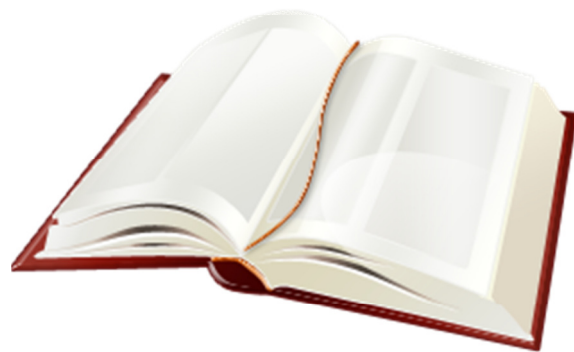


TOP PICKS

OF OLD TESTAMENT RESOURCES



By Owen Smiley

Featuring the Recommendations of the Faculty
of Talbot School of Theology, viz. Ken Way,
Tom Finley, John Hutchison, and Ron Pierce

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To Molly & Ella

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Molly, my bride, displayed grace upon grace as at least six hundred volumes passed through our living room over ten months. I am indebted to her patience and support. Ella, my daughter, was born a little more than two months into this project, and is more beautiful than my work will ever be.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. SURVEYING THE FIELD: TIPS ON EVALUATING OT SCHOLARSHIP

OT scholarship is a variegated field by virtue of the wide range of scholars interested in it. Evangelicals study the OT as God's inspired Scripture, while critical commentators study it from the position that the Bible is not inerrant and probably not a unified whole. Additionally, Jewish scholars naturally take a deep interest in what constitutes their Hebrew Bible, the foundation of all the later rabbinic and Talmudic writings.

Due to the so-called interfaith nature of OT studies, it is recommended that students learn the perspectives of the authors they are using, and evaluate their scholarship accordingly. For the evangelical Christian, critical and Jewish scholars have much to offer. It is important to recognize that the evangelical shares the same basic theological heritage with the critical scholar, and both use literary studies to their advantage (when the critical scholar treats the given passage or biblical book as a whole). Thus, theological analyses of critical scholars, and literary analyses to a lesser extent, are useful to the evangelical. Scholars with a Jewish perspective often revere the OT as holy literature, in a manner not too different from the evangelical, and can appeal to a rich rabbinic tradition that can help the evangelical understand the text as its original ethnic audience would have understood it. With a careful eye and a discerning mind, the evangelical can gain much from all three groups of scholars and their studies in the OT field.

On a different note, students ought to evaluate their sources by date. Because of the Dead Sea Scroll finds in 1947, and the new archaeological discoveries made almost annually (including a 14-foot Egyptian pharaoh statue at the time of this writing), the field of comparative studies has rendered much of the historical and cultural information contained in commentaries published before 1970 as inadequate. These older sources are worthwhile for their hermeneutical, literary, and theological contributions, but their cultural and historical assumptions are to be taken guardedly by the reader.

In summary, paying attention to the perspective of a given author and the date of a given source's publication will assist greatly in evaluating OT scholarship.

B. NOTES ON USING THIS GUIDE.

First, although many commentaries use 'common' abbreviations for journals and commentary series, most abbreviations are avoided here. This is not to increase tedium

but to increase accessibility to students who may not know that *TOTC* is the *Tyndale Old Testament Commentary*, etc.

Second, each book of Scripture's sources is divided into three categories. The first, "Top Commentaries," is not alphabetized because they are ranked 1-3 according to their strengths. "Secondary Commentaries," a sampling of lesser quality commentaries, are not ranked, nor are "Other Resources," a miscellaneous category for honorable mentions and non-commentary works. In keeping with these standards, it is necessary that this survey is not exhaustive, though most of the best works for each subject and book are included.

Fourth, since some scholars use Hebrew and others do not, the end of each annotation includes a brief word on the source's use of Hebrew. 'No Hebrew necessary or required' implies simply that on the part of the reader, and oftentimes the label 'all Hebrew translated' is used instead; 'all Hebrew transliterated' means that the scholar uses Hebrew terms in places, but uses the English rather than the Hebrew alphabet; and 'Hebrew required/necessary' means that readers with Hebrew skills will have an advantage in using the source. Ultimately, as this is a bibliography of sources written in English, students of Scripture with no Hebrew will still be able to glean a least some insight from all sources save the language aids.

Fifth, for books which combine multiple commentaries together, the total pages given is almost always the portion of pages from that volume devoted to that biblical book's commentary.

C. UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SURVEY

This survey offers several features not found in other commentary surveys, worth mentioning here.

The most obvious unique feature is the extensive survey of non-commentary sources. This includes a survey of primary source collections and archaeological analyses, sources which aid in understanding multiple OT books at a time (i.e., dictionaries, journals, OT textbooks, theologies, and hermeneutical works), and language aids ranging from lexicons to advanced grammars. In addition to these, the survey of each biblical book attempts to include non-commentary sources such as journal articles, monographs, or other books which aid in understanding either general or technical aspects of the book of Scripture.

A second unique feature is this survey's evaluation of each source's Hebrew requirement, intended to help students ascertain which books they would rather use depending on their level of mastery of the language.

Finally, other commentary surveys do not make a point to always mention the author's faith perspective or vocational experience as can best be deduced from the commentary or other sources. In no way is including this information intended to malign any author. The decision to include faith perspective and vocation in this survey is intended to help the reader discern the author's guiding assumptions when purveying the biblical text. It is acknowledged here that a professor often transfers schools, and sometimes a scholar's faith perspective changes; for this reason, this information may not always be correct. For the purposes of this survey, the term 'evangelical' is used to describe a theological conservative who holds to biblical inerrancy; the adjective 'critical' is used of scholars who doubt biblical inerrancy, and is more respectful than calling that scholar 'liberal'; 'Jewish' denotes a scholar who is either ethnically Jewish, religiously Jewish, or both; and 'Israeli' simply implies a Jewish scholar from the state of Israel.

It is the hope of the author that these features aid the users of this survey so that they may get the most out of their OT study.

II. PRIMARY SOURCES

A. ANCIENT WORKS & COLLECTED WORKS OF ANCIENT LITERATURE

Ahituv, Shmuel. *Echoes from the Past: Hebrew and Cognate Inscriptions from the Biblical Period*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2008.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Israeli professor, Ahituv offers an up-to-date catalog of Hebrew and related inscriptions, with photographs, diagrams, translations, and comments. Hebrew helpful but not required, 512 pgs.

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East*. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

A companion to the authors' *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold and Beyer, from Asbury Seminary and Columbia International University respectively, offer a cross-section of ancient texts organized by the portion of the Old Testament they are most similar to. No Hebrew necessary, 240 pgs.

Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger, Jr., eds. *Context of Scripture*. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997-2002.

Context of Scripture offers the single most up-to-date, complete collection of ancient texts, replacing Pritchard's longstanding *ANET* volume. The first volume handles compositions concerning divinities, royalty, and individuals, organized according to region and then according to genre; the second volume presents monumental inscriptions organized first by region and second by source (i.e., Egyptian tombstone inscriptions). The third volume concerns itself with archival documents, including letters, legal texts, contracts, and accounts, organized according to region. All languages transliterated; vol. 1, 599 pgs.; vol. 2, 438 pgs.; vol. 3, 406 pgs.

Lewis, Theodore J., and Parker, Simon B, eds. *Writings From the Ancient World*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 1990—.

Recommended by Ken Way

This series of books is published by various authors of the Society of Biblical Literature, an organization of scholars of varying perspectives, but the purpose of the series is to present ancient texts relevant to the Bible. Volumes include such genres as Egyptian pyramid texts, Hittite letters, Sumerian epics, and texts from Amarna in Egypt, and are very useful for exploration of original sources for comparative studies. Knowledge of ancient languages not necessary.

Matthews, Victor H., and Don C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. 3rd ed. New York: Paulist Press, 2006.

As somewhat critical scholars, Matthews and Benjamin do brilliant work presenting ancient texts organized according to the Biblical book they parallel. Where a text offers a close parallel, the relevant biblical reference is also given. No Hebrew necessary, 430 pgs.

Pritchard, James B., ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

Pritchard offers the former classic in what is commonly referred to as *ANET*, a collection of ancient texts, exhaustive in its day and organized according to the genres (including myths, legal texts, historical texts, incantations and rituals, hymns and prayers, letters, songs, wisdom literature, etc.), and within each genre organized according to language (Egyptian, Sumerian, Akkadian, Hittite, Canaanite, Aramaic, Babylonian, Palestinian, et al.). No Hebrew necessary, 544 pgs.

Sparks, Kenton L. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.

Recommended by Ken Way

Sparks, at Eastern University in Pennsylvania, offers a first-rate bibliographic survey by genre of all the ancient texts, commenting on their usefulness without actually quoting them. No Hebrew necessary, 514 pgs.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context: A Survey of Parallels Between Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Texts*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

An evangelical, Walton organizes texts by relevant biblical genre, surveying literary parallels and evaluating the extent of possible comparisons. It is a concise and good read even for the general reader. 249 pgs.

B. ARCHAEOLOGY

Dever, William G. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It? What Archaeology Can Tell Us about the Reality of Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

A fundamentalist-turned-non-theistic Jew, Dever writes to argue that archaeology provides a rich context for Biblical stories, opposing revisionist and minimalist arguments to the contrary. No Hebrew necessary, 313 pgs.

Hess, Richard S. *Israelite Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Hess, a Denver Seminary professor and a conservative, offers a basic introduction to survey the methods of research along with archaeological and textual evidence concerning the religious world of ancient Israel. He reviews the study of religion before examining the religious background of Palestine and

examining the roots and development of Israelite religion. An added bonus is each chapter offering a brief outline of its contents at its start to allow for easy reference. No Hebrew needed, 432 pgs.

Meyers, E. M., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*. 5 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

A variety of authors and theological perspectives inform this massive work, the standard in the field of ancient Near East archaeological study. Articles include study of geography and places, history of archaeology, types of artifacts, theory and practice of archaeology, and all the regular place names and archaeological dig sites, cities, and ancient peoples. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 492 pgs., Abba to Chue; vol 2, 488 pgs., Chur to Hayy; vol. 3, 489 pgs., Hazo to Meso; vol. 4, 536 pgs., Meta to Sepp; vol. 5, 553 pgs., Sera to Ziqi and appendices.

Stern, Ephraim, ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. 5 vols. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993-2008.

Published from a thoroughly Israeli worldview, this encyclopedia offers in-depth articles, with color photographs and diagrams, of every major archaeological site in ancient Israel, including cities (i.e., Beth-Shean, etc.), geographical places (i.e. Mount Ebal, etc.), and types of structures (i.e. synagogues, etc.). Each article has sections focusing on the site's identification, its exploration and excavations, and the results of excavations arranged according to archaeological age (e.g., the Late Bronze Age, etc.). Very helpful and current for background information. Vol. 1, Abila-Elusa, 383 pgs.; vol. 2, Emmaus-Jerusalem, 421 pgs.; vol. 3, Jokneam-Pells, 376 pgs.; vol. 4, Petra-Ziqim, 372 pgs.; vol. 5, supplementary updated material, 599 pgs.

III. REFERENCE WORKS COVERING ALL OR MULTIPLE OT BOOKS

A. BACKGROUND COMMENTARIES & STUDIES

I. BACKGROUND COMMENTARIES

Walton, John H., gen ed. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

The best of evangelical scholarship is evident in this five-volume series covering background information for all of the Old Testament. Photographs, drawings, and diagrams serve to illustrate concepts not easily given in words. This is the best and most up-to-date of OT backgrounds scholarship. All Hebrew transliterated. Vol. 1, featuring Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, 571 pgs. Vol. 2, featuring Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and Samuel, 515 pgs. Vol. 3, featuring Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, 529 pgs. Vol. 4, featuring Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel, 598 pgs. Vol. 5, featuring the Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs, 557 pgs.

Walton, John H., Victor C. Matthews and Mark W. Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.

Recommended by John Hutchison

This one-volume work by an evangelical and two critical scholars is a handy passage-by-passage reference to the entire Old Testament, based upon more recent scholarly debate and archaeological research. No Hebrew necessary, 832 pgs.

II. ISRAELITE HISTORY

Merrill, E. H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Merrill, a conservative scholar from Dallas Theological Seminary, provides a comprehensive overview of the history of Israel from its inception to the Persian period, including perspectives on recent scholarly debates. No Hebrew necessary, 554 pgs.

Provan, Iain, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Written by three evangelicals at Regent College and Westmont College, this work counters the liberal 'minimalist' perspective by offering competent answers to

revisionist biblical historians and offering a history from Abraham to the Persian period. All Hebrew transliterated, 426 pgs.

Wood, Leon. *A Survey of Israel's History*. Rev. by David O'Brien. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

Recommended by John Hutchison

An OT history professor at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, Wood offers what used to be a classic textbook on the history of Israel, from Genesis to intertestamental times, organized chronologically with heavy reference to the relevant biblical books. No Hebrew necessary, 434 pgs.

III. OTHER BACKGROUND STUDIES

Finegan, Jack. *Handbook of Biblical Chronology: Principles of Time Reckoning in the Ancient World and Problems of Chronology in the Bible*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1998.

This is a revision of Finegan's original work published in 1964. A professor of New Testament History and Archaeology at UC-Berkeley, this work aims to explain the rhyme and reason behind the strange time references in the Bible. His work covers principles of chronology in the ancient world, including numerals, calendars, and eras; and problems of chronology in the Bible, working from the Old Testament to the New Testament and offering insight to each instance of chronological confusion. No Hebrew necessary, 426 pgs.

King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Recommended by Ken Way

Written by non-evangelical scholars, this discussion of Israel's customs and values offers color photos and easily accessible topics ranging from dress and literacy to farming and hospitality practices, a useful application of archaeology and social history. All Hebrew transliterated, 440 pgs.

Matthews, Victor H. *Manners and Customs in the Bible: An Illustrated Guide to Daily Life in Bible Times*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Matthews, a critical scholar, offers a quick and easy-to-use reference guide for various customs of both the Old and New Testaments as well as intertestamental times. A major contribution comes from Matthews's dividing the Old Testament times into four time periods, and then focusing on customs specific to each. Some diagrams and black-and-white photos make this volume helpful. No Hebrew necessary, 283 pgs.

Matthews, Victor H., and Don C. Benjamin. *The Social World of Ancient Israel: 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993.

Matthews and Benjamin, both critical-leaning scholars, offer a window into the social institutions of early Israel and during the monarchy, with implications

about how such an awareness affects biblical interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 327 pgs.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Walton, an evangelical professor at Wheaton College, offers sections on methods of comparative studies; the literature of the ancient Near East; its religion and rituals; and the ANE understanding of the cosmos, history and human origins. No Hebrew or ancient languages necessary, 378 pgs.

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Rev ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Walton, an eminent OT scholar at Wheaton College, organizes this compendium of useful charts into four categories, including charts concerning the Scriptures, charts concerning the ancient Near East, charts concerning general Bible study, and miscellaneous charts. This listing includes everything from king lists of ancient Israel to family trees for Semitic languages, and from creation theories to the development of rabbinic Jewish writings. All Hebrew translated, 124 pgs.

B. ATLASES

Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2009.

Beitzel, an evangelical, uses color maps and diagrams in addition to text to explain the historical and geographical backgrounds of the Bible, from the time of Adam to the end of the New Testament. No Hebrew necessary, 282 pgs.

Rainey, Anson F., and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

A work espousing a Jewish perspective, this is the best Bible atlas available for OT study, discussing ancient worldviews, sweeping histories of the major archaeological eras, and the political dynasties in power at those times, beginning with the Bronze Age and continuing to the Bar Kochba revolt of 132-135 AD. All Hebrew and Greek translated, 448 pgs.

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

An evangelical, Rasmussen offers the latest in archaeological information, with color maps and diagrams, and excellent understandings of the historical progress of the ancient Near Eastern world. All Hebrew translated, 256 pgs.

C. DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Talbot Contributor: Richard Rigsby

Compiled by a variety of different faith perspectives, this dictionary offers both introductory articles, giving the basics for an issue or document, and innovative articles, seeking to provide a new understanding of a topic based on the most recent scholarship. A highly prized source for the Pentateuch. All Hebrew transliterated, 954 pgs.

Arnold, Bill T., and H. G. M. Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005.

Talbot Contributor: Ken Way

Covering the biblical books spreading from Joshua to Nehemiah, this dictionary chooses to focus its articles on themes and ideas needing evaluation, rather than trying to cover every place name and person mentioned in these historical books. Edited by evangelicals, this dictionary features a variety of Christian doctrinal stances. All Hebrew transliterated and translated, 1060 pgs.

Freedman, David N., gen. ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Recommended by Tom Finley

Talbot Contributors: Ed Curtis, Richard Rigsby

A mammoth work featuring over 6,000 entries from over 800 international scholars of varying faith persuasions, the *ABD* is one of the standard dictionary reference works of all time for the study of the Bible. This set includes articles on places, people, archaeology, books of Scripture, theology, history, and culture. All foreign languages accompanied by translation. Vol. 1, A-C, 1232 pgs.; vol. 2, D-G, 1100 pgs.; vol. 3, H-J, 1135 pgs.; vol. 4, K-N, 1162 pgs.; vol. 5, O-Sh, 1230 pgs.; vol. 6, Si-Z, 1176 pgs.

Freedman, David N., ed. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

With articles concerning both the Bible and background topics by both mainstream and evangelical scholars and edited by an OT specialist, this dictionary is one of the more recent in publication. All Hebrew transliterated, 1425 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Covering Psalms, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Esther in addition to the regular books of Scripture considered as wisdom books, this

dictionary features a focus on each book's history of interpretation and its ancient Near Eastern background and its contributors come from a variety of conservative and critical perspectives. All Hebrew transliterated, 967 pgs.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman, III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1998.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Edited by evangelicals, this dictionary includes approximately 850 articles about images, metaphors, archetypes, character types, plot motifs, type scenes, rhetorical devices, literary genres, and individual books of Scripture. No Hebrew necessary, 1058 pgs.

Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob, gen. ed. *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006-2009.

Containing a variety of faith perspectives, this dictionary series is a revised version of the penultimate *Interpreter's Bible Dictionary*. Its comprehensive scope and 7,100 articles cover all persons and places mentioned in the Bible, along with articles about cultural, religious, and political contexts, along with various theological themes and concepts from 900 contributors from 40 countries. All Hebrew and Greek transliterated and translated. Vol. 1, A-C, 843 pgs.; vol. 2, D-H, 1012 pgs.; vol. 3, I-Ma, 936 pgs.; vol. 4, Me-R, 950 pgs.; vol. 5, S-Z, 1075 pgs.

Silva, Moises, ed. *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Rev. ed. 5 vols. Originally edited by Merrill C. Tenney. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

This is the recent revision of the original *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* originally compiled by Merrill C. Tenney. Now edited by Moises Silva, an evangelical with ties to Westmont College, Westminster Theological Seminary and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, this largely conservative work includes 7,500 articles with color maps, illustrations, charts, and graphs, brought up to date from the original 1975 edition. All Greek and Hebrew translated. Vol. 1, A-C, 1126 pgs.; vol. 2, D-G, 899 pgs.; vol. 3, H-L, 1145 pgs.; vol. 4, M-P, 1107 pgs.; vol. 5, Q-Z, 1243 pgs.

D. OT SURVEY TEXTBOOKS

Baylis, Albert. *From Creation to the Cross: Understanding the First Half of the Bible*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Recommended by John Hutchison

A Multnomah professor, Baylis writes for more of an undergraduate audience. However, he offers insightful perspectives on the Pentateuch and makes excellent Christological points as he surveys OT history. No Hebrew necessary, 392 pgs.

LaSor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic William Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

This survey by three evangelical scholars gives overviews of each of the thirty-nine books of the OT as well as chapters dealing with special issues, such as Hebrew poetry, poetry and prophecy, messianic prophecy, chronology, background information, and genre studies. No Hebrew necessary, 860 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper, and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

This evangelical survey devotes a chapter to each book of the OT, giving a bibliography and discussions of historical background, literary structure, theological message, and other discussions pertinent to that particular book of Scripture. No Hebrew necessary, 528 pgs.

Hill, Andrew E., and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Hill and Walton, both conservative Old Testament professors at Wheaton, have produced probably the best survey work of the OT available. The third edition is replete with color photos, elaborate diagrams, and chapters describing OT geography, archaeology, canonization, and history. The 'major themes' section for each OT book does an excellent job of capturing the theology of each book. Hill & Walton are a great starting place for any attempt to understand a given book or the OT as a whole. No Hebrew necessary, 769 pgs.

E. SURVEYS OF PORTIONS OF THE OT

I. PENTATEUCH

Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

A conservative seminary professor from Belfast, Ireland, Alexander offers an introduction to the Torah based on an understanding of the five books as a whole, while giving appropriate focus to issues within each book as he divides his work into sections on Pentateuchal criticism and main themes of the Torah. No Hebrew necessary, 339 pgs.

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Hamilton, an evangelical at Asbury College in Kentucky, moves chapter-by-chapter through the first five books of Scripture in a classic work that offers

sensitivity to literary structure and to issues in contemporary evangelical scholarship. No Hebrew necessary, 468 pgs.

Sailhamer, John H. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

An evangelical at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Brea, California, Sailhamer looks to the text itself rather than the history behind it to reach a comprehensive interpretation of the Torah as a whole. All Hebrew transliterated, 632 pgs.

Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch As Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Evangelical John Sailhamer, hailing from Gold Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, offers an extended introduction as well as book-by-book commentary on why the Pentateuch should be considered as a single whole narrative, and its implications. Hebrew helpful but not required, 522 pgs.

Schnittjer, Gary Edward. *The Torah Story: An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Schnittjer (pronounced "snitger") offers a literary and theological understanding of the first five books of Scripture. The volume also comes with photographs, drawings, and diagrams better illustrating the ideas contained within it, and the goal of this evangelical work is the understanding of the author's original intent. No Hebrew necessary, 589 pgs.

