson, Bruce and Boa, Kenneth. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1983. 523 pp. A very practical guide to every book of the Bible from a dispensational perspective. Contains many helpful charts and maps. Highly recommended!
- 3 Carson, D. A.; Moo, Douglas J.; and Morris, Leon. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Apollos (Zondervan), 1992; OMF, 2000? (pb. ed.) 537 pp. Much deeper than the above. The newest NT survey which investigates each NT book's authorship, date, sources, purposes, destination, etc.; avoids excessive details about literary forms, rhetorical criticism, and historical parallels; includes chapters on the synoptic problem, the man and letters of Paul, and NT canon; helpful and extensive name, subject, and Scripture indexes; full bibliography for each biblical book.
- 4 Elwell, Walter A., and Yarbrough, Robert W. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. 448 pp. US\$45.00 hb. with CD. The nicest layout of NT surveys in its use of colour and supplemental CD with more pictures, quizzes, etc. However, it tries to do too much by covering background and survey in a single volume so that neither is treated in enough detail, though it is good at a popular level. This may be compensated, though, by also using the companion volume, *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study* (224 pp., US\$20.00).
- 5 Hiebert, D. Edmond. Expanded ed. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 3 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1954, 1962, 1975; expanded vols. 2-3, 1977. Another conservative, technical work which answers liberal arguments aimed at NT books, but more readable than Guthrie's. Hiebert is an evangelical Mennonite lecturer at Mennonite Brethren Seminary in Fresno, California.
- 6 Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 1965. 1054 pp. The most exhaustive and technical work from a conservative perspective to answer liberal arguments aimed at NT books. Guthrie is a British conservative scholar.

OT Biblical Theologies

- 1 Zuck, Roy B., ed. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody, 1991. 446 pp. Helpful, scholarly (well documented, often deep discussions), original thought, traces the

kingdom theme through the OT beginning with Genesis 1:26, articles by Dallas Seminary faculty, dispensational premillennial.

- 2 Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978, 1981 (pb.). 303 pp. *Traces the promise theme of Genesis 12 through the OT. Kaiser teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston; nondispensational premillennial.*
- 3 Sailhammer, John H. *An Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. *Shows how different approaches to OT theology can be brought together into a single theology, emphasizes how God's revelation had authority in its historical context yet is still relevant today, dispensational premillennial.*

NT Biblical Theologies

- 1 Zuck, Roy B. and Bock, Darrell L., eds. *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago: Moody, 1994. 487 pp. *A recent and easy-to-read sequel to the OT volume (which traces the kingdom theme through the OT beginning with Genesis 1:26), articles by Dallas Seminary faculty, progressive dispensational premillennial. Ten chapters trace the theologies of Matthew, Mark, Luke-Acts, John's writings, Paul's epistles (missionary, prison, and pastoral treated separately), Hebrews, James, and Peter/Jude.*
- 2 Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. 933 pp. \$45.00 hb. *Clear, concise articles on biblical theology themes and each biblical book, but also lengthy articles on topics such as abortion, Dead Sea Scrolls, education, leadership, and human sexuality; includes good cross-referencing to locate related articles easily.*
- 3 Ladd, George Eldon. Rev. edition. Edited by Donald A. Hagner. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974, 1993. 764 pp. *A significant work in NT theology which has particularly effected thinking on the present aspects of the kingdom, providing a bridge between evangelical and modern scholarship and laying the basis of the signs and wonders movement; unfortunately, twenty years older than Zuck's work above and addresses synoptics as a whole rather than by author (it is stronger in the epistles than the gospels). Ladd taught NT at Fuller Seminary from 1950 until his death in 1982.*

Greek Word Study Tools

- 1 Bauer, Walter. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 5th ed., 1957. Translated by William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich. Revised and augmented by F. Wilbur Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker, 2d ed. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 1979. *The standard Greek lexicon, often known as "BAG" or, since Danker's involvement, "BAGD"; includes the most up-to-date archaeological findings in determining the meanings of Greek words.*
- 2 Alsop, John R., ed. *An Index to the Revised Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich Greek Lexicon*. Second Edition by F. Wilbur Gingrich & Frederick W. Danker. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. *A very useful index to BAGD in verse-by-verse sequence with the BAGD definition, page, quadrant number, and portion of word classification; saves much time (generally cuts time in half) in locating BAGD references. Alsop works with Wycliffe Bible Translators.*
- 3 Bromiley, Geoffrey. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Abridged in one volume. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. 1392 pp. \$44.95. *This summary of the 10 volume work by Kittel and Friedrich gets to the biblical material quickly without background studies in other languages. For example, 70 page articles in the larger work are summarized in about 4 pages. It has no footnotes, so it cites very little of its reasoning and no secondary source material that produced the reasoning; however, reference can be made to the 10 volume work. It has a critical bias, so Brown's work is more evangelical, but this "Little Kittel" is recommended over Brown due to its brevity. See Bock's review in Bib Sac 143. pp. 85-86.*

- 4 Brown, Colin, ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 3 vols. Translated by G. H. Boobyer, Colin Brown, H. L. Ellison, M. C. Freeman, George Ogg, John Manton, Philip Seddon, David Sharp and A. J. M. Wedderburn. German ed., Wuppertal: 1967, 1969, 1971; English ed., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975. *Conservative, short (generally from 3-15 pages) articles on key NT words. Brown is Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.*

Hebrew Word Study Tools

- 1 *Wigram, George V. *The New Englishman's Hebrew/Aramaic Concordance*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984. *Lists all Hebrew/Aramaic terms in the OT by number coded to the Strong/NASB's system, then shows every occurrence in the KJV translation.* 221.42 (R) WIG
- 2 *Gesenius, William. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Translated by Edward Robinson. Revised and augmented by Francis Brown with S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. N.p., 1906; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. *BDB is known as the standard OT lexicon for Hebrew/Aramaic studies, gives brief translations and selected verses for each translation, includes associated words from related languages (Aramaic, Assyrian, Arabic, etc.); unfortunately as it is so old it espouses the documentary hypothesis (non-Mosaic authorship, etc.), is overly influenced by word meanings in the English Revised Version (1885), lists words by root rather than alphabetically (which is also a strength; for alphabetical listings see the newer lexicon by Koehler and Baumgartner) emends the text, and has no Ugaritic cognates. See the critique of BDB by Bruce Waltke and Kenneth Barker in Einspahr above, pp. v-vi. This edition of BDB is called "New" as it has the Strong/NASB numbering system throughout as well as in an index for those who do not know Hebrew.* 492.43 (R) BRO.
- 3 Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago: Moody, 1976. *Evangelical, provides the correct page and quadrant in BDB for every Hebrew/Aramaic word used in the OT, organized in canonical order, but not keyed to the Strong's or NIV numbering systems.* 492.43 (R) BRO.
- 4 **Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Ed. R. Laird Harris. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980. *Evangelical, provides short (1/2-1 page) articles on key OT words, uses its own numbering system (unfortunately not keyed to BDB number listings but keyed to Strong/NASB numbers through an index which enables non-Hebrew readers to use the volumes).* 221.3 (R) HAR.

Bible Exposition and Homiletics

- 1 Richard, Ramesh P. *Scripture Sculpture: A Do-It-Yourself Manual for Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. 215 pp. US\$10.95 pb. *A very practical seven-step procedure for expository preaching explained by a homiletics professor at Dallas Seminary. Dr. Richard (from Delhi) has presented this content to pastors all over the world—a tested method! Eleven appendices too!*
- 2 Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980. 230 pp. *A simple, well-illustrated, 10 step procedure on how to present expository messages which has made this the standard evangelical preaching text worldwide (used by over 90 seminaries in North America alone); weak on exegetical outlining, how to make applications, and preaching from various types of biblical literature. For many years Robinson taught at both Dallas and Denver Seminaries but for the past few years he has taught at Gordon-Conwell.*
- 3 _____. *Biblical Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989. 264 pp. *Illustrates the principles in Biblical Preaching by printing a sermon manuscript, commentary, and interview with twelve expository preachers; includes two monologues.*
- 4 Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas. Rev. ed. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982; London: Scripture Union, 1983; rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993: OMF ed. 1998 at \$12.50. 272 pp. \$12.99 nb. (\$9.95 CBD). *Concise.*

practical, excellent insights on interpreting the types of scriptural literature, but not a detailed work on each book. The authors teach at Regent College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, respectively.

- 5 Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching with Freshness*. Eugene, OR; Harvest House, 1991. 258 pp. *A narrative account (which is fresh itself!) of how an old seminary professor revitalizes the worn out preaching of a former student who has been in the pastorate ten years and is ready to quit. Will help you build good habits in your weekly schedule to prepare well for preaching as well as get out of the habits which make your sermons all sound the same. You may not feel the need for this one yet, but reach for it after your 100th sermon!*
- 6 Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans & Leicester: IVP, 1988. 374 pp. *An in-depth, more technical text dealing with preaching various types of biblical literature, especially helpful in identifying unacceptable methods of applying the text.*
- 7 Liefeld, Walter L. *New Testament Exposition: From Text to Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. 180 pp. \$10.95. *A guide to sermon preparation for the busy pastor; emphasizes literary structure and flow of thought instead of parsing, sentence diagramming, and word studies; addresses how to preach from difficult texts such as parables, miracles, proverbial sayings, obscure passages, passages susceptible to contrary interpretations, and especially apparent discrepancies in the gospel accounts.*
- 8 Willhite, Keith, and Gibson, Scott M., eds. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. 181 pp. \$15.99. *Willhite (Dallas Seminary) and Gibson (Gordon-Conwell) dedicate this work to Haddon Robinson, whose teaching on single-idea preaching has spanned three decades and argue that this method applies to all genres of Scripture. Excellent articles are by Paul Bordon, Joe Stowell, Don Sunukjian, and John Reed.*

Commentaries

Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College (revised continually—this edition on Monday, April 17, 2000)

Introduction

Every Christian worker in teaching or preaching ministry has experienced the dilemma of needing to buy biblical commentaries but having limited funds to do so. Hundreds of commentaries are available in the English language but the tendency many experience (myself included) is with so many choices and so little time available to research the various commentaries on a biblical book, few purchases are made since we all want to buy only the *best* books.

In such cases a recommended book list can help. This study lists the best 4-12 commentaries on each biblical book gained from my own experience, published bibliographies, book reviews in *Bibliotheca Sacra*, consultation with various Singapore Bible College faculty, and unpublished annotated bibliographies by Dallas Theological Seminary faculty who are experts on these biblical books and well-versed on the literature (see bibliography). Books recommended are not necessarily the least expensive (nor the most evangelical) commentaries but rather those which best explain the text, even though some information may be difficult to glean for the student not skilled in Hebrew and Greek.

Contents

The following pages after this three-page introduction are divided into two parts.

1. First are two single page summaries of recommended Old and New Testament commentaries.
2. After the summaries is a corresponding annotated bibliography of their commentaries, listed in order starting with the most recommended source first.

Cautions

However, before you go crazy buying books there are some words of warning:

1. The following list will not satisfy everyone! For the best buy *for you* let this be a starting point whereby you preview a library copy before buying a commentary (so don't blame me if you purchase a recommended commentary you don't like!). Also realize that *no* commentary (except perhaps Ross on Genesis) will provide what you really need (i.e., exegetical/homiletical outlines). This is available only in the classroom. However, the Bible Speaks Today series (BST) is often helpful for exposition.
2. Do not think that the recommended commentaries are necessarily evangelical. Unfortunately the liberals seem to have more time available to produce good commentaries, probably because they are locked in their studies and spend little time with people—including their students and even attending church! The Anchor Bible, ICC, and Hermeneia series in particular have some excellent works, but none can be classified as evangelical or conservative. You will have to use them with discernment to avoid buying into their higher critical views of the text.
3. Ideally, try to avoid always buying the least expensive of the alternative commentaries on a book. Later on while you're struggling with an issue in your study you may wish that you had paid a little bit more to get the better commentary. On the other hand, if you can get good commentaries bound together then do it to save money (e.g., buying only two books—Stuart's and Smith's—will give you excellent works on all of the minor prophets).
4. Realize that while buying entire series of commentaries has cost advantages, every series also has both good and bad books. I recommend selecting the best sources from each of the series for purchase. The same principle obviously applies to buying commentaries from the same author. While you may prefer a certain scholar (e.g., Hendrickson, Bruce, Baldwin, etc.) remember that no one is an expert on every book of the Bible. Why not invest in the works of those scholars who have invested a lifetime studying and writing on the book of their specialty?

Commentary Series

Better known series can be compared in many ways: attention to detail or the whole (argument), priority at exposition, etc. If they were placed in order of *conservativeness* they might look like the continuum below. Better known series are on the top line and lesser known under them.

Hermeneia • Anchor • ICC • BNTC • DSB • Word • NCBC • NICOT/NT • TOTC • TNTC • BEC • Expositor's Continental • Interpretation • OTL • MOT • New American • Pillar • NIGTC • NIBC • BST • IVPNTC • WEC • EBC

Liberal/Critical

Moderate/Semi-Technical

Evangelical/Exposition

1. Liberal works (Hermeneia, Anchor, ICC, etc.) have disadvantages (so use with caution):
 - a. They lack a high view of Scripture we conservatives value, so they more freely change the text of Scripture to "get back to the original" even if no manuscripts suggest their view.
 - b. They have a tendency to invent the latest ideas—and "novel" is often not orthodox! Anchor (Doubleday) has an international team of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish contributors.
 - c. They often have much technical garbage which is irrelevant and difficult to understand, though Anchor's editors (Albright and Freedman) do attempt to put critical ideas in lay language, and Interpretation (John Knox) is semi-technical.
 - d. Conservative viewpoints are often not even mentioned—especially translations from German editions such as Hermeneia by Fortress or Continental by Augsburg.
 - e. ICC (T & T Clark) is old except for Barrett, Cranfield, Davies/Allison, McKane, Thrall, Marshall/Towner. Other volumes are in the process of revision.

However, we can still benefit from these commentaries because they have some advantages:

- a. Critical commentaries are often more thorough as liberals have more time for study—no preaching, no family life, no church attendance! (Generally liberals are more technical whereas conservatives are more expositional.)
 - b. Liberals provide new translations and often are more careful to cite references, have more complete bibliographies for further study, discuss alternate views, and show greater insight.
2. Black's (formerly Harper's) NT Commentaries are moderately critical, first published by Harper & Row but now by Hendrickson. Westminster's Daily Study Bible is disappointingly mostly liberal. The Word Biblical Commentary has the most variance in conservativeness book by book. Some are evangelical and others are quite liberal. The same can be said for Westminster's Old Testament Library (OTL). Be careful of these and study the individual volume.
 3. Mastering the Old Testament (MOT) replaced the OT in Communicator's Commentary (CC) as a mostly conservative preaching series (both by Word). The New Century Bible Commentary and New International Commentary on the Old/New Testament (both by Eerdmans) have printed good and bad (like Word). The NCBC is based on the RSV and edited by Ronald Clements (OT) and Matthew Black (NT). The NICNT, edited by the late British conservative F. F. Bruce, has many good volumes and is almost finished. It may be the best NT commentary series overall.
 4. Some series are evangelical but semi-technical: New American (Broadman), Eerdmans' Pillar and NIGTC (New International Greek Testament Commentary), and Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary (Moody; Kenneth Barker, ed.) which recently transferred NT books to Baker Exegetical Commentary of the NT. It's extensive and shows great promise for the future (if still published).
 5. Generally, the more popular (simple) series are evangelical. This includes the BST (The Bible Speaks Today, by IVP), Hendrickson's NIBC (New International Biblical Commentary), and the IVPNTC (IVP New Testament Commentary). Also, Tyndale OT (IVP) and NT Commentaries (Eerdmans) are concise yet insightful, evangelical with different eschatological views, expositional, and careful to avoid many unneeded technicalities.
 6. Expositor's Bible Commentary (Zondervan) is evangelical and exhaustive. Frank E. Gaebelin edited EBC until his death in 1983, and J. D. Douglas was Associate Editor also until 1983. The 78 scholars authoring this 12-volume work (now 2 vols. without footnotes) came from 6 countries and 7 or more denominations, but eschatological books are premillennial. The EBC is based on the NIV, Greek and Hebrew are transliterated for those who do not know the original languages, technical notes are footnoted for smoother reading,

bibliographies and introductions are well done, and it fairly deals with opposing views. As this is one of the best series, I own all 12 volumes myself. It is available on CD-ROM and abridged into two volumes (no footnotes). Also evangelical (and certainly more concise) is another "EBC," the Everyman's Bible Commentary (Moody). In my view, Zondervan and Moody are the most conservative (and most premillennial) publishers.

How to Use the Summary Charts

The following relates specifically to the OT chart (p. 21) but also applies to the NT chart (p. 22).

Suppose you want to research in Leviticus. Read across the OT chart on the next page. You'll see "1-Wenham," which means that Wenham in the NICOT series (look up the column) is your best commentary, "2-Harrison" (TOTC) is second best, etc. Since three recommended works are not part of a series they are listed in the last three columns that list books by publisher, not series. Notice also that "4c-Harris" is preceded by a vertical bar "|" (indicating that it's *part* of a volume) and includes a "c" (showing it's the *third* part of the volume).

The chart can also be helpful if read vertically. Let's say you come across a great deal to buy commentaries in the NICOT series. Look down the NICOT column and notice that several works are rated as the best volume available for that biblical book. You can make these the first priority in buying books as you can get the best books at a reduced rate. This is particularly helpful if you are just beginning your library.

Perhaps the best way to use the chart when starting out on buying individual commentaries is to only purchase those which are underlined on the chart. These identify select volumes (from among those rated "1") which are particularly outstanding. In other words, when trying to decide which of the top ranked volumes are best, simply chose those underlined.

The chart also shows the strengths of the various series. Anchor Bible is best in the historical books, Hermeneia in the prophets, NICOT in the Pentateuch and Minor Prophets, etc.

The chart can be used to help purchase the most for your money. Notice that buying Allen (NICOT) and Smith (Word BC) provides 10 excellent commentaries on 10 biblical books in only two volumes!

Due to space limitations on the chart, sometimes it omits the volumes ranked more poorly (i.e., a higher number) in the annotated section. These generally are books rated "7" or more.

I recommend that you circle those books on the chart that you already possess. Then, as you purchase books on the chart, circle these as well. Other books not on the chart that you own can also be added in their appropriate columns or at the far right and circled. This way your library can be balanced without collecting too many commentaries on a single OT book while neglecting others (unless, of course, you need extra commentaries for these books as you are teaching or preaching them).

Summary of Recommended Old Testament Commentaries By Series and Publisher

Compiled by Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College. Revised Thursday, April 20, 2000 and updated continuously

(Read horizontally—"1" is first choice for a biblical book, "2" second choice, etc.; "a" after a number refers to the first biblical book in a single volume, "b" the second, etc.; commentaries on individual books in the *same* volume are preceded by a | mark; publisher's names are in *italics*; the final 3 columns are mostly individual works not in a series; the "best of the best" are underlined.)

