

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

II. Biblical Studies Department

This volume of the Journal included the second in an ongoing series of bibliographies covering the fields taught at Ashland Theological Seminary. They include foundational works for disciplines and sub-disciplines in our theological curriculum. This installment features works on: Old Testament- Introduction and theology (David F. Hartzfeld); Pentateuch (David W. Baker), Historical Books (L. Daniel Hawk), Prophets (Baker), Wisdom (Hawk); Ancient Near Eastern Background (Baker), archaeology (Baker), Biblical hermeneutics (Hawk) and literary approaches (Hawk); New Testament- Jesus and the Gospels (David A. deSilva); Paul (William H. Myers), James (Melissa L. Archer); Johannine literature (Archer); archaeology (O. Kenneth Walther), Dead Sea Scrolls (deSilva), Jewish and Greco-Roman Backgrounds (deSilva).

Old Testament

Introductions

Bandstra, Barry L. Reading the Old Testament. An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1995.

The author seeks to help the reader understand the OT by doing actual readings of texts. It draws from history and critical methodologies to bring beginning students into the study of the OT.

Craigie, Peter C. The Old Testament. Its Background, Growth, and Content. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986.

Craigie presents the material of the OT by utilizing ideas and perspectives from various viewpoints thus giving a rich understanding of the content of the OT.

Dillard, Raymond B.; Longman, Tremper, III. An Introduction to the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

With each book of the OT, Dillard and Longman present the following parts: Bibliography, Historical Background (authorship, text and tradition, and historical-critical approaches), Evaluation of the critical approach, Literary analysis, Theological message, and Approaching the New Testament. This method introduces the reader to a wide background of the issues involved in understanding the OT.

Flanders, Henry Jackson, Jr.; Crapps, Robert Wilson; and Smith, David

Biblical Studies Bibliography

Anthony. People of the Covenant. An Introduction to the Old Testament. 3d ed. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

The authors examine the content of the OT in light of other ancient stories and cultural perspectives which provide an excellent contextual understanding of the OT materials.

Soggin, J. Alberto. Introduction to the Old Testament. From its origins to the closing of the Alexandrian canon. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1989.

Soggin has replaced S.R. Driver's classic introduction. With each book of the OT including the deuterocanonical books, Soggin generally deals with character and content, authorship, and thought resulting in a fine summary of the "facts" of each book.

Pentateuch

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. The Pentateuch: An Introduction to the First Five Books of the Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

A clearly written presentation of the changes in interpretation of the Pentateuch over the past two centuries, with an introduction and explanation of the books. Among the best from the more liberal perspective.

Craigie, Peter C. The Book of Deuteronomy. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

An expert in the Ugaritic background of the OT, the author brings his clear writing style to bear on this important book. The work is accessible to pastor and layperson alike.

Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. The Expositor's Bible Commentary, vol. 2, Genesis-Numbers. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Part of a strong Evangelical series which presents lengthy works on several biblical books in one volume. Expositors here are John Sailhamer, Walter Kaiser, R. Laird Harris and Ronald Allen.

Milgrom, Jacob. Leviticus 1-16. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

Although not yet completed, this commentary deserves pride of place for the most comprehensive discussion on Leviticus today. The best available on OT law, this book is joined by other worthy contributions to this series by other Jewish writers (E.A. Speiser, Genesis, 1964; Baruch A. Levine, Numbers 1-20, 1993; Moshe Weinfeld, Deuteronomy 1-11, 1991).

Miller, Patrick D., Jr. Deuteronomy. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990.

Writing from a main-line position, the author, and the series as a whole do a good job in pointing out the relevance of the biblical text for contemporary preaching and teaching. There is much to challenge the reader here.

Sailhamer, John H. The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

A useful introduction from a conservative position. After an introduction into authorship, form, structure and theology, the author gives a detailed overview of each book.

Sarna, Nahum. Understanding Genesis: The Heritage of Biblical Israel. New York: Schocken, 1970.

In this and its companion volume Exploring Exodus: The Heritage of Biblical Israel (1986) the author, a conservative Jew, provides interesting exegetical insight. He is especially strong in placing the books in their ancient Near Eastern environment.

Wenham, Gordon J. Genesis 1-15/Genesis 16-50. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco: Word, 1987/1994.