II. HISTORICAL BOOKS

Bendavid, Abba, ed. *Parallels in the Bible*. Jerusalem: Carta, 1972.

Bendavid, a Jewish scholar, offers a harmony by laying out parallel Hebrew texts side by side from Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles. Readers should note that the book is entirely in Hebrew. Hebrew required, 219 pgs.

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Covering Joshua through Esther, Hamilton offers an evangelical analysis of each book in the form of a mini-commentary, with excursuses as needed to explain important themes or handle specific events. The last pages of each biblical book's commentary includes an in-depth bibliography. No Hebrew needed, 557 pgs.

Howard, David M. *An Introduction to the Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1993.

A conservative, Howard offers extensive bibliographies with good discussions of messianic and theological themes, along with an extensive introductory chapter devoted to historical narrative genre study. No Hebrew necessary, 394 pgs.

Long, V. Philips. *The Art of Biblical History*. Vol. 5 of *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

An evangelical and Covenant Theological Seminary professor, Long addresses questions of Scriptural historicity and attempts to describe biblical history writing as representational, arguing for a hermeneutic that fairly treats the history, theology, and literary attributes of a passage. No Hebrew necessary, 247 pgs.

Newsome, Jr., James D., ed. *A Synoptic Harmony of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986.

A critical scholar, Newsome's bias does not affect his ability to produce a harmony of all the historical passages of the Old Testament with related passages from Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezra. No Hebrew necessary, 275 pgs.

III. WISDOM LITERATURE

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A Wheaton professor and an evangelical, Bullock offers an introduction of the wisdom literature genre, its theological implications, followed by an in-depth analysis of each wisdom book, including introductory matters, heremeneutical issues, and an exposition. No Hebrew necessary, 271 pgs.

Clifford, Richard J. *The Wisdom Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

A critical scholar from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Clifford gives a handbook on the wisdom books, including Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon in his study. All Hebrew transliterated, 181 pgs.

Curtis, Edward M., and John J. Brugaletta. *Discovering the Way of Wisdom: Spirituality the Wisdom Literature*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Talbot's own Ed Curtis, along with CSU professor emeritus John Brugaletta, explore how the dozens of daily life decisions which the wisdom literature discusses are an essential part of developing godly character. No Hebrew necessary, 238 pgs.

Estes, Daniel. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

An evangelical professor at Cedarville University, Estes provides a guide for graduate students and pastors by summarizing key introductory issues of

scholarly debate, expositing each biblical book, and gives bibliographies for further study. No Hebrew necessary, 448 pgs.

Hutchison, John. *Thinking Right When Things Go Wrong: Biblical Wisdom for Surviving Tough Times*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Recommended by Ken Way

Hutchison, chair of Talbot's Bible Exposition department, arranges his study of the wisdom literature topically, focusing on its contemporary application in the reader's life, and proposes from his exegesis the beginnings of a process the reader can use to minimize the shock of soul-crushing events. No Hebrew necessary, 256 pgs.

Kidner, Derek. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A British evangelical, Kidner focuses on these books' basic character, internal structure, and modern criticism, concluding with a comparison and contrast of the three books together. No Hebrew necessary, 175 pgs.

Packer, J. I., and Sven K. Soderlund, eds. *The Way of Wisdom: Essays in Honor of Bruce K. Waltke*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

This evangelical anthology features multiple authors and such varied topics as the fall of Lucifer, bribes in Proverbs, the purpose of Job, marital wisdom, and love and intimacy in Song of Songs. Hebrew required, 332 pgs.

IV. THE PROPHETS

Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Chisholm, an OT professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, avoids technical commentary in favor of "seeing the forest instead of the trees," looking at each prophetic book as a unit and giving space to major themes in each while expositing each book chapter by chapter. All Hebrew transliterated, 512 pgs.

VanGemen, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

An OT professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, VanGemen presents a clear explanation of the background of the prophetic tradition before interpreting the message of the major and minor prophets, using historical and literary context as his tools and attempting to explain the relevance of the prophets today. All Hebrew transliterated, 545 pgs.

F. OT HERMENEUTICS & INTERPRETATION

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1981.
This extremely popular book by a critical scholar has become a textbook standard for understanding narrative in Scripture, covering literary approaches to the Bible, sacred history, uses of literary convention, the relationship between narrative and dialogue, repetition, and other aspects of narrative understanding. All Hebrew transliterated, 195 pgs.
- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1985.
Recommended by Tom Finley
A critical scholar, Alter explains the literary dimensions of biblical poetry, and his work has become the standard introduction to the subject, covering parallelism, story, intensification, metaphor, wit, and giving an especial focus on the Psalms and Job. All Hebrew transliterated, 228 pgs.
- Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
A critical scholar from Vanderbilt University and Claremont School of Theology, Barr offers a discussion of the whole of Old Testament biblical theology, including typologies of OT theologies, the influences of philosophy and natural theology, Jewish biblical theology, narratives in biblical theology, canonical approaches, and several profiles of influential works. No Hebrew necessary, 715 pgs.
- Broyles, Craig C., ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
Evangelical scholars each discuss various methods of interpreting and exegeting OT texts, covering such topics as OT as literature, history, sociology, traditions, biblical theology, and redaction theories. No Hebrew necessary, 272 pgs.
- Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
Recommended by Tom Finley
Professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, Chisholm discusses tools for understanding Hebrew, Hebrew syntax, narrative and poetry structure, and exegetical methods to teach how to preach Hebrew Scriptures. Hebrew usually translated but not always, 304 pgs.
- Douglas, Mary. *Thinking in Circles: An Essay on Ring Composition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.
Douglas, a secular anthropologist, lays out a theory for interpreting biblical texts according to ring composition, an idea that a composition opens a theme,

develops it in two parallel tracks, and then rounds it off to a conclusion. No Hebrew necessary, 169 pgs.

Fishbane, M. *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Fishbane investigates the beginnings of Scriptural interpretation within the Hebrew Bible itself in order to develop a method of understanding the Hebrew texts. Some Hebrew required, 565 pgs.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Fokkelman, a conservative scholar and professor at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, offers methods and exercises in understanding and reading Hebrew poetry. No Hebrew necessary, 243 pgs.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Nelson, 2004.

Evangelicals at Denver Seminary and North Park Theological Seminary, this is the standard seminary-level introduction to biblical hermeneutics. It includes detailed sections on understanding poetry and each major genre of the Old Testament with detailed bibliographies. All Hebrew and Greek transliterated, 563 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Vol. 4 of *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Academic Books, 1987.

Longman, a conservative at Westmont College, purposes to make the reader familiar with the literary nature of the Old Testament and brings to bear the then-recent rise of literary criticism as it influences interpretation. No Hebrew necessary, 164 pgs.

Peterson, David L., and Kent H. Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Peterson and Richards, critical scholars, offer an in-depth analysis of Hebrew poetry, particularly its parallelism, meter and rhythm, and methods of analysis. No Hebrew necessary, 128 pgs.

Ryken, Leland. *Words of Delight: A Literary Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

Ryken is an evangelical English professor at Wheaton College, and here he offers one of the first and best literary analyses of Scripture, covering specifically biblical narrative, biblical poetry, encomium, proverbs, satires, and dramas. No Hebrew necessary, 382 pgs.

Sandy, D. Brent, and Ronald L. Giese, Jr., eds. *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 1995.

Talbot Contributor: Walt Russell

Sandy, a pastor and professor at Grace Theological Seminary in Virginia, and Giese, associate professor at Liberty University, present essays from numerous exposition experts examining how to use genre to interpret the OT. No Hebrew necessary, 323 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas K. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2001.

An evangelical at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Stuart writes for the average reader and covers exegesis from text to translation to context, form, structure, theology, and application, along with guides for sermon exegesis. All Hebrew translated, 142 pgs.

Westermann, Claus, ed. *Essays on Old Testament Hermeneutics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1979.

Westermann, a German scholar, translates a collection of essays from other German scholars of varying faith perspectives, in a classic and somewhat dated technical work covering such topics as prophecy and fulfillment, theocracy and soteriology, and typological exegesis. No Hebrew necessary, 363 pgs.

G. OT THEOLOGIES

Goldingay, John H. *Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation*. Rev ed. Toronto: Clements, 2002.

Goldingay offers conservative answers to Christian questions about the OT, explaining it as a faith, a way of life, the story of salvation, a witness to Christ, and as Scripture. No Hebrew necessary, 207 pgs.

Goldingay, John H. *Israel's Gospel*. Vol. 1 of *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Goldingay, John H. *Israel's Faith*. Vol. 2 of *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Goldingay, John H. *Israel's Life*. Vol. 3 of *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Recommended by Ken Way

Goldingay, a conservative at Fuller Theological Seminary, gives an exhaustive and comprehensive theology of the Old Testament and Israel's understanding of Yahweh. All Hebrew transliterated, vol. 1, 940 pgs.; vol. 2, 891 pgs.; vol. 3, 912 pgs.

Hasel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed.

- Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
 Hasel is a conservative at Andrews University Theological Seminary who offers a summary of the various theological approaches to OT theologies, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish scholars from both Europe and America, before offering his own synthesis and an in-depth bibliography for further reading. No Hebrew necessary, 262 pgs.
- House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1998.
 House, a conservative professor from Taylor University in Indiana, gives a narrative approach outlining God's nature and acts in each book of the OT and emphasizing the OT's coherence. No Hebrew necessary, 655 pgs.
- Kaiser, Jr., Walter C. *The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
 Kaiser, an evangelical at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, proposes the central theme to the Scriptures is the promise of God, and lays out how God's plan to fulfill this promise progressively unfolds. All Hebrew transliterated, 419 pgs.
- Kaiser, Jr., Walter C. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
 Kaiser, an evangelical from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, traces the theme of promise chronologically through the OT in a classic work on the subject. No Hebrew necessary, 303 pgs.
- von Rad, Gerhard. *The Theology of Israel's Historical Traditions*. Vol. 1 of *Old Testament Theology*. Translated by D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1962.
- von Rad, Gerhard. *The Theology of Israel's Prophetic Traditions*. Vol. 2 of *Old Testament Theology*. Translated by D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1965.
 A critical scholar and the classic critical work, von Rad discards a systematic approach in favor of a historical synthesis, and in line with the JEDP theory of his day he disavows any central line of theological thought in the Old Testament. All Hebrew translated, vol. 1, 483 pgs.; vol. 2, 470 pgs.
- Sailhamer, John H. *Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
 Sailhamer presents an evangelical, structural approach to OT theology, concluding with a proposal for a canonical theology. Hebrew necessary for footnotes only, 327 pgs.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., ed. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-By-Book Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Recommended by Ken Way**

A series of evangelicals offer their perspectives on interpreting each book of the Old Testament. No Hebrew necessary, 336 pgs.

Waltke, Bruce K., with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Walte, an outstanding evangelical at Reformed Theological Seminary, takes a chronological and book-by-book approach to produce a theology based with a mixed exegetical, canonical, and thematic approach. All Hebrew transliterated, 1040 pgs.

Zuck, Roy B., ed., with Eugene H. Merrill and Darrell L. Bock. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

These three evangelicals from Dallas Theological Seminary produce a biblical theology oriented according to the biblical books themselves and their contributions to theological thought. No Hebrew necessary, 446 pgs.

H. IMPORTANT OT JOURNALS

The ensuing journals are cataloged in the following format:

Title (Abbreviation). Recommendation. Faith perspective, publisher. Language. Years in Existence.

I. WHOLE BIBLE:

Bibliotheca Sacra (BibSac). Recommended by Tom Finley. Evangelical, published by Dallas Theological Seminary. English. Ca. 1846 – present.

Bulletin for Biblical Research (BBR). Recommended by Ken Way. Evangelical, published by Denver Seminary. English. 1991 – present.

Catholic Biblical Quarterly (CBQ). Recommended by Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives, published by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. English. 1946 – present.

Journal of Biblical Literature (JBL). Recommended by Tom Finley and Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives presented, published by Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). English. Ca. 1881 – present.

Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society (JETS). Recommended by Ken Way. Evangelical, published by the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). English. 1957 – present.

II. OT ONLY:

Journal For The Study of the Old Testament (JSOT). Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Sage Publications. English. 1976 – present.

Old Testament Abstracts. Recommended by Tom Finley. A quarterly catalog of abstracts of all OT-related articles published in that quarter, evangelical or otherwise. English. 1978 – present.

Journal of Hebrew Scriptures. Recommended by Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published online by the University of Alberta, Canada. English. 1996 – present.

Vetus Testamentum (VT). Recommended by Tom Finley. Most articles in English. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament; Brill. 1951 – present.

Zeitschrift fur die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft (ZAW). Recommended by Tom Finley. Many articles in English. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by De Gruyter, Germany. Ca. 1900 – present.

III. LANGUAGES, PHILOLOGY, & SEMITICS

Hebrew Studies. Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by National Association of Professors of Hebrew. English. Ca. 1950 – present.

Note: Contains articles on both modern Hebrew, biblical Hebrew, and other dialects of Hebrew.

Maarav. Recommended by Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Western Academic Press. Most articles in English. 1978 – present.

Note: Focuses on all northwest Semitic languages.

Ugarit-Forschungen (UF). Recommended by Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Ugarit-Verlag Munster. Many articles in English. Ca. 1968 – present.

IV. ARCHAEOLOGY

Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR). Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS). English. 1975 – present.

Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR). Recommended by Ken

Way. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by American Schools of Oriental Research. English. 1919 – present.

Note: Top archaeological journal for OT research.

Dead Sea Discoveries. Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Brill, Netherlands. English. Ca. 1960 – present.

Israel Exploration Journal (IEJ). Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Israel Exploration Society. English. Ca. 1950 – present.

Levant. Recommended by Ken Way. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by Maney, the Council for British Research in the Levant. English. 1969 – present.

Revue de Qumran. Recommended by Tom Finley. Multiple faith perspectives represented, published by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Many articles in English. 1958- present.

IV. LANGUAGE AIDS

A. HEBREW BIBLES

Note: Hebrew is required for all sources in this section.

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* [BHS]. 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1997.

This is the standard version of the Hebrew Bible used by scholars, students, and others alike. Based on the Leningrad Codex of AD 1008, the BHS's footnotes list important textual variants including the occasional Dead Sea Scrolls reference, although the textual apparatus on the side takes training to use. Paperback edition is also available. 1,574 pgs.

Kohlenberger III, John R. *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Kohlenberger gives the reader the Hebrew text, with a word-for-word interlinear translation to guide readers of the Hebrew, and the NIV English translation on a side column of each page to offer a complete translation. Where older interlinears have the English translation reading right to left to match the Hebrew, this interlinear English runs left to right. 591 pgs.

Brown II, Philip A., and Bryan W. Smith, eds. *A Reader's Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

The hallmark of this Hebrew Bible is how each page's notes define words not commonly used in the Hebrew original, so that readers can avoid using lexicons altogether. It contains no textual apparatus. Words used less than 100 times are given in the notes, while words used over 100 times are defined in a brief lexicon referencing the *BDB* and *HALOT*. 1652 pgs.

Brown II, Philip A., Bryan W. Smith, Richard J. Goodrich, and Albert L. Lucaszewski, eds. *A Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

The hallmark of this Bible, the only reader's Bible with both testaments, is how each page's notes define words not commonly used in the Greek or Hebrew original, so that readers can avoid using lexicons altogether. It contains no textual apparatus. In the Greek, words used less than 25 times are given in the notes, while words used over 25 times are defined in a brief lexicon. For the Hebrew, words used less than 100 times are given in the notes, while words used over 100 times are defined in a brief lexicon referencing the *BDB* and *HALOT*. Greek and Hebrew both required, 2226 pgs.

B. OTHER ANCIENT VERSIONS

Abegg, Jr., Martin, Peter Flint and Eugene Ulrich. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1999.

Translated into English, this Bible marks the translation of all 220 Dead Sea biblical scrolls, ordered according to Torah, prophets, and other biblical books. No Hebrew necessary, 649 pgs.

Brenton, Sir Lancelot C. L., ed. *The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English*. 1851. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001.

Originally published in 1851, this text of the LXX also provides a parallel English translation by Brenton. No Hebrew required, Greek necessary, 248 pgs.

Rahlfs, Alfred, ed. *Septuaginta*. Altera editio. Rev. by Robert Hanhart. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.

This is considered the standard Greek LXX in circulation today. All editions since 1935 are technically reprints, and include the Apocrypha. A major weakness is Rahlfs' use of a limited number of manuscripts. No Hebrew necessary, Greek required, 2,125 pgs.

C. LEXICONS

Armstrong, Terry A., Douglas L. Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Armstrong, Busby, and Carr offer a unique lexicon resource. Rather than alphabetize Hebrew words with their definitions, this lexicon goes verse-by-verse through the Old Testament and gives for each verse definitions of words which appear fifty or fewer times in the Bible, and defines in the appendix words appearing more than fifty times. Proper nouns are not included. Thus, a reader can open a Hebrew Bible, open this lexicon, and be able to refer to it without having to flip back and forth to find words. Hebrew required; vols. 1 & 2, Gen-2 Kgs, 230 pgs.; vol. 3, Isa-Mal, 220 pgs.; vol. 4, Pss-2 Chr, 296 pgs.

Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. 1906. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003.

Usually referred to as the *BDB*, this lexicon remains an English standard for its thoroughness in cataloging not just every Hebrew word but also Hebrew idioms and phrases, and their appearances in sister languages to Hebrew. *BDB* is also coded with the Strong concordance numbers. Users, however, must bear in mind that the Hebrew is organized not alphabetically but by verbal root. For this reason, it may be useful to consult Einspahr (below, in this section) as an index to this lexicon. Hebrew required, 1185 pgs.

Clines, David J. A., ed. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

Recommended by Ken Way

Clines, a critical scholar from the University of Sheffield in England, offers an abridgement of the eight-volume *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, about one tenth the size of the original. Each entry includes the word's statistics, part of speech, morphology, meanings, a few citations, potential emendations, and index references. Hebrew required, 496 pgs.

Clines, David J. A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 7+ vols. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993—.

Recommended by Ken Way

Clines, a critical scholar from England's University of Sheffield, is still finishing the magnum opus of all Hebrew lexicons. Featuring words from all Classical Hebrew sources (including but not limited to the Old Testament), and bases the *DCH's* definitions on modern linguistic theories, and is user-friendly. Each entry gives a word's number of occurrences, part of speech, meaning, morphology, semantic analysis, syntagmatic analysis, paradigmatic analysis, and an index of all extant forms derived from the root. Hebrew required. Seven volumes are currently in press; vol. 1, Aleph; vol. 2, Beth to Waw; vol. 3, Zayin to Teth; vol. 4, Yodh to Lamedh; vol. 5, Mem to Nun; vol. 6, Samekh to Pe; vol. 7, Sade to Resh.

Einspahr, B. *Index to Brown, Driver and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.

Einspahr offers an easy-to-use guide to accessing Hebrew word entries in the *BDB*, it being organized just like the Bible (i.e., by books, chapters, and verses). It is a helpful and simple resource, making access to the *BDB* also helpful and simple. Hebrew required, 452 pgs.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Holladay's lexicon is an abbreviated, one-volume version of Koehler and Baumgartner. Giving little more than the basic definition of words in their various stems along with some sample uses in the OT, this functions well for beginning Hebrew and Aramaic students. Hebrew required, 427 pgs.

Jastrow, Marcus. *A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature*. 2 vols. 2nd ed. New York: Pardes, 1950.

Jastrow offers a lexicon of the Targums, the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds, and the midrashic literature in the Gemara. This has been called the best Aramaic lexicon in English, although it has equal amounts of Aramaic and Hebrew words. Hebrew and Aramaic required; vol. 1, Aleph to Kaf, 683 pgs.; vol. 2, Lamed to Taw, 1736 pgs.

Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old*

Testament. Trans. and ed. by M. E. J. Richardson. 5 vols. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 1994-2000.

Affectionately known as *HALOT*, this is one of the two premier lexicons that tower even over the one-volume *BDB*. *HALOT*, in addition to the five-volume edition, is also available in a two-volume edition, unabridged. Hebrew words may be found alphabetically and not according to their roots, and as far as possible all quotations of the word are given. Volume 5 is a special Aramaic-only lexicon. Hebrew necessary. Vol. 1, Aleph to Heth, 365 pgs.; vol. 2, Tet to Ayin, 541 pgs.; vol. 3, Pe to Sin, 458 pgs.; vol. 4, Shin to Taw, 439 pgs.; vol. 5, Aramaic, 290 pgs.

D. WORDBOOKS & WORD STUDIES

Harris, R. L. et al., eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980.

Compiled as an evangelical word study option, the *TWOT* is a compact discussion of important Hebrew words, including their cognates and their words in context. Entries are numbered according to Strong's concordance. Hebrew necessary; vol. 1, 538 pgs.; vol. 2, 586 pgs.

Botterweck, G. Johannes, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 14+ vols. Translated by John T. Willis et al. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974—.

Originally in German and created by critical scholars, the massive *TDOT* covers every word in the Hebrew Old Testament, complete with discussions of the word's meaning from the perspective of multiple countries' scholarship and most Christian and Jewish traditions. The goal for each entry is to begin with a regular, everyday meaning for the word, eventually unpacking it to reveal significant theological concepts. Hebrew required.

Jenni, E., and C. Westermann, eds. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

This is the English translation of the standard German theological dictionary for three decades, written by leading European scholars of varying persuasions and including etymology, cognates, ranges of meaning, usage in OT, LXX equivalents, and Qumran usage for important Hebrew words. Hebrew necessary; vol. 1, 448 pgs.; vol. 2, 628 pgs.; vol. 3, 562 pgs.