Old Testament Summary Chart

Series/Pub. Publisher	Anchor Bible Doubleday	Expositor's Zondervan	Hermeneia Fortress	NCBC Ferdinand	NICOT Ferdinand	TOTC IVP	Word BC Word	Baker, Ferdinand, etc.	IVP, NIVAC Moody, etc.	Westminster, Zondervan, etc.
Genesis		5a-Sailhamer		4-Hamilton (2 vols.)	7-Kidner (2 vols.)	7-Kidner	2-Wenham (2 vols.)	1-Ross (Baker)	3-Harback (GPR)	6-Cassuto (1-13)
Exodus		5b-Kaiser			2-Cole	2-Cole	4-Durham	3-Dunnam (MOT)	1-Childs (West.)	
Leviticus	4-Milgrom	7c-Harris		5-Budd	2-Wenham	3-Harrison	1-Hartley (MOT)	9-Levine (JPS)	6-Knight (DSB-West.)	8-Noordtzi (BSC-Zond.)
Numbers		6d-Allen			5-Ashley	1-Wenham	8-Milgrom (JPS)	6-Maarsingh (Eerd.)	4-Harrison (WEC)	3-Philip (MOT)
Deuteronomy					2-Craigie	3-Thompson		1-Merrill (Broad.)	5-Miller (West./Knox)	4-Payne (DSB-Zond.)
Joshua	4-Boling/Wright				1-Woudstra					3a-Auld (DSB-Zond.)
Judges	2-Boling					3a-Cundall	2-Butler			2b-Auld (DSB-Zond.)
Ruth	2-Campbell				1-Hubbard	5b-Morris	1-Hamlin (ITC-Eerd.)	5-Soggin (West.)		4b-Auld (DSB-Zond.)
1 Samuel	4-McCarter						1-Klein	2a-Brueggeman (Knox)	5b-Payne (West)	3a-Gordon (Zond.)
2 Samuel	4-McCarter						1-Anderson	2a-Brueggeman (Knox)	5b-Payne (West)	3a-Gordon (Zond.)
1 Kings		6a-Patterson		3a-Jones			1-Hobbs	2a-Nelson (Knox)	5-Long (Eerd.)	4a-Dilday (MOT)
2 Kings		6b-Patterson		3b-Jones				2b-Nelson (Knox)	1-Rice (ITC-Eerd.)	4b-Dilday (MOT)
1 Chronicles	6-Myers			3a-Williamson			1-Braun	4a-Wilcock (BST-IVP)	2a-Allen (MOT)	5a-Merrill (Zond.)
2 Chronicles	6-Myers			3b-Williamson			1-Dillard	4b-Wilcock (BST-IVP)	2b-Allen (MOT)	5b-Merrill (Zond.)
Ezra	7a-Myers	8e-Yamauchi		3a-Clines	2a-Fensham	4a-Kidner	1a-Williamson	6a-Blenkinsopp (OTL--West.)	5a-McConville (DSB-West.)	
Nehemiah	7b-Myers	8f-Yamauchi		3b-Clines	2b-Fensham	4b-Kidner	1b-Williamson	6b-Blenkinsopp (OTL--West.)	5b-McConville (DSB-West.)	
Esther	3-Moore	6g-Huey				2-Baldwin		5-Murphy (FOTL-Eerd.)	1-Jobes (NIVAC)	4c-McConville (DSB-West.)
Job	7-Pope		3-Rowley	1-Hartley			2-Clines	5-Murphy (FOTL-Eerd.)	4-McKenna (MOT)	6-Habel (West.)
Psalms		6a-VanGemenen		5-Anderson (2 vols.)	7-Kidner (2 vols.)		2-Craigie (1-50)	3-Allen (101-150)	4-Williams (2 vols., MOT)	1-Kraus (2 vols.)
Proverbs		5b-Ross					6-Kidner	2-Hubbard (MOT)	4-McKane (OTL-West.)	3-Garrett (NA-Broadman)
Ecclesiastes				3-Whybray			6-Anderson	1-Murphy	5a-Hubbard (Eerd.)	4-Crenshaw (OTL-Eerd.)
Song of Songs	3-Pope		2-Murphy		5-Young (3 vols.)	4-Carr			5b-Hubbard (Eerd.)	1-Glickman (IVP)
Isaiah					1-Thompson				3-Kaiser (Moody)	3b-Davidson (2 vols., DSB-Word)
Jeremiah	4-Bright		6-Holladay (2 vols.)			4b-Harrison			6-Kidner (MOT)	3a-Davidson (2 vols., DSB-Word)
Lamentations	1-Hillers		5-Roberts		2-Block (2 vols.)	3-Allen (2 vols.)	4-Feinberg (Moody)	6-Stuart (MOT-Eerd.)	8-Craigie (DSB)	5-Clements
Ezekiel		1d-Alexander	7-Zimmerli (2 vols.)			6-Baldwin	3-Goldingay	4-Longman (NIVAC)	6-Montgomery (ICC)	1-Walvoord (Moody)
Daniel		2a-Archer				3-Hubbard	1a-Stuart	6-Kidner (BST-IVP)	5-Mays (OTL-West.)	7-Chisholm (BKC)
Hosea	2-Andersen/Freedman		4-Wolff		3a-Allen	6a-Hubbard	2b-Stuart	1a-Finley (WEC)	4-McComiskey (Baker)	
Joel		7c-Patterson	5a-Wolff		5b-Allen	8b-Hubbard	4c-Stuart	3a-Finley (WEC)	5-Smith (Zond.)	5-Mays (OTL-West.)
Amos	2-Andersen/Freedman		7b-Wolff/1-Paul		2c-Allen	4a-Baker	3d-Stuart	2a-Finley (WEC)	6a-Wolff	1-Watts (Eerd.)
Obadiah						3b-Alexander	1e-Stuart		4b-Wolff	
Jonah	5-Sasson	6f-Ellison		1d-Allen				4-Wolff	2-Mays (OTL-Westminster)	
Micah	5-Hillers	6g-McComiskey			3c-Waltke			1a-Patterson (WEC)	5a-Freeman (Moody)	2-Maier (Concordia)
Nahum					3a-Robertson	4a-Baker		1b-Patterson (WEC)	5b-Freeman (Moody)	2-Gowan (Knox)
Habakkuk		6i-Armerding			3b-Robertson	4b-Baker		1c-Patterson (WEC)	5c-Freeman (Moody)	2-Kleinart (Zond.)
Zephaniah		7j-Walker			2c-Robertson	3c-Baker		1a-Merrill (Moody)	6-Peterson (OTL)	7-Wolff (Cont.)
Haggai	5a-Meyers	7l-Barker			2a-Verhoef	4a-Baldwin		1b-Merrill (Moody)	3-McComiskey	4-Feinberg (Multi.)
Zechariah	5ab-Meyers				6b-Baldwin	6b-Baldwin		1c-Merrill (Moody)	5-Stuart	3-Kaiser (Baker)
Malachi	4b-Meyers				7c-Baldwin	7c-Baldwin		1c-Merrill (Moody)	5-Stuart	3-Kaiser (Baker)

Summary of Recommended New Testament Commentaries By Series and Publisher

Compiled by Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College. Revised Thursday, April 20, 2000 and updated continuously

(Read horizontally—"1" is first choice for a biblical book, "2" second choice, etc.; "a" after a number refers to the first biblical book in a single volume, "b" the second, etc.; commentaries on individual books in the same volume are preceded by a mark; publisher's names are in *italics*; the final 3 columns are individual works not in a series)

Series	Anchor Bible	Expositor's	BNTC	NCBC	NICNT	TNTC	Word BC	Baker,	IVP, NIVAC	Westminster,
Publisher	Doubleday	Zondervan	Hendrickson	Ferdman's	Ferdman's	Ferdman's	Word	Ferdman's, etc.	Moody, etc.	Zondervan, etc.
Matthew		1a-Carson		4-Hill	1-Lane	3-Davies/Allison (ICC)	2-Blomberg (NA)	3-France (Zond.)	6-MacArthur (Moody)	5-Brunner (Word)
Mark	4-Mann					5-Guelich	3-Gundry (Eerd.)	6-Taylor (Baker)	2-Cranfield (Cambridge)	
Luke	2-Fitzmyer (2 vols.)	5c-Liefeld		6-Ellis	1-Morris	2-Marshall (NIGTC)	1-Book (BEC, 2 vols.)	4-Stein (NA-Broad.)	7-Danker (Clayton)	
John	3-Brown (2 vols.)				3-Bruce	5-Story 2-Carson (Pillar-Eerd.)	6-Bruce (Eerd.)	4-Barrett (West.)		
Acts		5-Longenecker			3-Moo (2 vols.)	7-Tasker	5-Morris (ICC)	6-Tannehill (2 vols. Fort.)	6-Polhill (NA)	1-Fernando (NIVAC)
Romans	7-Fitzmyer		6-Barrett		2-Fee	4-Marshall	5-Morris (Eerd.)	2-Cranfield (2 vols. ICC)	1-Schreiner (BEC)	
1 Corinthians			3-Barrett	5-Bruce	6-Hughes/4-Barnett	8-Bruce	4-Dunn (2 vols.)	4-Conzelmann (Herm.)	6-Carson (chs. 12-14)	1-Blomberg (NIVAC)
2 Corinthians	2-Furnish	5-Harris	1-Barrett				3-Martin			
Galatians					4-Fung	2-Longenecker	5-Burton (ICC)	1-Bruce (NIGTC)	3-Betz 6-Stott (BST-JVP)	7-Lightfoot (Zond.)
Ephesians	3-Barth (2 vols.)				4c-Bruce	2-Hoehner (BEC)	1-Lincoln	2-Hoehner (BEC)	5-Robinson (Kregel)	6-Stott (BST-JVP)
Philippians			6-Beare		5-Fee	4-Martin	3-Hawthorne	1-O'Brien (NIGTC)	2-Silva (BEC)	7-Collange (Eppworth)
Colossians	2a-Lohse			4a-Martin	3a-Bruce	5a-Wright	1a-O'Brien	6-Gannett		
Philemon	2b-Lohse			4b-Martin	3b-Bruce	5b-Wright	1b-O'Brien			
1 Thessalonians				4a-Marshall		2a-Bruce	2a-Bruce			
2 Thessalonians				4b-Marshall		2b-Bruce				
1 Timothy			3a-Best			1a-Knight (NIGTC)	2a-Kent (Moody)	5a-Hiebert (Moody)	6a-Stott (BST-JVP)	
2 Timothy			3b-Best			1b-Knight (NIGTC)	2b-Kent (Moody)	5b-Hiebert (Moody)	6b-Stott (BST-JVP)	
Titus			3a-Kelly			1c-Knight (NIGTC)	2c-Kent (Moody)	4a-Fee (NIBC)	2a-Lea (NAC)	
Hebrews	6-Quinn		3b-Kelly			1c-Knight (NIGTC)	2c-Kent (Moody)	4b-Fee (NIBC)	2b-Lea (NAC)	
James			3c-Kelly			1-Lane (2 vols.)	4-Attridge (Fortress)	3-Ellingworth (NIGTC)	6-Hughes (Eerd.)	2-Pentecost
1 Peter			7-Montefiore	5-Bruce		5-Martin	6-Hiebert (Moody)	4-Richardson (NAC)	6-Mayor (Zondervan)	7-MacArthur
2 Peter			2-Laws	1-Davids		3-Moo	1-Michaels	2-Selwyn (Macmillan)	5-Marshall (IVPNTC)	7-Clowney (BST-JVP)
Jude	5a-Neyrey		4a-Kelly	3-Davids		6-Grudem	1a-Bauckham	3a-Hiebert (Unusual)		
1-3 John	5b-Neyrey		2b-Kelly			4a-Green	1b-Bauckham	3b-Hiebert (Unusual)		
Revelation	1-Brown		2c-Kelly	3-Marshall		4b-Green	1b-Bauckham	3b-Hiebert (Unusual)		
		9i-Johnson	10-Caird	5-Beasley-Murray	2-Mounce	4-Stott	2-Smaley	5-Bruce (Eerd.)	5-Burdick (Moody)	6-Bruce
						1-Thomas (2 vols. Moody)	3-Walvoord (Moody)	6-Ladd (Eerd.)	4-Beale (NIGNT)	
						6-Sweet (West.)	7-Aune	8-Swete (Eerd.)	11-Wilcock (BST-JVP)	

The "best of the best" are underlined above. After purchasing the recommended reference books at the beginning of this study, the underlined books above should be the first priority when beginning to build a library of individual commentaries.

Generally commentaries are recommended by D. A. Carson, F. F. Bruce, William Lane, Leon Morris, I. Howard Marshall, J. N. D. Kelly, D. Edmond Hiebert, or Gordon D. Fee (in this order of priority).

New Testament Summary Chart

Old Testament Commentaries

Note that each commentary has a number in front of it. This shows its priority over the other commentaries on the same book. These correlate with the OT Summary (page 24). Note: the number "1" sometimes is attached to *two* commentaries under the same section, but this occurs only for commentaries which address two books in our English Bibles (Kings, Chronicles, etc.). Actually, each "1" identifies the best work for each of two separate biblical books.

Genesis

- 1 Ross, Allen P. *Genesis: Creation & Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988. 744 pp. \$30.00 hb. (\$21.95 CBD). *Conservative, divides Genesis into 68 sections, each with an exegetical and homiletical outline and a helpful bibliography; ties each passage of Genesis into the overall theology of God's election of a seed to bless the world, especially His choice of the younger over the older. This is the only commentary of its kind in the entire Bible that carefully outlines an entire book in full sentence form (excellent for synthesis and preaching!). While it covers theology well, it lacks technical data in verse-by-verse discussions (so it is best to supplement it with one of the other Genesis commentaries below). Ross formerly taught OT at Dallas Seminary but since 1990 has taught at the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry.*
- 2 Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987, 1995. 352, 525 pp. \$27.99 ea. hb. (\$20.95 CBD) *Excellent scholarship and exegetical sensitivity typical of Wenham, conservative (yet does endorse some source theory); yet twice the price of Ross, without the exegetical and homiletical outlines and preaching insights, and not significantly longer (though it does address the Hebrew more). This British evangelical is an expert on the Pentateuch.*
- 3 Harbach, Robert C. *Studies in the Book of Genesis*. Grandville, MI: Grandville Protestant Reformed Church Publication Committee, 1986. 938 pp. \$21.95. *Exhaustive (extended comments on nearly every significant statement in Genesis!), pastor for 33 years (now retired), high view of Scripture (e.g., defends creationism and Mosaic authorship), deals with popular questions in a very readable manner, but weak in bibliography, non-dispensational, and adheres to double predestination.*
- 4 Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis*. 2 vols. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989, 1995. 512 pp. (vol. 1), 774 pp. (vol. 2). \$18.95 CBD hb (vol. 1). *Excellent, easy to read; the first volume has a long intro. (100 pages on composition, theology, interpretive problems, and extensive, up-to-date bibliography). Discusses relevant ancient Near Eastern parallels and compares words and phrases in light of other scriptural usage. Thorough treatment of the text's meaning, but gives less attention to why a text is in Genesis than does Ross above. Hamilton is professor of religion at Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky.*
- 5 Sailhamer, John H. "Genesis" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 2: *Genesis-Numbers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. 1024 pp. \$34.95. *Discusses parallels with other biblical and extrabiblical sources, gives special emphasis to the significance of the narratives for both the original and modern readers, evangelical. He formerly taught OT at Trinity International University (previously TEDS).*
- 6 Cassuto, Umberto. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis*. 2 vols. Trans. from the Hebrew by Israel Abrahams. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1961, 1964. 710 pp. for both vols. \$77.00. *Covers only Genesis 1:1–13:5 due to Cassuto's untimely death, but definitely the best commentaries on these chapters. Deals with ancient literary backgrounds, rabbinic traditions, Jewish theology, Hebrew text, and is conservative (e.g., rejects the Documentary Hypothesis); however, very expensive and published by an obscure publisher (not available through CBD). Cassuto was a Jewish rabbi & scholar.*
- 7 Kidner, Derek. *Genesis*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1967. 224 pp. \$12.00 pb. (\$8.95 CBD). *Conservative, brief, but more devotional and expositional than critical and exegetical, dated, and holds to a day-age creation.*

Exodus

- 1 Childs, Brevard S. *The Book of Exodus: A Critical Theological Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1974. xxv+659 pp. \$27.95. *Divides his commentary into different sections, including textual criticism and philology, critical methods, OT context, NT context, and history of interpretation. More thorough than Cole but much less conservative.*
- 2 Cole, Alan. *Exodus*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973. 239 pp. \$14.95 hb/\$8.95 pb. *Conservative, inexpensive, brief, expository, excellent theological introduction, but not verse-by-verse and lacks a thorough introduction due to space limitations. Dr. Cole lectures at Trinity Theological College here in Singapore.*
- 3 Dunnam, Maxie D. *Exodus*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. 395 pp. \$25.95. *Sermon series by the senior minister of Christ United Methodist Church, Memphis, TN, good supporting material (applications, illustrations), topical sermons; but liberal, holds to late date for the Exodus (p. 31), and says a Christian can lose his salvation (p. 140).*
- 4 Durham, J. I. *Exodus*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xxxiv+516 pp. \$25.95. *Strong in theology (theme is seen as the presence of God with His people) but weak in that it sees historical errors in the text, liberal.*
- 5 Kaiser, Walter C. "Exodus" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 2: Genesis-Numbers. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. 1024 pp. \$34.95. *Excellent bibliographical work for further study, devotes attention to difficult subjects, evangelical, 212 pages. Kaiser teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston.*

Leviticus

- 1 Hartley, John E. *Leviticus*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word, 1992. 496 pp. *Evangelical, excellent in exegetical treatment. Hartley has an excellent commentary on Job as well. Hartley is chairman of Biblical Studies and professor of Old Testament in the Graduate School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University. Merrill BibSac (April 97): 238.*
- 2 Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. 362 pp. \$29.95 hb. *Conservative, good exegesis, word studies, and insights into Israel's religion, including the holiness laws, excellent discussions of what many Christians consider a drab book.*
- 3 Harrison, R. K. *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1980. 252 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Conservative but brief, keen interest in medicine.*
- 4 Milgrom, Jacob. *Leviticus 1-16*. Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1991. *Liberal but excellent in technical matters.*
- 5 Budd, Philip J. *Leviticus*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. xxiv + 395 pp. \$26.00 pb. *Critical (holds to documentary hypothesis which denies Mosaic authorship), less technical than Milgrom, not as exegetically helpful as Hartley, and much less evangelical than Wenham, Budd is concise and interacts well with secondary literature give his work great practical value in contemporary understandings and assessments of Leviticus. Unfortunately, he comes short of condemning homosexuality as does Lev. 18:22 (p. 261). See the review by Merrill in Bibliotheca Sacra 154 (April 97): 238.*
- 6 Knight, G. A. F. *Leviticus*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981. 173 pp. \$12.95 hb/\$6.95 pb. *Moderately critical but good exposition of Leviticus' meaning in its Old Testament context and much attention devoted to its relevance for the Christian.*

- 7 Harris, R. Laird. "Leviticus" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 2: *Genesis-Numbers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. 1024 pp. \$34.95. *Expositional, excellent introductory section, surveys current literature on Leviticus, evangelical, 155 pages.*
- 8 Noordtjij, A. *Leviticus*. Bible Student's Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982. xi+280 pp. \$15.95 hb. *Evangelical translation from the Dutch, though argues Moses did not write all the laws, theologically sensitive.*
- 9 Levine, B. A. *Leviticus*. JPS Torah Commentary. Jewish Publication Society, 1989. xlv+284 pp. \$49.95 hb. *Stimulating discussion of Leviticus in the Ancient Near East context, theologically sensitive, for the educated layperson and scholar alike (prints the Hebrew text), well documented in philology and history of research, but very expensive!*