Probably the best to date among Evangelical commentaries on Genesis. In addition to exegetical insight, the author is also sensitive to literary and theological issues.

_____. The Book of Leviticus. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.

A solid evangelical work which almost makes the book exciting. He draws most helpfully from the sociological analyses of Mary Douglas.

_____. Numbers: An Introduction and Commentary. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1981.

Yet another from the leading Evangelical commentator on the Pentateuch. This is part of a series which is useful for student, layperson and pastor.

Westermann, Claus. Genesis 1-11/Genesis 12-36/Genesis 37-50. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984/1985/1986.

An extremely thorough commentary on Genesis, it is especially valuable for the comprehensive bibliographies, which are unsurpassed up to the publication date. From a more liberal, tradition-historical perspective, these volumes must be consulted by every serious student of Genesis.

Biblical Studies Bibliography

Historical Books

- Bright, John. A History of Israel. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981.
Although now somewhat dated, this history has not been surpassed in its capacity to synthesize the biblical record with information gained through extrabiblical sources.
- Hess, Richard S. Joshua. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
One of the best volumes in an excellent series oriented toward pastors and lay people.
- Howard, David M., Jr. An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books. Chicago: Moody, 1993.
A thorough and readable introduction that discusses the major questions raised by each of the Historical Books, introduced by a fine chapter on historical narrative.
- Hubbard, Robert L., Jr. Ruth. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
In many ways a model commentary, wedding careful exegesis with a sensitivity to issues of faith and life.
- Long, V. Philips. The Art of Biblical History. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 5. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
Tackles the difficult historical issues raised by archaeology and historical analysis of scripture, while holding to a strong view of biblical authority. The publisher has recently joined it and the other books in the series into a large, one-volume work.
- Polzin, Robert. Moses and the Deuteronomist. New York: Seabury, 1980.
A difficult book for the non-scholar, this ground breaking study of Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges is nonetheless rich with insight.
- Walsh, Jerome. 1 Kings. Berit Olam. Collegeville, Mn: Michael Glazier, 1996.
The first published volume of a commentary series devoted to exploring the literary artistry of the biblical text. Ably illustrates the unique literary features of the Old Testament.
- Williamson, H. G. M. Ezra, Nehemiah. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco: Word, 1985.
Offers extensive discussion of the various features of these books; written by one of the premier scholars on the exilic and postexilic period.
- Wiseman, Donald J. 1-2 Kings. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.

Accessible to the general reader, this volume provides a wealth of information on the ancient Near Eastern context of these books.

Yee, Gail, ed. Judges And Method. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

A collection of essays on Judges, designed to introduce and illustrate new methods of interpretation. Sheds new light on an often-neglected biblical book.

Prophets

Gordon, Robert P., ed. The Place is Too Small for Us: The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship. SBTS 5. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1995.

A collection of reprints of key articles showing the development of the study of the prophets over the last half-century. With an introductory essay surveying the field, this volume shows the state of play of the field of prophetic studies. A useful resource for the scholar and dedicated student.

Grabbe, Lester L., Priests, Prophets, Diviners, Sages: A Socio-historical Study of Religious Specialists in Ancient Israel. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1995.

A interesting and very readable introduction to the figures mentioned in the subtitle. Using the field of sociology to illustrate the cultural interactions between institutions, this volume can be read with profit by student and scholar.

Heschel, Abraham J. The Prophets: An Introduction. New York: Harper and Row, 1962.

By a conservative Jewish scholar, this work breathes a love for these messengers of God and an excitement about their message with a passion which is unrivaled among similar books. The Jewish viewpoint affects some interpretations, but all interested readers will be challenged and stimulated by reading this work.

Martens, Elmer A. Jeremiah. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1986.

Lind, Millard C. Ezekiel. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1996.

Guenther, Allen, Hosea, Amos. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1998.

Three examples of a very useful commentary series. As well as providing readable exegesis of the text, the series provides two useful sections not found in most commentaries. 'The Text in Biblical Context' traces the motifs and themes of the passage as they are

Biblical Studies Bibliography

developed throughout the rest of Scripture. 'The Text in the Life of the Church' illustrates the interpretation and application of the passage throughout church history. Specifically aimed at Sunday School teachers and pastors.