VanGemeren, Willem A., gen. ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Biola Contributor: David Talley

Commonly referred to as the *NIDOTTE* and complementing its NT counterpart (*NIDNTTE*, edited by Colin Brown), this elaborate dictionary catalogs some three

thousand Hebrew words, each with an accompanying article. Each article includes a general pronunciation key, a section examining its use in the ancient Near East (where possible), and a section analyzing its use in the OT. Featuring hundreds of authors, this work is broadly evangelical (VanGemeren is a professor at Trinity in Deerfield, IL). A series of introductory articles in vol. 1 focus on hermeneutics and semantics with the Hebrew vocabulary. Users will need to know Hebrew to access word articles, although all other Hebrew is transliterated. Vol. 1, alef to zayin (1156 pgs); vol. 2, heth to mem (1152 pgs); vol. 3, nun to sin (1296 pgs); vol. 4, shin to taw (1322 pgs); vol. 5, indexes (834 pgs).

E. CONCORDANCES

Even-Shoshan, Avraham. *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Jerusalem: Kiryat Sefer, 1982.

An Israeli, Even-Shoshan offers in three volumes a Hebrew concordance to the Old Testament. Knowledge of the Hebrew is required. Vol. 1, Aleph to Heth, 760 pgs.; vol. 2, Tet to Samek, 762 pgs.; vol. 3, Ayin to Taw, 785 pgs.

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament*. 1874. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001.

Originally appearing in 1843, this concordance of the Hebrew is designed for English-only readers. Each entry is numbered according to the Strong numbering system, and once a word is found (whether by reading the alphabetized Hebrew or using the numbering system), each use of the term in the Hebrew Bible is given completely in English. Virtually no Hebrew knowledge is necessary. 1688 pgs.

Hatch, Edwin, and Henry A. Redpath. *A Concordance to the Septuagint and the other Greek Versions of the Old Testament (Including the Apocryphal Books)*. 2 vols. Graz, Austria: Akademische Druck, 1954.

Originally published in the 1800s, Hatch and Redpath offer a concordance to the Greek Septuagint with full detail. The final volume also includes a supplement with various notes about differences among the Hexapla, and a Hebrew index to the concordance. Greek necessary. Vol. 1, Alpha to Lamda, 696 pgs.; vol. 2, Kappa to Omega, 1776 pgs.

F. LINGUISTICS

Cotterell, Peter, and Max Turner. *Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1989.

These critical scholars from Britain offer an introduction to applying modern linguistics to biblical interpretation. Topics covered include semantics and hermeneutics, dimensions of meaning in a discourse, use and abuse of word studies in theology, grammar of words, sentences and sentence clusters, discourse analysis, and non-literal language. All languages transliterated, 348.

Silzer, Peter James, and Thomas John Finley. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Silzer, a Cook School of Intercultural Studies professor, and Finley, chair of the OT department at Talbot School of Theology, offer a linguistic overview of how the biblical languages came to be and function, with hints to help learn the languages. No prior knowledge of Hebrew necessary, 258 pgs.

G. TEXTUAL CRITICISM

Brotzman, E. R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

This useful guide is written by a conservative, and combines an introduction of the Hebrew text and versions, the theory of textual criticism, and practical application using the book of Ruth. Brotzman also includes details on how to use the BHS textual apparatus. No Hebrew necessary, 208 pgs.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

A British evangelical, Kitchen argues exhaustively and decisively that the OT is a reliable text, in contrast to innumerable scholars claiming otherwise. All Hebrew and other languages transliterated, 662 pgs.

Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods, and Results*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

Recommended by Ken Way

A conservative professor at Phoenix Seminary, Wegner presents the methods of textual criticism used for both Old and New Testaments, concluding that the texts extant today are indeed reliable. Hebrew knowledge helpful, but all Hebrew transliterated, 334 pgs.

Tov, Emmanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

An Israeli scholar, Tov provides the best introduction to the subject of OT textual criticism. A more technical work, it is intended for the more advanced learner and teacher. Hebrew helpful but not required, 456 pgs.

H. GRAMMARS

I. PRACTICAL GUIDES

Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. *From Exegesis To Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Recommended by Tom Finley

Professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, Chisholm discusses tools for understanding Hebrew, Hebrew syntax, narrative and poetry structure, and exegetical methods to teach how to preach Hebrew Scriptures. Most Hebrew translated, 304 pgs.

Wegner, P. D. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Practical Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

An evangelical and professor of Old Testament at Phoenix Seminary, Wegner presents a brief work complete with appended examples his reasons and methods to using biblical Hebrew in everyday ministry and sermon preparation, tackling such subjects as language tools, textual analysis, and how to prepare an Old Testament sermon. All Hebrew translated, 166 pgs.

II. ELEMENTARY GRAMMARS

Fuller, Russell T., and Kyoungwon Choi. *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew: A Beginning Grammar*. Invitation to Theological Studies Series. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006. Fuller, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, and Choi, a Ph.D. candidate also at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, break down study of Hebrew into phonological and morphological principles so as to teach Hebrew by reason and rule rather than memorization. Once the phonological principles of consonants, vowels, and gutturals are covered, the morphology breaks down into sections covering particles, nouns and adjectives, strong verbs, and weak verbs. Hebrew required, 364 pgs.

Gibson, John C. L., ed. *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar-Syntax*. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.

Gibson presents A. B. Davidson's introductory grammar, in use since 1894, covering the pronoun, the noun, the verb, and the sentence, designed to teach Hebrew to those who already know the letters and can read Hebrew. Hebrew required, 233 pgs.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Pratico and Van Pelt, evangelicals, offer the standard today in Hebrew grammar textbooks. Organized so as to cover nouns and pronominals first, its brilliance is in its in-depth study of the Qal stem in order to quickly overview the other six

stems. Accompanying this work is Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007). Hebrew required, 475 pgs.

III. ADVANCED GRAMMARS

Note: The faith perspectives of these authors are not necessarily relevant for the adequate teaching of the Hebrew language, and is often omitted in this section.

Anderson, Francis I. *The Sentence in Biblical Hebrew*. The Hague: Mouton, 1974.

Anderson, an evangelical scholar, describes several kinds of Hebrew sentences, particularly those involving apposition, coordination, and several kinds of clauses, concluding with a study of different kinds of Hebrew sentences that breaks new ground as the first application of modern linguistic methods to the study of Hebrew. All Hebrew transliterated, 209 pgs.

Driver, S. R. *A Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew and Some Other Syntactical Questions*. 1892. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Driver, a critical scholar, presents a classic work which analyzes the various tenses which the Hebrew conjugations create and how they function given the flexibility of Hebrew verbs. Hebrew required, 306 pgs.

Jouon, Paul, and Takamitsu Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd ed. 2006. Reprint, Rome: Gregorian & Biblical Press, 2009.

A classic originally published in French in 1923, Jouon's updated work is clear with half its pages dedicated to syntax, an area most Hebrew grammars avoid. The work is exhaustive and detailed, also covering phonetics and morphology. Hebrew required, 772 pgs.

Kautzsch, E., and A. E. Cowley, eds. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910.

This translation and edited version of Gesenius' German original is the crème de la crème of Hebrew grammars, a standard work one hundred years after its publication and beyond. It includes exhaustive notes on elementary pronunciation and spelling, etymology, the parts of speech, and syntax. Hebrew required, 598 pgs.

van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

The aim of this grammar by international scholars is to serve as an intermediate-level reference for those with a basic knowledge of biblical Hebrew who wish to broaden their knowledge. As such, its focus is on verbs, nouns, and other word forms. Hebrew required, 403 pgs.

Putnam, Frederic Clarke. *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical*

Hebrew. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1996.

Putnam's work is unique in that it indexes all the major Hebrew grammar works' references to Scripture. One can easily look up an OT verse in this book and find the page references for every major Hebrew grammar book that references that particular verse, helpful in exegetical studies. No Hebrew necessary, 338 pages.

Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Waltke and O'Connor offer an evangelical overview of the complex structure of Hebrew syntax, well-organized and handy to reference, covering every form of syntax in the language. Hebrew required, 765 pgs.

Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976.

A scholar from the University of Toronto in Canada, Williams's very concise manual gives discussion of the syntax of the noun, the verb, particles, and clauses. Hebrew required, 122 pgs.

V. TOP PICKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. GENESIS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Walton, John H. *Genesis*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

John Walton is the premier Genesis expert in the evangelical world. A strong conservative, his style is to compare the Genesis accounts to its contemporary ancient works from Egypt and Mesopotamia, combined with the latest archaeology. As a NIVAC commentary, this volume systematically looks at original meaning, and then ways to bridge the original meaning to our context before concluding with contemporary significance. While the contemporary significance will eventually be dated, the original meaning will not. No knowledge of Hebrew necessary, 727 pgs.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15*. Vol. 1 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 16-50*. Vol. 2 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

Gordon Wenham is lecturer in Old Testament at Trinity College in Bristol, UK, a recognized expert in the Pentateuch, and a theological conservative. This in-depth exegetical commentary is intended for study by students and teachers rather than the average churchgoer. Although using the Hebrew language, the "Comment" and "Explanation" sections have English translations of Hebrew references. Wenham offers a detailed verse-by-verse commentary covering possible understandings of the text from every angle. Vol. 1, 335 pgs; Vol. 2, 493 pgs.

Mathews, K. A. *Genesis 1-11:26*. Vol. 1A of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996.

Mathews, K. A. *Genesis 11:27-50:26*. Vol. 1B of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2005.

Mathews offers the most up-to-date evangelical commentary on Genesis. A conservative, this work rivals Wenham and Hamilton for depth. An expositional verse-by-verse commentary, all Hebrew is transliterated for accessibility. With an emphasis on ancient Near Eastern background, Mathews also shows strengths in theological and literary analysis. Vol. 1, 528 pgs.; vol. 2, 960 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Hamilton, Victor P. *Genesis 1-17*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Hamilton, Victor P. *Genesis 18-50*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Hamilton offers an excellent, though older, evangelical analysis of Genesis. Some Hebrew required, vol. 1, 483 pgs.; vol. 2, 715 pgs.

Sailhamer, John H. "Genesis." Vol. 1 of *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, revised edition, edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, 21-332. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

A professor at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Brea, Sailhamer is an evangelical Pentateuch authority who writes a solid commentary intended for preachers and teachers. All Hebrew transliterated, 331 pgs.

Waltke, Bruce K., and Cathi J. Fredericks. *Genesis: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Waltke, an evangelical OT scholar, offers a literary analysis intended to aid pastors and lay leaders preach Genesis. No Hebrew necessary, 656 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Curtis, Edward. "Genesis 38: Its Context(s) and Function." *Criswell Theological Review* 5, no. 2 (Spring 1991): 247-258.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ed Curtis discusses how the different contexts for the Judah and Tamar narrative complement one another in presenting the full impact of the story. All Hebrew translated, 12 pgs.

Curtis, Edward. "Structure, Style and Context as a Key to Interpreting Jacob's Encounter at Peniel." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 30, no. 2 (July 1987): 129-137.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ed Curtis points out the rhetorical devices present in Jacob's encounter at Peniel and subsequent encounter with Esau so as to determine the meaning of the passage. All Hebrew transliterated, 9 pgs.

Curtis, Edward. "The Theological Basis for the Prohibition of Images in the Old Testament." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 28, no. 3 (September, 1985): 277-87.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ed Curtis discusses how the prohibition of images in Israel set the chosen people apart from the rest of the ancient Near East. All Hebrew transliterated, 11 pgs.

Walton, John H. *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Walton, professor of OT at Wheaton and the premier evangelical expert on Genesis, proposes a reading of Gen 1 in light of ancient Near Eastern contexts, resulting in a stronger creation theology. No Hebrew necessary, 173 pgs.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Story As Torah: Reading Old Testament Narrative Ethically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000.

Wenham, an evangelical scholar, demonstrates in both Genesis and Judges how the biblical writers used narrative phenomena to create stories that inform ethical choices. No Hebrew, 180 pgs.

B. EXODUS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Propp, William H. *Exodus 1-18*. Vol. 2 of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

Propp, William H. *Exodus 19-40*. Vol. 2A of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2006.

Propp, professor at UC-San Diego, is a critical scholar whose approach is anthropological. As such, his commentary seeks to understand Israelite social institutions and perceptions of reality, especially compared to the greater cultural context of the ancient Near East. The commentary also offers studies of words and their meanings and etymologies, along with historical analysis concerning the timing and way in which Israel emerged as a nation. Organized into translation, textual analysis, source analysis, redaction analysis, notes and commentary sections, all Hebrew in this advanced commentary is transliterated. Vol. 1, 680 pgs.; vol. 2, 865 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas K. *Exodus*. Vol. 2 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006.

Stuart, a Gordon-Conwell Hebrew professor and an evangelical, avoids losing the reader in detailed critical commentary by subordinating critical discussions and focusing on the interests of pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and readers who will use this commentary in ministry. He balances an introduction focusing on the theology of Exodus with a commentary that offers significant exegetical insights. Hebrew required only for footnotes, 827 pgs.

Durham, John I. *Exodus*. Vol. 3 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

In the standard WBC style, this commentary offers for each passage textual notes, structural notes, commentary, and explanation. A more critical commentary, Durham offers canonical criticism and a history of interpretation for each passage. The major strength of this commentary is its attention to the theology of Exodus. Hebrew is needed for this commentary, 516 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

- Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973.
Cole, a conservative, writes his commentary to point out how Exodus affected the life and theology of Israel and the OT. All Hebrew transliterated, 239 pgs.
- Ellison, H. L. *Exodus*. The Daily Bible Study Series. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.
Ellison, a British conservative, writes an expositional commentary which is intended to help preachers and teachers. All Hebrew is transliterated, 204 pgs.
- Enns, Peter. *Exodus*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
Enns, a conservative Reformed scholar, offers a commentary covering original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 620 pgs.
- Kaiser, Walter C. "Exodus." Vol. 1 of *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. 333-563.
Kaiser, an evangelical scholar, offers a conservative commentary. All Hebrew accompanied by transliteration, 230 pgs.
- Sarna, Nahum M. *Exodus*. JPS Torah Commentary. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1991.
A respected Jewish expert on Exodus and professor at Brandeis University, Sarna gives a master commentary that also makes use of rabbinic commentary on Exodus. Hebrew helpful but not required, 278 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Hoffmeier, James K. *Ancient Israel In Sinai: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Wilderness Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
A conservative Trinity Evangelical Divinity School professor of archaeology, Hoffmeier marshals the most recent archaeological evidence to make a case for the veracity of the wilderness accounts in Exodus and Numbers. Some Hebrew required, 336 pgs.
- Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel In Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

- Hoffmeier, a conservative and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School professor, offers an in-depth study of the most recent archaeological evidence for an Israelite presence in Egypt. All Hebrew is transliterated; 244 pgs.
- Longman III, Tremper. *How To Read Exodus*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. A renowned Westmont OT scholar offers in simple terms how to read Exodus as literature, history, narrative, and as a Christian. No Hebrew necessary, 187 pgs.
- Sarna, Nahum M. *Exploring Exodus: The Heritage of Biblical Israel*. New York: Schocken Books, 1986.
Sarna, a Jewish scholar at Brandeis University professor, offers commentary on the major themes of each episode of Exodus, from the oppression to the Tabernacle. No Hebrew necessary, 277 pgs.

C. LEVITICUS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

- Milgrom, Jacob. *Leviticus 1-16*. Vol. 3 of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.
- Milgrom, Jacob. *Leviticus 17-22*. Vol. 3A of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.
- Milgrom, Jacob. *Leviticus 23-27*. Vol. 3B of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.
A Jewish redaction critic, Milgrom writes the quintessential commentary on Leviticus. Milgrom studies each unit of Leviticus as a whole prior to demonstrating how the parts of each unit interact, in the tradition of historic Jewish exegetes. Milgrom especially examines the use of ritual. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 1163 pgs.; vol. 2, 729 pgs.; vol. 3, 822 pgs.
- Gane, Roy. *Leviticus, Numbers*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
Gane, a Christian conservative who studied under Jacob Milgrom, offers a plain reading of the text as authored by Moses. For every pericope he offers a section covering original meaning, a segment answering how to bridge the context of Leviticus to contemporary times, and a section for application. Intended for everyday readers, no Hebrew is required. 846 pgs.
- Hartley, John E. *Leviticus*. Vol. 4 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word Books, 1992.
Professor of OT at Azusa Pacific University, Hartley is a conservative who takes critical scholars' opinions into account while writing his commentary. This advanced exegetical commentary is intended for study by students and teachers over average churchgoers. Hebrew is needed for some of the commentary; the

“Comment” and “Explanation” sections have English translations of Hebrew references. Hartley offers a chance to understand Leviticus from a variety of perspectives, filtered through a conservative lens. 496 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Harrison, R. K. *Leviticus*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1980.

Harrison, a deceased OT professor at Wycliffe in Toronto and a conservative, emphasizes the purpose and meaning of the various sacrifices and rituals. All Hebrew transliterated, 252 pgs.

Hess, Richard R. “Leviticus.” Vol. 1 of *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, rev. ed., edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, 563-826. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Hess, a Denver Seminary professor, offers a conservative and up-to-date commentary. No Hebrew necessary, 263 pgs.

Levine, Baruch A. *Leviticus*. The JPS Torah Commentary. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989.

A Jewish scholar, Levine’s commentary offers a distinctly Jewish understanding of Leviticus as the means by which Israel would realize God’s command to be a “holy nation.” Hebrew helpful but not required, 284 pgs.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.

A conservative British scholar, Wenham takes into account the plain meaning of the text alongside Leviticus’ theological value and ritual genre. No Hebrew necessary, 362 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Carpenter, E. E. “Sacrifices and Offerings in the OT.” *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. 4:260-273.

A professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, Carpenter offers a conservative explanation of each type of sacrifice in Leviticus, along with special issues such as the significance of blood. No Hebrew necessary, 13 pgs.

Douglas, Mary. *Leviticus As Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Douglas, a critical scholar, offers an anthropological perspective on Leviticus as a book of rituals which is organized in such a way as to reflect the tabernacle structure, an adaptation of an idea called “ring theory.” No Hebrew necessary, 280 pgs.

Klingbeil, Gerald A. *Bridging the Gap: Rituals and Ritual Texts in the Bible*. Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplements 1. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2007.
A Seventh-Day Adventist, Klingbeil covers biblical ritual material found throughout all of Scripture, presenting theoretical, methodological, comparative, theological, and historical perspectives on the use and meaning of ritual in Scripture. All Hebrew transliterated, 304 pgs.

D. NUMBERS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Levine, Baruch. *Numbers 1-20*. Vol. 4 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Levine, Baruch. *Numbers 21-36*. Vol. 4A of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

A Jewish scholar, Levine offers ancient Near Eastern background details and philological discussion in depth. As a heavy source critic, the introductory materials concerned with the final form of Numbers may be tedious. Overall, this is an exhaustive commentary. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 528 pgs.; vol. 2, 614 pgs.

Milgrom, Jacob. *Numbers*. The JPS Torah Commentary. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1990.

A Jew by faith, Milgrom offers much to support the assertion that Numbers is a divinely revealed text, and argues for a unified structure to Numbers. This volume is quite technical, despite being written for a broader audience, but offers numerous scholarly insights without losing the big picture. Hebrew is helpful in understanding the comments and the Hebrew text which parallels the English translation, but is not a necessity. 520 pgs.

Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. Vol. 3B of *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2000.

Cole offers an evangelical reading of Numbers, embracing core Mosaic authorship of the text. The strength of this commentary is in its theological discussions, although it also sifts the scholarly debates by accepting the good and rejecting the bad. Intended for laypeople and pastors, all Hebrew outside of footnotes is transliterated and translated. 590 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Ashley, Timothy R. *Numbers*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

- An evangelical, Ashley gives in-depth examination to differing viewpoints while still arguing a conservative interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 667 pgs.
- Gane, Roy. *Leviticus, Numbers*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
Gane, a Christian conservative who studied under Jacob Milgrom, offers a plain reading of Numbers intended for everyday readers. No Hebrew required, 846 pgs.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Numbers*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1981.
Gordon Wenham is a British conservative and an OT expert. This volume provides a sound, thorough, and scholarly exegesis fit for any audience, covering such topics as the character of God, the land of Canaan, the theological difference of Numbers from the rest of the Pentateuch, and Christian use of the Numbers text. No Hebrew necessary, 240 pgs.
- Olson, Dennis T. *Numbers*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1996.
A critical scholar, Olson still offers well-considered theological insights which consider each part of Numbers as part of a greater whole. No Hebrew necessary, 196 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Douglas, Mary. *In The Wilderness: The Doctrine of Defilement in the Book of Numbers*. JSOT Supplemental Series 158. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.
An anthropologist and critical scholar by trade, Douglas offers a unique glimpse into understanding the genre of ritual in the book of Numbers. No Hebrew necessary, 259 pgs.
- Hoffmeier, James K. *Ancient Israel In Sinai: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Wilderness Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
A conservative Trinity Evangelical Divinity School professor of archaeology, Hoffmeier marshals the most recent archaeological evidence to make a case for the veracity of the wilderness accounts in Exodus and Numbers. Some Hebrew required, 336 pgs.
- Way, Kenneth C. "Animals in the Prophetic World." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 34, no. 1 (2009): 47-62.
Talbot Faculty Publication
Talbot's own Ken Way analyzes both the stories of Balaam's donkey in Num 22 and the man of God in 1 Kgs 13 to argue that animals as divine agents is a distinctive characteristic of the preclassical prophets. All Hebrew translated, 15 pgs.

Way, Kenneth C. "Balaam's Hobby Horse: The Animal Motif in the Balaam Traditions." *Ugarit-Forschungen* 37 (2005): 679-693.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ken Way discusses the animal imagery of Balaam traditions in light of a cultural emphasis on omens. All Hebrew transliterated, 15 pgs.

E. DEUTERONOMY

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Wright, Christopher. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary: Old Testament Series. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

Wright is a conservative ethicist, and this expertise appears in his examination of Deuteronomy. His evangelical treatment of the book offers a sound theological analysis and an eye for its application for Christians today. No Hebrew necessary, 350 pgs.

McConville, J. G. *Deuteronomy*. Vol. 5 of *Apollo's Old Testament Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.

Though considered an evangelical, McConville subordinates historical issues of the text in favor of a more theological interpretation and avoiding a stance on authorship. That being said, his theological analysis is superb. McConville also offers an easily accessible verse-by-verse exposition. All Hebrew transliterated, 544 pgs.