Numbers

- 1 Wenham, Gordon J. *Numbers: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1981. 240 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative work by a British evangelical, strong in explaining how Israel worshipped, good lexical and exegetical insights, strong theologically and in relevance to today.*
- 2 Olson, Dennis T. *Numbers*. Interpretation. Louisville, John Knox, 1996. 196 pp. \$23.00 hb. *Good, brief, source material for preaching Numbers as it addresses contemporary concerns in light of the text and discusses alternate views. Though Olson holds to multiple redactors of the text, this does not become an overly technical emphasis.*
- 3 Philip, James. *Numbers*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. 364 pp. \$18.95. *Engaging style, strong application of the text for the lay person and pastor by a Scottish minister, quotes other scholars and interacts with NT parallels, scholarly.*
- 4 Harrison, R. K. *Numbers*. Formerly Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990. Now published by Baker, 1993. xvi/452 pp. \$25.95. *Evangelical, strong in verse-by-verse, exposition, history and Ancient Near East backgrounds, and theology. Unfortunately, Moody has discontinued this series.*
- 5 Ashley, Timothy R. *The Book of Numbers*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. xvi + 667 pp. \$34.99 hb. *Conservative (evangelical but some concessions to the historical-critical view) and thorough treatment by a professor of biblical studies at Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia, Canada. He tackles the difficulties of the text head-on, carefully citing his sources and writing in a readable fashion. While holding somewhat to Mosaic authorship, he allows for divine inspiration of editors to the text by saying that "Moses may be seen as having a key role in the origin of some of the material in Numbers, though we have no way of knowing how much of it goes back to him" (p. 7).*
- 6 Maarsingh, B. *Numbers*. John Vriend. Text and Interpretation Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 122 pp. Paper, \$6.95. *Inexpensive, clear, concise, complete, numerous helpful explanations, helpful insights from related languages (e.g. Targums), and especially helpful in answering the purpose certain sections of Numbers were included by drawing on his knowledge of ancient Near Eastern customs, culture, and the Hebrew language, both a practical and spiritually nourishing commentary.*
- 7 Allen, Ronald B. "Numbers" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 2: *Genesis-Numbers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. 1024 pp. \$34.95. *Addresses problem of large numbers, introduction includes theological themes, notes Moses' purpose to include and arrange the material, emphasis on worship. Allen teaches OT at Dallas Seminary.*
- 8 Milgrom, J. *Numbers*. JPS Torah Commentary. Jewish Publication Society, 1990. lxi+520 pp. \$49.95 hb. *Careful study of both details and larger message of the whole book, 77 excellent studies, brings insights in from medieval Jewish commentators whose books have not been translated into English, prints the Hebrew text, but very expensive (though twice the length of Levine's JPS commentary on Leviticus for the same price).*

Deuteronomy

- 1 Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. New American Commentary. Broadman, 1994. *Evangelical commentary by a renown scholar, more up-to-date than Craigie. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary.*
- 2 Craigie, P. C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. 424 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Conservative, excellent theology and philology, argues for the unity of the book with a suzerain-vassal design.*
- 3 Thompson, J. A. *Deuteronomy*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1974. 320 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative, shorter than Craigie but very helpful, points out treaty analogy and NT relevance, includes an excellent essay on the date of the book, affordable.*
- 4 Payne, D. F. *Deuteronomy*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985. 197 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$7.95 pb. *Clear, non-technical, style with good information divided into 80 sections, each with a catchy title. Remains open as to date, notes how Deuteronomy is especially relevant to times of political disaster as a book of law, as a sermon, and as history.*
- 5 Miller, Patrick D. *Deuteronomy*. Interpretation Series. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. 264 pp. \$21.95. *A theological commentary (not verse-be-verse) but with good discussions of structure (literary form) to clarify the meaning of the text, dates the book in Josiah's era, moderately critical but deals with content rather than criticism. Miller teaches at Princeton Theological Seminary.*

Joshua

- 1 Woudstra, Marten H. *The Book of Joshua*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. xiv+396 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Conservative, well outlined, good biblical theological and exegetical comments; some good literary notes.*
- 2 Butler, Trent. *Joshua*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX: Word, 1983. 304 pp. CBD \$20.95 hb. *Helpful for interaction with Hebrew text from a moderately conservative position.*
- 3 Auld, A. G. *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984. 290 pp. \$15.95. *Short and critical of historicity but readable and with theological insight.*
- 4 Boling, Robert G. and Wright, G. E. *Joshua*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1982. *Wright died during production of the volume, so his student Boling wrote most of it, critical in approach to text and theology, but emphasizes history and archeology.*

Judges

- 1 Hamlin, E. J. *Judges: At Risk in the Promised Land*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. xii+182 pp. \$12.95 pb. *Brief, but compares with other contemporary cultures (esp. Chinese), insightful theological and practical perspectives.*
- 2 Auld, A. G. *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984. 290 pp. \$15.95. *Short, liberal, critical of historicity yet readable and with theological insight.*
- 3 Cundall, Arthur E. and Morris, Leon. *Judges and Ruth*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1968. 318 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative on historicity (sees Judges as complementary to Joshua, not contradictory), brief. Ruth by Morris is also a good buy.*

- 4 Boling, Robert G. *Judges*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1975. xxi+338 pp. \$18.00 hb. *Helpful extra-biblical detail on history, comparative studies (e.g., with covenant treaties), and philology, but critical (sees the conquest resulting from a peasant revolt) and poor in literary and theological issues.*
- 5 Soggin, J. Albert. *Judges*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981. xx+305 pp. \$21.95 hb. *Critical, technical, good bibliography, but lacking theological statements.*

Ruth

- 1 Hubbard, R. L., Jr. *The Book of Ruth*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. xiv+317 pp. \$26.95 hb. *Outstanding (one of the best in the NICOT series); extensive introduction addressing unity, theology, canonicity, text, etc.; readable, careful scholarship, comprehensive, balanced judgment.*
- 2 Campbell, Edward F., Jr. *Ruth*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1975. xx+189 pp. \$18.00 hb. *Readable, stimulating; good discussion of theology, narrative art, archeology, background social practices (levirate marriage, kinsman redeemer, removal of the sandal, etc.), literary analysis, and textual criticism but weak in syntax.*
- 3 Atkinson, D. *The Message of Ruth*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1983. 128 pp. \$9.95 pb. *Interesting, good illustrations, focuses on providence.*
- 4 Auld, A. G. *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984. 290 pp. \$15.95. *Short and critical of historicity but readable and with theological insight.*
- 5 Cundall, Arthur E. and Morris, Leon. *Judges and Ruth*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1968. 318 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative treatment by Morris (a New Testament scholar who demonstrates here a good knowledge of the OT and its background), brief, Judges (Cundall) also good buy.*

1 & 2 Samuel

- 1 Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1983. xxxiii+307 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Strong on form-critical, philological, and historical issues with an exhaustive bibliography but weak on literary and theological matters and unfortunately emends the text.*
- 1 Anderson, A. A. *2 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. xl+302 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Critical, readable, well-organized, thoroughly researched, exegetically cautious and yet creative, exhaustive bibliography, helpful with text-critical matters and structure/setting/form, but unfortunately emends the text by references to a "Deuteronomist" editor and has many typographical errors. A model commentary!*
- 2 Brueggemann, W. *First and Second Samuel*. Interpretation. Philadelphia: John Knox, 1990. x+362 pp. \$24.95 hb. *A fascinating, exciting study from a moderate critic who takes a canonical approach to the text.*
- 3 Gordon, R. P. *1 and 2 Samuel: A Commentary*. Exeter Paternoster, 1986; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 375 pp. \$17.95 pb. *Refreshing literary reading with theological insight and some philological and textual comments.*
- 4 McCarter, P. Kyle, Jr. *1 Samuel and 2 Samuel*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1980, 1984. xii+475 pp. \$19.95 hb. xviii+553 pp. \$22.00 hb. *Best textual notes of any commentary on Samuel but doesn't follow the Masoretic Text like Klein's commentary, interacts with Dead Sea Scrolls, helpful bibliography.*
- 5 Payne, David F. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982. *Popular level, practical, good analysis of books as literature and theologically.*

1 & 2 Kings

- 1 Rice, G. *1 Kings: Nations under God*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. xv+198 pp. \$10.95 pb. *Strong in interpretation for preaching concerns and in "theological reflections" sections.*
- 1 Hobbs, T. R. *2 Kings*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1985. xlviii+388 pp. *Argues for unity of the book, addresses literary concerns, insightful, and interesting.*
- 2 Nelson, R. *First and Second Kings*. Interpretation. Philadelphia: John Knox, 1987. 252 pp. \$19.95 hb. *Strong in theology and literature aspects rather than history, interesting.*
- 3 Jones, G. H. *1 and 2 Kings*. 2 vols. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. *Well-researched, fully documented, good discussions of history and text-critical matters but weak in theology and literary elements.*
- 4 Dilday, Russell H. *1, 2 Kings*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. 512 pp. \$23.99. *Excellent exposition by the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, easy-to-read style but with thorough research (many footnotes), deals with alternate views, unusually good and appropriate illustrations; unfortunately, the introduction lacks discussion of the book's theological purpose and the commentary tends to be moralistic.*
- 5 Long, Burke O. *1 Kings: With An Introduction to Historical Literature*. The Forms of the Old Testament Literature, 9. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. *Form-critical, helpful for theology.*
- 6 Patterson, R. D. and Austel, Hermann J. "1 and 2 Kings" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 4: *1 Kings-Job*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 1060 pp. *Thorough, insightful, warmhearted, excellent bibliographies, good with alternate views, evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 300 pages.*

1 & 2 Chronicles

- 1 Dillard, Raymond B. *2 Chronicles*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xxiii+323 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Makes 2 Chronicles come alive by excellent analysis of its theology, background, and NT connections.*
- 1 Braun, Roddy L. *1 Chronicles*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1986. xlv+311 pp. \$22.99 hb. *Good overall treatment of 1 Chronicles, bibliographies, sensitive exegesis, and interaction with OT theology.*
- 2 Allen, Leslie C. *1, 2 Chronicles*. Mastering the Old Testament (formerly The Communicator's Commentary). Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. 445 pp. \$19.99 hb. *Well written with deep research and appropriate for laypersons, pastors, and other Christian leaders.*
- 3 Williamson, H. G. M. *1 and 2 Chronicles*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. xix+428 pp. \$14.95 pb. *Excellent theology, bibliography to periodical literature, exegesis by an expert in postexilic history, but moderately critical in perspective.*
- 4 Wilcock, Michael. *The Message of Chronicles*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1987. 288 pp. \$8.95 pb. *More of a sermon than a commentary as it stresses application to original readers and to today (sees Chronicles as sermonic history), strong on structure and emphases, very readable and enjoyable style, upholds inerrancy. Wilcock was formerly director of pastoral Studies at Trinity College, Bristol, and now is vicar of St. Nicholas' Church, Durham, England. He has also written The Message of Luke and The Message of Revelation in this series.*
- 5 Merrill, Eugene H. *1, 2 Chronicles*. Bible Study Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 173 pp. *Explains the purpose of each section of text (e.g., genealogies), good*

background and depth. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary and wrote the Chronicles commentary in the Bible Knowledge Commentary (so if you have BKC perhaps you should purchase another perspective on these books).

- 6 Myers, Jacob M. *1 and 2 Chronicles: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. 2 vols. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1965. xciv+241 pp. \$14.00 hb/267 pp. \$16.00 hb. *Takes text at face value, strong in historical perspective, but weak theologically, somewhat dated, and somewhat liberal.*

Ezra-Nehemiah

- 1 Williamson, H. G. M. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1985. xix+428 pp. \$28.00 hb. (CBD \$20.95). *Full textual notes and discussion of theses on the books' composition, comprehensive, but adheres to unacceptable critical presuppositions despite the claim Williamson is an evangelical. He teaches at Cambridge University and specializes in postexilic literature.*
- 2 Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. xiii+288 pp. \$19.95 hb. *Relatively conservative, good background material (esp. on history and culture), supports biblical order of Ezra-Nehemiah, addresses philology and theology.*
- 3 Clines, David J. A. *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. 342 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Well researched, scholarly yet clear, addresses controversies on historical background and Esther's historicity, inexpensive, but liberal.*
- 4 Kidner, Derrick. *Ezra and Nehemiah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1979. 174 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Similar in approach to Fensham in scholarly treatment but easier to read, emphasizing theology and history.*
- 5 McConville, J. Gordon. *Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985. xii+197 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$7.95 pb. *Popular, readable, addresses relevance to OT and modern audiences but moderately critical.*
- 6 Blenkinsopp, J. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1988. 366 pp. \$29.95 hb. *Informative of contemporary scholarship but departs from it at points, approaches the books in canonical form but also stresses diachronic analysis; overpriced compared to other volumes of equal scholarship and liberal.*
- 7 Myers, Jacob M. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1965. lxxxiii+267 pp. \$16.00 hb. *Critical, follows typical liberal trend to place Nehemiah before Ezra chronologically against biblical evidence, good historical information, but weak in word studies, literary structure, style, and theology.*
- 8 Yamauchi, Edwin M. "Ezra-Nehemiah" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 4: 1 Kings-Job. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 1060 pp. *Excellent bibliographic info, evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 208 pages. He's an expert in Persian history.*

Esther

- 1 Jobes, Karen H. *Esther*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. *Recent, conservative study which applies the text. Jobes is Lecturer in New Testament Greek at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*
- 2 Baldwin, Joyce G. *Esther*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1984. 126 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Fairly conservative, supports historicity intellectually, well-researched and written, excellent literary and theological analysis.*

- 3 Moore, C. A. *Esther*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1971. xiv+118 pp. \$14.00 hb. *Critical, helpful background materials (esp. on canonicity and historicity), but denies historicity of parts of Esther and doubts the historical accuracy of the Old Testament and the purity of the Hebrew Old Testament text (contrary to archaeology which consistently has proven the text correct). However, Moore does date Esther in the late Persian period, that is, the early fourth century.*
- 4 McConville, J. Gordon. *Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985. xii+197 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$7.95 pb. *Popular, readable, addresses relevance to OT and modern audiences.*
- 5 Murphy, Roland E. *Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Canticles, Ecclesiastes, Esther*. Forms of Old Testament Literature. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. 185 pp. \$16.95 pb. *Not too technical, clearly explains the text, excellent bibliographies, but brief and expensive.*
- 6 Huey, F. B. "Esther" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 4: *1 Kings-Job*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 67 pages, helpful with varying interpretations.*

Job

- 1 Hartley, John E. *The Book of Job*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. 591 pp. \$27.95. *Scholarly yet readable, evangelical, extensive notes, comprehensive text, discusses purpose of each passage, holds to single authorship but in seventh century, chapter 28 not written or spoken by Job or contemporaries, and other problems. Hartley is chairman of Biblical Studies and professor of Old Testament in the Graduate School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University.*
- 2 Clines, David J. A. *Job 1–20*. Word Biblical Commentary, 17. Dallas: Word, 1989. cxv+501 pp. \$24.95 hb. *The most extensive commentary on Job since Gregory the Great (p. xiii) with a 115 page introduction alone, stimulating and insightful, holds to seventh to second century authorship, exhaustive bibliographies, massive material (more thorough than Hartley but only addresses chapters 1–20), both analysis and synthesis (literary and theological insight good too), but sees the redeemer of 19:25 as Job himself.*
- 3 Rowley, Harold H. *The Book of Job*. Rev. from 1970 edition. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980. xix+281 pp. \$10.95 pb. *Thorough, cites alternate opinions, insightful, balanced, less than half the price of Pope, but critical, argues that Job was pieced together (composite approach), and is an older commentary (and thus more out of date).*
- 4 McKenna, David L. *Job*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1986. 331 pp. \$18.95. *The best homiletical commentary on Job (designed for preaching and teaching), prepared by the president of Asbury Theological Seminary, well written, clear, conservative, good outline, but falsely sees Job moving toward God ("faith development") rather than away from God.*
- 5 Murphy, Roland E. *Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Canticles, Ecclesiastes, Esther*. Forms of Old Testament Literature. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. 185 pp. \$16.95 pb. *Not too technical, clearly explains the text, good bibliographies, but brief and expensive for its size.*
- 6 Habel, Norman C. *The Book of Job*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985. 586 pp. \$35.95. *Each chapter has fourfold design (translation, textual notes, design, and message in context), integrates literary and theological features, creative, but unfortunately amends text, points to postexilic date, and considers Behemoth and Leviathan (chs. 40–41) mythical creatures.*

- 7 Pope, Marvin H. *Job: Introduction, Translation and Notes*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980. lxxxvii+409 pp. \$20.00 hb. *Critical, interacts with Ugaritic, original, fresh, well-documented, excellent word studies, but weak on synthesis and not as good as his Song of Songs commentary.*

Psalms

- 1 Kraus, Hans-Joachim. 2 vols. *Psalms 1–59 and Psalms 60–150*. Continental. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1987, 1989. 560, 554 pp. \$41.00 ea. hb. (\$34.95 ea. CBD). *Liberal but excellent quality and extensive treatment.*
- 2 Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1–50*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1983. 375 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Conservative; addresses language (esp. Ugaritic), background material, and message of each psalm; weak in theology, NT parallels, and poetical comments. One of the best commentaries available on any book of the Bible. Craigie was Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Calgary until his death in 1985.*
- 3 Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101–150*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1983. 342 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Moderately conservative, very good in language (e.g., Ugaritic) and excellent at showing how structure of a psalm contributes to its message; weak in NT parallels.*
- 4 Williams, Donald M. *Psalms*. 2 vols. Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1986, 1989. 493, 543 pp. \$19.99 (ea.) hb. *Scholarly yet readable, focuses on how to communicate the message of each psalm, including interesting illustrations. Williams pastors Vineyard Christian Fellowship of the Coast in San Diego, California and has also written Signs, Wonders, and the Kingdom of God.*
- 5 Anderson, A. A. *The Book of Psalms*. 2 vols. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. 966 pp. for both vols. \$10.95 (ea.) pb. *Good, contemporary introduction on types of psalms and Hebrew parallelism, but too brief, lacks some conservative viewpoints (premillennial on royal psalms), and confined by the series format. Anderson teaches OT at Manchester University, Manchester, England.*
- 6 VanGemenen, Willem A. "Psalms" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 5: *Psalms-Song of Songs*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. *Helpful discussion of pertinent Hebrew terms to non-Hebrew readers, conservative, points to fulfillment of psalms in Jesus Christ but future aspects of his rule are not clearly stated in the commentary (pp. 65-66, 590), many appendixes cover literary approaches to the Psalms, genre, and psalm titles. VanGemenen teaches OT at Reformed Theological Seminary. Psalms covers 880 pages of the volume.*
- 7 Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 1–72 and Psalms 73–150*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973, 1975. x+492 pp. \$14.95 (ea.) hb./\$8.95 (ea.) pb. *Excellent in theology, practicality, introduction (esp. discussion of difficult words in psalm titles), and low price; concise but too brief and weak in the Hebrew text.*
- 8 Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 51–100*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1990. 578 pp. *Evangelical, Ugaritic parallels.*
- 9 Alden, Robert. 3 vols. *Psalms*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1974, 1975, 1976. 124, 124, 112 pp. respectively. *Concise treatment of each psalm from an evangelical perspective, making it easy to determine the main idea of each psalm but not providing much data for further, more detailed questions.*

Proverbs

- 1 Phillips, John. *Exploring Proverbs*. 2 vols. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux, 1995, 1996. Vol. 1 [1:1–19:5]: 591 pp. Vol. 2 [19:6–31:31]: 639 pp. \$25.00/each hb. *Excellent preaching material for verse-by-verse exposition, several alliterative outlines and illustrations (illustration index is 25 pages long!). "Rather than a technical commentary, this book is*

more popular in its treatment, illustrating each proverb by illustrations from science, nature, fiction, history, personal experience, and the Scriptures" (Roy B. Zuck in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 152 [Oct-Dec 1995]: 498).