Smith, Gary V. An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets: The Prophets as Preachers. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

A helpful introduction not only to the message and setting of the prophets, but also to their role as communicator of God's message. This book asks what the prophets were attempting to do in the various contexts in which they preached their message.

Van Gemeren, Willem. Interpreting the Prophetic Word. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

A utilitarian introduction from a conservative, Evangelical position. Especially useful for notes and bibliography.

Wisdom

Berry, Donald. An Introduction to the Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

A comprehensive and up-to-date introduction. In addition to thorough introductions of the wisdom and poetical books, the volume includes chapters on the concept of wisdom, the wisdom literature of the ancient Near East, and the history of interpretation.

Brown, William P. Character in Crisis: A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

An original and engaging approach, which argues that wisdom literature is ultimately concerned with the formation of moral character.

Clines, David J. A. Job 1-20. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco: Word, 1989.

This book does what a commentary should do. It provides information essential to understanding the biblical text, but does so in a way that stimulates thinking about its meaning. One of the best volumes in the series.

Crenshaw, James L. Ecclesiastes. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987.

A commentary that offers rich exposition on this enigmatic book. Very well-written, it gets to the heart of the Ecclesiastes' message.

_____. Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction. Atlanta: John Knox, 1981.

A classic introduction which spans the biblical and apocryphal

wisdom books. It offers profound reflections on the way that the various books engage the basic issues of existence.

Janzen, J. Gerald. Job. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox, 1990.

An especially useful commentary for preaching and teaching. It deals with the book in segments and focuses on the theological import of the text.

Kidner, Derek. A Time to Mourn and a Time to Dance. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1976.

This book on Ecclesiastes is one of those rare books that combines, in an exemplary fashion, a deep understanding of scripture with a corresponding depth of insight regarding its relevance for today.

Murphy, Roland E. The Song of Songs. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.

A detailed commentary that explores the range of meanings ascribed to the book. Although the book is written for scholars, and is expensive, there is a wealth of information here for all readers.

_____. The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

An excellent general introduction by a leading Roman Catholic scholar.

Whybray, R. N. Proverbs. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

A superlative commentary that deals thoroughly but concisely with the various features of the book. Enables the reader to grasp not only the meaning of the individual proverbs but also the structure of the entire book.

Old Testament Theology

Eichrodt, Walter. Theology of the Old Testament. Trans. J.A. Baker. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961.

Although a rather old presentation, the content of Eichrodt's theology is an excellent presentation of the covenant concept.

Goldingay, John. Theological Diversity and the Authority of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

A careful examination of the study of OT theology by juxtaposing three pairs of methodologies: contextual or historical; evaluative or critical; and unifying or constructive. The results of this comparison are excellent insights into the content and theology of the OT.

Hayes, John H.; Frederick Prussner. Old Testament Theology: Its History and

Biblical Studies Bibliography

Development. Atlanta: John Knox, 1985.

An excellent history of the various methodologies that have been used throughout history in the study of the OT; a helpful introduction to Old Testament theologies.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward an Old Testament Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

A popular evangelical approach to OT theology which traces the theme of promise throughout the OT as a unifying theme.

Ollenburger, Ben C.; Martens, Elmer A.; and Hasel, Gerhard F. (eds.). The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. A Reader in Twentieth-Century Old Testament Theology, 1930-1990. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1992 in Sources for Biblical and Theological Study, General Editor: David W. Baker.

Selected writings of recent authors are presented resulting in a fine survey of and an introduction to methodologies in OT theology. A good place for beginners to start.

Rad, Gerhard von. Old Testament Theology. Trans. D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper, 1962-1965.

Like Eichrodt's theology, von Rad's is older, but presents the classic "salvation-history" methodology. A theology which has had a wide impact in many languages.

Ancient Near Eastern Background

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.

A useful introduction to the topic, with full bibliographies for further reading. Actual texts are not included.

Hallo, William W. and K. Lawson Younger, Jr. The Context of Scripture: Vol. 1 Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World. Leiden: Brill, 1997.

The first of a new (and expensive) series which will make available fresh translations of relevant extra-biblical material which can illuminate scripture. Useful in conjunction with Walton, this will replace Pritchard's Ancient Near Eastern Texts.

Walton, John and Victor Matthews. The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Genesis-Deuteronomy. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

A useful tool aimed at the student and pastor. Like its New Testament counterpart by Keener, the first of a 2-3 volume series goes

canonically through the Bible providing helpful background on aspects of culture, belief and practice.