Tigay, Jeffrey H. *Deuteronomy*. The JPS Torah Commentary. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1996.

A Jew and a moderate critical scholar, Tigay's commentary elucidates the Hebrew text with the aid of expository comments and notes, along with some reliance on the historical Jewish tradition of interpretation. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 548 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Craigie, Peter C. *Deuteronomy*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Craigie, among the best contemporary evangelical interpreters, emphasizes the unity of the book centered around the treaty analogy and the theme of a community being prepared for a new life. Incorporating philological and theological discussions, Craigie's work does not require Hebrew. 424 pgs.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. Vol. 4 of *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.

A conservative from Dallas Theological Seminary, Merrill offers an informative examination, although his own sources are a bit dated. All Hebrew transliterated, 477 pgs.

Miller, Patrick D. *Deuteronomy*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1990.

A critical scholar, Miller offers important theological application. No Hebrew necessary, 253 pgs.

Weinfeld, Moshe. *Deuteronomy 1-11*. Vol. 5 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

A critical and Jewish scholar, Weinfeld argues Deut 1-11 is history and sermon, and offers literary and theological discussion concerning the connection between Deuteronomy and covenant oaths. Hebrew helpful, 458 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Kaufman, Stephen A. "The Structure of Deuteronomic Law." *Maarav* 1, no. 2 (1978-1979): 105-58.

Kaufman, a Jewish professor at Hebrew Union College, lays out his groundbreaking argument for understanding Deut 12-26 as expositions of each of the Ten Commandments. All Hebrew transliterated, 53 pgs.

Kline, Meredith G. *Treaty of the Great King: The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy: Studies and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.

Kline, an evangelical and former professor at Westminster in Philadelphia, offers an overview of ancient treaties before a full, in-depth analysis of Deuteronomy as an ancient covenant treaty. No Hebrew necessary, 149 pgs.

McCarthy, Dennis J. *Treaty and Covenant: A Study in Form in the Ancient Oriental Documents and in the Old Testament*. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1981.

A Catholic, McCarthy gives a thorough study of formal aspects of ancient Near Eastern treaties from which Deuteronomy's style was culled. All Hebrew transliterated, 368 pgs.

McConville, J. G. *Law and Theology in Deuteronomy*. JSOT Supplemental Series 33. Sheffield, England: JSOTS Press, 1984.

An evangelical, McConville examines the theology and laws concerning six themes of Deuteronomy, including sacrifices, altar-law, tithes, firstborn-law, feasts, priests, and Levites. All Hebrew transliterated, 214.

Rofé, Alexander. *Deuteronomy: Issues and Interpretation*. New York: T&T Clark, 2002.

An Israeli scholar at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rofé offers fifteen essays covering everything from text criticism to social effects of Deuteronomy's theological vision. All Hebrew transliterated, 258 pgs.

Walton, John H. "Deuteronomy: An Exposition of the Spirit of the Law." *Grace Theological Journal* 8, no. 2 (Fall 1987): 213-225.

Walton, a respected evangelical conservative and OT expert, argues for how Deuteronomy exposites the four main themes of the Ten Commandments, building on Kaufman's theory. No Hebrew required, 13 pgs.

F. JOSHUA

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Hess, Richard S. *Joshua*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Recommended by Ken Way

An evangelical, Hess is an acknowledged expert on ancient Near Eastern literature and Israelite history. This commentary defends both the historicity and authenticity of the book, while also including reflection on the literary and theological aspects of the book. In addition to verse-by-verse commentary, Hess also includes numerous helpful maps and an introduction that discusses not only the book but the person of Joshua and the relation of both to the Pentateuch. No Hebrew necessary, 320 pgs.

Howard, David M. *Joshua*. Vol. 5 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998.

Howard, an evangelical scholar, writes one of the better commentaries on Joshua. The book has great strength as an exposition of the book, and takes exposition one step further in mining the theological themes and contributions of the conquest narratives. Howard's approach is also conservative in regard to the historical aspects of Joshua. All Hebrew transliterated, 464 pgs.

Hubbard, Jr., Robert L. *Joshua*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Recommended by Ken Way

Professor of Biblical Literature at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago and an evangelical, Hubbard contends that even the most seemingly mundane portions of Joshua bring plenty of surprises. Per this commentary series, there are sections which focus on original meaning, bridging contemporary and ancient contexts, and contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 652 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Boling, Robert G., and G. E. Wright. *Joshua*. Vol. 6 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1982.

- Boling, a critical scholar, offers a good historical and archaeological treatment with helpful exegetical notes but lacks theological reflection. All Hebrew transliterated, 580 pgs.
- Butler, Trent C. *Joshua*. Vol. 7 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Nelson, 1983. Butler, a Baptist scholar, offers an evangelical but not traditional view of Joshua, with philological, textual, and exegetical insights. All Hebrew transliterated, 304 pgs.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Joshua: No Falling Words*. Focus on the Bible Series. Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000. A Reformed professor and pastor, Davis offers an easy-to-understand exposition for beginners. No Hebrew necessary, 204 pgs.
- Woudstra, Marten. *Joshua*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981. An evangelical, Woudstra offers a historical understanding of Joshua through exegetical analysis, offering theological implications and some literary study. No Hebrew necessary, 396 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Cowles, C.S., Eugene H. Merrill, Daniel L. Gard, and Tremper Longman III. *Show Them No Mercy: Four Views on God and Canaanite Genocide*. Counterpoints Series. Ed. by Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. Four scholars, liberal and conservative, offer the spectrum of answers to those questioning why God would command apparent genocide, and how to interpret such passages in Joshua for today's Christians. All Hebrew transliterated, 218 pgs.
- Craigie, Peter C. *The Problem of War in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. Craigie, a conservative Canadian scholar and veteran, offers a study on war and war declarations across the Old Testament oriented for the lay reader. No Hebrew necessary, 125 pgs.
- Longman III, Tremper, and Daniel G. Reid. *God Is A Warrior*. Studies in Old Testament Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. Conservative scholar Tremper Longman and IVP reference editor Daniel Reid team up to produce an examination of the God-as-warrior theme throughout Scripture, including Yahweh's wars on behalf of faithful Israel and against unfaithful Israel. All Hebrew transliterated, 224 pgs.
- Walton, John H. "Joshua 10:12-15 and Mesopotamian Omen Texts." In *Faith, Tradition and History: Old Testament Historiography in Its Near Eastern Context*, edited

by A. R. Millard, James K. Hoffmeier, and David W. Baker, 181-190. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Conservative scholar John Walton offers an interpretation of the sun standing still from the perspective of the ancient Near East's understanding of omens. No Hebrew necessary, 9 pgs.

Younger, Jr., K. Lawson. *Ancient Conquest Accounts: A Study in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical History Writing*. JSOT Supplemental Series 98. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1990.

Giving a close biblical reading of the text, Younger, a conservative, looks at the literary techniques of ancient writers to come to a closer understanding of conquest accounts in their context. Most Hebrew translated, 392 pgs.

G. JUDGES

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Block, Daniel I. *Judges, Ruth*. Vol. 6 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1999.

Recommended by Ken Way

Block, an evangelical and professor at Wheaton College, writes the quintessential evangelical commentary on Judges, exhaustively studying Judges's literary and theological issues while acknowledging the good and criticizing the bad in all the scholarship which precedes him. All Hebrew translated, 765 pgs.

Younger, Jr., K. Lawson. *Judges/Ruth*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Recommended by Ken Way

Younger, an OT and Semitics professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, writes an able commentary with an excellent "original meaning" section, focusing on theological values, literary structure, and historical background. All Hebrew transliterated, 511 pgs.

Matthews, Victor H. *Judges & Ruth*. New Cambridge Bible Commentary. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

A professor from Southwest Missouri State University and a more critical scholar, Matthews does an excellent job at giving cultural and historical context to the stories of the judges. No Hebrew necessary, 270 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Boling, Robert G. *Judges*. Vol. 6A of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1975.

Emphasizing philology, comparative studies, and history, Boling writes a competent commentary from a critical perspective which offers little literary or theological reflection. All Hebrew transliterated, 338 pgs.

Cundall, Arthur E., and Leon Morris. *Judges, Ruth*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1968.

Cundall, author of the Judges section, argues for a conservative interpretation of Judges, believing Judges and Joshua give complementary as opposed to contrasting accounts. All Hebrew transliterated, 318 pgs.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *Judges: Such A Great Salvation*. Focus on the Bible Series. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2000.

A Reformed Theological Seminary OT professor-turned-church pastor, Davis is a conservative who writes a commentary aimed to make Judges understandable and preachable. No Hebrew necessary, 233 pgs.

Niditch, Susan. *Judges*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Niditch, a critical scholar from Amherst College, takes a folklorist approach to Judges, offering a commentary from the position that the book is a collection of traditional folktales. All Hebrew transliterated, 290 pgs.

Soggin, J. Alberto. *Judges: A Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

A critical scholar at three schools in Rome, Soggin avoids making theological statements in favor of focusing on critical and historical issues, giving a fair representation of liberal European scholarship on Judges. All Hebrew transliterated, 304 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Amit, Yairah. *The Book of Judges: The Art of Editing*. Translated by Jonathan Chipman. Biblical Interpretation Series 38. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 1999.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Israeli scholar, Amit discusses not only the editing processes and hypotheses involved in the composition of Judges, but also examines how the process may have applied to each section of the book in turn. No Hebrew necessary, 427 pgs.

Klein, Lillian R. *The Triumph of Irony in the Book of Judges*. Journal of the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 68. Bible and Literature Series 14. Sheffield, England: Almond Press, 1988.

Recommended by Ken Way

Klein, a critical scholar associated with the University of Maryland, suggests that the coherent theme organizing the narrative of Judges is irony, as used by the redactor of the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 260 pgs.

- O'Connell, Robert H. *The Rhetoric of the Book of Judges*. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 63. Leiden, Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1996.
A critical scholar, O'Connell presents a coherent reading of Judges by discerning the agenda of the redactor of Judges, going into the culture, literary devices, strategy and circumstance of the book. Hebrew required, 541 pgs.
- Webb, Barry G. *The Book of Judges: An Integrated Reading*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 46. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1987.
Recommended by Ken Way
Webb, a British evangelical, explores the meaning of the book of Judges as a whole and as distinct from what precedes and follows it in the canon. All Hebrew translated, 278 pgs.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Story As Torah: Reading Old Testament Narrative Ethically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000.
Wenham, an evangelical scholar, demonstrates in both Judges and Genesis how the biblical writers used narrative phenomena to create stories that inform ethical choices. No Hebrew necessary, 180 pgs.
- Wong, Gregory T. K. *Compositional Strategy of the Book of Judges: An Inductive, Rhetorical Study*. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 111. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2006.
Wong, a conservative, gives a study of the literary structure of Judges which ultimately argues the book came from one human author and is not the work of multiple authors and a redactor. Hebrew required, 287 pgs.

H. RUTH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

- Hubbard, Jr., Robert L. *Ruth*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
Hubbard, editor of the NICOT series and professor at North Park Theological Seminary, writes a solidly evangelical commentary orienting Ruth around the themes of God's gracious rescuing of Elimelech's family and the history of David's dynasty. The lengthy introduction covers most issues surrounding the book, and is followed by verse-by-verse commentary. All Hebrew transliterated, 317 pgs.
- Block, Daniel I. *Judges, Ruth*. Vol. 6 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1999.
Recommended by Ken Way

Block, an evangelical and professor at Bethel Theological Seminary, writes a competent evangelical commentary on Ruth, examining Ruth from literary and theological angles without discarding the historicity of the text. He gives fair evaluation of the scholarship preceding him. All Hebrew transliterated, 765 pgs.

Bush, Frederic William. *Ruth/Esther*. Vol. 9 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word Books, 1996.

Bush, an evangelical, gives an excellent if technical commentary on Ruth. With a particular emphasis on philology, this extensive commentary handles all technical issues. Hebrew and some Greek required, 514 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Campbell, Jr., Edward F. *Ruth* Vol. 7 of *The Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975.

While not an evangelical scholar, Campbell is straightforward, explores ancient social conventions such as levirate marriage and the kinsman redeemer, and offers an early example of literary analysis. All Hebrew transliterated, 188 pgs.

Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *Ruth*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1999.

Sakenfeld, a critical scholar at Princeton, focuses on social and theological significance in a relatively short commentary. All Hebrew transliterated, 91 pgs.

Sasson, Jack M. *Ruth: A New Translation with a Philological Commentary and a Formalist-Folklorist Interpretation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979.

Sasson, a critical scholar from the University of North Carolina, presents a stimulating sociological reading of the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 292 pgs.

Younger, Jr., K. Lawson. *Judges/Ruth*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Recommended by Ken Way

Younger, an OT scholar at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, writes an able and readable commentary with an “original meaning” section devoted to historical background, literary devices, and theological values. No Hebrew necessary, 511 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Luter, A. Boyd, and Barry C. Davis. *God Behind the Seen: Expositions of the Books of Ruth & Esther*. Expositor’s Guide to the Historical Books. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Luter and Davis, both former professors of Talbot, examine six scenes from Ruth and how they show God providentially caring for His people in unseen ways. All Hebrew translated, 377 pgs.

Luter, A. Boyd, and Richard O. Rigsby. "An Adjusted Symmetrical Structuring of Ruth." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 39, no. 1 (March 1996): 15-28.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Luter and Rigsby, a former and a present Talbot professor respectively and evangelicals, explain the chiasmic structure of Ruth. No Hebrew required, 14 pgs.

Luter, A. Boyd, and Richard O. Rigsby. "The Chiasmic Structure of Ruth 2." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 3 (1993): 49-58.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Luter and Rigsby, former and present faculty at Talbot respectively, apply both an exegetical and structural lens to Ruth 2. All Hebrew translated, 12 pgs.

I. SAMUEL

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Bergen, Robert D. *1, 2 Samuel*. Vol. 7 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996.

Bergen, a conservative from Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri, gives a verse-by-verse evangelical commentary. He is sensitive to historical, literary, and theological issues, and writes from the perspective that 1 and 2 Samuel are meant to function as history, literature, an apologetic work, a theological treatise, and holy Scripture. All Hebrew transliterated, 512 pgs.

Tsumura, David T. *The First Book of Samuel*. *New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Recommended by Ken Way.

Tsumura is an evangelical at Japan Bible Seminary, and writes a commentary which accommodates the knowledge of its predecessor commentaries, the most recent philological and archaeological research, and his own exegesis of the text. An intermediate-advanced commentary, it and its upcoming counterpart may become the scholarly standard in the future. All Hebrew transliterated, 698 pgs.

Arnold, Bill T. *1 & 2 Samuel*. *The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Recommended by Ken Way.

A conservative scholar at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, Arnold gives careful attention to the narrative flow of Samuel with careful knowledge of the scholarly discussion regarding how the books relate to theology and ethics. He

does excellent work in focusing on the original meaning of the text, in a commentary divided into thirds between original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary application. All Hebrew transliterated, 681 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999.

Alter, a critical scholar from UC-Berkeley, offers a verse-by-verse commentary with an expert focus on the literary structure and values of Samuel in spite of theological differences. All Hebrew transliterated, 410 pgs.

Baldwin, Joyce G. *1 and 2 Samuel*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988.

Emphasizing exegesis and theology, Baldwin is a conservative who leaves the question of Samuel's manner of composition unanswered. No Hebrew necessary, 299 pgs.

Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1990.

Brueggemann, a moderately critical scholar from Columbia Theological Seminary, offers a fascinating commentary that centers the context of Samuel upon historical factors, David, and Yahweh. No Hebrew necessary, 362 pgs.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*. Focus on the Bible. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2000.

Davis, a Reformed Theological Seminary professor-turned-pastor, offers a conservative commentary aimed at helping pastors and teachers preach the text. No Hebrew necessary, 288 pgs.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*. Focus on the Bible. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2000.

Davis, a Reformed Theological Seminary professor-turned-pastor, offers a conservative commentary complementing his *1 Samuel*, aimed at helping pastors and teachers preach the text. No Hebrew necessary, 286 pgs.

Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Vol. 10 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.

This commentary, from a moderate theological perspective, does good work in the areas of text criticism, philology, and historical issues, but is weak on literary structure or theological values. Hebrew helpful but not required, 305 pgs.

McCarter, Jr., P. Kyle. *1 Samuel*. Vol. 8 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1980.

McCarter, Jr., P. Kyle. *II Samuel*. Vol. 9 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York:

Doubleday, 1984.

McCarter, a critical scholar from Johns Hopkins University, offers the most competent textual criticism of Samuel, having both the Masoretic Text and the Dead Sea Scrolls texts for comparison and analysis. All Hebrew transliterated; *I Samuel*, 474 pgs.; *II Samuel*, 553 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Gordon, R. P. *I & 2 Samuel*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

This little book began as Gordon's introduction on an unpublished commentary, and the Cambridge University professor of Hebrew and critical scholar discusses the deuteronomistic history, the Shiloh tradition, the ark narrative, and the rise of the monarchy with detailed descriptions of David and Saul. No Hebrew necessary, 97 pgs.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*. 4 vols. Assen, the Netherlands: Van Gorcum, 1986-1993.

In an extremely extensive and detailed analysis, Fokkelman addresses the narrative form of Samuel from a literary perspective, relating each pericope and even poem to the work as a whole. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 517 pgs.; vol. 2, 796 pgs.; vol. 3, 441 pgs.; vol. 4, 651 pgs.

Long, V. Philips. *The Reign and Rejection of King Saul: A Case for Literary and Theological Coherence*. SBL Dissertation Series 118. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.

An evangelical scholar, Long synthesizes source-critical methods with literary study to give a fresh reading of the theology of 1 Samuel 9-15. Hebrew necessary, 276 pgs.

Niehaus, Jeffrey J. "The Warrior and His God: The Covenant Foundation of History and Historiography." In *Faith, Tradition, and History: Old Testament Historiography in Its Near Eastern Context*, edited by A. R. Millard, James K. Hoffmeier, and David W. Baker, 299-312. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Niehaus, a conservative and Gordon-Conwell professor, offers a discussion of how kingship, war, and deity interrelated in the ancient Near East. No Hebrew necessary, 13 pgs.

Polzin, Robert. *Samuel and the Deuteronomist*. Indiana Studies in Biblical Literature. Bloomington, IN: 1989.

A critical scholar from Carleton University who finds the Samuel text to be corrupted, Polzin gives an analysis of the meaning of 1 Samuel in what he calls its final redacted form. All Hebrew transliterated, 296 pgs.

J. KINGS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Provan, Iain W. *1 And 2 Kings*. New International Biblical Commentary: Old Testament Series. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Recommended by Ken Way

A conservative from the University of Edinburgh, Provan offers the best commentary on Kings available, combining critical methodologies with a conservative bias. Although brief, Provan gives attention to exegetical issues while choosing to focus on literary and theological themes. All Hebrew transliterated, 305 pgs.

Cogan, Mordechai. *1 Kings*. Vol. 10 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Cogan, Mordechai, and Hayim Tadmor. *II Kings*. Vol. 11 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1988.

Recommended by Ken Way

Cogan, a Jewish professor at The Hebrew University, and Tadmor, an Assyriology specialist and also a Jewish professor at The Hebrew University, offer a focus on the Mesopotamian backdrop and historical backgrounds. *1 Kings* includes an added emphasis on the book's literary qualities, and includes an introduction to both books of Kings that handles a number of the book's important issues, including sources used for Kings. All Hebrew transliterated. *1 Kings*, 556 pgs.; *2 Kings*, 371 pgs.

Konkel, August H. *1 & 2 Kings*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

An evangelical at Providence Theological Seminary in Canada, Konkel focuses on Kings not as a post-Davidic narrative but as a true story centered around the former prophets, and God's interaction with Israel, Judah, and their kings by means of these enigmatic characters. This commentary, true to its series, offers sections covering original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance. All Hebrew transliterated, 704 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Brueggemann, Walter. *1 & 2 Kings*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2000.

Brueggemann, a critical scholar from Columbia Theological Seminary, writes an interesting commentary with helpful sidebars for extra information relating to language, culture, and interpretation. The commentary includes a CD-ROM. No Hebrew necessary, 645 pgs.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2005.

Davis, a pastor and former professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, gives an exposition of the text aimed for preachers but still taking the best of contemporary scholarship into account. 344 pgs.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Wisdom and the Folly: An Exposition of First Kings*. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2002.

Davis, a pastor and former professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Florida, gives a popular-level commentary which uses extensive footnotes to take scholarly views and philology into account. No Hebrew necessary, 450 pgs.

Gray, John. *I & II Kings*. 2nd ed. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1970.

Gray, a conservative scholar, offers chronological and source analysis with little theological reflection in what has been the classic Kings critical commentary for four decades. All Hebrew transliterated, 802 pgs.

House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings*. Vol. 8 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995.

House, a conservative from Taylor University, presents Kings as an argument for the preservation of monotheism. In his commentary on the text he gives a review of the range of scholarly opinions even while giving his own, and his introduction describes in-depth many of the issues facing the book. No Hebrew necessary, 432 pgs.

Wiseman, Donald J. *1 & 2 Kings*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993.

Wiseman, a deceased evangelical and emeritus Assyriologist from the University of London, comments much on the archaeology and language aspects of Kings but does little with literary or theological study. All Hebrew transliterated, 318 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Cogan, Mordechai. *Imperialism and Religion: Assyria, Judah and Israel in the Eighth and Seventh Centuries B.C.E.*. Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series 19. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1974.

Cogan, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Jewish professor at Hebrew University, publishes his dissertation and discusses Assyrian (and also Judean) practices of carrying off defeated nations' gods. All Hebrew transliterated, 136 pgs.

Miller, J. Maxwell, and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. 2nd edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Two critical scholars from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Georgia give a detailed history of both Israel and Judah from its earliest days until the Persian empire. No Hebrew necessary, 562 pgs.