- 2 Hubbard, Donald A. *Proverbs. Mastering the Old Testament.* (Formerly Communicator's Commentary.) Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. 487 pp. *Scholarly yet practical and readable; addresses six principles of interpreting Proverbs and guidelines on figures of speech and literary devices; treats chapters 10–31 topically; helpful for preaching.*
- 3 Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.* New American Commentary. Broadman, 1993. 448 pp. *Evangelical, semi-technical, and recent.*
- 4 McKane, W. *Proverbs: A New Approach.* Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1970. xvii+670 pp. *Excellent for the language and structure of the book and individual proverbs, but critical and liberal; sometimes unsubstantiated in perspective and thus not as useful for the lay reader and pastor as for the scholar.*
- 5 Ross, Allen P. "Proverbs" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary.* Vol. 5: Psalms-Song of Songs. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. *Excellent discussion of pertinent Hebrew terms, conservative. Ross previously taught Hebrew at Dallas but since 1990 has taught at the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry. Proverbs covers 251 pages of the volume.*
- 6 Kidner, Derek. *The Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary.* Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1964. 192 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Brief, inexpensive, includes synthesis, theologically oriented but exegetically sensitive, evangelical, but not well-substantiated as it is too short to include many opposing views and full bibliography.*
- 7 Aitken, Kenneth T. *Proverbs.* The Daily Bible Study Series. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986. 264 pp. \$15.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Liberal, discusses chapters 1–9 section by section and chapters 10–31 by topic, based on RSV, good on alternate views and translations but sometimes unclear as to his own interpretation, is critical in viewpoint, holds to a 5th or 4th century BC date (p. 2), and neglects to discuss Hebrew parallelism.*
- 8 Woodcock, Eldon. *Proverbs.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 237 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Introductory matters and topical arrangement of the book, chapters conclude with questions and suggestions for further study.*
- 9 Delitzsch, Franz. *Biblical Commentary on the Proverbs of Solomon.* 2 vols. Trans. by M. G. Easton. N.p., 1872; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, n.d. *Best for exegesis of individual proverbs but requires knowledge of Hebrew, errors on word studies and little help in synthesis; also, as an older commentary it did not have access to the latest research.*

Ecclesiastes

- 1 Murphy, Roland E. *Ecclesiastes.* Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1992. lxi + 170 pp. \$22.99. hb. *Liberal (sees the book written by another postexilic author rather than Solomon), Catholic, thorough, respected scholar who has written several commentaries on the wisdom literature. Roy B. Zuck notes concerning Murphy's work, "After discussing the views of about 20 authors on the structure and outline of Ecclesiastes, Murphy presents his own outline based on that of Addison G. Wright, who divides the book into two major parts (1:12–6:9 and 6:10–11:6. Murphy sees the book as having four other parts: a prologue (1:1–11), a psalm on youth and old age (11:7–12:7), an inclusio (12:8), and an epilogue (12:9–14). In each of 21 sections of Ecclesiastes, Murphy presents a bibliography; "notes" (technical comments on the Hebrew); form, structure, and setting; "comment"; and "explanation"—a format followed in other works in the Word Biblical Commentary series. Written for serious students of Ecclesiastes, this book "has attempted a balanced interpretation between the absurd and the joyful—hallmarks of Qoheleth" (book jacket)" (BibSac 151 [April-June 1994]: 241).*

- 2 Kidner, Derek. *A Time to Mourn and a Time to Dance*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1976. 110 pp. \$9.95 pb. *Well-written, strong in application, very popular, brief and inexpensive treatment, but by an evangelical expert in wisdom literature.*
- 3 Whybray, R. N. *Ecclesiastes*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989. xxiii+179 pp. \$13.95 pb. *Good on Hebrew grammar and syntax and avoids amending the text, good discussions of difficult texts, sees the author as a realist who sees the inconsistencies in a world under the curse but with God's overarching control and desire for man to enjoy life. Unfortunately, liberal as it holds to a 3rd century date, refers to Solomon as a "fiction," and sees no progression in the book (divides it into 34 "unrelated" sections).*
- 4 Crenshaw, J. L. *Ecclesiastes*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987. 192 pp. \$19.95 hb. *Profound, depressive (makes the author a pessimist), moderately critical, but not too technical.*
- 5 Hubbard, D. A. *Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon*. Mastering the Old Testament. Dallas, TX: Word, 1992. (Formerly Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.) *Short, lay-oriented, but insightful, especially in comparing purpose in Christ with futility expressed by the author of Ecclesiastes. Constable notes regarding this book, "Ecclesiastes is among the most difficult books in the Old Testament to interpret because of the writer's viewpoint and his numerous figures of speech. Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, has provided interpretive help in both of these areas. He does not dodge difficult passages, but often gives several possible meanings and expresses his preference. He is a competent Hebrew scholar, and he discusses the Hebrew words in an unoffensive way. He has made use of more technical commentaries and gives credit where it is due. His view of "the Preacher" (Qoheleth) follows Michael V. Fox, who believed he was a sage who lived sometime between 400 and 250 BC. Qoheleth, he says, adopted the persona or mask of Solomon to appeal to Solomon's disciples and to correct the errors in their thinking. This is a speculative position for which there is no historical evidence. Most conservative interpreters of this book have taken the writer's identification in Ecclesiastes 1:1 at face value and have concluded that he was Solomon. Each chapter of the commentary on Ecclesiastes begins with a good contemporary illustration and concludes with an epilogue that brings in the similar teaching of Jesus, 'a greater wise man'" (BibSac 149 [Jul-Sep 1992]: 378).*
- 6 Anderson, Don. *Ecclesiastes: Mid-Life Crisis*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1987. 267 pp. \$7.95. *Contrary to the common perspective that Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes at the end of his life, Anderson sees Solomon in mid-life crisis; balanced treatment, sees Solomon as pessimistic with brief flashes of wisdom.*
- 7 Eaton, Michael A. *Ecclesiastes: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1983. *Good correlation of theological ideas with other OT and NT books, good word studies and homiletical insights but weak on Hebrew syntax, synthesis of argument, and unsuccessful efforts to treat Qohelet as a "preacher of joy."*
- 8 Swindoll, Charles R. *Living on the Ragged Edge: Coming to Terms with Reality*. Dallas: Word, 1985. 382 pp. *Fresh treatment in a simple sermonic form.*
- 9 Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down and A Time to Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. 422 pp. *This expands upon his earlier study (Qohelet and His Contradictions, 1987 JSOT Supplement 71), this time taking a most positive view. However, he still does not accept Solomonic authorship and postulates a 400-250 BC date. Fox is a professor of Jewish studies at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.*
- 10 Longman, Tremper, III. *Ecclesiastes*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. 306 pp. \$35.00 hb. *Genre and structure-based examination of the text (sees hebel as "meaningless" so life is meaningless without God), arguing against Solomonic authorship, and sees the book as a pessimistic creation except for the introduction and conclusion. Longman formerly chaired the OT department at*

Westminster Seminary but now serves at Westmont College in California. See Zuck's evaluation in BibSac 155 (April-June 1998): 242-43.

Song of Songs

- 1 Glickman, S. Craig. *(Song of Songs) A Song for Lovers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1976. 188 pp. \$7.95 pb. *Practical, sees the book as stages of romance (courtship to wedding procession/honeymoon night to maturing marriage), conservative exposition; unfortunately out of print. While not as scholarly as the volumes below, nonetheless helpful in seeing the book as a unit.*
- 2 Murphy, Roland E. *The Song of Songs*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1990. xxii+227 pp. \$21.95 hb. *Excellent concern for theology, introduction (esp. summarizing the history of interpretation of the book), liberal Catholic.*
- 3 Pope, Marvin H. *Song of Songs*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1977. xxi+743 pp. \$22.00 hb. *Controversial perspective which claims the Song depicts love in the context of ancient burial cults (!), but responds to other views as well (55 page bibliography); an immense source of literary, linguistic, and historical information.*
- 4 Carr, Lloyd G. *The Song of Solomon*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1984. 175 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Practical, brief, scholarly, excellent on introductory matters and themes, basically agrees with Glickman's thesis but sees book as series of poems in no sequential order (open approach to authorship).*
- 5 Hubbard, D. A. *Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon*. Mastering the Old Testament. Dallas, TX: Word, 1992. (Formerly Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.) *Short, lay-oriented, but insightful, especially in comparing purpose in Christ with futility expressed by the author of Ecclesiastes.*
- 6 Davidson, R. *Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986. viii+162 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$7.95 pb. *Views the Song as a collection of love poems, has helpful analysis of the imagery within the text, is one of the more critical volumes in the series.*

Isaiah

- 1 Martin, Alfred, and Martin, John. *Isaiah: The Salvation of Jehovah*. Chicago: Moody, 1983. *Evangelical, dispensational premillennial approach by a father-son team of scholars. Sees the thrust of Isaiah as depicting the restoration of the created order in an earthly millennium.*
- 2 Oswalt, J. *Isaiah*. 2 vols. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986, 1998. Vol. 1: 672 pp. Vol. 2: 755 pp. Vol. 1 \$34.95 (\$19.95 CBD) hb. *Conservative, amillennial, well-researched.*
- 3 Westermann, Claus. *Isaiah 40–66*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969. iv+429 pp. \$21.95 hb. *Insightful but argues for deuterio- and trito-Isaiah (critical bias), amillennial.*
- 4 Motyer, J. Alec. *The Prophecy of Isaiah*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993. *Takes a strong position on the unity of the book, arguing from literary links between sections; exhaustive in approach.*
- 5 Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*. 3 vols. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965-72. *Evangelical, amillennial, thorough, but tedious writing style. Young's NICOT work here has been replaced by Oswalt's.*
- 6 Ridderbos, J. *Isaiah*. Bible Student's Commentary. Trans. John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. vii+580 pp. \$24.95. *Quality exegesis and arguments regarding unity and dating, supports Isaianic authorship but unfortunately makes an exception on the*

Cyrus oracles. Translation of original Dutch version published in 1950-51. Not a critical commentary, based on the NIV.

- 7 Clements, R. E. *Isaiah 1-39*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980. xvi+301 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Inexpensive, concise, easy reading, sensitive exegesis, interacts with recent literature, but some subjective conclusions and critical bent.*

Jeremiah

- 1 Thompson, J. A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. xii+819 pp. \$29.95 hb. *Exhaustive, evangelical and traditional approach with Jeremiah as a real, historical person; however, he does allow for some edited, non-Jeremiah sections.*
- 2 Guest, John. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1988. 390 pp. \$18.95. *Faithful to the text and historically accurate while relevant to modern audience, clear and concise with application and section titles for preaching, insightful, interacts with New Testament, brief on some sections and non-dispensational.*
- 3 Davidson, R. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. 2 vols. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983, 1985. 176 pp. \$12.95 hb./\$6.95 pb.; 224 pp. \$14.95./\$7.95 pb. *Jeremiah is addressed in all of the first volume and most of the second; critical approach in the introduction but not the text; easy to understand, good exposition, nondispensational.*
- 4 Bright, John. *Jeremiah: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1965. cxliv+372 pp. (i.e., 516 pp.) \$20.00 hb. *Thorough, historical, good theological and literary comments, comments on Jeremiah in a reconstructed chronological (not Jeremiah's topical) order, but overly critical, 466 pages.*
- 5 Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Jeremiah*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1987. 176 pp. \$8.95 pb. *A readable, expository, and practical work, good on structure, but weak on Jeremiah 30-33 in tracing unfulfilled prophecies on the restoration of Israel as it spiritualizes these, excellent devotional reading.*
- 6 Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah*. 2 vols. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986, 1989. xxii+682 pp. \$44.95 hb.; xxxi+543 pp. \$44.95 hb. *Well presented and exhaustive, but very expensive (\$90 for both vols.) and critical.*

Lamentations

- 1 Hillers, Delbert. *Lamentations: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972; revised, 1993. xlviii+116 pp. (164 pp.) Original ed. \$8.95 hb. CBD/revised ed. \$18.95 CBD. *Exegetical, brings in Near Eastern literary background, but weak literary emphasis and critical.*
- 2 Davidson, R. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. 2 vols. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983, 1985. 176 pp. \$12.95 hb./\$6.95 pb.; 224 pp. \$14.95./\$7.95 pb. *Lamentations is addressed in the second volume; vivid; concise; presents several modern illustrations akin to Jerusalem's destruction; easy to understand, good exposition, nondispensational.*
- 3 Kaiser, Walter. *A Biblical Approach to Suffering*. Chicago: Moody, 1982. *Useful for preaching and practical application. Kaiser teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston.*
- 4 Harrison, R. K. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973. 240 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Brief, good for laypeople, with excellent treatment of history, theology, and the origins of certain terms.*

- 5 Roberts, J. M. *Lamentations*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1994. *Up-to-date technical material from Qumran, moderately liberal.*
- 6 Ellison, H. L. "Lamentations." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 6: *Isaiah—Ezekiel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. *Insights from a former missionary to Jews in Poland.*

Ezekiel

- 1 Alexander, Ralph H. "Ezekiel." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 6: *Isaiah—Ezekiel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. *Premillennial, dispensational, deals fairly with opposing views, 260 pp. He also has a commentary on Ezekiel published by Moody (1976).*
- 2 Block, Daniel I. *The Book of Ezekiel*. 2 vols. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. xxii + 887 pp. \$48.00 hb. *Evangelical, well informed (massive volume on only Ezekiel 1–24), clear interaction with alternate views while rejecting speculative opinions; unfortunately only covers the first half of the book at present so Alexander is a more complete buy..*
- 3 Allen, Leslie C. *Ezekiel 20–48*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1990, 1994. *Moderately conservative, nondispensational, good applications.*
- 4 Feinberg, Charles L. *The Prophecy of Ezekiel*. Chicago: Moody, 1969. 286 pp. \$12.95 hb. *Scholarly yet practical; premillennial, dispensational; originally produced as a series of articles in a popular Christian magazine so easily read by a lay audience; emphasizes the theological message of the book.*
- 5 Clements, Ronald E. *Ezekiel*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. x + 211 pp. \$17.00 *Surprisingly conservative on introductory matters such as authorship (mostly from Ezekiel's hand except chapters 38–39 which are a "very late revision"), application throughout in a pastoral, practical manner.*
- 6 Stuart, Douglas. *Ezekiel*. Mastering the Old Testament. (Formerly Communicator's Commentary.) Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. 429 pp. *Detailed, conservative, amillennial, preaching helps.*
- 7 Zimmerli, Walther. *A Commentary on the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 1–24*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979. xlvii+509 pp.; *A Commentary on the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 1–24*, 1983. xxxiv+606 pp. \$39.95 (ea.) hb. *Most comprehensive, authoritative, and detailed work on Ezekiel. At \$80 also the most expensive. Amillennial.*
- 8 Craigie, Peter. *Ezekiel*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983. *Moderately conservative work in a mostly liberal series.*
- 9 Eichrodt, Walther. *Ezekiel: A Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1970. xiv+594 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Attentive to theology, moderately critical but cautious approach (neither conservative nor liberal) which argues for some non-Ezekiel passages, originally published in German in 1965-66.*

Daniel

- 1 Walvoord, John F. *Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation*. Chicago: Moody, 1971. 320 pp. \$10.95 pb. CBD. *Evangelical, exegetical, expositional, pretribulational, premillennial; interacts well with opposing views. Walvoord is chancellor of Dallas Seminary and has taught prophecy for over 60 years.*
- 2 Archer, Gleason L. "Daniel" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, premillennial, midtribulational. Archer teaches OT at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.*

- 3 Goldingay, John. *Daniel*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. liii+351 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Liberal, amillennial, comprehensive, sees chapters 1–6 as fictitious and the visions as quasi-prophecies.*
- 4 Longman, Tremper III. *Daniel*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. *Amillennial, extensive treatment, recent, applies the text.*
- 5 Wood, Leon. *A Commentary on Daniel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. *Evangelical, exegetical, expository, but weak in argument, theology, and critical/analytical areas. Premillennial, pretribulational.*
- 6 Montgomery, James A. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Daniel*. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1927. *Critical, amillennial, and weak in synthesis, application and theology, but excellent in analysis and thoroughness.*
- 7 Baldwin, Joyce G. *Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1978. *Good in introduction, exposition, and overall structure, but weak in analysis (textual, syntactical, lexical, exegetical issues) and explanation of her millennial position.*
- 8 Phillips, John and Vines, Jerry. *Exploring the Book of Daniel*. Neptune, NJ: Louzeaux Brothers, 1990. 279 pp., plus outline. \$16.95. *Conservative, readable, exposition with many practical applications for preaching and teaching, premillennial, pretribulational. Phillips is a full-time member of Moody Bible Institute's Extension Dept. and Vines is a well-known Southern Baptist pastor (First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida), respectively.*

Hosea

- 1 Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea—Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xlv+537 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Here's the best buy for your money on the minor prophets as five books are carefully covered in a single volume (best on Hosea and Jonah, but also good on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah); evangelical (upholds historicity of Jonah); comprehensive (esp. bibliography); shows how prophets pointed listeners back to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26; includes author, Scripture, and Hebrew word indexes; homiletical insight. Unfortunately, weak in that it: (1) proposes that land and fruitfulness promises to Israel are inherited by the church in Hosea 2:1-3 (p. 41), Joel 3 (p. 262), Amos 9:11-15 (p. 400), and Obadiah (p. 422), (2) does not interact with premillennial interpretations, (3) clutters the text with references which would better be footnoted, and (4) excludes vowel pointing on Hebrew words. Stuart teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell.*
- 2 Andersen, F. I. and Freedman, D. N. *Hosea*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1980. xiii+699 pp. \$20.00 hb. *Massive, thoroughly addresses the Hebrew text, moderately liberal, addresses theology but excessive devotion to syllable counting and deals little with application or conservative views.*
- 3 Hubbard, David Allen. *Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989. 245 pp. *Excellent introduction; good discussion of themes, sovereignty of God, and fulfillment of prophecy (not committed to millennial fulfillment). Weak at some points and much more conservative than Wolff.*
- 4 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Hosea*. Hermeneia. Trans. from 1965 German edition by Gary Stansell. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1974. xxiii+259 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Thorough in text, word studies, bibliography, and argument of smaller sections but weak in argument of larger sections, book as a whole, and shows critical bias.*
- 5 Mays, James Luther. *Hosea*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969. x+190 pp. \$15.95 hb. *Liberal, better exposition and less expensive than Wolff, helpful on*

relevance, theological/historical background, and word studies but weak in exegetical and syntactical alternatives, dissects authorship, amillennial. Mays teaches OT at Union Theological Seminary.