Old Testament Archaeology

Hoerth, Alfred J. Archaeology and the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

Not yet out at the time of this writing, this volume will undoubtedly be a standard text. With charts, photos and maps, beginning and more advanced readers in the field will find useful information on the how, what and why of archaeology.

Meyers, Eric M., ed. The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East. 5 vol. New York/Oxford: Oxford, 1997.

This massive encyclopedia with recent bibliographies is the first place to look for people, places and things relating to the Old Testament, but even more to its ancient Near Eastern world.

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

This four volume encyclopedia covers hundreds of archaeological sites from the Sinai, through Israel and into Transjordan. With excellent drawings maps, and photos, the physical setting of the Old Testament will be enlivened for readers.

Old Testament Hermeneutics

Goldingay, John. Models for Scripture. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans/ Carlisle: Paternoster, 1994.

_____. Models for the Interpretation of Scripture. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans/Carlisle: Paternoster, 1995.

An original and practical approach which offers models for understanding and interpreting the diverse forms of biblical literature. The author raises many provocative questions, always with a view towards engaging scripture with the real-world issues confronting the Church.

Grant, Robert M., with David Tracy. A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1985.

A concise and informative survey of the ways the Church has interpreted scripture throughout its history. Especially useful for understanding the development of many of current approaches.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Waco: Word, 1993.

Biblical Studies Bibliography

A comprehensive introduction both to theoretical questions and exegetical method. Though oriented toward the novice, it is an excellent refresher for those wanting to refine their skills.

Literary Approaches

Alter, Robert. The Art of Biblical Narrative. New York: Basic, 1981.

A modern classic. Takes the reader deep into many familiar stories, highlighting the subtlety and skill with which they are written.

Alter, Robert and Frank Kermode, eds. The Literary Guide to the Bible. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap/Harvard University Press, 1987.

Essays on every book of the Bible, written with attention to the literary features of each.

Gunn, David M. and Danna Nolan Fewell. Narrative in the Hebrew Bible. The Oxford Bible Series. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Introduces a method for interpreting narrative, illustrating the method through a series of lively readings. Demonstrates how attention to literary features can often undo conventional interpretations.

Trible, Phyllis. Texts of Terror. Overtures to Biblical Theology. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1984.

A series of essays on neglected texts and characters, employing a moderate feminist hermeneutic. An important and provocative little book.

New Testament

Jesus and the Gospels

1. The Historical Jesus

Luke T. Johnson. *The Real Jesus* (New York: HarperCollins, 1995).

Johnson provides a lively introduction to -- and thorough debunking of -- the more liberal attempts to reconstruct a picture of the historical Jesus. He addresses the methodological problems underlying the famous Jesus Seminar, as well as the larger issue of "history" and the limits of "historical reconstruction."

Ben Witherington, III. *The Jesus Quest* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996).

This volume provides a thorough but readable survey of the last two decades of Jesus research, together with a cogent assessment of the contributions and weaknesses of each position surveyed.

Graham Stanton. *Gospel Truth? New Light on Jesus and the Gospels* (Valley

Forge, PA: Trinity Press, 1995).

This book is more of a collection of essays in which Stanton discusses the nature of the Gospel materials as revealing "Gospel truth," which cannot be reduced to historical truth. He provides a very accessible introduction to the work of text criticism, the transmission of Jesus traditions within the church before the appearance of the canonical Gospels, form criticism, redaction analysis, and the development of a four-fold Gospel canon. In the second half, Stanton conducts his own "quest for the Historical Jesus" through examination of archaeological discoveries, pagan and non-Christian Jewish comments about the sect and its founder, and the canonical and non-canonical Christian writings. (See Book Review, this issue).

Craig A. Evans. *Jesus* (IBR Bibliographies; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992).

An annotated bibliography of 566 books and articles listed under the headings of "Surveys of Research," "Classic Studies," "General," "Demythologization," "Authenticity Criteria" [i.e., of Jesus' sayings], "Teachings of Jesus," "Jesus' Self-Understanding," "Miracles," "Death of Jesus," "Resurrection," "Lives [Biographies] of Jesus," "Jesus in Noncanonical Historical Sources," "Jesus and John the Baptist." A very helpful handbook to scholarship, and essential starting point for research and study.