Way, Kenneth C. "Animals in the Prophetic World." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 34, no. 1 (2009): 47-62.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ken Way analyzes both the stories of Balaam's donkey in Num 22 and the man of God in 1 Kgs 13 to argue that animals as divine agents is a distinctive characteristic of the preclassical prophets. All Hebrew translated, 15 pgs.

Wiseman, D. J. *Chronicles of Chaldean Kings*. London: The Trustees of the British Museum, 1961.

Wiseman, a deceased evangelical and emeritus Assyriologist from the University of London, presents the section of the *Chronicles* covering 626-556 BC, which are year-by-year records of the Babylonian kings, especially the fall of Nineveh to the Babylonians and the records of Nebuchadnezzar's sieges of Jerusalem. Any ancient languages transliterated, 99 pages plus photos.

K. CHRONICLES

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Dillard, Raymond B. *2 Chronicles*. Vol. 15 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word Books, 1987.

A conservative from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Dillard gives a superb theological analysis, taking into account a post-exilic authorship and audience. A rarity among OT commentaries, this work also comments on 2 Chronicles' connection with the New Testament. Hebrew helpful but not required, 323 pgs.

Japhet, Sara. *I & II Chronicles*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1993.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Israeli professor emeritus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Chronicles expert, Japhet writes a masterful commentary that covers philology, text, literary strategy and history, secondary literature, with theology as its only weak point. Although a critical scholar, several of Japhet's conclusions are relatively conservative. All Hebrew transliterated, 1077 pgs.

Hill, Andrew E. *1 & 2 Chronicles*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Recommended by Ken Way

Hill, an evangelical at Wheaton College, believes Chronicles to be a sermon, interpreting Israel's history for its then-contemporary postexilic audience. This perspective, however, upholds Chronicles' historicity, and in the usual *NIVAC* fashion gives original meaning, bridges contexts, and offers contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 699 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Braun, Roddy. *1 Chronicles*. Vol. 14 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1986.

An evangelical Lutheran, Braun gives a helpful discussion of all aspects of the book. Hebrew helpful but not required, 312 pgs.

Knoppers, Gary N. *1 Chronicles 1-9*. Vol. 12 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Knoppers, Gary N. *1 Chronicles 10-29*. Vol. 12A of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2004.

Recommended by Ken Way

Knoppers, a critical scholar from Penn State, writes an erudite commentary taking into account textual criticism, relationship to Ezra-Nehemiah, and a generally held view of Chronicles as rewritten Bible, with very little in the way of theological reflection. All Hebrew translated; vol. 12, 514 pgs.; vol. 12A, 531 pgs.

Selman, Martin J. *1 Chronicles*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994.

Selman, Martin J. *2 Chronicles*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994.

Director of postgraduate studies at Spurgeon's College in London, Selman gives a worthwhile introduction and discusses the contribution of Chronicles to the Biblical canon. No Hebrew necessary; *1 Chronicles*, 263 pgs.; *2 Chronicles*, 288 pgs.

Williamson, H. G. M. *1 and 2 Chronicles*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

An evangelical and Lecturer in Hebrew and Aramaic from Cambridge University, Williamson brings his expertise on postexilic times to bear on this postexilic book. All Hebrew transliterated, 428 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Braun, Roddy. "Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah: Theology and Literary History." In *Studies in the Historical Books of the Old Testament*, edited by J. A. Emerton, 52-64. *Vetus Testamentum Supplement* 30. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1979.

- Braun, an evangelical Lutheran, discusses retribution, monarchy, the temple, Samaritans, and foreigners in interpreting the theology of Chronicles. All Hebrew transliterated, 13 pgs.
- Japhet, Sara. *The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and Its Place in Biblical Thought*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2009.
An Israeli professor emeritus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a Chronicles expert, Japhet presents how the chronicler seeks to imbue Israel's past and present with new meaning. No Hebrew necessary, 447 pgs.
- Newsome, James. D. "Toward a New Understanding of the Chronicle and His Purposes." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 94, no.2 (June 1975): 204-217.
Newsome, a critical scholar at Columbia Theological Seminary, questions the unity of Chronicles and suggests a new date and *Sitz im Leben* for the biblical book. No Hebrew necessary, 14 pgs.
- Wilson, Robert R. "Between 'Azal' and 'Azal': Interpreting Biblical Genealogies." *Biblical Archaeologist*. 42, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 11-22.
Wilson, a critical scholar and Yale Ph.D. graduate, lays out reasons and biblical examples about why the Bible's genealogies should be interpreted according to their purpose as well as their form. No Hebrew necessary, 12 pgs.
- Wilson, Robert R. *Genealogy and History in the Biblical World*. Yale Ancient Near Eastern Researches 7. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1977.
A critical scholar and Yale Ph.D. graduate, Wilson discusses the form and function of oral genealogies, ancient Near Eastern genealogies, and the genealogies of the Hebrew Bible. All languages transliterated, 222 pgs.
- Yamauchi, Edwin M. *Foes From the Northern Frontier: Invading Hordes from the Russian Steppes*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982.
Yamauchi, professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, gives a thorough archaeological documentation of Israelite foes from the Russian steppes, exploring the meaning of names like Meshech, Tubal, and Gog. No Hebrew necessary, 148 pgs.

L. EZRA-NEHEMIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

- Williamson, H. G. M. *Ezra, Nehemiah*. Vol. 16 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985.

Recommended by Ken Way

A highly competent evangelical scholar from Cambridge University, Williamson produces a comprehensive and detailed scholarly commentary. This work specializes in postexilic research. Hebrew helpful but not required, 417 pgs.

Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

An evangelical with a traditional approach to the history of these books, Fensham emphasizes history and culture, but also treats philology and theology. All Hebrew transliterated, 288 pgs.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

Recommended by Ken Way

A leading scholar of the postexilic period and professor at Notre Dame, Blenkinsopp informs the reader of all contemporary scholarship while at times differing from its consensus, and insists on diachronic analysis in addition to a literary approach. All Hebrew transliterated, 366 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Breneman, Mervin. *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Vol. 10 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman publishing, 1993.

Breneman gives an evangelical, popular commentary that still discusses the major scholarly matters of the books. No Hebrew necessary, 383 pgs.

Brown, Raymond. *The Message of Nehemiah: God's Servant in a Time of Change*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1998.

An evangelical and former principal of Spurgeon's College in London, Brown sketches Nehemiah's social and historical setting and draws application for modern time. No Hebrew Necessary, 256 pgs.

Clines, D. J. *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. The New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.

Clines, a critical scholar from England's University of Sheffield, gives a well-researched commentary explaining the most important historical backgrounds issues. No Hebrew necessary, 342 pgs.

Throntveit, Mark A. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1992.

This brief commentary by a Lutheran takes advantage of contemporary scholarship to emphasize literary and theological aspects of the books while playing down historical issues. No Hebrew necessary, 129 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Berquist, Jon L. *Judaism in Persia's Shadow*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press,

1995.

A critical scholar, Berquist analyzes the influence of Persian history on the OT. No Hebrew necessary, 282 pgs.

Packer, J. I. *A Passion for Faithfulness*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1995.

The acclaimed evangelical from Regent College in Vancouver gives a study of how Nehemiah led Israel, and how God led Nehemiah. No Hebrew necessary, 224 pgs.

Yamauchi, Edwin M. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Yamauchi is a conservative professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and an acclaimed Persian expert, overviews all of the Persian history, cultural practices, and religion that influenced the post-exilic Scriptures. All languages transliterated, 578 pgs.

M. ESTHER

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Bush, Frederic William. *Ruth/Esther*. Vol. 9 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word Books, 1996.

Bush, an evangelical, gives an excellent if technical commentary on Esther. With a particular emphasis on philology, this commentary is extensive and handles all technical issues. Hebrew and some Greek required, 514 pgs.

Levinson, Jon D. *Esther*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1997.

Recommended by Ken Way

Levinson, a critical Jewish scholar, writes an interesting commentary well-versed in ancient literature and modern scholarship, and also offers commentary on the Greek and apocryphal versions. All Hebrew transliterated, 142 pgs.

Jobes, Karen H. *Esther*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Recommended by Ken Way

A Westmont professor and an evangelical, Jobes writes from the perspective that the main character of Esther is not Esther but God, and in this light its main lesson is how God keeps His promises. This book is written for the average reader and is composed of sections outlining original meaning, bridging to modern contexts, and offering contemporary application. All Hebrew transliterated, 248 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baldwin, Joyce G. *Esther*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL:

- IVP, 1984.
Formerly Dean of Women at Trinity College in Bristol, Baldwin is a conservative who applies a literary and theological understanding and comments intelligently on the book's historicity. No Hebrew necessary, 126 pgs.
- Berlin, Adele. *Esther*. The JPS Bible Commentary. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2001.
Berlin, a Jewish and critical scholar teaching at the University of Maryland, offers a well-written commentary with excellent literary analysis of Esther as a festive comedy set in the Persian period. Hebrew helpful but not required, 110 pgs.
- Clines, D. J. *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. The New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
Clines, a critical scholar from England's University of Sheffield, gives a well-researched commentary which makes a strong case for the historicity of Esther. No Hebrew necessary, 342 pgs.
- McConville, J. G. *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.
A conservative evangelical, McConville gives a clear popular-level reading of the text emphasizing both the book's meaning in its OT context and relevance for today.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Berg, Sandra Beth. *The Book of Esther: Motifs, Themes, and Structure*. Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series 44. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1979.
Berg, a Vanderbilt graduate with a Jewish background, discusses the motifs of banquets, kingship, and obedience/disobedience, and compares Esther with the story of Joseph. Hebrew required, 219 pgs.
- Fox, Michael V. *Character and Ideology in the Book of Esther*. Chapel Hill: University of South Carolina Press, 1991.
Recommended by Ken Way
Offering a distinctly Jewish perspective, Fox's monograph is often ranked as better than all the available commentaries. A text-critical and literary study, Fox emphasizes how open-ended the book is with its uncertainties about the role of God. In addition to commentary, Fox offers studies of Esther's historicity and dating, genre, structure, and each of the book's major characters. All Hebrew transliterated, 318 pgs.
- Jobes, Karen H. *The Alpha-Text of Esther: Its Character and Relationship to the Masoretic Text*. SBL Dissertation Series 153. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
Jobes, a Westmont professor and an evangelical, writes a technical monograph attempting to discern the original 'alpha-text' of Esther between the extant

Greek copies and the Masoretic Hebrew text, largely through textual analysis. Hebrew required, 256 pages plus unnumbered appendices.

Luter, A. Boyd, and Barry C. Davis. *God Behind the Seen: Expositions of the Books of Ruth & Esther*. Expositor's Guide to the Historical Books. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Luter and Davis, both former professors of Talbot, examine six scenes from Ruth and how they show God providentially caring for His people in unseen ways. All Hebrew translated, 377 pgs.

Pierce, Ronald W. "The politics of Esther and Mordechai: Courage or Compromise?" *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 2 (1992): 75-89.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ron Pierce suggests the absence of God's name in Esther is actually due to the secular living of Jews of the Diaspora, specifically the book's characters. No Hebrew necessary, 15 pgs.

N. JOB

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Clines, David J. A. *Job 1-20*. Vol. 17 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word, 1989.

Clines, David J. A. *Job 21-37*. Vol. 18A of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Clines, a critical scholar from the University of Sheffield in England, writes a provocative commentary strong in theological and literary analysis, intending to make the reader think and be aware of the issues behind the book of Job. This commentary's third volume is yet to be completed. Hebrew helpful, vol. 17, 501 pgs.; vol. 18A, 537 pgs.

Hartley, John E. *Job*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Hartley, a solid evangelical at Azusa Pacific University, offers little original work in his commentary, but does a terrific job at examining all facets of the book and is also very well-researched. All Hebrew transliterated, 591 pgs.

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman, III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Vol. 6 of *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2006.

Konkel, the author of the Job commentary and President of Providence College and Seminary in Manitoba, Canada, has excellent technical notes on the

semantics of Job. While his commentary notes are short, they are insightful. All Hebrew transliterated, 250 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Alden, Robert L. *Job*. Vol. 11 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.

A professor at Denver Seminary and a conservative, Alden gives reasonable theological insight into the book of Job. All Hebrew transliterated, 432 pgs.

Anderson, Francis I. *Job*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1976.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Anderson, a conservative and former research fellow at the Australian Institute of Archaeology, writes one of the better, though briefer, evangelical commentaries. No Hebrew necessary, 294 pgs.

Habel, Norman C. *The Book of Job*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.

Although a critical scholar from Christ Seminary in St. Louis, Habel assumes Job's unity and offers in-depth work on the theology and literary aspects of Job. All Hebrew transliterated, 586 pgs.

Janzen, J. Gerald. *Job*. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

A professor at Christian Theological Seminary and critical scholar, Janzen focuses on theological significance and contemporary relevance, often posing new ideas and shifting from asking why the innocent to suffer to why the righteous are pious. No Hebrew necessary, 273 pgs.

Pope, Marvin H. *Job*. Vol. 15 of *The Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. 1965. Reprint, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Pope, a former professor at Yale Divinity School and a critical scholar, gives a strong philological analysis and a strong showing for comparative Semitics. All Hebrew transliterated, 409 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Tsevat, Matitiah. "The Meaning of the Book of Job." In *The Meaning of the Book of Job and Other Biblical Studies*, 1-37. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1980.

Bringing to bear a Jewish perspective in this seminal study, Tsevat describes the nature of the conflicting views Job and his friends present concerning the reasons behind human suffering. Hebrew required, 37 pgs.

Zuck, Roy B., ed. *Sitting with Job: Selected Studies on the Book of Job*. Eugene, OR:

Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1992.

Zuck, a Dallas Theological Seminary professor, presents essays from scholars of varying faith perspectives which comprise much of the important discussion concerning Job's overview and specific themes and passages. All Hebrew transliterated, 488 pgs.

O. PSALMS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Van Gemeren, Willem. "Psalms." In *Psalms Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, vol. 5 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, edited by Frank E. Gaebelin, 3-880. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. Alternatively published as van Gemeren, Willem. "Psalms." In *Psalms*, vol. 5 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, rev. ed., edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, 21-1011. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Recommended by John Hutchison

Van Gemeren's work is considered the single best buy a student of the Psalms could make. Enormous in size and in detail, despite its being bound in a volume with other commentaries, this study deals with all aspects of the Psalms, while focusing on the theology and meaning of the book in particular. All Hebrew transliterated and translated, 877 pgs.

Goldingay, John. *Psalms: Psalms 1-41*. 3 vols. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Goldingay, a moderately evangelical professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, specializes in discerning the theology of individual psalms. He also emphasizes poetics, grammar, and the Psalms' meaning in light of its original setting. All Hebrew transliterated, 639 pgs.

Wilson, Gerald H. *Psalms*. Vol. 1. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Wilson, an evangelical at Azusa Pacific University who died before completing his second volume, offers a commentary with equal strengths in the areas of original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance. He also offers his own thoughts on the structure of Psalms, arguing that the placement of the individual Psalms in the Psalter affect their interpretation. This volume covers Psalms 1-72. All Hebrew transliterated, 1024 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 1-72*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP,

1973.

Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 73-150*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1975.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A conservative from Cambridge, Kidner concisely provides extensive theological and exegetical commentary, with a helpful introduction. No Hebrew necessary, 492 pgs.

Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *Psalms 1-59*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Hilton C. Oswald. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1988.

Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *Psalms 60-150*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Hilton C. Oswald. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1993.

Kraus, a German critical scholar, and preeminent Psalms expert, gives a magisterial work that tends to be technical and reserved for the biblical scholar. Hebrew required; *1-59*, 559 pgs.; *60-150*, 586 pgs.

Mays, James Luther. *Psalms*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1994.

A critical scholar at Union Theological Seminary, Mays presents a commentary with strong theological and literary reflections, while playing down historical and form-critical approaches to the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 457 pgs.

Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 51-100*. Vol. 20 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1990.

An OT Professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, Tate offers the best of the three WBC volumes on Psalms, covering every area of the Psalms strongly except for theology. All Hebrew accompanied with translation, 578 pages.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Allen, Ronald B. *And I Will Praise Him: A Guide to Personal Worship in the Psalms*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Allen, professor of Bible Exposition at the conservative Dallas Theological Seminary, writes a devotional focused on guiding Christians through a study of the praise psalms in order to produce patterns of worship and praise of their own. No Hebrew necessary, 260 pgs.

Curtis, Edward M. "Ancient Psalms and Modern Worship." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 154, no. 615 (July-September 1997): 285-296.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ed Curtis handles two difficulties of transferring individual psalms into modern worship, and makes suggestions about worshipping via the Psalms. All Hebrew translated, 12 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper. *How To Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.

Longman, an OT poetry expert and a conservative, explains how each genre of psalm was used in Hebrew worship and how they relate to the rest of the Hebrew Bible. No Hebrew necessary, 166 pgs.

Walton, John H. "Psalms: A Cantata About the Davidic Covenant." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 34, no. 1 (March 1991): 21-31.

Recommended by Ken Way

Walton, an evangelical at Wheaton College, discusses the possible rationale of the editor/redactor of the Psalms and whether the inspiration of the individual Psalms' arrangement should be considered. No Hebrew necessary, 11 pgs.

Wilson, Gerald H. "Evidence of Editorial Divisions in the Hebrew Psalter." *Vetus Testamentum* 34, no. 3 (July 1984): 337-352.

Wilson, a recently deceased evangelical formerly at Azusa Pacific University, argues how individual psalms ought also to be interpreted according to the location of their intentional placement within the Psalter canon. All Hebrew transliterated, 17 pgs.

P. PROVERBS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Waltke, Bruce K. *Proverbs 1-15*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Waltke, Bruce K. *Proverbs 15-31*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

An evangelical, Waltke offers a product twenty-five years in the making, with in-depth comments on philology and grammar, along with attention to literary and theological values. Particularly, he argues that Proverbs 10 and following possess a structure affecting its interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 1-15, 693 pgs.; 15-31, 589 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper. *Proverbs*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Longman, evangelical professor at Westmont College, focuses on the theological and ethical message of the book, focusing on "Woman Wisdom" as a central figure for interpretation. Proverbs 10-31 are seen as relatively organized bits of wisdom. The concluding section of the book includes numerous essays

summarizing Proverbs's teaching on general topics such as wealth, business, etc. All Hebrew transliterated, 608 pgs.

Fox, Michael. *Proverbs 1-9*. Vol. 18A of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Fox, Michael. *Proverbs 10-31*. Vol. 18B of *Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.

Recommended by Ken Way and John Hutchison

Offering a Jewish perspective, Fox is a master interpreter given free reign to plumb the depths of Proverbs at length. Aside from extensive commentary and introductions discussing how to read proverbs individually and Proverbs as a whole, each volume concludes textual analysis and several essays examining topics ranging from the origins of personified wisdom to the nature of Proverbs and divine revelation. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 18A, 474 pgs.; vol. 18B, 731 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Clifford, Richard J. *Proverbs: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Clifford, a professor at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, emphasizes backgrounds, philology, and text criticism to the detriment of exposition. All Hebrew transliterated, 286 pgs.

Hubbard, David A. *Proverbs*. The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas: Word Books, 1989.

Hubbard, an evangelical and former president of Fuller Theological Seminary, lays out six principles of interpretation for Proverbs in his introduction, and also discusses the books's speeches and literary devices. No Hebrew necessary, 486 pgs.

Kidner, Derek. *Proverbs*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1964.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A conservative from Cambridge, Kidner provides an orthodox, theologically insightful, and exegetically sensitive commentary, although somewhat brief. No Hebrew necessary, 192 pgs.

van Leeuwen, Raymond. "Proverbs." In vol. 5 of *The New Interpreter's Bible*, edited by Karen Doob Sakenfeld, 17-264. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.

A "progressive" evangelical, van Leeuwen offers excellent exposition of the text and theological reflection. All Hebrew transliterated, 248 pgs.

Murphy, Roland E. *Proverbs*. Vol. 22 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.

Murphy, a preeminent wisdom literature interpreter, Catholic, and former professor at Duke University, covers most aspects of interpretation and study for Proverbs in this work. All Hebrew accompanied by translation, 306 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Longman III, Tremper. *How To Read Proverbs*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.

A conservative from Westmont College, Longman offers a readable hermeneutical introduction to Proverbs, and how Christ is the climax and embodiment of wisdom. No Hebrew necessary, 174 pgs.

Mouser, William E. *Walking in Wisdom: Studying the Proverbs of Solomon*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1983.

Mouser, a Texas pastor and Dallas Theological Seminary graduate, offers a readable introductory guide emphasizing interpretation of biblical wisdom and its contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 169 pgs.

Waltke, Bruce. "The Book of Proverbs and Old Testament Theology." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 136, no. 544 (October-December 1979): 302-317.

Waltke, an outstanding evangelical at Reformed Theological Seminary, argues that the authors of Proverbs wrote with the same authority and message as the prophets. Hebrew required, 16 pgs.

Q. ECCLESIASTES

I. TOP COMMENTARIES

Longman III, Tremper. *Ecclesiastes*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A conservative from Westmont College, Longman argues that the author of Ecclesiastes is not Solomon, but adopts a Solomonic persona to show the pointlessness of life. With strong emphases on philology, theological analysis, and literary character, Longman takes a christocentric approach to the meaning of the book. All Hebrew transliterated, 306 pgs.

Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Ecclesiastes: A Time to Mourn, and a Time to Dance*.

The Bible Speaks Today Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1976.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Kidner, the former warden of Tyndale House in Cambridge and a conservative, presents a well-written commentary sensible in its approach to Ecclesiastes. It is accessible to any scholar, and yet also contains weighty insight and application. No Hebrew necessary, 110 pgs.

Fox, Michael V. *Ecclesiastes*. The JPS Bible Commentary. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2004.