- 6 Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Hosea*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1981. 142 pp. \$9.95 pb. *Scholarly and pastoral in an engaging writing style.*
- 7 Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. "Hosea" in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament Edition*. Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1985. *Premillennial, good in exposition and problem passages, weak for textual and syntactical problems.*
- 8 Limburg, James. *Hosea-Micah*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox, 1988. x+201 pp. \$17.95. *Good for preaching and literary insights but moderately critical in assumptions and relatively brief.*

Joel

- 1 Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990. 417 pp. \$25.95 hb. *Addresses numerous aspects of each book (history, literary matters, theology, word studies, application); more comprehensive indexes (subject, author, Scripture, and Hebrew words) than Stuart and clearer in writing style, page design, Hebrew terms, and footnotes but not as good in bibliography and textual notes; acknowledges a single people of God (p. 81) with still outstanding promises to national Israel; excellent "contemporary context" sections applies each book to modern times; helpful studies which interact with other premillennial and amillennial viewpoints on problem passages; newer than Stuart, Allen or Wolff. Finley chairs the OT department at Talbot Seminary.*
- 2 Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea—Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xlv+537 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Here's the best buy for your money on the minor prophets as five books are carefully covered in a single volume (best on Hosea and Jonah, but also good on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah); evangelical (upholds historicity of Jonah); comprehensive (esp. bibliography); shows how prophets pointed listeners back to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26; includes author, Scripture, and Hebrew word indexes; homiletical insight. Unfortunately, weak in that it: (1) proposes that land and fruitfulness promises to Israel are inherited by the church in Hosea 2:1-3 (p. 41), Joel 3 (p. 262), Amos 9:11-15 (p. 400), and Obadiah (p. 422), (2) does not interact with premillennial interpretations, (3) clutters the text with references which would better be footnoted, and (4) excludes vowel pointing on Hebrew words. Stuart teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell.*
- 3 Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. 427 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Thorough, clear, readable, exposition. Evangelical work on Joel (108 pages) and three other books too. Unfortunately he classifies Jonah as a parable and many evangelicals will disagree with him on other matters.*
- 4 McComiskey, Thomas Edward. *An Exegetical and Expository Commentary on the Minor Prophets*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992, 1993, 1998. *One of the more recent works covering all of the minor prophets.*
- 5 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Joel and Amos*. Hermeneia. Trans. from 1969 German by W. Janzen. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977. xxiv+392 pp. \$29.95 hb. *Thorough in text, technical notes, application, word studies, bibliography, but with critical bias. Joel covers 84 pages and Amos 267 pages. This is the most significant liberal commentary on these books.*
- 6 Hubbard, D. A. *Joel and Amos*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989. 245 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Brief but helpful treatment for a lay audience; includes practical application, theology, and historical backgrounds.*

- 7 Patterson, Richard D. "Joel." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. 725 pp. (37 pp. on Joel.) Concise, premillennial. Patterson chairs the Biblical Studies department at Liberty University.

Amos

- 1 Paul, Shalom M. *Amos*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991. xxvii + 409 pp. \$44.95. The author notes that his work "is a product of several decades of research into and teaching of the Book of Amos" (p. xiii). One reviewer noted, "The detailed linguistic and textual studies, numerous references to extrabiblical sources (which cover six pages in the index, pp. 394-99) and lengthy bibliography support this claim. Those familiar with Amos studies will note that this is the second commentary on Amos to be published in the Hermeneia series. The earlier volume, by Hans Walter Wolff, utilizes a form-critical and redactional approach and divides the book into six literary layers. Paul challenges this method and argues for the essential unity of the book... one comes away from Paul's commentary feeling that one has encountered the ancient prophet face-to-face and heard his message as it was intended to be understood in its 8th century BC context... Other strengths of the commentary are its concise introductions to certain key topics (e.g., the day of the Lord, pp. 182-84), helpful discussions of problematic passages (such as 5:25, pp. 193-94), and a well-organized bibliography (which has both general and topical categories as well as a verse-by-verse section). Though one will not agree with Paul's conclusions in every case, all serious students of the Book of Amos for decades to come must consider and interact with his viewpoints" (reviewed by Chisholm in *BibSac* 149 [Oct 92]: 493).
- 2 Andersen, Francis I. and Freedman, David Noel. *Amos: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1989. xlii+979. A mammoth work, more conservative discussion of the unity of the book than many Anchor volumes although holding to later additions (i.e., moderately conservative), says changes in Amos' message is mostly due to developments in his career rather than to later redactors, premillennial stance on Amos 9:7-15 (p. 904), helpful on argument as well as textual detail, and especially good on Hebrew text. On the negative side, sometimes the reader can get lost in the massive treatment of the text and one would expect more interaction and quotes from other commentators in a volume this vast.
- 3 Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990. 417 pp. \$25.95 hb. Addresses numerous aspects of each book (history, literary matters, theology, word studies, application); more comprehensive indexes (subject, author, Scripture, and Hebrew words) than Stuart and clearer in writing style, page design, Hebrew terms, and footnotes but not as good in bibliography and textual notes; acknowledges a single people of God (p. 81) with still outstanding promises to national Israel; excellent "contemporary context" sections applies each book to modern times; helpful studies which interact with other premillennial and amillennial viewpoints on problem passages; newer than Stuart, Allen or Wolff. Finley chairs the OT department at Talbot Seminary.
- 4 Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea—Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xlv+537 pp. \$24.95 hb. Here's the best buy for your money on the minor prophets as five books are carefully covered in a single volume (best on Hosea and Jonah, but also good on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah); evangelical (upholds historicity of Jonah); comprehensive (esp. bibliography); shows how prophets pointed listeners back to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26; includes author, Scripture, and Hebrew word indexes; homiletical insight. Unfortunately, weak in that it: (1) proposes that land and fruitfulness promises to Israel are inherited by the church in Hosea 2:1-3 (p. 41), Joel 3 (p. 262), Amos 9:11-15 (p. 400), and Obadiah (p. 422), (2) does not interact with premillennial interpretations, (3) clutters the text with references which would better be footnoted, and (4) excludes vowel pointing on Hebrew words. Stuart teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell.
- 5 Smith, Gary V. *Amos: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989. 307 pp. Concise yet nearly exhaustive though too brief an introduction (14 pp.); helpful format with each

section including introduction, structure and unity, interpretation, and theological developments; good for the pastor and informed layman alike.

- 6 Mays, James Luther. *Amos: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969. 176 pp. \$15.95 hb. *Concise yet thorough, superb discussion of message and theology (well written), sound exegesis, amillennial, but liberal, older and contains less detail than other commentaries. Mays teaches OT at Union Theological Seminary.*
- 7 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Joel and Amos*. Hermeneia. Trans. from 1969 German by W. Janzen. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977. xxiv+392 pp. \$29.95 hb. *Thorough in text, technical notes, application, word studies, bibliography, but with critical bias. Joel covers 84 pages and Amos 267 pages. This is the most significant liberal commentary on these books.*
- 8 Hubbard, D. A. *Joel and Amos*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989. 245 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Brief but helpful treatment for a lay audience; includes practical application, theology, and historical backgrounds.*

Obadiah

- 1 Watts, John D. W. *Obadiah: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967. *A conservative to moderate classic on Obadiah with detailed discussion of Hebrew text and theology.*
- 2 Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990. 417 pp. \$25.95 hb. *Addresses numerous aspects of each book (history, literary matters, theology, word studies, application); more comprehensive indexes (subject, author, Scripture, and Hebrew words) than Stuart and clearer in writing style, page design, Hebrew terms, and footnotes but not as good in bibliography and textual notes; acknowledges a single people of God (p. 81) with still outstanding promises to national Israel; excellent "contemporary context" sections applies each book to modern times; helpful studies which interact with other premillennial and amillennial viewpoints on problem passages; newer than Stuart, Allen or Wolff. Finley chairs the OT department at Talbot Seminary.*
- 3 Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea—Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xlv+537 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Here's the best buy for your money on the minor prophets as five books are carefully covered in a single volume (best on Hosea and Jonah, but also good on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah); evangelical (upholds historicity of Jonah); comprehensive (esp. bibliography); shows how prophets pointed listeners back to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26; includes author, Scripture, and Hebrew word indexes; homiletical insight. Unfortunately, weak in that it: (1) proposes that land and fruitfulness promises to Israel are inherited by the church in Hosea 2:1-3 (p. 41), Joel 3 (p. 262), Amos 9:11-15 (p. 400), and Obadiah (p. 422), (2) does not interact with premillennial interpretations, (3) clutters the text with references which would better be footnoted, and (4) excludes vowel pointing on Hebrew words. Stuart teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell.*
- 4 Baker, David W.; Alexander, T. Desmond; and Waltke, Bruce K. *Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Baker's commentary on Obadiah is evangelical and strong in historical background and theology, as is Alexander's on Jonah (which he classifies as didactic historical narrative). Waltke on Micah is the best of the three prophets discussed and from an amillennial perspective. The three authors teach at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio), The Queen's Univ. in Belfast, and Westminster, respectively.*
- 5 Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. 427 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Thorough, clear, readable, exposition. Evangelical though he classifies Jonah as a parable (many evangelicals will disagree with him on other matters).*

- 6 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Obadiah and Jonah*. Trans. M. Kohl. Continental. Augsburg, 1986. 191 pp. \$23.95 hb. *Liberal but thorough in word studies, theology, and textual criticism; layout nice.*
- 7 Gæbelein, Frank E. *Four Minor Prophets*. Chicago: Moody, 1970. *Conservative, dispensational, commentary on Obadiah is the best contribution of the four prophets surveyed.*

Jonah

- 1 Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea—Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1987. xlv+537 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Here's the best buy for your money on the minor prophets as five books are carefully covered in a single volume (best on Hosea and Jonah, but also good on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah); evangelical (upholds historicity of Jonah); comprehensive (esp. bibliography); shows how prophets pointed listeners back to the curses of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26; includes author, Scripture, and Hebrew word indexes; homiletical insight; proposes that land and fruitfulness promises to Israel are inherited by the church in Hosea 2:1-3 (p. 41), Joel 3 (p. 262), Amos 9:11-15 (p. 400), and Obadiah (p. 422). Stuart teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell.*
- 2 Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. 427 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Thorough, clear, readable, exposition. Evangelical work on Joel (108 pages) and three other books too. Unfortunately he classifies Jonah as a parable and many evangelicals will disagree with him on other matters.*
- 3 Baker, David W.; Alexander, T. Desmond; and Waltke, Bruce K. *Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Baker's commentary on Obadiah is evangelical and strong in historical background and theology, as is Alexander's on Jonah (which he classifies as didactic historical narrative). Waltke on Micah is the best of the three prophets discussed and from an amillennial perspective. The three authors teach at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio), The Queen's Univ. in Belfast, and Westminster, respectively.*
- 4 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Obadiah and Jonah*. Trans. M. Kohl. Continental. Augsburg, 1986. 191 pp. \$23.95 hb. *Liberal but thorough word studies, theology, and textual criticism; layout nice.*
- 5 Sasson, J. M. *Jonah*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1991. 401 pp. *Massive volume on such a small biblical book, liberal.*
- 6 Ellison, H. L. "Jonah." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 33 pages, helpful both on introduction and commentary.*

Micah

- 1 Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. 427 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Thorough (176 pp. on Micah), clear, readable, expository, evangelical; excellent on exegesis, structure, history, extensive footnotes, and theology but denies Micah's authorship of 4:6-8 and 7:8-20 and tends to emend the text, sometimes with little or no evidence.*
- 2 Mays, James Luther. *Micah: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976. xii+169 pp. \$15.95 hb. *Valuable word studies, theology and exegesis but denies Micah's authorship except for chapters 1-3 due to critical bias, amillennial, dated, and dominated by critical concerns. Mays teaches OT at Union Theological Seminary.*

- 3 Baker, David W.; Alexander, T. Desmond; and Waltke, Bruce K. *Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Baker's commentary on Obadiah is evangelical and strong in historical background and theology, as is Alexander's on Jonah (which he classifies as didactic historical narrative). Waltke on Micah is the best of the three prophets discussed and from an amillennial perspective. The three authors teach at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio), The Queen's Univ. in Belfast, and Westminster, respectively.*
- 4 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Micah*. Trans. M. Kohl. Continental. Augsburg, 1990. *Liberal but exhaustive in approach.*
- 5 Hillers, K. *Micah*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984. 192 pp. \$17.95 hb. *Liberal yet rejects redaction criticism.*
- 6 McComiskey, Thomas Edward. "Micah." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 51 pages, helpful both on introduction and commentary.*

Nahum

- 1 Patterson, Richard D. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1991. *Excellent, recent, evangelical scholarship which effectively interacts with opposing views (including premillennialists other than himself), includes a helpful contemporary issues section to aid in modern application, very readable in the text yet with numerous footnotes. Patterson chairs the Biblical Studies department at Liberty University.*
- 2 Maier, Walter A. *The Book of Nahum*. St. Louis: Concordia, 1959. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980. 386 pp. \$15.95 pb. *Exhaustive technical study of the Hebrew text, adhering strictly to the MT in a conservative yet incomplete manner. Maier wrote this when ministering as a radio preacher with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is detailed but old.*
- 3 Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. 384 pp. \$28.95 hb. (\$17.95 CBD). *Provides a 50 page introduction with the historical, theological, and prophetic setting of these books; exhaustive bibliography; clear writing style; unique applications for today; unfortunately, weak in word and technical studies. Robertson taught for 20 years at the Reformed, Westminster, and Covenant seminaries and now pastors a Presbyterian church.*
- 4 Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Evangelical, strong in historical background and theology, and interesting writing style. Baker teaches at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio) and has written the TOTC Obadiah commentary as well.*
- 5 Freeman, Hobart. *Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk: Minor Prophets of the Seventh Century BC*. Chicago: Moody, 1973. *This Nahum commentary is the best of the three and very useful, premillennial. Freeman used to teach at Grace Theological Seminary before ministering in the pastorate and itinerant teaching. Consult his An Introduction to the OT Prophets (Moody, 1968) for an excellent treatment of the entire prophetic literature.*
- 6 Roberts, J. J. M. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1991. *Moderately liberal.*

Habakkuk

- 1 Patterson, Richard D. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1991. *Excellent, recent, evangelical scholarship which effectively*

interacts with opposing views (including premillennialists other than himself), includes a helpful contemporary issues section to aid in modern application, very readable in the text yet with numerous footnotes. Patterson chairs the Biblical Studies department at Liberty University.

- 2 Gowan, Donald E. *The Triumph of Faith in Habakkuk*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1976. *Semi-lay-oriented, brief, powerful presentation of the message and application to modern audience, but liberal and dated.*
- 3 Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. x+357 pp. \$28.95 hb. *Provides a 50 page introduction with the historical, theological, and prophetic setting of these books; exhaustive bibliography; clear writing style; unique applications for today; unfortunately, weak in word and technical studies. Robertson taught for 20 years at the Reformed, Westminster, and Covenant seminaries and now pastors a Presbyterian church.*
- 4 Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Evangelical, strong in historical background and theology, and interesting writing style. Baker teaches at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio) and has written the TOTC Obadiah commentary as well.*
- 5 Freeman, Hobart. *Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk: Minor Prophets of the Seventh Century BC*. Chicago: Moody, 1973. *Premillennial. Freeman used to teach at Grace Theological Seminary before ministering in the pastorate and itinerant teaching. Consult his An Introduction to the OT Prophets (Moody, 1968) for an excellent treatment of the entire prophetic literature.*
- 6 Armerding, Carl E. "Habakkuk." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 41 pages, helpful both on introduction and commentary. Armerding wrote this while Principal and Professor of OT at Regent College.*
- 7 Smith, Ralph L. *Micah—Malachi*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1984. xvii+358 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Useful, responsible exegesis in a nice format with technicalities relegated to footnotes, but only 25 pages on Habakkuk. Smith teaches OT at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.*

Zephaniah

- 1 Patterson, Richard D. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1991. *Excellent, recent, evangelical scholarship which effectively interacts with opposing views (including premillennialists other than himself), includes a helpful contemporary issues section to aid in modern application, very readable in the text yet with numerous footnotes. Patterson chairs the Biblical Studies department at Liberty University.*
- 2 Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. x+357 pp. \$28.95 hb. *Provides a 50 page introduction with the historical, theological, and prophetic setting of these books; exhaustive bibliography; clear writing style; unique applications for today; unfortunately, weak in word and technical studies and its amillennial view on Israel's restoration in Zephaniah constrains the text from its full future implications. Robertson taught for 20 years at the Reformed, Westminster, and Covenant seminaries and now pastors a Presbyterian church.*
- 3 Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. 207 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Evangelical, strong in historical background and theology, and interesting writing style. Baker teaches at*

Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, Ohio) and has written the TOTC Obadiah commentary as well.

- 4 Motyer, J. Alec. In *Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. Vol. 3 of *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. xii + 897-1412 pp. \$34.99 hb. *This is the third volume in this scholarly and evangelical series on the Minor Prophets; nice formatting and design with two translations (NRSV and author's), technical and exegetical notes available but not bogging the text down (though only transliterated rather than in actual Hebrew font). Bibliographies and interaction does not include works more recent than 1988 though.*
- 5 Freeman, Hobart. *Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk: Minor Prophets of the Seventh Century BC*. Chicago: Moody, 1973. *Premillennial. Freeman used to teach at Grace Theological Seminary before ministering in the pastorate and itinerant teaching. Consult his An Introduction to the OT Prophets (Moody, 1968) for an excellent treatment of the entire prophetic literature.*
- 6 Smith, Ralph L. *Micah—Malachi*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1984. xvii+358 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Useful, responsible exegesis in a nice format with technicalities relegated to footnotes, but only 25 pages on Zephaniah. Smith teaches OT at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.*
- 7 Walker, Larry Lee. "Zephaniah" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, 30 pages, weak on day of the Lord discussion. Walker teaches OT at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary and seems ambiguous as to his millennial perspective on the book.*
- 8 Kleinart, P. and Elliot, C. *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Minor Prophets*. Ed. John Peter Lange. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1960. *Excellent and user-friendly for laymen.*
- 9 Berlin, Adele. *Zephaniah*. Anchor Bible. Garden City: Doubleday, 1994. *Liberal but exhaustive and up-to-date treatment.*

Haggai

- 1 Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Chicago: Moody, 1994. *Careful exposition with interaction from the Hebrew text, premillennial. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary.*
- 2 Verhoef, P. A. *The Books of Haggai and Malachi*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 364 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Careful exegesis, NT parallels, and theology from a South African expert in postexilic literature; more academic than other NICOT volumes.*
- 3 Motyer, J. Alec. In *Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. Vol. 3 of *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. xii + 897-1412 pp. \$34.99 hb. *This is the third volume in this scholarly and evangelical series on the Minor Prophets; nice formatting and design with two translations (NRSV and author's), technical and exegetical notes available but not bogging the text down (though only transliterated rather than in actual Hebrew font). Bibliographies and interaction does not include works more recent than 1987 though.*
- 4 Baldwin, Joyce. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1972. 253 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative, insightful development of Zechariah and Malachi, exegesis lacking at points.*
- 5 Meyers, Carol L. and Meyers, Eric M. *Haggai, Zechariah 1—8: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary and Zechariah 9—14, Malachi*. (i.e., 2 vols.) The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1987, 1993. 576 pp. \$20.00 hb. *The Meyers are a*

husband-and-wife team of biblical scholars and archaeologists from Duke University in North Carolina. As such, their volumes are filled with archaeological and historical insights from a semi-liberal perspective (though they do place Haggai and Zechariah 1–8 in the same time period).

