

COMMENTARIES

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READ THE FOLLOWING:

016.2207/S929. Stuart, Douglas K. *A Guide to Selecting and Using Bible Commentaries*, pp. 7-34. Dallas: Word Pub., 1990.

Fred Craddock. "The Commentary in the Service of the Sermon," *Interpretation* 36, no. 4 (October 1982): 386-89.

You will also find the following titles and their introductory material helpful:

R.R.016.2207/E92/2016. Evans, John F. *A Guide to Biblical Commentaries and Reference Works*. 10th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

The introduction includes "Other Bibliographies" of commentaries, "Standards for Evaluating Commentaries," and "Other Bible Reference Works." Provides an annotated list of commentary series followed by an annotated bibliography of English language commentaries arranged in biblical order. Includes some older works, but emphasis is on "up-to-date and highly respected scholarly works." Identifies 5 or 6 works for each book as suggestions for purchase. Indicates critical level of commentary with symbols. In the back he includes "Bargains for a Bare-Bones Library" (439-40), "An Ideal Basic Library for the Pastor" (441-48), and "The Ultimate Reference Library" (449-51). Evaluations represent a conservative perspective.

R.R.016.2217/L856/2013. Longman, Tremper, III. *Old Testament Commentary Survey*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.

An annotated bibliography of English language O.T. commentaries arranged under three sections: one-volume commentaries, commentary sets, and commentaries by O.T. book. Evaluates commentaries in the annotations and also by a 1 to 5 rating scale. Distinguishes audience for each work with one of the following designations: layperson, minister, or scholar. In appendix A he lists "five-star commentaries," which are the ones that obtained the highest rating for each O.T. book. Includes an author index.

R.R.016.2257/T448/2013. Carson, D. A. *New Testament Commentary Survey*. 7th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.

An annotated bibliography of English language (with only an occasional foreign language title) N.T. commentaries with evaluative comments. Contains section on commentary series, one-volume commentaries, one-author sets, older commentaries, N.T. introductions & theologies, commentaries by N.T. book, and a "best buy" list.

Denver Journal (<http://www.denverseminary.edu/resources/denver-journal/>)

An online Evangelical review journal of biblical and theological studies edited and produced by the faculty of Denver Seminary. "It aims to include reviews of all recent and significant books and published media relating to the major fields of biblical and theological studies." It includes annotated O.T. and N.T. bibliographies, which contain lists of recommended commentaries on each book of the Bible. Exemplary volumes are marked with an asterisk. Each year, the Denver Journal's Annotated Old Testament Bibliography, compiled by Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R., Dr. Hélène Dallaire, and Dr. Rick Hess, is updated with the top resources available for Old Testament Study. The most recent version of the Annotated Old Testament bibliography can be accessed at the following link:

Each year, the Denver Journal's New Testament Exegesis Bibliography, compiled by Dr. William Klein, Dr. Craig L. Blomberg, and Dr. David Mathewson is updated with the top resources available for New Testament Study. The most recent version of the New Testament Exegesis bibliography can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.denverseminary.edu/resources/news-and-articles/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2016/>. "The lists of top commentaries for each N.T. book are divided into three sections: the first contains those we consider the best detailed, critical commentaries using the Greek text; the second lists more mid-level works using the English text (some with references to the Greek in footnotes); and the third consists of commentaries that are briefer and/or have a special focus on application. At least one priority title is asterisked for each level."

"Commentary Recommendations for the Old Testament."

(<http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/>)

This is on Ralph W. Klein's website. Click on the menu under Old Testament on the left sidebar of the screen. Dr. Klein is professor at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Commentaries under each book are listed in the order of preference. Updates list frequently.

In the fall 1995 issue of *Presbyterion* Jim Pakala, librarian at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, began a series (which is still in progress) entitled "A Librarian's Comments on Commentaries," in which he evaluates biblical commentaries, but not in canonical order. There is a listing of recommended commentaries on his library's website at <https://www.covenantseminary.edu/library/commentaries/>

Note: Commentaries are listed by series in the HST catalog. If a set is in progress and you want to know which volumes are available, check the series entry (e.g., Hermeneia, Anchor Bible, etc.). Some commentaries are shelved in the Reference Room and some in the stacks. Check catalog for location.

COMMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTERS, 2010. (One copy on reserve in classroom; one copy on reserve at front desk for copying; and a copy on the HST website that can be accessed by a link from this "Research Guide")

This listing is a compilation of commentaries, the majority of which are published in series, recommended by the sources listed. The series are indicated in italics; titles of those commentaries not part of a series are underlined. In some cases monographs and collections of essays on major issues and/or themes in a biblical book are listed. This list does not represent the recommendation of HST, the biblical Faculty, or the library staff, but if a commentary is recommended by several of these lists it should receive the student's attention (e.g., Wenham's commentary on Genesis is recommended on eight of these lists). Note that these lists primarily recommend commentaries for ministers to use in preparation for sermons or for Bible lessons to church members and often because of inaccessibility, expense, or heavy use of the original languages, a more scholarly volume might not be recommended. HST students should consult the annotations in the lists to determine which commentaries may be more suitable for use in term papers.

COMMENTARY LIST, 2001. (In blue folder on reserve)

Dr. Phil McMillion initialed those Old Testament commentaries he thinks students should know. Dr. Oster and Dr. Black initialed the commentaries on the New Testament books. A title with no initial does not necessarily carry the idea of "Not recommended," but in most instances indicates that the faculty member did not have sufficient knowledge of the commentary to make a judgment.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SELECTING COMMENTARIES

1. Don't buy sets.
2. Don't rely predominantly on old works.
3. Don't trust one-man commentaries on the whole Bible or Testaments.
4. Don't choose a commentary primarily because you agree with its conclusions.
5. Look for works based on the Greek or Hebrew texts.
6. Look for commentaries that survey all major positions on difficult texts.
7. Look for commentaries that fill in lack of knowledge on historical and cultural backgrounds.
8. Look for a solid treatment of the overall train of thought and for a constant attention to the context.
9. Look for commentaries that provide bibliographic information for further study.