A Jewish scholar and Ecclesiastes expert, Fox argues clearly and simply that Ecclesiastes is as close to philosophy as is found in the Hebrew Bible. In his view, the book does not diminish life's absurdities but does assert the justice of God. Hebrew required, 87 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Bartholomew, a conservative at Redeemer University College in Ontario, Canada, writes a well-researched commentary which examines the Hebrew and also provides a psychological reading of the text in the postscript. All Hebrew transliterated, 447 pgs.

Brown, William P. *Ecclesiastes*. Interpretation. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2000.

Brown, a critical scholar at Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, writes a commentary focusing on theological meaning and contemporary significance, exploring connections between Ecclesiastes and the Gilgamesh epic's search for life's meaning. No Hebrew necessary, 143 pgs.

Provan, Iaian. *Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Provan, a conservative from Regent College in Canada, presents thought-provoking conclusions leading the reader to rethink some of the basic issues surrounding Ecclesiastes. All Hebrew transliterated, 234 pgs.

Seow, C. L. *Ecclesiastes*. Vol. 18C of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Seow, a critical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, offers insightful theological notes despite his argument for dating the book to the Persian period. All Hebrew transliterated, 419 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down and A Time To Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Fox, an Ecclesiastes expert and Jewish scholar from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, sees Ecclesiastes as a framed monologue in his work, which is conveniently divided between a series of essays and philological and textual criticism. All Hebrew translated, 422 pgs.

Zuck, Roy B., ed. *Reflecting with Solomon: Selected Studies on the Book of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

A Dallas Theological Seminary professor and an evangelical, Zuck presents thirty-three essays from conservative perspectives covering overviews of the biblical book, and specific themes and passages within Ecclesiastes. All Hebrew transliterated, 426 pgs.

Whybray, Roger N. "Qoheleth: Preacher of Joy," *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 23, no. 2 (July 1982): 87-98.

Whybray, a conservative at the University of Hull in Great Britain, interprets Qoheleth as a realist who still believes that God wants humans to enjoy their lives despite the troubles under the sun. All Hebrew transliterated, 12 pgs.

R. SONG OF SONGS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES

Longman III, Tremper. *Song of Songs*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

Longman, a conservative at Westmont College in California, writes his commentary from the standpoint that the Song of Songs is an anthology of twenty-three love poems. He also includes a lengthy introduction handling such interpretive issues as genre, ancient Near Eastern Background, and authorship. All Hebrew transliterated, 238 pgs.

Hess, Richard S. *Song of Songs*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

An evangelical at Denver Seminary, Hess lends his Near Eastern backgrounds expertise to a commentary also strong in poetic sensibilities and philology. He gives a detailed analysis of Song of Songs's love poetry, and includes theological comments as well. All Hebrew transliterated, 285 pgs.

Pope, Marvin H. *Song of Songs*. Vol. 7C of *Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007.

Recommended by John Hutchison and Ken Way

A former professor at Yale Divinity School and a critical scholar, Pope's work contains a treasure trove of linguistic, literary, and historical information, and he gives a worthwhile history of Song of Song's interpretation. Fairly representing positions other than his own, his own approach connects the book to love and death cults of the ancient world. All languages transliterated, 743 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Curtis, Edward M. *Song of Songs*. Bible Study Commentary. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2000.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ed Curtis writes a brief evangelical commentary with an extensive introduction covering Song of Song's date, authorship, interpretation method, story, purpose, and Hebrew poetry. No Hebrew necessary, 120 pgs.

Gledhill, Tom. *The Message of the Song of Songs*. The Bible Speaks Today Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

Gledhill, an evangelical at the Evangelical Theological College of Wales, writes an excellent popular-level commentary, displaying a keen literary sense. No Hebrew necessary, 254 pgs.

Keel, Othmar. *The Song of Songs*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Frederick J. Gaiser. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Keel, a German critical scholar, demonstrates a strong literary exegesis of Song of Songs and makes a few insightful theological comments. No Hebrew necessary, 308 pgs.

Provan, Iain. *Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Provan, a conservative from Regent College in Canada, presents thought-provoking conclusions leading the reader to rethink some of the basic issues surrounding Song of Songs. All Hebrew transliterated, 144 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Carr, G. Lloyd. "The Song of Songs." In *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*, edited by Leland Ryken and Tremper Longman, III, 281-295. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

A conservative at Gordon College, Carr discusses the problem of literary structure in the Song of Songs. No Hebrew necessary, 15 pgs.

Fox, Michael V. *The Song of Songs and the Ancient Egyptian Love Songs*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.

Fox, a Jewish professor of Hebrew and Semitics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, compares the only two surviving bodies of love poetry from the ancient Near East and offers a fresh understanding of the Song of Songs as a result. All Hebrew and Egyptian transliterated, 454 pgs.

Webb, Barry. "The Song of Songs: A Love Poem and as Holy Scripture." *Reformed Theological Review* 49, no. 3 (September-December 1990): 91-99.

A conservative from Moore Theological College in Australia, Webb discusses how to read Song of Songs as Scripture in light of its sensuality. No Hebrew necessary, 9 pgs.

S. ISAIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah: Chapters 1-39*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah: Chapters 40-66*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Recommended by Ken Way

Oswalt, an Asbury Seminary professor, brings a solidly conservative and well-researched interpretation to Isaiah, who argues that the overarching theme of the book is servanthood. This commentary particularly focuses on the original author's meaning in light of this theological theme. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 746 pgs.; vol. 2, 755 pgs.

Motyer, J. Alec. *Isaiah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Recommended by Tom Finley and Ken Way

Motyer, an evangelical and former principal of Trinity College, Bristol, England, offers the sum of three decades of well-researched work. While the commentary is particularly useful for theological analysis, Motyer gives a distinguished evangelical treatment of all issues concerning Isaiah. All Hebrew transliterated, 408 pgs.

Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 1-39*. Vol. 15A of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2007.

Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 40-66*. Vol. 15B of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009.

Recommended by Ken Way

Smith, a professor at Union University in Tennessee, gives an evangelical analysis of the text, going into great detail with his exegesis as he examines Isaiah's messages of admonition, rebuke, and hope. His second volume in particular offers a focus on the Servant motif in Isaiah. Each section also includes theological reflection. Hebrew helpful but not necessary; vol. 1, 696 pgs.; vol. 2, 782 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John

Knox Press, 2001.

Childs, a former professor at Yale Divinity School and a critical scholar, uses a “canonical” approach to Isaiah and moves from his view of the book’s compositional history toward the final form’s theological message. All Hebrew translated, 555 pgs.

Goldingay, John. *Isaiah*. New International Biblical Commentary: Old Testament Series. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001.

A moderate evangelical at Fuller Theological Seminary, Goldingay gives an insightful interpretation in a relatively short commentary, despite his theories concerning the book’s composition. All Hebrew transliterated, 397 pgs.

Oswalt, John N. *Isaiah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Oswalt, a former Asbury Seminary professor and now professor at Wesley Biblical Seminary, writes an evangelical commentary briefer than his *NICOT* work, focusing on original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance, examining the theme of servanthood in Isaiah. No Hebrew necessary, 736 pgs.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Isaiah 1-39, With an Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. Vol. 16 of *The Forms of the Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

A critical scholar from the School of Theology at Claremont and from the Claremont Graduate School, Sweeney presents an up-to-date and technical form-critical analysis for advanced readers. All Hebrew transliterated, 547 pgs.

Wildberger, Hans. *Isaiah 1-12*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

Wildberger, Hans. *Isaiah 13-27*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Wildberger, Hans. *Isaiah 28-39*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

A critical German scholar, Wildberger examines Isaiah 1-39’s text, form, source, and theology, with extensive bibliographies. All Hebrew translated; *Isaiah 1-12*, 524 pgs.; *Isaiah 13-27*, 624 pgs.; *Isaiah 28-39*, 741 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Broyles, Craig C., and Craig A. Evans, eds. *Writing and Reading the Scroll of Isaiah*. 2 vols. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 70. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 1997.

This two-volume set by two conservative Canadian scholars exhibits essays covering the formation of the book of Isaiah, specific passages and oracles within Isaiah, and the interpretation of Isaiah in late antiquity when the New Testament was being formed. Hebrew required; vol. 1, 474 pgs.; vol. 2, 355 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J., and George Payton. “A Discourse Analysis of Isaiah 7-12.” *Journal of*

Translation and Textlinguistics 6, no. 4 (1993): 317-335.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley, with Talbot alumnus and Cook School of Intercultural Studies professor George Payton, discuss the unified theme of Isaiah 7-12 and its literary structure which features as many as six climaxes. All Hebrew transliterated, 19 pgs.

Holladay, William L. *Isaiah: Scroll of a Prophetic Heritage*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Holladay, a moderately critical scholar from Andover Newton Theological School, gives an exposition of Isaiah that considers the book's theological message to be unified, even if he believes Isaiah has multiple authors. No Hebrew necessary, 270 pgs.

Lindsay, F. Duane. *The Servant Songs: A Study in Isaiah*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

A conservative professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, Lindsay gives a thorough analysis of the Servant material of Isaiah. All Hebrew translated, 170 pgs.

T. JEREMIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Thompson, J. A. *Jeremiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Recommended by Tom Finley

An evangelical at the University of Melbourne in Australia, Thompson takes a traditional and evangelical approach to Jeremiah. He offers worthwhile comments on Jeremiah's prophetic genre, composition and structure, historical setting, and themes. All Hebrew transliterated, 819 pgs.

Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah 1*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah 2*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

Holladay, former professor at Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, and a critical scholar, gives an in-depth examination of Jeremiah. He specializes in approaching the book from a form-critical perspective. Hebrew required; *Jeremiah 1*, featuring chapters 1-25, 682 pgs.; *Jeremiah 2*, featuring chapters 26-52, 543 pgs.

Fretheim, Terence E. *Jeremiah*. Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, GA: Smith & Helwys, 2002.

Fretheim, a critical scholar at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, writes an excellent commentary focusing on Jeremiah as both literature and theology, using an

approach appealing to both critical and conservative readers. All Hebrew transliterated, 684 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Brueggemann, Walter. *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Brueggemann, a critical scholar from Columbia Theological Seminary, gives a theological interpretation of Jeremiah according to its social and historical circumstances. All Hebrew transliterated, 502 pgs.

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah/Lamentations*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Dearman, an evangelical OT professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas, writes a commentary tracing the themes of God's priority over politics and living in theocracy, following a pattern including expositing the original meaning, bridging contexts, and uncovering contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 423 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.

An evangelical at Westmont College, Longman writes an accessible commentary interacting with critical scholars while maintaining a conservative attitude toward the biblical texts. All Hebrew translated, 323 pgs.

Lundbom, Jack R. *Jeremiah 1-20*. Vol. 21A of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

Lundbom, Jack R. *Jeremiah 21-36*. Vol. 21B of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2004.

Lundbom, Jack R. *Jeremiah 37-52*. Vol. 21C of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2004.

Lundbom, an internationally known Jeremiah authority and a critical scholar currently teaching at Cambridge in Britain, neglects theological analysis in favor of an excellent exposition the original meaning of the book. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 21A, 934 pgs.; vol. 21B, 649 pgs.; vol. 21C, 624 pgs.

Walker, Larry L., and Elmer A. Martens. *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Vol. 8 of *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.

Martens, author of the Jeremiah commentary and professor at Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California, explores how Jeremiah pictures an intimate relationship with God and how the book speaks to a culture in upheaval. All Hebrew transliterated, 262 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Henderson, Joseph. "Who Weeps in Jeremiah VIII 23 (IX 1)? Identifying Dramatic Speakers in the Poetry of Jeremiah." *Vetus Testamentum* 52, no. 2 (June 2002): 191-206.

Biola Faculty Publication

Joe Henderson of Biola's Torrey Honors Institute argues that the speaker in Jeremiah 8:23 and several other passages is not Yahweh but Jeremiah himself, allowing the text to be read as dramatic dialogue. All Hebrew transliterated, 16 pgs.

King, Phillip J. *Jeremiah: An Archaeological Companion*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

King, a Harvard professor and critical scholar, offers an in-depth archaeological look at Jeremiah's context, from historical and geographical backgrounds to worship and architecture of Jeremiah's day. All Hebrew transliterated, 204 pgs.

Perdue, Leo G., and Brian W. Kovacs. *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1984.

The editors present a collection of the many classic journal articles by critical scholars on Jeremiah, including the likes of Brevard Childs, William L. Holladay, and Gerhard von Rad. All Hebrew transliterated, 399 pgs.

U. LAMENTATIONS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Berlin, Adele. *Lamentations: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

A professor of Hebrew at the University of Maryland and a Jewish scholar, Berlin focuses on literary insights, and particularly metaphors, to approach the book's meaning. The Davidic covenant, purity, repentance, and grieving are shown to be important themes. Ignoring historical-critical issues, she focuses on the book in its relation to other ancient Near Eastern literature. All Hebrew transliterated, 135 pgs.

Provan, Iain. *Lamentations*. The New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Provan, a conservative from the University of Edinburgh, provides a clearly written and reasonable argument that the book is mankind's attempt to speak during God's silence. He does somewhat question Lamentations's historical setting. All Hebrew transliterated, 142 pgs.

Garrett, Duane, and Paul R. House. *Song of Songs/Lamentations*. Vol. 23B of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004.
House, the author of the Lamentations commentary and a conservative at Beeson Divinity School in Alabama, gives a respectful albeit critical interaction with scholars who argue that Lamentations presents God as a bully; the commentary does well in building on the strengths of previous scholars' work. All Hebrew accompanied by translation, 204 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah/Lamentations*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Dearman, an OT professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and an evangelical, writes a commentary tracing the themes grief, complaint, and hope in God, following a pattern including expositing the original meaning, bridging contexts, and uncovering contemporary application. No Hebrew necessary, 54 pgs.

Hillers, Delbert R. *Lamentations*. Vol. 7A of *Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. Revised edition. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1992.

Hillers, a critical scholar Johns Hopkins University, gives a good commentary with a particular strength in elucidating the book's Near Eastern literary background. All Hebrew transliterated, 175 pgs.

Harrison, R. K. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

Former professor of Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto, Harrison emphasizes philology, history, and theology in a very brief commentary. All Hebrew transliterated, 37 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.

An evangelical at Westmont College, Longman writes an accessible commentary interacting with critical scholars while maintaining a conservative attitude toward the biblical texts. All Hebrew translated, 68 pgs.

Walker, Larry L., and Elmer A. Martens. *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Vol. 8 of *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.

Martens, author of the Lamentations commentary and professor at Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California, explores how the book processes disappointments and grief. All Hebrew transliterated, 39 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Kaiser, Walter C. *A Biblical Approach to Personal Suffering*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1982.
Kaiser, an evangelical at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, gives contemporary application of Lamentations to personal suffering, but lacks clear distinctions between the retributive suffering of Israel and deserved and undeserved Christian suffering. All Hebrew transliterated, 141 pgs.
- Neusner, Jacob. *Israel After Calamity: The Book of Lamentations*. The Bible of Judaism Library. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.
Neusner, a Jewish scholar and OT expert from the University of South Florida, writes a commentary which includes translated sections of the Midrash Rabbah on Lamentations. No Hebrew necessary, 117 pgs.
- Heater, Homer. "Structure and Meaning in Lamentations." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 149, no. 595 (July-September 1992): 304-315.
Homer, an evangelical at Dallas Theological Seminary, discusses both the structure of Lamentations as a whole and the possibility of a miniature acrostic pattern in 5:19-20. Hebrew required, 12 pgs.

V. EZEKIEL

I. TOP COMMENTARIES

- Block, Daniel I. *Ezekiel 1-24*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Block, Daniel I. *Ezekiel 25-48*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
Recommended by Tom Finley and Ken Way
An evangelical professor at Bethel Theological Seminary, Block writes an exhaustive commentary on this very difficult biblical book. Interacting with other commentaries but not to the point of tedium, he clearly and ably interprets Ezekiel's prophecies and narratives. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 887 pgs.; vol. 2, 826 pgs.
- Duguid, Iain M. *Ezekiel*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
An evangelical and professor at Westminster Theological Seminary in California, Duguid is internationally known as a leading analyst of Ezekiel, but also brings his pastoral experience into play in the contemporary significance sections of this accessible commentary, which also organizes itself around original meaning and bridging contexts. All Hebrew transliterated, 568 pgs.

Allen, Leslie C. *Ezekiel 1-19*. Vol. 28 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1994.

Allen, Leslie C. *Ezekiel 20-48*. Vol. 29 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1990.

Allen, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and a moderately evangelical scholar, completes and replaces Brownlee's earlier and more eccentric *WBC* commentary on Ezekiel. Allen concerns himself with the final form of the text as well as its composition, giving an overall moderate approach. Hebrew required; vol. 28, 306 pgs.; vol. 29, 301 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Ezekiel*. Interpretation. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1990.

Blenkinsopp, a critical scholar formerly at Notre Dame in Indiana, writes a theologically moderate commentary that is both accessible and theologically strong, focusing on religious and theological issues and especially the presence or absence of God. All Hebrew transliterated, 242 pgs.

Craigie, Peter C. *Ezekiel*. The Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

Craigie, an evangelical Canadian scholar, gives a brief yet helpful commentary opening up the difficult issues of Ezekiel to the everyday reader. No Hebrew necessary, 321 pgs.

Greenberg, Moshe. *Ezekiel 1-20*. Vol. 22 of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1983.

Greenberg, Moshe. *Ezekiel 21-37*. Vol. 22A of *Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.

Greenberg, professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Jewish scholar, writes a stimulating commentary attempting to view Ezekiel in light of the Masoretic Text as a whole. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 22, 388 pgs.; vol. 22A, 372 pgs.

Hals, Ronald M. *Ezekiel*. Vol. 19 of *The Forms of the Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Hals, a critical Lutheran scholar, uses a form-critical analysis to examine the intention and theology of Ezekiel's prophecies, concluding he is not a prophet of despair so much as a prophet of the "stubborn grace" of God. All Hebrew transliterated, 363 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Davis, Ellen F. *Swallowing the Scroll: Textuality and the Dynamics of Discourse in Ezekiel's Prophecy*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplemental Series 78. Sheffield, England: Almond Press, 1989.

A critical scholar, Davis gives a literary analysis of Ezekiel according to the genres it employs and its writer as a prophet. Most Hebrew translated, 184 pgs.

Joyce, Paul. *Divine Initiative and Human Response in Ezekiel*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 51. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1989.

Joyce, a critical scholar from Oxford University, writes a monograph exploring both Israel's responsibility and Yahweh's activity in Ezekiel, and offers his conclusion on how these two seemingly opposites relate to each other. All Hebrew translated, 186 pgs.

Newsome, James D. *By The Waters of Babylon: An Introduction to the History and Theology of the Exile*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1979.

Newsome, a critical scholar at Columbia Theological Seminary, discusses the era between 625 and 500 BC, the time of Ezekiel's writings. No Hebrew necessary, 176 pgs.

W. DANIEL

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Collins, John J. *Daniel*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Recommended by Ron Pierce

A critical scholar from Yale Divinity School and a Daniel expert, Collins writes a lengthy commentary with a wealth of information helpful to evangelicals as well, as a result of decades of research. This book also includes an essay from Adele Yarbro Collins, "The Influence of Daniel on the New Testament." All Hebrew transliterated, 499 pgs.

Lucas, Ernest. *Daniel*. Vol. 20 of *Apollos Old Testament Commentary*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Recommended by Ron Pierce

Lucas, a moderate conservative and Baptist from Bristol University, focuses on Daniel as literature and as theology, offering a special study as to the ancient Near Eastern backgrounds of Daniel's later imagery. He does, however, argue for a second-century date for the book. All Hebrew transliterated, 359 pgs.

Goldingay, John E. *Daniel*. Vol. 30 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Dallas: Word Books, 1989.

Recommended by Ron Pierce

Goldingay, professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary and a moderately evangelical scholar, brings a comprehensive commentary examining the historical, literary, and theological aspects of Daniel, all the while displaying a

master's knowledge of the secondary literature. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 351 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baldwin, Joyce G. *Daniel*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1978.

A solid conservative from Trinity College, Bristol, Baldwin gives a careful and balanced exegesis devoid of wild ideas often suggested by Daniel commentaries. All Hebrew transliterated, 210 pgs.

Longman, III, Tremper. *Daniel*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Recommended by Ron Pierce

Longman, an evangelical at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, discusses how Daniel operates both as a series of examples of the faithful thriving in hostile settings, and how to understand the end of history. All Hebrew transliterated, 312 pgs.

Miller, Stephen R. *Daniel*. Vol. 18 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.

Recommended by Ron Pierce

An evangelical teaching at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Miller focuses on theological issues while adopting a literal reading of the apocalyptic sections of the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 352 pgs.

Steinmann, Andrew. *Daniel*. Concordia Commentary. Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2008.

Recommended by Ron Pierce and Tom Finley

Steinmann, a conservative Lutheran professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, delineates an amillennial understanding of Daniel's prophecies. All Hebrew translated, 628 pgs.

Walvoord, John F. *Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.

Recommended by Tom Finley

Walvoord, a conservative from Dallas Theological Seminary, writes a commentary which explains Daniel from a dispensational point of view. No Hebrew necessary, 320 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Collins, John J., and Peter W. Flint, eds.. *The Book of Daniel: Composition and Reception*. 2 vols. Vetus Testamentum Supplemental Series 83. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

An anthology of authors of mixed theological biases, these volumes offer articles concerning Daniel's near eastern milieu, issues in interpreting specific passages, social setting, literary context, theology, and textual history. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 290 pgs.; vol. 2, 479 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. "The Book of Daniel in the Canon of Scripture." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 165, no. 2 (April-June 2008): 195-208.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley discusses implications of Daniel's placement within the Hebrew canon as part of the Writings. All Hebrew translated, 14 pgs.

Pierce, Ronald W. "Spiritual Failure, Postponement, and Daniel 9." *Trinity Journal* 10, no 2 (Fall 1989): 211-222.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ron Pierce discusses Daniel 9, not as pseudopigraphal history nor Christian messianic expectations, but as the postponement of the expected Jewish restoration due to the poor spiritual condition of Judah's remnant. All Hebrew translated, 12 pgs.