- 6 Peterson, David L. *Haggai and Zechariah*. 2 vols. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984, 1995. 320 pp. ea. (?) \$24.95 hb. ea. (?) *Critical; reconstructs the historical, sociological, archaeological, and economic background to the text in a clarifying and positive manner without bogging down in irrelevant details.*
- 7 Wolff, Hans Walter. *Haggai*. Continental. Augsburg, 1988. 128 pp. \$21.95 hb. *Clear, concise, insightful, though from a liberal bent.*
- 8 Smith, Ralph L. *Micah–Malachi*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1984. xvii+358 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Useful, good bibliography, covers major themes, excellent treatment of text, responsible exegesis in a nice format with technicalities relegated to footnotes, but only 17 pages on Haggai. Smith teaches OT at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.*
- 9 Pusey, E. B. *The Minor Prophets: A Commentary*. N.p., 1860; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966. *Careful, relevant, detailed exposition which has long lived the test of time despite historical inaccuracies revealed by more recent archeology and scholarship.*

Zechariah

- 1 Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Chicago: Moody, 1994. *Careful exposition with interaction from the Hebrew text, premillennial. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary.*
- 2 Unger, Merrill F. *Zechariah: Prophet of Messiah's Glory*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1963. *Clear, fully outlined within commentary, Hebrew where most needed, tackles difficult problems, conservative, dispensational.*
- 3 McComiskey, Thomas E. In *Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. Vol. 3 of *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. xii + 897-1412 pp. \$34.99 hb. *This is the third volume in this scholarly and evangelical series on the Minor Prophets; nice formatting and design with two translations (NRSV and author's), technical and exegetical notes available but not bogging the text down (though only transliterated rather than in actual Hebrew font). Bibliographies and interaction does not include works more recent than 1993 though.*
- 4 Feinberg, Charles. *God Remembers*. Portland: Multnomah, 1965. *Numerous expositional comments, dispensational.*
- 5 Meyers, Carol L. and Meyers, Eric M. *Haggai, Zechariah 1–8: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary and Zechariah 9–14, Malachi*. (i.e., 2 vols.) The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1987, 1993. 576 pp. \$20.00 hb. *The Meyers are a husband-and-wife team of biblical scholars and archaeologists from Duke University in North Carolina. As such, their volumes are filled with archaeological and historical insights from a semi-liberal perspective (though they do place Haggai and Zechariah 1–8 in the same time period).*
- 6 Baldwin, Joyce. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1972. 253 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative, insightful development of Zechariah and Malachi, exegesis lacking at points.*
- 7 Barker, Kenneth L. "Zechariah" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 7: *Daniel and Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. *Evangelical exposition with textual and lexical footnoting for easier readability, premillennial. Barker edits numerous works*

related to the NIV and Zondervan, and the International Bible Society. His PhD is from the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning.

- 8 Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Zechariah*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1969. *Evangelical, amillennial.*
- 9 Peterson, David L. *Haggai and Zechariah*. 2 vols. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984, 1995. 320 pp. ea. (?) \$24.95 hb. ea. (?) *Critical; reconstructs the historical, sociological, archaeological, and economic background to the text in a clarifying and positive manner without bogging down in irrelevant details.*

Malachi

- 1 Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Chicago: Moody, 1994. *Careful exposition with interaction from the Hebrew text, premillennial. Merrill teaches OT at Dallas Seminary and has also written a top commentary on Deuteronomy as well as Kingdom of Priests (see under Histories of Israel in the reference section.)*
- 2 Verhoef, P. A. *The Books of Haggai and Malachi*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986. 384 pp. \$24.95 hb. *Careful exegesis, NT parallels, and theology from a South African expert in postexilic literature; more academic than other NICOT volumes.*
- 3 Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Malachi: God's Unchanging Love*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984. *Expositional, relevant, some spotty exegesis but an excellent buy, helpful appendices on analysis and usefulness of commentaries; unfortunately out of print. Kaiser teaches OT at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston.*
- 4 Meyers, Carol L. and Meyers, Eric M. *Haggai, Zechariah 1–8: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary and Zechariah 9–14, Malachi*. (i.e., 2 vols.) The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1987, 1993. 576 pp. \$20.00 hb. *The Meyers are a husband-and-wife team of biblical scholars and archaeologists from Duke University in North Carolina. As such, their volumes are filled with archaeological and historical insights from a semi-liberal perspective (though they do place Haggai and Zechariah 1–8 in the same time period).*
- 5 Stuart, Douglas. In *Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. Vol. 3 of *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. xii + 897-1412 pp. \$34.99 hb. *This is the third volume in this scholarly and evangelical series on the Minor Prophets; nice formatting and design with two translations (NRSV and author's), technical and exegetical notes available but not bogging the text down (though only transliterated rather than in actual Hebrew font). Bibliographies and interaction does not include works more recent than 1994 though.*
- 6 Wolf, Herbert. *Haggai and Malachi*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1976. *A thin edition within a popular commentary series, but well written, premillennial.*
- 7 Baldwin, Joyce. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1972. 253 pp. \$14.95 hb./\$8.95 pb. *Conservative, insightful development of Zechariah and Malachi, exegesis lacking at points.*
- 8 Smith, Ralph L. *Micah–Malachi*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1984. xvii+358 pp. \$22.95 hb. *Useful, good introductory section, responsible exegesis in a nice format with technicalities relegated to footnotes, but only 47 pages on Malachi and has questionable conclusions on unity and date. Smith teaches OT at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.*
- 9 Hill, Andrew E. *Malachi*. Anchor Bible. Garden City: Doubleday, 1998. *Exhaustive and recent but liberal.*

New Testament Commentaries

Matthew

- 1 Carson, Donald A. "Matthew." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 8: *Matthew-Luke*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. 599 pp. on Matthew. *Best work for the pastor, helpful grammatical, textual, historical, cultural, theological, and problem passage discussion; a massive work of about 350,000 words with much interaction with recent literature (e.g., on divorce and remarriage in chap. 19 and on the Olivet Discourse in chap. 24); Carson teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS), Deerfield, Illinois.*
- 2 Blomberg, Craig L. *Matthew*. New American Commentary. Broadman, 1993. 464 pp. \$27.50 hb. (\$20.95 CBD). *Evangelical and thorough. Blomberg teaches NT at Denver Seminary.*
- 3 Davies, W. D. and Allison, Dale C. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. 3 vols. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1988, 1991, 1994. *Exhaustive treatment of the Greek text from a moderately critical approach.*
- 4 Hill, David. *The Gospel of Matthew*. New Century Bible Commentary. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972, 1981. 367 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Useful introduction, concise treatment, argues for a date of AD 80-90 and seeks to answer critical arguments, an often quoted work.*
- 5 Brunner, F. D. *The Christbook: A Historical Theological Commentary. Matthew 1–12*. Dallas: Word, 1987. xxx+475 pp. *Looks at how Matthew 1–12 has been interpreted in history and also his grammar and theology, helpful in analysis, better than Carson on synthesis and theological reflection. Brunner teaches at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington.*
- 6 MacArthur, John, Jr. *Matthew*. 4 vols. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1985. 506 pp. (vol. 1), 420 pp. (vol. 3) \$14.95 ea. *Comprehensive (over 300 pages on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7 alone!), evangelical, much collateral material, readable. This is a mine of material in a useful form.*
- 7 Toussaint, Stanley D. *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew*. Portland: Multnomah, 1980. 399 pp. *Shows Matthew's twofold message to prove Jesus as Messiah to unbelieving Jews and to answer for believing Jews why the Kingdom did not come; dispensational, with helpful discussions of alternate views within this system. Toussaint taught NT Bible Exposition at Dallas Seminary for many years.*

Mark

- 1 Lane, William L. *The Gospel According to Mark*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Ed. Matthew Black. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974. xvi+652 pp. \$16.95 hb. *Conservative/evangelical, deals well with the text, based on ASV (1901), sees Mark as showing pastoral concern for Roman Christians under persecution, requires Greek only for reading the footnotes.*
- 2 Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to St. Mark: An Introduction and Commentary*. Cambridge Greek Testament Commentaries. Reprinted (with supplementary notes). Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1959. xvi+494 pp. \$59.95 hb./\$19.95 pb. *Best Greek text work (assumes reader knows Greek), detailed treatment of the text, less conservative than Lane.*
- 3 Gundry, Robert. *Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. *Moderately conservative, posttribulational, very thorough.*
- 4 Mann, C. S. *Mark*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1986. *Liberal.*

- 5 Guelich, Robert A. *Mark 1—8:26*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. *Moderately conservative. Craig Evans is assigned Mark 8:27—16:20.*
- 6 Taylor, Vincent. *The Gospel According to St. Mark: The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes, and Indices*. 2d. ed. New York: St. Martin's, 1966; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981. xxi+700 pp. *A classic on the Greek text, but Taylor is a moderate form critic.*

Luke

- 1 Bock, Darrell. *Luke*. 2 vols. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994-95. 2148 pp. (for both vols.). *Exhaustive treatment, progressive dispensational viewpoint, most up-to-date interaction with the recent literature, helpful excursuses, very clear and readable style. The indexes make it easy to look up sources (they include works cited, subject, author, Greek words, and Scripture). Bock (PhD, Univ. of Aberdeen) teaches NT at Dallas Seminary and has also published two more lay-oriented commentaries on Luke (IVPNTC series by IVP, 1994 and Zondervan's NIV Application Commentary series, 1996). He uses the 4th edition of the UBS Greek text and includes much historical and cultural backgrounds. Yet even readers without much familiarity with technical issues or knowledge of Greek will find even this exhaustive two-volume set still stimulating. This is the most linguistically up-to-date and comprehensive evangelical commentary on Luke, yet Bock transliterates Greek words and outlines issues in different levels of detail by shading text which provide broad overviews. Highly recommended for scholars, pastors, and laypeople alike, assuming you are willing to pay the price of a commentary this size.*
- 2 Marshall, I. Howard. *Commentary on Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. 928 pp. *A huge (though half the size of Bock!), technical commentary strong in details (historical background, grammar, text, bibliography, Lukan terminology, themes, current debates) but with argument difficult to find and questionable judgments on historical details.*
- 3 Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *A Gospel According to Luke*. 2 vols. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1981, 1985. *Most critical scholars think this liberal commentary is better than Marshall on Luke as Marshall is "too conservative"; great helps on word studies, grammar, Luke's theology, background information, and introduction; clear writing style and comprehensive treatment (answers nearly all questions).*
- 4 Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. New American Commentary. Broadman, 1993. *Conservative treatment designed for laymen. He has written several books on the gospels.*
- 5 Liefeld, Walter. "Luke." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 8: *Matthew-Luke*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. Pp. 795-1059. *Helpful grammatical, textual, background, theological (more the argument of verses), and problem passage discussion (esp. harmonization); teaches with Carson at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois.*
- 6 Ellis, E. Earle. *The Gospel of Luke*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974. xxvi+300 pp. *Focuses on argument, highlights Jewish background and themes, excellent introduction (so good Marshall deferred to it rather than writing his own), brief, but each unit has a paragraph given over to major theological teaching; Ellis is an evangelical who teaches at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.*
- 7 Danker, Frederick W. (*Luke*) *Jesus and the New Age*. St. Louis: Clayton, 1972. 225 pp. *Don't let the title throw you as this was written before "new age" became a buzz word; best short commentary on Luke, focusing on argument and theology, based on Greek but in easy to follow style, minimizes apocalyptic elements, excellent first book on Luke, Danker is Lutheran and semi-conservative.*

John

- 1 Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John*. Rev. ed. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971, 1994. xi+936 pp. \$19.95 hb. *Rivals Carson as the best evangelical commentary on John since it is recently updated and easier to comprehend, traces argument, deals with problem passages extensively and refers to Greek text but is not too technical and thus helpful for the average pastor's sermon preparation. See also his Expository Reflections on the Gospel of John (Baker, 1992). Morris served many years as principal of Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia.*
- 2 Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John*. Pillar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. 715 pp. \$29.95. *Outstanding, designed to explain the text of the Gospel to preachers and teachers (so somewhat difficult reading though Greek and Hebrew terms are transliterated and explained), emphasizes synthesis over lexical and grammatical analysis though some tangents, sees the Gospel as evangelistic (not written primarily for believers as most scholars advocate presently), good introduction on theological emphases (though short), structure, and four pages of practical suggestions for preaching from this Gospel. Hall Harris notes that this "may well become the standard conservative work on the Fourth Gospel for the next decade" (Bib Sac 149: 122). Carson teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS), Deerfield, Illinois.*
- 3 Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel According to John*. 2 vols. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1966. cxlvi+1208 pp. (both volumes) \$18.00 ea. *Monumental work by moderately liberal Catholic scholar, sacramental in approach, nicely separates the argument (in "Comment") from the details (in "Notes"), thorough introduction, adheres to a five stage theory of authorship but deals with text as it is, clearly written, but best for scholars. Schnackenburg's three volume commentary is similar to Brown's in its liberal Catholic bent but about \$40 per volume so it is not listed here. Brown teaches Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.*
- 4 Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction with Commentary and Notes on the Greek Text*. 2d. ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1978. xv+638 pp. *Barrett is a moderate Anglican scholar, nice format with footnotes, not strong in argument/theological message, interacts with rabbinic interpretation, extensive indices, second best technical commentary next to Brown's but probably the best on the Greek text (so not recommended for those deficient in Greek), denies John's historical claims but skeptical of other modern reconstructions. Taught at the University of Durham, England.*
- 5 Story, Cullen I. K. *The Fourth Gospel: Its Purpose, Pattern, & Power*. Shippensburg, PA: Ragged Edge, 1997. 498 pp. \$40.00 hb. *Addresses theology and exegesis section by section in a very readable form yet addressing Greek text in a very understandable way by non-Greek readers. Story has taught Hebrew and Greek at Dallas Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary.*
- 6 Bruce, F. F. *The Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. 425 pp. *Competent and clear verse-by-verse exposition from an evangelical scholar, not overly technical as it speaks best to pastors and laypersons while backed with concise information for scholar and student.*
- 7 Tasker, R. V. G. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction with Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1960. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 237 pp. *Brief, clear, concise, popular treatment from a British conservative, helpful for exegesis and tracing synthesis/argument though limited due to size.*

Acts

- 1 Fernando, Ajith. *Acts*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. 656 pp. *An excellent volume that covers argument, principles, and application of the message of Acts (see his pages 40-41), written by the director of Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka, and principal of Colombo Theological Seminary. Fernando possesses an unusual ability to*

combine scholarship and a vibrant faith which is often lacking in commentaries. He sees the twin themes of Acts as the Holy Spirit and witness (p. 29). The book includes helpful subject and Scripture indices as well.

- 2 Barrett, C. K. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Acts*. 2 vols. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1993, 1998. 720 pp. & 704 pp. *Barrett is a moderate Anglican scholar, nice format with footnotes, interacts with rabbinic interpretation, extensive indices, excellent on the Greek text but not recommended for those deficient in Greek and not strong in argument/theological message.*
- 3 Bruce, F. F. *The Book of Acts*. Rev. ed. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1954; revised, 1988. 541 pp. *Evangelical, based on Greek, interacts with critical arguments from a conservative perspective, more exhaustive and updated than Marshall.*
- 4 Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1980. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. *Evangelical, simply written, non-technical, good on theology and historical background but weak on grammar and textual questions.*
- 5 Longenecker, Richard. "The Acts of the Apostles." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 9: *John-Acts*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. Pp. 207-573. *Evangelical, strong in theology, backgrounds, bibliographies, textual issues.*
- 6 Tannehill, R. C. *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts: A Literary Interpretation*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986, 1990. *Moderate to liberal, but at least arguing for unity of these books and comprehensive in approach.*
- 7 Polhill, John B. *Acts*. New American Commentary. Broadman, 1992. 574 pp. \$27.95 hb. (\$20.95 CBD). *One of the newest works on Acts, semi-technical but evangelical.*
- 8 Stott, John R. W. *The Spirit, the Church, and the World*. Formerly published under the title *The Message of Acts: To the Ends of the Earth*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1990. 405 pp. *Homiletical commentary by an evangelical British scholar.*
- 9 Haenchen, Ernest. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Translated from the German by Hugh Anderson and R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971. xxiii+737 pp. \$28.50 hb. *The standard critical commentary and fullest treatment of Greek text, but very liberal, weak in theology, and very skeptical about historicity of Acts, often devoting much space to complex reconstructions which are of little value to preachers.*

Romans

- 1 Schreiner, Thomas R. *Romans*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. 919 pp. *A readable, single-volume, up-to-date commentary on Romans that sees the glory of God as the central theme (in contrast to the righteousness of God which many consider the key theme). He helpfully summarizes each exegetical section prior to giving the details (including Greek insights) and he interacts well with opposing viewpoints.*
 - 2 Cranfield, C. E. B. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. 2 vols. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1975, 1979. xxvii+927 pp. \$50.00 (approx.) *Perhaps the best commentary ever written on Romans, a model exegetical work with thorough discussion of various viewpoints and his own exegetical decision, textual critical problems, grammar, history of interpretation, and word studies; distinguishes Israel from the church but has "a tinge of Barthian universalism," a must for all teachers/preachers; yet moderately critical bias.*
- _____. *Romans: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. 388 pp. \$10.95 pb. *This revises the above in one paperback volume for students who do not know Greek;*

summarizes Cranfield's views, still follows Paul's flow of thought, and costs less. Most buyers will want one or the other of Cranfield's studies but probably not both.