Waltke, Bruce K. "The Date of the Book of Daniel." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 133, no. 532 (1988): 319-329.

Waltke, an outstanding evangelical at Reformed Theological Seminary, argues for an early date for Daniel based on manuscript evidence, linguistic character, historical accuracy, and accurate prediction of future events occurring after the Maccabean period. No Hebrew necessary, 11 pgs.

Walton, John H. "Daniel's Four Kingdoms." *Journal for the Evangelical Theological Society* 29, no. 1 (March 1986): 25-36.

Walton, an evangelical and professor at Wheaton College, questions the evidence of the evangelical assumption that the four kingdoms of Daniel automatically represent Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires. No Hebrew necessary, 12 pgs.

X. THE TWELVE (ALL THE MINOR PROPHETS)

The following commentaries cover all or most of the Twelve, also known as the Minor Prophets, from Hosea through Malachi:

Craigie, Peter C. *Twelve Prophets*. Vol. 1. The Daily Bible Study Series. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.

Craigie, Peter C. *Twelve Prophets*. Vol. 2. The Daily Bible Study Series. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.

Craigie, a conservative from the University of Calgary, examines how the twelve individual and diverse prophets are united in the common purpose of declaring God's word to his people. No Hebrew necessary; vol. 1, 239 pgs.; vol.2, 248 pgs.

Feinberg, Charles L. *The Minor Prophets*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1948.

Talbot Faculty Author

Recommended by Tom Finley

Feinberg, a former dean of Talbot School of Theology and a conservative dispensationalist, writes a classic understanding of the Twelve from the position of a messianic Jew. No Hebrew necessary, 360 pgs.

Floyd, Michael H. *Minor Prophets*. Part 2. Vol. 22 of *The Forms of Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Floyd, a critical scholar having taught at a number of mainline seminaries, offers a form-critical commentary for scholars that connects this form of analysis to the greater concerns of interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 651 pgs.

Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. *Daniel and The Minor Prophets*. Vol. 7 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

Recommended by Tom Finley and John Hutchison

Gaebeli, a former professor at Harvard and New York University as well as coeditor of *Christianity Today*, edits a volume on the Twelve featuring authors such as Carl Armerding, Thomas McComiskey, and Gleason Archer. The interpretations are intended to be conservative evangelical understandings of the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 725 pgs.

Longman III, Tremper, and David E. Garland, eds. *Daniel ~ Malachi*. Vol. 8 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Recommended by Tom Finley and John Hutchison

Longman and Garland edit a collection of commentaries emphasizing evangelical perspectives, from the likes of Andrew Hill, Thomas McComiskey, John Walton, and Eugene Merrill. All Hebrew transliterated, 863 pgs.

McComiskey, Thomas, ed.. *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Recommended by Tom Finley and Ken Way

McComiskey, a conservative from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, edits a comprehensive commentary on the Twelve of such quality that each biblical book's commentary therein is usually hailed as a must-have. The three-volume set focuses on language and philological issues alongside comparative and background issues aiding in the interpretation of each book. Hebrew required; vol. 1, 509 pgs; vol. 2, 399 pgs.; vol. 3, 504 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Arminian professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, Stuart writes an advanced conservative commentary for Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, and Jonah. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 537 pgs.

Y. HOSEA**I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)**

Anderson, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. *Hosea*. Vol. 24 of *Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1980.

A collaboration between Anderson, an evangelical teaching at the University of Queensland in Australia, and Freedman, a Jewish scholar teaching at the University of Michigan and UC-San Diego, this commentary emphasizes linguistics of the Hebrew text. Anderson also adds some theological analysis, and the book sets each passage in its socio-historic context. All Hebrew transliterated, 699 pgs.

McComiskey, Thomas E. "Hosea." In *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*, edited by Thomas E. McComiskey, 1:1-238. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

McComiskey, an evangelical at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, offers a close philological reading of the Hebrew text. Separated from this analysis is an exposition of Hosea, still referencing the transliterated Hebrew. This commentary's strengths will especially help a preacher of the text. Hebrew helpful but not required, 238 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Arminian professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, Stuart writes an advanced commentary for Hosea, intelligently conservative and emphasizing theology without taking space from other sections of the text. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 221 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Garrett, Duane A. *Hosea, Joel*. Vol. 19A of *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1997.

Garrett, an evangelical from Bethel Theological Seminary, writes a well-reasoned exegetical commentary, taking contemporary scholarship into account in the process. All Hebrew transliterated, 279 pgs.

- Landy, Francis. *Hosea*. Readings Commentary. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
Landy, a Canadian critical scholar, offers a commentary which looks at the literary reading of the text as a whole and its message about what it means to be human. All Hebrew transliterated, 192 pgs.
- Smith, Gary V. *Hosea*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
A conservative evangelical at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Smith offers a clear introduction to Hosea's historical background as well as a competent commentary. No Hebrew necessary, 201 pgs.
- Wolff, Hans Walter. *Hosea*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974.
A critical German scholar, Wolff's work was originally published in 1965 and for two decades was the standard source of research for Hosea studies. Hebrew required, 259 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Brueggemann, Walter. *Tradition for Crisis: A Study in Hosea*. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1968.
Brueggemann, a critical scholar from Columbia Theological Seminary, offers a "tradition history" analysis of Hosea, seeing the book as an interpretation of Mosaic law with implications for ministry in Hosea's contemporary circumstances. No Hebrew required, 164 pgs.
- Emmerson, Grace I. *Hosea: An Israelite Prophet in Judean Perspective*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplemental Series 28. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984.
Emmerson, a critical British scholar, analyzes Hosea as an Israelite prophet whose work has been overlaid by Judean biases and revision, and her approach largely disagrees with that of Anderson's commentary above. Hebrew necessary, 224 pgs.
- King, Philip J. *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.
Recommended by Tom Finley
A critical scholar from Boston College, King discusses the historical and geographical settings, architecture, warfare, fortifications, agriculture, banquets, and cultic practices in Israel and Judah in the eighth century. All Hebrew transliterated, 176 pgs.
- Kelle, Brad E. *Hosea 2: Metaphor and Rhetoric in Historical Perspective*. Atlanta: Scholars Academic Press, 2005.
Kelle, an evangelical associated with Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, gives a rhetorical analysis of Hosea 2 with a comparison of the manner of

prophetic preaching to ancient oratory discourse. All Hebrew translated, 355 pgs.

Z. JOEL

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Dillard, Raymond B. "Joel." In *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*, edited by Thomas E. McComiskey, 1:239-315. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Dillard, an evangelical Hebrew professor at Westminster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, offers a close philological reading of the Hebrew text. Separated from this analysis is an exposition of Joel, still referencing the transliterated Hebrew. This commentary's strengths will especially help a preacher of the text. Hebrew helpful but not required, 77 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Finley, an evangelical OT and Semitics professor at Talbot School of Theology, encompasses all aspects of Joel, including history, literary concerns, philology, theology, and practical application, all in a clear and interesting style. All Hebrew translated, 104 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Arminian professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, Stuart writes an advanced commentary for Joel, intelligently conservative and emphasizing theology without taking space from other sections of the text. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 52 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Allen, Leslie C. *Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Allen, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and a moderately evangelical scholar, composes an insightful and careful commentary with literary sensitivity, though his conclusions may be questionable. All Hebrew transliterated, 46 pgs.

Barton, John. *Joel and Obadiah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

A critical scholar at Oxford, Barton writes a historical-critical commentary which investigates the critical understanding of the book's original setting rather than the final form. All Hebrew transliterated, 112 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Obadiah, and Micah*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley gives an accessible commentary providing a pericope-by-pericope exposition. No Hebrew necessary, 67 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah: An Exegetical Commentary*. Richardson, TX: Biblical Studies Press, 2003.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley gives an updated version of the Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary which he also published, a conservative and detailed analysis with emphasis on philology and context. Hebrew required, 341 pgs.

Garrett, Duane A. *Hosea, Joel*. Vol. 19A of *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1997.

Garrett, an evangelical from Bethel Theological Seminary, writes a well-reasoned exegetical commentary, taking contemporary scholarship into account in the process. All Hebrew transliterated, 147 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Hurowitz, Victor Avigdor. "Joel's Locust Plague in Light of Sargon II's Hymn to Nanaya." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 112, no. 4 (Winter 1993): 597-603.

Hurowitz, an Israeli scholar, offers an innovative study of the locust plagues in Joel compared to an extrabiblical source from the ancient Near East. All languages transliterated, 7 pgs.

Thompson, John Alexander. "The Date of Joel." In *A Light Unto My Path: Old Testament Studies in Honor of Jacob M. Myers*, edited by Howard N. Bream, Ralph D. Heim, and Carey A. Moore, 453-464. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1974.

Thompson, an evangelical at the University of Melbourne in Australia, classifies and evaluates arguments from between the years 1948 and 1974 concerning the date of Joel.

AA. AMOS

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Paul, Shalom M. *Amos*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

A critical scholar and a Jewish scholar, Paul writes an in-depth commentary that attributes virtually all the book of Amos to Amos the author. He is very well-researched, and the volume's length has allowed him to be exhaustive in regards to exegesis and discerning the Amos's authorial intent in its original setting. Hebrew required, 409 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Talbot Faculty Work

Finley, an evangelical OT and Semitics professor at Talbot School of Theology, encompasses all aspects of Amos, including history, literary concerns, philology, theology, and practical application, all in a clear and interesting style. All Hebrew translated, 234 pgs.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of *Word Biblical Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987.

Recommended by Ken Way

An Arminian professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, Stuart writes an advanced conservative commentary for Amos, intelligently conservative and emphasizing theology without taking space from other sections of the text. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 128 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Anderson, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. *Amos*. Vol. 24A of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1989.

An advantage of these two scholars, Anderson an evangelical and Freedman a Jewish scholar, is that their methods are adaptable to the study of other biblical books, as they compose a detailed and technical scholarly commentary. All Hebrew transliterated, 979 pgs.

Mays, James Luther. *Amos*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1969.

Mays, a former professor at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and a critical scholar, presents philological and other technical analysis without losing sight of Amos's theology. All Hebrew transliterated, 168 pgs.

Smith, Gary V. *Amos*. Mentor Commentary. Fearn, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1998.

Smith, an evangelical at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, gives attention to textual and philological details, background and literary studies, rhetorical structure, issues in exegesis, and theological themes. All Hebrew transliterated, 598 pgs.

Smith, Gary V. *Hosea, Amos*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan,

2001.

A conservative evangelical at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Smith offers a clear introduction to Amos's historical background as well as a competent commentary. All Hebrew transliterated, 216 pgs.

Sunukjian, Donald R. "Amos." In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2 vols., edited by John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, 1:1425-1452. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries, 2000.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Donald Sunukjian gives a brief evangelical commentary focusing on the exposition of Amos's text. All Hebrew transliterated, 28 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Carroll R. (Rodas), M. Daniel. *Amos—The Prophet and His Oracles*. Research on the Book of Amos. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

An evangelical at Denver Seminary, Carroll gives a history of Amos research, present trends of Amos research, and gives an extensive bibliography of Amos studies. All Hebrew transliterated, 224 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. "An Evangelical Response to the Preaching of Amos." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 28, no. 4 (1985): 411-420.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley explains why evangelical readers of Amos to take the prophet's message to heart, particularly his words concerning social justice. All Hebrew transliterated, 10 pgs.

Hayes, John H. *Amos the Eighth Century Prophet: His Times and His Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

Hayes, an OT professor at Candler School of theology at Emory University and a theological moderate, uses historical data to cast doubt on critical theories of understanding concerning Amos. All Hebrew transliterated, 240 pgs.

King, Philip J. *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

Recommended by Tom Finley

A critical scholar from Boston College, King discusses the historical and geographical settings, architecture, warfare, fortifications, agriculture, banquets, and cultic practices in Israel and Judah in the eighth century. All Hebrew transliterated, 176 pgs.

Thorogood, Bernard. *A Guide to the Book of Amos*. London: SPCK, 1971.

Thorogood, a British evangelical, writes a study guide including interpretation, word studies, and background information, with a special emphasis on

understanding the book in a non-Western context. No Hebrew necessary, 118 pgs.

BB. OBADIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Raabe, Paul R. *Obadiah*. Vol. 24D of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1996.

Raabe, a Lutheran and critical scholar from Concordia Seminary, writes a commentary thorough in its discussion of words, historical issues, literary forms, and controversies in order to shed light on the meaning of the text. All Hebrew transliterated, 310 pgs.

Barton, John. *Joel and Obadiah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

A critical scholar at Oxford, Barton writes a historical-critical commentary which investigates the critical understanding of the book's original setting rather than the final form. He dates half of Obadiah to the exile, and half to a later eschatological addition. All Hebrew transliterated, 46 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Talbot Faculty Work

Finley, an evangelical OT and Semitics professor at Talbot School of Theology, encompasses all aspects of Obadiah, including history, literary concerns, philology, theology, and practical application, all in a clear and interesting style. All Hebrew translated, 42 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Allen, Leslie C. *Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Allen, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and a moderately evangelical scholar, composes an insightful and careful commentary with literary sensitivity, though his conclusions may be questionable. All Hebrew transliterated, 46 pgs.

Baker, David W. *Joel, Obadiah, Malachi*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Baker, a conservative at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, investigates the themes of judgment and hope in Obadiah. All Hebrew transliterated, 60 pgs.

Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Obadiah, and Micah*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Tom Finley gives an accessible commentary providing a pericope-by-pericope exposition. No Hebrew necessary, 30 pgs.

Wolff, Hans Walter. *Obadiah and Jonah: A Commentary*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986. Wolff, a critical German scholar, investigates how Obadiah does not preach hatred of Edom so much as the "punitive justice of God." Hebrew helpful, 74 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Ackroyd, P. R. "Obadiah." *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. Edited by David Noel Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1992. 5:2-4.
Ackroyd, a critical British scholar, summarizes the standard critical approach to the book, emphasizing inter-textual biblical references. All Hebrew transliterated, 3 pgs.

Bartlett, John R. *Edom and the Edomites*. Journal For the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 77. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1989.
Bartlett, a critical scholar from Trinity College, Dublin, summarizes all of what is known of Edom and the Edomites from archaeology and biblical sources. All Hebrew transliterated, 281 pgs.

CC. JONAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Sasson, Jack M. *Jonah*. Vol. 24B of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
Sasson, a critical scholar and professor at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, not only recapitulates the previous schools of thought concerning Jonah but also suggests a reading of his own. He also brings a readable style that exhaustively evaluates the biblical book. All Hebrew transliterated, 368 pgs.

Simon, Uriel. *Jonah*. JPS Bible Commentary. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1999.
Simon, a Jewish scholar from Israel, focuses on the story of Jonah as it portrays atonement versus repentance, universalism versus particularism, and prophecy. Hebrew helpful but not required, 52 pgs.

Walton, John H. "Jonah." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, revised edition, edited by Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, 451-490. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Recommended by Ken Way

Walton, a renowned evangelical OT expert at Wheaton College, gives special attention to the historical background of Jonah being placed in Nineveh of the eighth century BC, not the height of the Assyrian empire and its domination of Israel. No Hebrew necessary, 40 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baker, David W., T. Desmond Alexander, and Bruce K. Waltke. *Obadiah, Jonah, Micah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.

Alexander, a British evangelical scholar, gives historical background information and theological analysis, as well as discussion of Jonah's genre. All Hebrew transliterated, 88 pgs.

Limburg, James. *Jonah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

Limburg, a critical scholar, presents a moderate critical analysis of the literary and theological dimensions on Jonah, with comments on Jonah's influence on the New Testament, later Judaism, Islam, music, and art. All Hebrew transliterated, 123 pgs.

Walton, John H. "Jonah." In *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*, 5 vols., edited by John H. Walton, 5:100-119. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Walton, an evangelical scholar at Wheaton College, gives extensive background information relevant to Jonah in a verse-by-verse format. All Hebrew transliterated, 20 pgs.

Wolff, Hans Walter. *Obadiah and Jonah: A Commentary*. Continental Commentary.

Translated by Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.

Wolff, a critical German scholar, looks at the narration of Jonah as it emphasizes the "free pity" of God. Hebrew helpful, 103 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Cook, Stephen L, and S. C. Winter. *On the Way to Nineveh: Studies in Honor of George M. Landes*. American Schools for Oriental Research. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999.

Cook and Winter offer a collection of articles ranging from "Nineveh's 'Three-Day Walk' (Jonah 3:3): Another Interpretation," to "The Place of Jonah in the History of Biblical Ideas," and contains authors with a largely critical bias. All Hebrew transliterated, 353 pgs.

Halton, Charles. "How Big Was Nineveh? Literal Versus Figurative Interpretation of City Size." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 18, no. 2 (2008): 193-207.

Recommended by Ken Way

Halton, an evangelical at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, overviews modern attempts to reconcile Nineveh's size in Jonah with archaeological data, and suggests a figurative reading as more appropriate. Hebrew required, 15 pgs.

Walton, John H. "The Object Lesson of Jonah 4:5-7 and the Purpose of the Book of Jonah." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 2 (1992): 47-57.

Recommended by Ken Way

Wheaton College evangelical John Walton gives a discussion of how Jonah's second anger and use of the divine name imply the meaning of the book. Hebrew required, 11 pgs.

DD. MICAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Waltke, Bruce K. *A Commentary on Micah*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Waltke, an evangelical OT professor at Regent College in Canada, offers a grammatico-historical interpretation of Micah while also relating it to the contemporary church. Using form-critical analysis to divide Micah into some twenty-one oracles, Waltke then provides translation, exegesis, and exposition. All Hebrew transliterated, 490 pgs.

Anderson, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. *Micah*. Vol. 24E of *The Anchor Yale Bible Commentary*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

An advantage of these two scholars, Anderson being broadly evangelical and Freedman bringing a critical perspective, is their careful and exhaustive research of the secondary literature surrounding Micah. They lack strong theological conclusions. All Hebrew transliterated, 637 pgs.

Allen, Leslie C. *Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Allen, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and a moderately evangelical scholar, composes an insightful and careful commentary with literary sensitivity, though his conclusions may be questionable. All Hebrew transliterated, 168 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Alfaro, Juan I. *Justice And Loyalty: A Commentary on the Book of Micah*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

A Catholic and critical scholar, Alfaro focuses on the social justice issues presented in Micah and how they apply today around the world. No Hebrew necessary, 85 pgs.

- Ben Zvi, Ehud. *Micah*. Volume 21B of *The Forms of the Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
A critical scholar at the University of Alberta, Canada, ben Zvi writes an in-depth form-critical analysis which also serves as a good summary of other scholars' research and opinions. All Hebrew transliterated, 189 pgs.
- Mays, James Luther. *Micah*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1976.
Mays, a critical scholar at Union Theological Seminary, provides a well-written commentary focusing on the individual sayings of Micah and how they relate to the overall structure of the book. All Hebrew transliterated, 169 pgs.
- Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Obadiah, and Micah*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.
Talbot Faculty Publication
Talbot's own Tom Finley gives an accessible commentary providing a pericope-by-pericope exposition. No Hebrew necessary, 78 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- King, Philip J. *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.
Recommended by Tom Finley
A critical scholar from Boston College, King discusses the historical and geographical settings, architecture, warfare, fortifications, agriculture, banquets, and cultic practices in Israel and Judah in the eighth century. All Hebrew transliterated, 176 pgs.
- Wolff, Hans Walter. *Micah The Prophet*. Translated by Ralph D. Gehrke. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.
Wolff, a critical German scholar, writes a rare homiletical and expositional treatment of Micah. No Hebrew necessary, 223 pgs.

EE. NAHUM

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

- Floyd, Michael H. *Minor Prophets*. Part 2. Vol. 22 of *The Forms of Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
Floyd, a critical scholar having taught at a number of mainline seminaries, offers a form-critical commentary for scholars that connects this genre of analysis to the greater concerns of interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 78 pgs.
- Patterson, Richard Duane. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical

- Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.
Patterson, an evangelical scholar, professor at Liberty University, and graduate of Talbot School of Theology, shows a high degree of literary sensitivity to Nahum and places the book in its historical context. Focusing on God's sovereignty, he does little with the divine warrior motif. All Hebrew translated, 112 pgs.
- Roberts, J. J. M. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. The Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
Roberts, a critical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, gives technical data in understandable terms regarding the text criticism and philology, and holds a higher estimation of the methods of historical analysis than many of his colleagues in the series. All Hebrew transliterated, 44 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

- Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.
Baker, an evangelical and OT professor at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, Baker emphasizes Nahum's historical background and theological message. All Hebrew transliterated, 24 pgs.
- Barker, Kenneth L., and Waylon Bailey. *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Vol. 20 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
Bailey, author of the Nahum commentary and a former professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, writes a well-thought-out commentary, with in-depth research and an analysis sensitive to theological themes. No Hebrew necessary, 108 pgs.
- O'Brien, Julia M. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.
A critical scholar at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, O'Brien focuses on theological analysis and a detailed exegesis. All Hebrew transliterated, 326 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Cathcart, Kevin J. *Nahum in the Light of Northwest Semitic*. *Biblica Et Orientalia* 26. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1973.
Cathcart, a Canadian Catholic scholar, attempts to explain difficulties in Nahum by using epigraphical studies and comparative Semitic philology.
- Pinker, Aron. "Nineveh's Defensive Strategy and Nahum 2-3." *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 118, no. 4 (2006): 618-624.

Pinker, an American Jewish scholar, discusses ancient warfare tactics in its relation to defense of Nineveh as it relates to Nahum. Hebrew required, 7 pgs.

FF. HABAKKUK

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Patterson, Richard Duane. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Patterson, an evangelical scholar, professor at Liberty University, and graduate of Talbot School of Theology, shows a high degree of literary sensitivity to Habakkuk and places the book in its historical context. Focusing on God's sovereignty, he does little with the divine warrior motif. All Hebrew translated, 161 pgs.

Anderson, Francis I. *Habakkuk*. Vol. 25 of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Anderson, a broadly evangelical scholar, writes a very clear commentary attempting to make Habakkuk available to the general reader. With his extensive discussion and analysis, however, this commentary is best reserved for the scholar and student. Most Hebrew transliterated, 387 pgs.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Director of Africa Bible College in Uganda and adjunct professor of OT at Knox Theological Seminary, Robertson gives a valuable commentary that excels in pastoral application and in theological analysis. All Hebrew transliterated, 116 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.

Baker, an evangelical and OT professor at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, Baker emphasizes Habakkuk's historical background and theological message. All Hebrew transliterated, 38 pgs.

Floyd, Michael H. *Minor Prophets*. Part 2. Vol. 22 of *The Forms of Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Floyd, a critical scholar having taught at a number of mainline seminaries, offers a form-critical commentary for scholars connecting this genre of analysis to the greater concerns of interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 85 pgs.

Roberts, J. J. M. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. The Old Testament Library.

Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

Roberts, a critical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, gives technical data in understandable terms regarding the text criticism and philology, and holds a higher estimation of the methods of historical analysis than many of his colleagues in the series. All Hebrew transliterated, 80 pgs.

Bruckner, James. *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

An evangelical at North Park Theological Seminary, Bruckner focuses on the core message of Habakkuk and gives good discussion of the continued relevance of the prophet's work both in theology and contemporary significance.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Gowan, Donald E. *The Triumph of Faith in Habakkuk*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1976.

Gowan, a moderate evangelical associated with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, applies the theology of Habakkuk to the problem of human suffering and how to live triumphantly during times of trouble. No Hebrew necessary, 94 pgs.

Wendland, Ernst. "The Righteous Live By Their Faith' in a Holy God: Complementary Compositional Forces and Habakkuk's Dialogue with the Lord." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 42, no. 4 (December 1999): 591-628.

Recommended by Ken Way

Wendland, a Lutheran evangelical at Lutheran Seminary in Zambia, argues that Habakkuk 2:4b's classic phrase is the core of the prophet's entire message. All Hebrew transliterated, 27 pgs.

GG. ZEPHANIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Berlin, Adele. *Zephaniah*. Vol. 25A of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

A Jewish professor of Hebrew at the University of Maryland, Berlin excels at offering a literary analysis of Zephaniah. She also discusses such issues as text, historical issues, semantics, and theological analysis. All Hebrew transliterated, 165 pgs.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Zephaniah*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2003.

As a Jewish scholar at the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA, Sweeney offers a historical commentary offering a critical perspective on the meaning of Zephaniah. Hebrew helpful but not required, 228 pgs.

Patterson, Richard Duane. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. The Wycliffe Exegetical

Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Patterson, an evangelical scholar, professor at Liberty University, and graduate of Talbot School of Theology, shows a high degree of literary sensitivity to Zephaniah and places the book in its historical context, at the expense of a more thorough theological treatment. All Hebrew translated, 113 pgs.

II. SECOND COMMENTARIES

Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.

Baker, an evangelical and OT professor at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, Baker emphasizes Zephaniah's historical background and theological message. All Hebrew transliterated, 41 pgs.

Barker, Kenneth L., and Waylon Bailey. *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Vol. 20 of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

Bailey, author of the Zephaniah commentary and a former professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, writes a well-thought-out commentary, with in-depth research and an analysis sensitive to theological themes. No Hebrew necessary, 122 pgs.

Roberts, J. J. M. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. The Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

Roberts, a critical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, gives technical data in understandable terms regarding the text criticism and philology, and holds a higher estimation of the methods of historical analysis than many of his colleagues in the series. All Hebrew transliterated, 63 pgs.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Director of Africa Bible College in Uganda and adjunct professor of OT at Knox Theological Seminary, Robertson gives a valuable commentary that excels in pastoral application and in theological analysis. All Hebrew transliterated, 100 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Christensen, Duane L. "Zephaniah 2:4-15: A Theological Basis for Josiah's Program of Political Expansion." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 46, no. 4 (October 1984): 669-682.

A retired critical scholar from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Christensen looks at the oracles against Philistia, Moab, Ammon, and Assyria as a literary whole. All Hebrew transliterated, 14 pgs.

Cogan, Mordechai. *Imperialism and Religion: Assyria, Judah and Israel in the Eighth*

and Seventh Centuries B.C.E. Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series 19. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1974.

Cogan, a Jewish professor at Hebrew University, explains how peoples subjected by the Assyrians adopted Assyrian religion to improve political ties with their conqueror. All Hebrew transliterated, 136 pgs.

HH. HAGGAI

I. TOP COMMENTARIES

Boda, Mark J. *Haggai, Zechariah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Recommended by Ken Way

An evangelical and professor at McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, Boda provides a substantial discussion of introductory issues and the text's original meaning. Balancing service to theology and the biblical theology of Zechariah, Boda also gives worthwhile contemporary significance. All Hebrew transliterated, 576 pgs.

Meyers, Carol L., and Eric M. Meyers. *Haggai, Zechariah 1-8*. Vol. 25B of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1987.

Recommended by Ken Way

Critical scholars at Duke University in North Carolina, the Meyerses have produced a detailed and well-researched commentary on Haggai. Though their critical assumptions color some interpretive issues, their message is provocative and breaks down the message of Haggai chapter by chapter with considerable detail on context and philology. All Hebrew transliterated, 478 pgs.

Verhoef, Pieter A. *Haggai, Malachi*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

A South African scholar and evangelical, Verhoef writes a scholarly and technical guide giving exegesis of the Hebrew text, theological analysis, and interpretation in light of the New Testament. All Hebrew transliterated, 150 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baldwin, Joyce G. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.

Dean of Women at Trinity College in Bristol and a conservative, Baldwin offers a non-technical and yet insightful commentary. The commentary also includes a general introduction to all its books concerning the restoration from exile, the temple's theological significance, and messianic hopes of postexilic times. All Hebrew transliterated, 32 pgs.

Petersen, David L. *Haggai and Zechariah 1-8*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1984.

Recommended by Ken Way

Petersen, though a critical scholar at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, spends more time on providing an interpretation based on the historical, archaeological, sociological, and economic context than on issues related to his critical bias. All Hebrew transliterated, 108 pgs.

Taylor, Richard A., and E. Ray Clendenen. *Haggai, Malachi*. Vol. 21A of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2004.

Taylor, author of the Haggai commentary and an evangelical OT professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, presents an in-depth analysis of scholars' opinions and a well-researched exposition of the book. Hebrew helpful but not required, 201 pgs.

Wolff, Hans Walter. *Haggai*. Continental Commentary. Translated by Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1988.

Wolff, a German critical scholar, sees Haggai as the model of effective communication (in convincing the Jews to rebuild the temple), and analyzes the book according to a critical view of the text's development. Hebrew required, 128 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

Christensen, Duane L. "Impulse and Design in the Book of Haggai." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 35, no. 4 (December 1992): 445-456.

Christensen, an evangelical at Christian Witness Theological Seminary in California, uses syllable count and other musical tools to prove that Haggai was intended as narrative poetry. All Hebrew transliterated, 12 pgs.

Pierce, Ronald W. "Literary Connectors and a Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi Corpus." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 27, no. 3 (1984): 277-290.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ron Pierce explores the interrelationships between these three biblical books and their postexilic elements. All Hebrew transliterated, 14 pgs.

II. ZECHARIAH

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Meyers, Carol L., and Eric M. Meyers. *Haggai, Zechariah 1-8*. Vol. 25B of *The Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1987.

Meyers, Carol L., and Eric M. Meyers. *Zechariah 9-14*. Vol. 25C of *The Anchor Bible*

Commentary. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

Recommended by Ken Way

Critical scholars at Duke University in North Carolina, the Meyerses have produced a lengthy but detailed and well-researched commentary on Zechariah. Though their critical assumptions color some interpretive issues, their message is provocative and breaks down the message of each book chapter by chapter with considerable detail on context and philology. All Hebrew transliterated; vol. 1, 478 pgs.; vol. 2, 552 pgs.

Boda, Mark J. *Haggai, Zechariah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Recommended by Ken Way

An evangelical and professor at McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, Boda provides a substantial discussion of introductory issues and the text's original meaning. Balancing service to theology and the biblical theology of Zechariah, Boda also gives worthwhile contemporary significance. All Hebrew transliterated, 576 pgs.

Petersen, David L. *Haggai and Zechariah 1-8*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1984.

Recommended by Ken Way

Petersen, though a critical scholar at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, spends more time on providing an interpretation based on the historical, archaeological, sociological, and economic context than on issues related to his critical bias. All Hebrew transliterated, 108 pgs.

II. SECONDARY COMMENTARIES

Baldwin, Joyce G. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.

Dean of Women at Trinity College in Bristol and a conservative, Baldwin offers a non-technical and yet insightful commentary. The commentary also includes a general introduction to all its books concerning the restoration from exile, the temple's theological significance, and messianic hopes of postexilic times. All Hebrew transliterated, 162 pgs.

Feinberg, Charles L. *God Remembers: A Study of Zechariah*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1965.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Recommended by Tom Finley

Feinberg, former professor and first dean at Talbot School of Theology, gives a commentary on Zechariah organized according to an exhortation for repentance, the night visions, questions concerning fasting, and the future of the world powers, Israel, and the messianic kingdom. All Hebrew transliterated, 229 pgs.

- Floyd, Michael H. *Minor Prophets*. Part 2. Vol. 22 of *The Forms of Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
Floyd, a critical scholar having taught at a number of mainline seminaries, offers a form-critical commentary for scholars connecting this genre of analysis to the greater concerns of interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 259 pgs.
- Klein, George L. *Zechariah*. Vol. 21B of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2008.
Klein, an evangelical teaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas, explores how Zechariah present and future insights into the ways of God, the work of the Messiah, and the nature of the coming kingdom of God. All Hebrew transliterated, 475 pgs.
- Webb, Barry G. *The Message of Zechariah*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
Head of OT Studies at Moore Theological College in Australia, Webb is a conservative who interprets Zechariah according to its understanding and proclamation of the kingdom of God. All Hebrew transliterated, 188 pgs.

III. OTHER RESOURCES

- Butterworth, Mike. *Structure and the Book of Zechariah*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplementary Series 130. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1992.
Butterworth, a British moderate, discusses methods of discerning structure and the proof of editorial structuring of Zechariah. Hebrew required, 328 pgs.
- Finley, Thomas J. "The Sheep Merchants of Zechariah 11." *Grace Theological Journal* 3, no. 1 (1982): 51-65.
Talbot Faculty Publication
Talbot's own Tom Finley gives a textual study of the MT and LXX rendering of "hence the afflicted of the flock," or "sheep merchants," in Zechariah 11:7 and 11:11. Hebrew required, 15 pgs.
- Gowan, Donald E. *Eschatology in the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000.
A theological moderate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Gowan investigates Israel's future hopes in the Old Testament as a whole, concluding that God's plan is to transform the human person, human society, and nature itself. No Hebrew necessary, 158 pgs.
- Hansen, Paul D. *Old Testament Apocalyptic*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.
A critical scholar and professor at Harvard, Hansen first defines OT apocalyptic and then discusses the presence of apocalyptic influences in several Old Testament texts. No Hebrew necessary, 144 pgs.

Pierce, Ronald W. "A Thematic Development of the Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi Corpus." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 27, no. 4 (December 1984): 401-412.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ron Pierce suggests a common theme of these three biblical books, centered in Zechariah 9-14. All Hebrew transliterated, 12 pgs.

Tollington, Janet E. *Tradition and Innovation in Haggai and Zechariah 1-8*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplemental Series 150. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1993.

Tollington, a critical scholar from Bristol Baptist College in the United Kingdom, treats the composition, prophetic authority, style, form, and themes of Haggai and the first eight chapters of Zechariah. Most Hebrew translated, 266 pgs.

JJ. MALACHI

I. TOP COMMENTARIES (RANKED 1-3)

Hill, Andrew E. *Malachi*. Vol. 25D of *Anchor Bible Commentary*. New York: Doubleday, 1998.

Recommended by Ken Way

An evangelical professor at Wheaton, Hill gives an excellent analysis of all the issues concerning Habakkuk. His exposition is also of high quality. A very technical commentary, this work also explores connections between Malachi and the New Testament. All Hebrew transliterated, 436 pgs.

Verhoef, Pieter A. *Haggai, Malachi*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

A South African scholar and evangelical, Verhoef writes a scholarly and technical guide giving exegesis of the Hebrew text, theological analysis, and interpretation in light of the New Testament. All Hebrew transliterated, 197 pgs.

Floyd, Michael H. *Minor Prophets*. Part 2. Vol. 22 of *The Forms of Old Testament Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Floyd, a critical scholar having taught at a number of mainline seminaries, offers a form-critical commentary for scholars connecting this genre of analysis to the greater concerns of interpretation. All Hebrew transliterated, 68 pgs.

II. SECOND COMMENTARIES

Baldwin, Joyce G. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.

- Dean of Women at Trinity College in Bristol and a conservative, Baldwin offers a non-technical and yet insightful commentary. The commentary also includes a general introduction to all its books concerning the restoration from exile, the temple's theological significance, and messianic hopes of postexilic times. All Hebrew transliterated, 43 pgs.
- Mackay, John L. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Focus on the Bible Commentary. Expanded edition. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2003.
Mackay, a Scottish evangelical at the Free Church College in Edinburgh, writes an accessible commentary tracing the theme of God's dealings with his people as they try to translate their loyalty to him into action. No Hebrew necessary, 360 pgs.
- Stuart, Douglas. "Malachi." In *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*, edited by Thomas E. McComiskey, 3:1245-1396. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
Stuart, evangelical professor of OT at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, offers a close philological reading of the Hebrew text. Separated from this analysis is an exposition of Hosea, still referencing the transliterated Hebrew. This commentary's strengths will especially help a preacher of the text. Hebrew helpful but not required, 238 pgs.
- Taylor, Richard A., and E. Ray Clendenen. *Haggai, Malachi*. Vol. 21A of *New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2004.
Clendenen, the evangelical general editor of the NAC and author of the Malachi commentary, presents a well-researched commentary with numerous insights into the text and its historical and economic context. Hebrew helpful but not necessary, 263 pgs.
- III. OTHER RESOURCES
- Glazier-McDonald, Beth. *Malachi: The Divine Messenger*. Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series 98. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1987.
Glazier-McDonald, professor at Centre College in Kentucky and Jewish scholar, discusses Malachi's content and structure with commentary for each of the book's pericopes. Hebrew required, 288 pgs.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Malachi: God's Unchanging Love*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.
An evangelical at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Kaiser gives a detailed and also readable study of the message of Malachi and its application today. All Hebrew transliterated, 171 pgs.
- Pierce, Ronald W. "A Thematic Development of the Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi Corpus."

Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 27, no. 4 (December 1984): 401-412.

Talbot Faculty Publication

Talbot's own Ron Pierce suggests a common theme of these three biblical books, centered in Zechariah 9-14. All Hebrew transliterated, 12 pgs.

Mallone, George. *Furnace of Renewal: A Vision for the Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981.

Mallone, as an evangelical and teaching elder at two British Columbia churches, gives insightful application of Malachi to contemporary circumstances, including tithing, social service, worship, evangelism, and leadership. No Hebrew necessary, 201 pgs.

VI. A NOTE ON COMMENTARY SERIES

Students of the Bible are advised not to purchase single commentary sets or rely on a sole particular commentary series for their exploration of Scripture. The reason, simply enough, is that while each series offers strengths and specific perspectives, not every commentary in that series is the best commentary on that particular book. There is no “super” commentary series.

That being said, knowing the basic contours of the different series of commentaries can come in use when making a decision on what to purchase or use for reference. The following notes concerning each commentary series are intended to make plain those contours. Needless to say, the following list is not exhaustive, including only the commentary series most represented in this survey.

Anchor Bible Commentary/Anchor Yale Bible Commentary (AB). Published by Doubleday and Yale University Press.

The *AB* or *ABC* is a massive work spanning several decades and constantly being updated. The common constant in the series is David Noel Freedman, an OT mastermind who has personally edited much if not all of the series. The *AB* features authors from across the faith and interfaith spectrum, from evangelicals to critical scholars to Jewish scholars (and, supposedly, Muslim scholars). Because of the space and freedom given to the authors, and how the series manages to recruit the very best scholars to write its volumes, the *AB* is a technical but indispensable resource for many OT books.

Continental Commentary. Published by Fortress Press.

The *Continental Commentary* is a hodgepodge of English translations of Europe’s great critical commentaries. All of the *Continental Commentaries* featured in this survey are originally in German. These works tend to be very technical and critical, reserved for the serious student.

Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC). First edition edited by Frank E. Gaebelin in the 1980s; revised edition edited by Tremper Longman, III, and David Garland in 2008.

Recommended by John Hutchison

The *EBC* is a unique set in that it was nearly completely reinvented in the 2000s. This series is evangelical and generally written for a more popular audience. The older and outdated commentaries of the first edition were replaced by new works by top scholars in the revised edition, while the best commentaries from the first edition were allowed to remain.

Forms of the Old Testament Literature (FOTL). Published by Eerdmans.

The *FOTL* seems to be a series mostly by critical scholars, with the unique characteristic that they offer a form-critical analysis of their respective books of Scripture. The *FOTL* is usually technical and dense.

Heremeneia (sometimes HRM). Published by Fortress Press and/or Augsburg Fortress Press.

Hermeneia is an American critical commentary series, and is a mixed bag in terms of its usefulness (i.e., *Daniel* by Collins is the best in its field; Isaiah is divided unhelpfully into *Isaiah* and *Deutero-Isaiah*, reflecting critical bias concerning the book's composition). The series is moderately technical.

Interpretation. Published by Westminster/John Knox/Westminster John Knox presses.

Interpretation is an American critical commentary aimed for the general populace and especially the preaching pastor. As such, the critical assumptions of the authors are usually played down in favor of a more in-depth theological analysis. These commentaries are usually briefer than other critical commentaries.

Jewish Publication Society (JPS) Torah and Bible Commentary. Published by the Jewish Publication Society.

The *JPS* commentary (of which the Torah is complete and the remainder of the Hebrew Bible is not) offers a Jewish perspective on the Hebrew Bible. Top Jewish scholars were recruited to write this series, and they typically treat the books of Scripture as unified wholes. The authors also interact with rabbinic commentaries published throughout the centuries. Hebrew allows the reader to get the most out of the set, although a wealth of insights are available without fluent Hebrew.

New American Commentary (NAC). Published by Broadman and Holman.

Because *NAC* is published by Broadman and Holman, part of the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, it is robustly evangelical and conservative. Although it limits its use of the original languages to footnotes, it can be quite technical and contains much interaction with the secondary literature. Depending on the book of the Bible and the author, these can be very helpful commentaries.

New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT). Published by Eerdmans.

NICOT is a technical expositional commentary that limits its use of Hebrew so as to be accessible to most readers. As such, it is a unique cross between a scholarly and popular commentary. It is mostly evangelical, but the conclusions of its authors should be evaluated by the readers depending on the volume. Several of its older volumes have been replaced with the work of more current authors.

NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC). Published by Zondervan.

The *NIVAC* is a popular-level, evangelical, and expositional commentary intended for pastors and lay readers. Zondervan organized the series so that each passage's commentary is divided into three sections focusing on original meaning, bridging contexts between the original meaning and today, and contemporary applications stemming from that contextual bridge. The strength of the contemporary application depends on the pastoral experience of the author, and will likely be outdated before the sections on original meaning.

Old Testament Library (OTL). Published by Westminster/Westminster John Knox presses.

The *OTL* is a brief, though scholarly, critical commentary published by mainline American critical scholars. Many of its works are older, though new volumes are beginning to come out to replace works that have become outdated. Its focus is generally on literary and theological analysis.

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (TOTC). Published by InterVarsity Press.

The *TOTC* is a surprising gem. Despite the brevity of its volumes, which prevent it from giving an exhaustive examination of the biblical books, the authors are robustly evangelical and offer a clear exposition of the text. The commentary, written mostly by British conservatives, tends not to use Hebrew and is written for the lay person.

Word Biblical Commentary (WBC). Published by Word Books and Thomas Nelson.

WBC is a mammoth work, and can be likened to a more conservative version of the *AB*. While its contents are generally conservative in that it usually treats each book of Scripture as a unified whole, there is no guarantee that the conclusions of each author are theologically conservative, and many authors are not evangelicals. These books generally give exhaustive analysis of every aspect of the text.

VII. OT COMMENTARY SURVEYS

To put together this project, suggestions were taken from a variety of sources, including Talbot faculty suggestions, the four sources listed below, and the unpublished top picks of John Walton provided by Ken Way. Each source's rank depended on its reviews (or lack thereof) given by these sources. Greater weight was given to faculty recommendations, Walton's unpublished recommendations, and Longman's survey, although these factors were given equal weight among themselves. The suggested books and articles themselves were then given a brief examination, and sometimes discarded if outdated or otherwise not useful.

For other useful commentary information (as well as some of the sources used in this project), check out the following options.

Dyer, John. "Best Commentaries.com." www.bestcommentaries.com (accessed August 2010 – May 2011).

A Dallas graduate, Dyer combines numerous published and unpublished commentary survey sources to give reviews and ratings for most commentaries on most biblical books, with the option for users to register and leave their own reviews. The site only discusses commentaries and not other works, and it must be remembered that its rankings are based on popular vote and not necessarily scholarly review.

Hill, Andrew E., and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Having become the standard evangelical textbook on the Old Testament, Hill & Walton include brief bibliographies at the end of each chapter, along with some annotations. These bibliographies are a mixed bag of contemporary and outdated sources.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Nelson, 2004.

Primarily a hermeneutics textbook, *KBH* concludes with an annotated bibliography providing information on various types of non-commentary resources for the OT and NT, along with descriptions of some commentary series as whole projects.

Longman III, Tremper. *Old Testament Commentary Survey*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

A conservative at Westmont and a Hebrew poetry expert, Longman's survey is helpful and nearly exhaustive, although he lacks surveys of any sources beside commentaries.