- 3 Moo, Douglas J. *The Epistle to the Romans*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. xxv + 1012 pp. \$50.00 hb. (formerly chapters 1–8 as vol. 1 under Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1991. 891 pp.) *Excellent written with clarity and nice layout, conservative but interacts with other views, expositional, exegesis on every passage in Romans based on own translation, Greek transliterated and translated for lay usage, many extended studies, but not significantly different from Cranfield's two volume work. It includes a syntactical diagram of the Greek text for all of Romans and four indices (subjects, ancient literature, modern authors, and Scriptures). Moo teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS).*
- 4 Dunn, James G. D. *Romans*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word, 1988 (both vols.). 976 pp. (for both vols.). *Moderately conservative, comprehensive, downplays works/faith distinctions.*
- 5 Morris, Leon. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Pillar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. 578 pp. *Expositional, very readable as Greek and technical matters relegated to footnotes, based on Greek but includes text of NIV, well indexed, conservative, excellently done.*
- 6 Barrett, C. K. *Romans*. Rev. ed. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published by Harper, 1957). *Concise treatment by a moderate Anglican scholar.*
- 7 Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1993. *Fitzmyer is a liberal Jesuit priest teaching at Boston College.*
- 8 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1963. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. 288 pp. *Short but concise, excellent exegetical backing but readers not burdened with all the details, good for busy pastors!*
- 9 Hendricksen, William. *Exposition of Paul's Epistle to the Romans*. 2 vols. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980, 1981. ix+535 pp. *Reformed tradition, blends scholarship and practical application as Hendricksen has served both as pastor and professor, helpful outlines, summaries, and practical lessons, but not as good as Murray if one wants a commentary in this tradition.*
- 10 Murray, John. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959, 1965. xxv+408 pp., xvi+286 pp. *Conservative reformed tradition, theological rather than exegetical, helpful excursus but not always easy reading. He taught at Westminster Seminary many years. This set has been replaced by Moo.*

1 Corinthians

- 1 Blomberg, Craig. *1 Corinthians*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994. 352 pp. *Strong in tracing exegesis, principles, and applications of each unit in the epistle in easy-to-understand language and interaction with the Greek without being too technical. Approves of masturbation and women preachers. Blomberg teaches at Denver Seminary.*
- 2 Fee, Gordon. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. xxiv+880 pp. *Strong in argument, bibliographies, textual work, backgrounds, and laying out interpretive options, but weak in fully addressing grammatical issues and giving alternate positions a full hearing, especially on spiritual gifts; Fee is a Pentecostal teaching at Regent College in Vancouver.*

- 3 Barrett, C. K. *A Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.) xi+410 pp. *Strong on Pauline theology, backgrounds, bibliographies, weak on grammar due to being based on RSV. Barrett was a moderate Anglican scholar who taught at the University of Durham, England.*
- 4 Conzelmann, H. *1 Corinthians*. Translated from the German by James W. Leitch. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975. xxii+323 pp. *Concise but loaded with footnotes on background references, the standard work among critical scholars (i.e., liberal).*
- 5 Bruce, F. F. *1 & 2 Corinthians*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. *Clear, concise, single volume on both of these books, but has the limitations of space typical of the series.*
- 6 Carson, D. A. *Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12–14*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987. 229 pp. \$12.95 pb. *Strong exegetical work which challenges both charismatic and non-charismatic interpretations (though he does hold to the continuation of all the gifts and believes tongues is not a known language), an appeal to get to the text without reading in one's bias. See also Carson's The Cross and Christian Ministry (Baker, 1983) for a fuller treatment on 1 Corinthians.*
- 7 Prior, David. *The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the Local Church*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1985. 270 pp. Paper, \$7.95. *A middle ground between technical exegesis and devotional exposition, includes argument (outline) within the exposition but exegesis dependent upon Bruce and Barrett, adequate backgrounds (but not as good as the technical commentaries above).*
- 8 Robertson, Archibald and Plummer, Alfred. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. 2d ed. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1914. lxx+424 pp. *Liberal, strong on analysis, argument, lexical, textual, and grammatical question (you need to know Greek for this one)s, but weaker than Conzelmann on background due to its age.*

2 Corinthians

- 1 Barrett, C. K. *A Commentary on the Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. 2d ed. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.) xv+334 pp. \$13.95 pb. *Moderately conservative, probably the best of Barrett's commentaries, addresses problems and solutions, but feels chapters 10–13 are a later letter added to chapters 1–4. Barrett was a moderate Anglican scholar who taught at the University of Durham, England.*
- 2 Furnish, Victor Paul. *II Corinthians*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1984. xxii+619 pp. \$18.00 hb. *Thorough, excellent word studies, illuminates text with ancient literature, interacts with alternative viewpoints, but sees chapters 10–13 as belonging to Paul's "fifth" letter. He is a liberal who teaches at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas.*
- 3 Martin, Ralph P. *2 Corinthians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1986. lxiii+527 pp. \$19.95 hb. *Like Furnish is thorough, excellent word studies, illuminates text with ancient literature, interacts with alternative viewpoints, but sees chapters 10–13 as belonging to Paul's "fifth" letter and more moderate in perspective. He teaches at Sheffield University, England.*
- 4 Barnett, Paul. *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. xxx+662 pp. *Replaces Hughes in the same NICNT series. Excellent introduction, conservative approach (upholds unity and inspiration of the book). Barnett is Bishop of North Sydney, Australia.*

- 5 Harris, Murray J. "2 Corinthians." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 10: *Romans-Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976. Pp. 299-406. *Shorter (107 pp.) in contrast to works cited above, but still excellent! Excellent handling of problems, exposition, and affirmation of the letter's unity. Harris teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS).*
- 6 Hughes, Philip Edgcumbe. *Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962. xxxvi+508 pp. *Strong in theology and pastoral concern, good use of ancient and medieval theologians, evangelical, holds to unity of the letter. Hughes is an Anglican priest and scholar but an annihilationist.*

Galatians

- 1 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. xx+305 pp. *Long introduction supporting southern view, phrase by phrase commentary, excellent explanation of Greek text, interaction with primary sources and modern discussions without dogmatism, helpful for teacher and pastor alike.*
- 2 Longenecker, Richard. *Galatians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word, 1990. *Up-to-date Greek-based commentary, evangelical, south Galatian.*
- 3 Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979. xxx+352 pp. *Liberal views on literary design but helpful in abundant sources (esp. parallels with Greek and Roman worlds, though weaker in Jewish world), footnotes, word studies and helpful insights.*
- 4 Fung, Ronald Y. K. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. xxxiii+342 pp. *A recent, amillennial, English-based commentary which is based on the Greek but uses the text of NEB. This work replaced Ridderbos (1953) in the NICNT series while and Bruce (NICNT 1982) transferred over to NIGTC. Fung's dissertation at the Univ. of Manchester under F. F. Bruce demonstrates convincingly that justification by faith is the heart of Paul's gospel. He teaches at the China Graduate School Theology and also has a full-length commentary on Galatians in Chinese.*
- 5 Burton, Ernest De Witt. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1921. lxxxix+541 pp. *Liberal, a classic with a good introduction, phrase-by-phrase commentary, interaction with church fathers, grammatical analysis, textual discussion, word studies, excellent exegesis, and 160 page appendix on Paul's vocabulary; south Galatian. Burton spent 25 years writing this book!*
- 6 Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Galatians*. (Formerly published under the title *Only One Way*.) The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1968. 191 pp. *Homiletical in orientation, evangelical, but amazingly has no introduction to the biblical book at all.*
- 7 Lightfoot, J. B. *St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians*. London: Macmillan, 1865; reprint, *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1957. xiv+384 pp. *Insightful, upholds northern view, many excursus, dated but good, Moisés Silva considers it a model for commentary-writing but D. A. Carson believes most of it appears in recent commentaries.*

Ephesians

- 1 Lincoln, Andrew T. *Ephesians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1990. 494 pp. *Excellent moderately conservative treatment on the Greek text, though denies Pauline authorship.*

- 2 Hoehner, Harold W. *Ephesians*. The Baker Exegetical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. *Evangelical, extensive evaluations of interpretive options, based on Greek text. Hoehner chairs the NT department and Ph.D. studies at Dallas Seminary.*
- 3 Barth, Marcus. *Ephesians: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. 2 vols. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1974. xxxiv+849 pp. *Liberal, thorough, interacts with recent discussions, over 1/2 of total pages are many excursus, good historical discussions, word studies and grammatical discussions (though not as good as those above), theology sounds more than his father's (Karl Barth) than Paul though.*
- 4 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. xxxviii+227-416 pp. *Good exposition based on Greek text with his own translation and comments on the text backed by Bruce's wide reading, but not as thorough as those above due to page limits.*
- 5 Robinson, J. A. *St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians*. 2d ed. London: Clark, 1922; reprint, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1979. *Recommended by Moisés Silva as the best Ephesians commentary on the Greek text.*
- 6 Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Ephesians*. (See also the title *God's New Society*.) The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988. *Clear, homiletical approach.*
- 7 Eadie, John. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians*. 2d ed. Ed. W. Young. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1883; reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, n.d. lv+492 pp. *Long introduction responding to 19th century critical issues, Greek grammar and historical interpretations.*
- 8 Ellicott, Charles J. *St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians: with a Critical and Grammatical Commentary, and a Revised Translation*. 5th ed. Longmans, Green & Co., 1884; reprint, Minneapolis: James Family Christian Publishers, n.d. xvi+192 pp. *Short introduction, excellent model for concisely discussing exegetical interpretations and grammatical analysis, complete with his English translation, other translations footnoted. Unfortunately, dated and hard to find due to the obscure publisher.*

Philippians

- 1 O'Brien, Peter T. *Philippians*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. *Excellent conservative response to those who deny Pauline authorship, treatment of the historical background, introduction, bibliographies, and treatment of the text (structure, grammar, theology, lexical issues, background). O'Brien teaches at Moore College in Australia.*
- 2 Silva, Moisés. *Philippians*. The Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (formerly Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1988). Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993. xxiii+255 pp. *Both exegetical & expositional (which is very rare), transliterates/translate Greek in main text and places technical notations in footnotes for ease of use by non-Greek readers, accepts Pauline authorship and Roman origin, evangelical as Silva teaches NT at Westminster. He sees the integrating theme of the book as perseverance in sanctification in spite of adversity. Reformed perspective.*
- 3 Hawthorne, Gerald F. *Philippians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1983. lii+232 pp. *Recent English commentary, based on Greek text, thorough, exegesis and bibliography extensive, accepts Pauline authorship and Caesarean origin but arguments for a Roman origin are stronger, good synthesis and treatment of theological issues, conservative as Hawthorne is professor of Greek at Wheaton College.*
- 4 Martin, Ralph P. *The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. (Formerly Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1959.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 186 pp. *Based on RSV, conservative, accepts Pauline authorship and Roman origin but feels these issues must be left "open," good introduction. Martin's work has been updated (1976) in the New Century Bible*

Commentary but this deals more with critical issues after Martin was influenced by Käsemann so the Tyndale version is to be preferred for its better exposition and theological value. Martin taught at Fuller Theological Seminary for many years.

- 5 Fee, Gordon D. *Philippians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. *Sound exegesis as a replacement for Müller's work in this series, recent. Fee teaches at Regent College in Vancouver, BC, Canada.*
- 6 Beare, F. W. A. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Philippians*. 3d ed. Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1973. xii+182 pp. *Based on Greek but transliterated, accepts Pauline authorship and Roman origin, moderately liberal as feels the letter is the result of three other Pauline letters, clear interpretation and translation, but too brief.*
- 7 Collange, Jean-Francois. *The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Philippians*. Translated by A. W. Heathcote. London: Epworth, 1979. viii+159 pp. *Concise but a good balance between synthesis and analysis, moderately liberal as it interacts with many critical issues, accepts Pauline authorship and Ephesian origin, good translation, exegesis, documentation, and theological emphases.*

Colossians & Philemon

- 1 O'Brien, Peter T. *Colossians, Philemon*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1982. liv+328 pp. *Excellent conservative response to those who deny Pauline authorship, treatment of the Colossian heresy, introduction, bibliographies, and treatment of the text (structure, grammar, theology, lexical issues, background). He teaches at Moore College in Australia.*
- 2 Lohse, Eduard. *Colossians and Philemon*. Trans. William R. Poehlmann and Robert J. Karris. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982. liv+328 pp. \$19.95 hb. *This translation from the German of the standard critical commentary has a complete introduction but rejects Pauline authorship; raises exegetical options, insightful, but sees excessive Hellenistic influence. Lohse provides parallel samples of ancient letters similar to Philemon.*
- 3 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. xxxviii+225 pp. *Good treatment of argument, biblical theology, historical backgrounds, OT concepts behind passages, concisely raising interpretive options, bibliography, textual issues, word studies, but exegesis sometimes brief (yet not too technical) and introduction not as good as O'Brien. Philemon is the best commentary in this volume.*
- 4 Martin, Ralph P. *Colossians and Philemon*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974. xviii+174 pp. *Brief, based on RSV, sees origin as Ephesus and focus on a Jew-Gentile heresy, somewhat open to critical views, but treats argument, individual passages, and bibliographies well. Martin taught at Fuller Theological Seminary for many years.*
- 5 Wright, Nicholas Thomas. *Colossians and Philemon*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1986. 192 pp. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. *Moderately conservative, upholds Pauline authorship, a shorter commentary but worth considering.*
- 6 Gannett, Alden A. *Christ Preeminent: A Commentary on Colossians*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1998. 109 pp. \$7.99 *Brief, pastoral discussion with many illustrations and practical applications. Gannett serves on Dallas Seminary's board and has been president of to Bible colleges.*

1 & 2 Thessalonians

- 1 Wanamaker, Charles A. *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. New International Greek New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. *Incorporates the latest research including rhetorical*

criticism and sociological analysis but speculative at some points (e.g., thinks 2 Thessalonians came first).

- 2 Bruce, F. F. *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1982. xlviii+228 pp. *Excellent format from this well-known British evangelical, excellent on Pauline thought, NT thought in general, and bibliography, the standard work on these books.*
- 3 Best, Ernest. *A Commentary on the First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Reprinted with additional bibliography. Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1977. xvi+376 pp. *Careful and clear exegesis with grammatical and lexical issues, good on Paul's theology and background to it, argues for Pauline authorship but moderately liberal.*
- 4 Marshall, I. Howard. *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. xvi+240 pp. *Conservative, sound, well-informed discussion of verses.*
- 5 Hiebert, D. Edmond. *The Thessalonian Epistles: A Call to Readiness*. Chicago: Moody, 1971. 383 pp. *Evangelical, phrase-outline expressing synthesis, careful and competent treatment of the details, pretribulational. He taught at Mennonite Brethren Seminary in Fresno, California.*
- 6 Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Thessalonians: Preparing for the Coming King*. (See also the title *The Gospel and the End of Time*.) The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1991. 216 pp. *Evangelical, includes 14 page study guide with questions.*

1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

- 1 Knight, George W., III. *The Pastoral Epistles*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992. 540 pp. \$40.00 hb. (\$27.95 CBD). *Highly recommended, not as bogged down in extraneous exegetical details as Marshall and Towner; extensive arguments to support Pauline authorship and conservative views on women's roles. This is a more detailed update to his The Faithful Sayings in the Pastoral Epistles (Kampen, 1968; reprint, Baker, 1979). However, this is a bit more difficult to read for those without Greek and Knight does not often cite those who hold to the views of those he critiques. Knight teaches at Knox Theological Seminary in Florida.*
- 2 Lea, Thomas D., and Griffin, Hayne P., Jr. *1, 2 Timothy, Titus*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman, 1992. 352 pp. *A concise, readable treatment by two evangelicals; supports Pauline authorship and sees Paul as limiting women from teaching men. Lea teaches at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; thus, the commentary reflects and interacts with Baptist positions.*
- 3 Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1963.) viii+264 pp. *Excellent, clear, interpretation of verses, good on individual problems and thematic connections which tie sections together, not strong on Pauline authorship but accepts it and treats the text from this view.*
- 4 Fee, Gordon D. *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus*. New International Biblical Commentary [formerly Good News Commentary]. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984. xl+274 pp. *Evangelical, brief but well-researched, clear interpretation, but probably builds too strong a case on the "life setting" he envisages for the text without adequate support; supports Pauline authorship.*
- 5 Kent, Homer A. *The Pastoral Epistles: Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody, 1982. 313 pp. *Expositional based on careful study of the Greek, practical for preacher and student as Kent taught the Pastorals for years at Grace Seminary.*

6 Quinn, Jerome D. *Titus*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1990. *Extensive treatment as most works bind all the pastorals together, but liberal. Quinn taught at the St. Paul Seminary, Minnesota, before his death.*

7 Dibelius, Martin and Conzelmann, Hans. *The Pastoral Epistles*. Trans. Philip Buttolph and Adela Yarbro. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972. xx+173 pp. \$19.95 hb. *The standard liberal commentary, helpful parallels are cited in Greek and Jewish sources but the length and exegesis is weak and does not seem to consult other sources sufficiently; considers epistles as non-Pauline.*

Philemon

For Philemon see Colossians (O'Brien and Lohse).

Hebrews

1 Lane, William L. *Hebrews*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1991. *Evangelical and excellent, by far the best Hebrews commentary and a much fuller treatment than his good but popular level Call to Commitment: Responding to the Message of Hebrews (Nelson, 1985 \$8.95 pb.; reprint, Hendrickson, 1988). Lane has also produced the best commentary on Mark currently available.*

2 Pentecost, By J. Dwight. *A Faith That Endures: The Book of Hebrews Applied to the Real Issues of Life*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers, 1992. xii + 237 pp. pb, \$9.99. *Sees Hebrews as written to genuine believers— Jewish Christians in Palestine tempted to revert to Judaism because of persecution. Hebrews 3:7–4:13 is seen as exhorting believers not to doubt like Israel in the wilderness and thus miss out on spiritual rest and Hebrews 10:26–31 warns against believers returning to Judaism and as a result experience the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (pp. 28–29, 174–77). A unique feature is “applicational paragraphs, written by Ken Durham, placed as sidebars at the bottom of almost every other page. These well-written paragraphs challenge readers to apply the truths of Hebrews to specific needs in their lives” (Roy Zuck review in BibSac—V151 #602—Apr 94—244).*

3 Ellingworth, Paul. *Hebrews*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. 760 pp. \$45.00 hb. (\$29.95 CBD). *Exhaustive and highly recommended for its attention to the Greek text.*

4 Attridge, Harold. *Hebrews*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989. 437 pp. *Liberal but very well researched, excellent.*

5 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. lxiv+447 pp. *Conservative commentary on the English (not Greek) text but with helpful footnotes on Greek grammar and syntax, good but brief introduction and historical background, argument presented but sometimes hard to follow.*

6 Hughes, Philip Edgcumbe. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977. 623 pp. *Non-technical but huge, brief but good introduction, helpful for synthesis of argument, a good companion to Bruce.*

7 Montefiore, Hugh. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993 (?). (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.) ix+272 pp. *Anglican scholar's brief but excellent synthetic treatment of the British and Foreign Bible Society's English translation.*

8 Moffatt, James. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1924. lxxvi+264 pp. *An older critical commentary on the Greek text by a moderately conservative British Anglican scholar, strong in grammatical and lexical details but weak on synthesis/argument.*

James

- 1 Davids, Peter. *Commentary on James*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. 305 pp. \$23.00 hb. (\$15.95 CBD). *Excellent in grammatical issues, arguing for James' unity (against Dibelius' commentary in the Hermeneia Series), backgrounds (esp. Jewish thought), lexical and text critical matters, and introduction though Davids believes James was constructed in two stages, which may be problematic (argues for a Jewish setting in the 50s and 60s). Davids is more conservative than Laws but also more difficult for non-Greek readers; however, he has a more popular level commentary in the NIBC Series (Hendrickson, 1989). Davids taught at an Episcopal seminary and Regent College.*

- 2 Laws, Sophie. *A Commentary on the Epistle of James*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1980.) x+273 pp. \$16.50 hb. *Liberal, strong on argument, clear discussion (though she often goes her own way in passages), helpful backgrounds (argues for a Roman origin), biblical parallels, lexical matters, and bibliography; focuses on English text so weak on grammar.*

- 3 Moo, Douglas J. *James*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986. *Evangelical, concise. Moo teaches at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS).*

- 4 Richardson, Kurt A. *James*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997. 272 pp. \$27.99. *Avoids errors of the lordship salvation view (e.g., MacArthur below) by seeing James as noting "the way believers live must correspond to the claims they make for their faith" (p. 42); sees 5:13-18 addressing the physically weak (not emotionally or spiritually weak); however, advocates that the "twelve tribes dispersed abroad: (1:1) denotes the church as "the restored Israel" (p. 54).*

- 5 Martin, Ralph P. *James*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1989. *Moderately conservative (his Philippians commentary is heavily influenced by Käsemann), but thorough treatment of the text.*

- 6 Hiebert, D. Edmond. *The Epistle of James*. Chicago: Moody, 1979. 354 pp. *Conservative, good theological treatment and implications which other commentators don't address but which the average congregation would ask, but exegesis not as well grounded in backgrounds. He taught at Mennonite Brethren Seminary in Fresno, California.*

- 7 MacArthur, John, Jr. *James*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1998. 308 pp. \$21.95. *A detailed treatment of each verse and even phrase but hindered by his bias towards lordship salvation. He sees the epistle's purpose "to challenge his readers to examine their faith to see if it was genuine saving faith" (p. 5), arguing for perseverance as the test of true faith in Christ. However, he contradicts this by noting that Christians may lapse into falsehood on occasion (p. 271) and he refers to defeated Christians (pp. 277-78). Since 1 Corinthians 3 notes that some believers are carnal, the commentary is hampered on this point. James 4:7-10 is also seen as "one of the clearest calls to salvation in all of Scripture" p. 201) but must one really weep and wail to become a Christian?!. However, the outlines are excellent as are observations on Greek words. See Zuck's review in BibSac 156 (Oct-Dec 1999): 498-500.*

- 8 Mayor, Joseph B. *The Epistle of James*. 3d ed. London: Macmillan, 1913; reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978; reprint, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1990. xviii+ccxci+264+viii+41 pp. *Strong on grammar, lexical studies, and details unavailable elsewhere such as James' thought, grammar, style, and theology. This classic keeps coming out in reprints due to demand and has also been reprinted by Klock and Klock.*

- 9 Dibelius, Martin. *James*. Rev. Heinrich Greeven. Trans. Michael A. Williams. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976. xxii+285 pp. *The standard liberal commentary on James, but not as strong as other Hermeneia volumes; notes good in background and*

bibliography but discussion dominated by critical issues (which Davids answers); good on exegetical options and structure, but sees little unity in the book.

1 Peter

- 1 Michaels, J. Ramsey. *1 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1988. *Moderately conservative, well researched and interactive with the Greek and other views, good bibliography.*
- 2 Selwyn, Edward Gordon. *The First Epistle of St. Peter: The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes, and Essays*. 2d ed. London: Macmillan, 1947; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981. xvi+517 pp. \$10.95 pb. *A classic, huge work on the Greek text upon which many commentators depend, full introduction and backgrounds, well researched, good for linguistic details and theology.*
- 3 Davids, Peter H. *The First Epistle of Peter*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. xxii+266 pp. *Moderately conservative. Davids taught at an Episcopal seminary and Regent College.*
- 4 Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter and Jude*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.) x+387 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Conservative to moderately conservative, standard work by a skilled commentator and early church expert; careful and clear exegesis tied to the synthesis; ties thought of 1 Peter to 2 Peter; accepts some connection of 1 Peter with the Apostle but denies authenticity of 2 Peter and Jude.*
- 5 Marshall, I. Howard. *1 Peter*. IVP Press New Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1992. *Conservative, homiletical, good for sermons and devotional insight.*
- 6 Grudem, Wayne A. *1 Peter*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 19. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. *Conservative, helpful appendixes on the problematic 1 Peter 3:19-20 and defense of Peter's authorship of 2 Peter. Grudem teaches biblical and systematic theology at Trinity International University (formerly TEDS).*
- 7 Clowney, Edmund. *1 Peter*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989. \$9.95 pb. *Conservative, concise, Reformed perspective, homiletical, so good for sermon preparation and devotional insight.*
- 8 Martin, Troy. *1 Peter*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. *Moderately conservative, helpful with Greek.*

2 Peter & Jude

- 1 Bauckham, Richard J. *Jude, 2 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1983. xix+357 pp. *Detailed, extensive, treatment with fresh insights (esp. into intertestamental backgrounds and apocalyptic literature, including recent Gnostic finds), interaction with all the literature, helpful format for preacher and student, but denies authorship by Peter and Jude.*
- 2 Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter and Jude*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.) x+387 pp. \$8.95 pb. *Conservative to moderately conservative, standard work by a skilled commentator and early church expert; careful and clear exegesis tied to the synthesis; ties thought of 1 Peter to 2 Peter; accepts some connection of 1 Peter with the Apostle but denies authenticity of 2 Peter and Jude.*

- 3 Hiebert, D. Edmond. *Second Peter and Jude*. Greenville, SC: Unusual Pub., 1989. 324 pp. \$12.95 pb. *Conservative, defends authenticity of authorship, thorough yet concise, solid Bible exposition and good exegesis too; a good bargain at the price if you can get in touch with the unusual publisher!*
- 4 Green, Michael. *The Second General Epistle of Peter and the General Epistle of Jude*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1968. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 192 pp. *Brief, scholarly, and "evangelical" yet holds to annihilationism, defends authenticity.*
- 5 Neyrey, Jerome H. *2 Peter and Jude*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1993. 320 pp. *Liberal Catholic. This is an updated edition of Bo Ivar Reicke, who taught at the University of Basel, Switzerland until his death in 1987.*

1, 2, & 3 John

- 1 Brown, Raymond. *The Epistles of John*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1982. xxiii+812 pp. \$18.00 hb. *Liberal Catholic, excellent companion volume to his two-volume commentary on the Gospel of John; superb tool for studying Johannine literature in general; great lexical studies and bibliography, very readable style, outstanding structure and synthetic material helps (including an appendix chart which surveys 39 scholar's major divisions to 1 John); this one commentary surveys what practically everyone else has said about these epistles in the past 200 years, sound exegesis; however, written from critical bias and an incredible amount of information to wade through for those with little time.*
- 2 Smalley, Stephen S. *1, 2, 3 John*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word, 1984. xxxiv+386 pp. \$17.00 hb. *Moderately conservative, evangelical Anglican scholar's technical critical response to Brown based on Greek text, including textual criticism; not as complete as Brown (esp. in introductory material) and difficult to find individual verses and phrases but good at summarizing and interacting with others' views. About \$1 less than Brown but over 400 pages less material (which could be good or bad!).*
- 3 Marshall, I. Howard. *The Epistles of John*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. xvii+274 pp. \$12.95 hb. *Conservative evangelical work by an Englishman, based on NIV but has many Greek references in the notes, well-documented, readable, good introductory problems section but his theology sometimes affects his exegesis more than warranted by the text.*
- 4 Stott, John R. W. *The Epistles of John*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. *Annihilationist, but the best work on John's epistles for the preacher in both exegesis and practical applications.*
- 5 Burdick, Donald W. *The Epistles of John*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1985. *Evangelical, concise, very understandable at a lay level.*
- 6 Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles of John: Introduction, Exposition, & Notes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970. 160 pp. *Useful, popular, based on English (not Greek) text, brief introduction, strong in synthesis/argument with technicalities in the footnotes but older than those above.*

Revelation

- 1 Thomas, Robert L. *Revelation: An Exegetical Commentary*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1992, 1995. xxvii+524 pp., xv + 690 pp. *Pretribulationist premillennialist (dispensational); exhaustive (chapters 1-7 are addressed in greater detail than all the commentaries below on the entire Book of Revelation!); interacts with other views (including other premillennial ones) in a fair and very readable manner; evangelical, upholds John's authorship, leans towards lordship salvation view and includes five helpful excursuses (on chapters 2-3, imprecatory prayers, structure of the book, the kingdom of Christ, and the seventh bowl), interacts extensively with the Greek text and evaluates interpretive options. The second*

volume has four indexes to cover both volumes (subject, ancient literature, modern authors, and Scripture). This second volume appeared when the fate of the Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary was unstable. Since the WEC has transferred to the BEC (Baker Exegetical Commentary), perhaps both of Thomas' volumes will eventually appear under BEC. Thomas teaches NT at Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, California. Unfortunately, Thomas' commentary preceded Beale's major work by four years so it does not interact with Beale.

- 2 Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977. 426 pp. \$13.95 hb. *Preterist-futurist and posttribulational premillennialist, concise introduction, good insights into Greek text (textual problems, word studies), fair with opposing viewpoints (except a few unjustified comments about dispensationalists), good interpretation of apocalyptic material and widely diverse bibliography. Believes that only the martyrs of the final tribulation will enter the millennium, and the millennium itself may not be a literal, earthly reign (p. 136). Mounce wrote while Dean of the Potter College of Arts and Humanities at Western Kentucky University. He has a newer, more popular treatment of Revelation called What are We Waiting For? (Eerdmans, 1992).*
- 3 Walvoord, John F. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody, 1966. 350 pp. *Pretribulational premillennialist (dispensational), short but exhaustive introduction addressing authorship and date, inspiration and canonicity, interpretation, apocalyptic character, symbolism, and theology; readable writing style with Greek terms explained, unites interpretation with OT prophetic concepts and deals fairly with opposing viewpoints; good companion to Mounce's volume. Walvoord is Chancellor of Dallas Seminary.*
- 4 Beale, Gregory K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, and Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 1999. 1245 pp. *Amillennial (pp. 972-1021) and views the book of Revelation from an Eclectic or Redemptive-Historical form of modified idealism; interprets from the Greek, OT and Jewish exegetical traditions and due to its comprehensiveness and scholarship may soon become the standard amillennial work on Revelation. Unfortunately, Beale interacts only with Thomas' first volume (Rev. 1-7) even though Thomas' second volume was published four years before Beale. He teaches NT and directs the ThM program in Biblical theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts.*
- 5 Beasley-Murray, George R. *The Book of Revelation*. New Century Bible Commentary. London: Oliphants, 1974; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. \$7.95 pb. *Preterist-futurist and premillennial (pp. 287-97), good treatment of apocalyptic literature, recommended by Moisés Silva.*
- 6 Ladd, George Eldon. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. 308 pp. *Preterist-futurist and posttribulational premillennialist (similar eschatologically to Mounce), good exposition and outline around John's four visions, good word studies. Ladd taught NT at Fuller Seminary from 1950 until his death in 1982.*
- 7 Aune, David E. *Revelation 17-22*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville: Nelson, 1998. *Premillennial (pp. 1084, 1104-8).*
- 8 Swete, Henry Barclay. *The Apocalypse of St. John: The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes, and Indices*. London/New York: Macmillan, 1906; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, n.d.; reprint, Grand Rapids: Kregel. *Historicist (sees book depicting the persecution of Emperor Domitian in AD 90s), exegetical (Greek) commentary, long introduction dealing with 18 different items, helpful in studying OT roots for words; deals with textual problems, grammatical constructions, and apocalyptic backgrounds; synthesis weak but good on individual verses and very dated.*
- 9 Johnson, Alan F. "Revelation." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 12: *Hebrews—Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. Pp. 399-603. *Pretribulational premillennialist. the best commentary in this volume. careful. clear. interactive with other*

views, concise bibliography of key works broken down into interpretive views (pp. 412-13). Johnson is Professor of Bible and Theology at Wheaton College.

- 10 Caird, G. B. *Revelation*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993. (Originally published under Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1985.) *Preterist, helpful on apocalyptic.*
- 11 Wilcock, Michael. *The Message of Revelation*. (See also the title *I Saw Heaven Opened*.) The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1984. *Homiletical.*
- 12 Smith, J. B. *A Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Ed. J. Otis Yoder. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1961. *Pretribulationist premillennialist (dispensational), fairly lengthy introduction, straightforward exposition based on Greek, good word studies and 22 appendices, but virtually no interaction with other commentators on Revelation.*
- 13 Hendricksen, William. *More Than Conquers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1940; reprint 1967; reprint 1982. 216 pp. *Idealist amillennial conservative, a standard work of the past generation but still used somewhat today.*

Bibliography

(a bibliography on bibliographies)

Note: Only sources with annotations were available for consultation and incorporation into this study. The others are listed from Glynn's bibliography as sources for the reader to research on an individual basis. However, even these contributed to Glynn's study, which served as a major resource for this present study. (In other words, the unannotated works below are incorporated into this study in a secondary way.)

Allison, Joseph D. *Bible Study Resource Guide*. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1982. 223 pp. *Here's the most complete book doing what I attempted in my own volume in your hands, complete with chapters on buying the best Bibles, concordances, commentaries, atlases, Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks, etc. Unfortunately it is over ten years out of date and comments on only two or three commentaries per biblical book.*

Balchin, John F.; Field, David H.; and Longman, Tremper III, eds. "Using the Resources." In *The Bible User's Manual: The Complete Do-It-Yourself Guide*, pp. 364-68. Leicester, England: IVP, and London: Scripture Union, 1991. *A lay-oriented guide of only a few pages which recommends popular-level books.*

Biblical Archeology Society. "BAS Review of Study Bibles." *Biblical Archeology Review* (March/April 1993): 60-61. *A very helpful 2-page chart contrasting 30 study Bibles in terms of their price, versions available, publisher's comments, and characteristics (whether they contain book introductions, outlines, concordance, textual footnotes, indexes, cross references, chain references, topical index/encyclopedia, maps, illustrations/charts, dictionary, articles/study guides, the apocrypha, alternate readings, and words of Jesus in red).*

Bibliotheca Sacra book review sections (issues January-March 1985 to January-March 2000). *Each issue of BibSac reviews about five new commentaries. Notations are full, irenic, and insightfully written by experts on the particular biblical books.*

Carson, D. A. *New Testament Commentary Survey*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986. 79 pp. *The best and most complete NT commentary list available, includes helpful suggestions on buying commentaries and suggested NT introductions and theologies. The annotations on individual commentaries helpfully compare and contrast certain volumes but the bibliographic data is difficult to read in its typewriter-like typeface and run-on style (he includes not the best commentaries, but seemingly all of them!) and this is not as complete as Longman's OT companion volume below (includes only NT theologies and introductions without any listings of Greek tools, etc.).*

Childs, Brevard. *The New Testament as Canon: An Introduction*. Trinity, 1994.

Dallas Theological Seminary. "An Annotated Bibliography for the Study of the New Testament." Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary Department of New Testament Literature and Exegesis, February 1988. 22 pp. *This unpublished study available from the DTS Book Room was produced by NT faculty at the seminary to assist students in continuing to use their Greek skills in heavier weight commentaries. As such it assumes three years of Greek as background for those commentaries recommended.*

_____. "An Annotated Bibliography for the Study of the Old Testament." Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary Department of Semitics and Old Testament Studies, April 1985. 62 pp. *This unpublished study available from the DTS Book Room was produced by OT faculty at the seminary to assist students in continuing to use their Hebrew skills in heavier weight commentaries. As such it assumes two years of Hebrew as background for those commentaries recommended.*

Danker, Frederick. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Rev. ed. Fortress, 1993.

Denver Seminary. *OT/NT Departmental Surveys* (1993).

- Fee, Gordon and Stuart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993. The 6 page Appendix on "The Evaluation and Use of Commentaries" is worth reading. It suggests purchasing the Expositors, NICOT, NICNT, TOTC, and WBC (Word Biblical Commentary) and lists 1-2 commentaries for each book of the Bible.
- Glynn, John. *Commentary Survey: 400 Volumes Ranked & Coded*. Rev. ed. Dallas: by the author, 1994. 28 pp. A brief survey by a Dallas Seminary Th.M. student with extensive help from sources at several seminaries (Dallas, Denver, Gordon-Conwell, Master's, Reformed, TEDS, Union, and Westminster) and commentary reviews within 14 theological journals. Lists 5-15 of the best commentaries per biblical book into broad categories (evangelical, liberal, etc.). The "Additional Resources" section is excellent and comprehensive, covering one volume commentaries, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, hermeneutics, Jewish background, NT background, criticism, NT introductions and theologies, atlases, map transparencies, special theological studies (charismatic/pentecostal studies, role of women, divorce and remarriage, personal Bible study), Old Testament helps (introductions, theologies, history of Israel, near eastern history, and archaeology), Hebrew and Greek grammars, lexicons/dictionaries, concordances, and other helps, plus miscellaneous and computer helps for both IBM and Macintosh. Besides some typographical/bibliographic mistakes, it seems the only thing he missed is suggested systematic theologies and his listings throughout are clearly labeled but without full bibliographic data or annotations (except for the broad categories listed above).
- Goldingay, John. *OT Commentary Survey*. Religious and Theological Studies Fellowship, 1991.
- Hill, Andrew E. and Walton, John H. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. 461 pp. Each presentation of an OT book contains an up-to-date bibliography or commentaries and articles. The authors teach at Wheaton College and Moody Bible Institute, respectively.
- Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard. *Introductions to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word, 1993.
- Longman, Tremper, III. *Old Testament Commentary Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991. 160 pp. The most complete and most up-to-date Old Testament bibliography in print, including more than just commentaries! It has reference works (introductions, theology, histories of Israel, archeology, atlases, translations of Ancient Near Eastern Texts, Near Eastern History, but no systematic theologies) and Hebrew helps (dictionaries, grammars, concordances, etc.). The comments on one-volume commentaries and sets are insightful and generally 10-12 individual commentaries are suggested for each OT book. The three appendixes are excellent summaries of his book: an OT library on a budget, the ideal OT library, and five-star commentaries. Longman favors the Word Biblical Commentary series despite the critical bias of several volumes and defends amillennial and liberal works such as those published by Westminster. At the same time he gives premillennial (esp. dispensational) works low marks or most of the time ignores them altogether (e.g., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*). Longman teaches OT at Westminster Theological Seminary. This is a companion volume to Carson's above.
- Moo, Douglas, ed. *An Annotated Bibliography on the Bible and the Church*. Alumni Pub., 1986.
- Pope and Ritter. *A Directory of Exegetical Aids for Bible Translators*. 2d ed. Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1982 plus 1993 supplement.
- Reformed Theological Seminary. *Building a Basic Ministerial Library*. 1993.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980. Pages 60-66 address suggested lexicons, concordances, grammars, word study books, Bible dictionaries, one volume commentaries, and other tools.
- Rosscup, James. *Commentaries for Biblical Expositors: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Works*. Grace Book Shack. 1993.

Silva, Moisés. "New Testament Commentaries You Should Own." *The Bible Newsletter's Books*, pp. 21-23. N.p., 1985. *A brief but helpful study.*

Stuart, Douglas. *A Guide to Selecting and Using Commentaries*. Dallas, TX: Word, 1990. *Stuart teaches Old Testament (at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) and thus provides more help in the OT section than the new.*

Suggs and Trotti. *Building a Pastor's Library*. Union Theological Seminary, 1991.

Unpublished bibliographies from various Th.M. and ThD. classes at Dallas Theological Seminary, 1983-1990. *Unfortunately these are not available to persons outside the school and they assume a working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.*

Walton, John. *Personal Commentary Survey*. 1993.

The following journals include reviews that served as a source for Glynn's research:

The Bible Translator (1989-91)

Catholic Biblical Quarterly (1986-93)

Churchman (1992-94)

Evangelical Quarterly (1986-93)

Expository Times (1993-94)

Interpretation (1986-93)

Journal for the Study of the New Testament (1986-92)

Journal for Biblical Literature (1989-93)

Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society (JETS) 1989-93)

Society for Old Testament Study Book List (1982-92)

Themelios (1989-93)

Trinity Journal (1984-93)

Westminster Theological Journal (1984-93)