2. Resources for the study of the Gospels

J. B. Green, Scot McKnight, and I. H. Marshall (eds.). *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1992).

This, the first of IVP's four-volume *Dictionary of the New Testament*, is an essential compendium of evangelical scholarship on the Gospels. Major articles provide a thorough orientation to the four gospels, the Jewish religion of Jesus' day, the history of the period, and the ministry of Jesus himself. Minor articles supply a wealth of clarification concerning the players, the concepts, and the everyday realities encountered in the Gospels.

John T. Carroll and Joel B. Green, et al. *The Death of Jesus in Early Christianity* (Peabody/Hendrickson, 1995).

This stimulating collection of essays surveys the way in which the passion of Jesus is interpreted in the New Testament and extra-canonical gospels. The final chapters explore the use of Old Testament quotations in the passion, the political and religious reasons

Biblical Studies Bibliography

for the crucifixion, and how to communicate the meaning of the passion in the modern world. Essential reading on, arguably, the most important facet of our faith. See further my review in *Trinity Journal* 18NS (1997) 102-105.

Stanley E. Porter and Lee M. McDonald. *New Testament Introduction* (IBR Bibliographies; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995).

An annotated bibliography listing 848 books and articles under the headings of "Interpretation Skills," "New Testament Criticism," "Historical Backgrounds," "Introductions, Commentaries, and Canon." A reliable and extensive guide to further research and study.

Paul

Barrett, C. K. Paul, An Introduction to His Thought. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

A basic introduction to Paul's life & theology by a great master of the subject.

Brauch, Manfred T. Hard Sayings of Paul. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1989.

Exegetical insights on forty-eight of Paul's most difficult sayings.

Bruce, F. F. Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

One of the best written, easy readable, comprehensive life of Paul books ever written by an evangelical master on Pauline thought.

Drane, John. Paul. New York: Harper & Row, 1976.

A basic illustrated introduction to the life and times of Paul.

Dunn, James D. G. The Theology of Paul the Apostle. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

A superb exposition of Paul's thought. Upon its release (November) this will be the most comprehensive book to date on Pauline theology.

Jewett, Robert. A Chronology of Paul's Life. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

One of only two comprehensive chronologies on Paul. Easy to follow.

Jones, Jr., Amos. Paul's Message of Freedom: What Does It Mean to the Black Church? Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1984

A rare book that attempts to apply Pauline thought to the concerns of the Black Church.

Keener, Craig S. Paul, Women and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1992.

An insightful work on the difficult texts in Paul's writing about

women in marriage and ministry.

Longenecker, Richard N., ed. The Road from Damascus: The Impact of Paul's Conversion on His Life, Thought, and Ministry. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

An insightful collection of essays on the impact of Paul's conversion on his life, ministry, and thought.

Witherington, III, Ben. Paul's Narrative Thought World: The Tapestry of Tragedy and Triumph. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994.

An excellent account of the contours of Pauline theology.

The Epistle of James

Johnson, Luke Timothy. The Letter of James. The Anchor Bible Commentary Vol. 37A. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Johnson has produced a truly outstanding commentary that should be on the shelf of every pastor and teacher. The strength of the commentary is its extensive introduction (162 pages!) which deals not only with traditional questions of authorship, dating, etc., but with literary relationships (Greco-Roman moralists, OT writings, Jewish literature, NT writings, and non-canonical Christian literature) and the reception of the Epistle throughout church history including its place in the world today. The actual commentary and translation provides for each section of text an overview, a verse by verse analysis (all Greek is transliterated), a comment section which summarizes each section, and a limited bibliography for further study. If you can only afford one commentary on James, buy this one.

Maynard-Reid, Pedrito U. *Poverty and Wealth in James*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1987.

Maynard-Reid provides a fresh reading of James by analyzing the themes of wealth and poverty found explicitly in James 1:9-11; 2:1-13; 4:13-5:6. By way of relevant background material he presents a brief picture of life in the first century in terms of the social stratification, economic, physio-geographical and cultural data based on biblical and non-biblical literature. These sociological factors are then shown to be key in understanding James. A chapter on each passage mentioned above gives a fairly thorough analysis of key terminology (all Greek is transliterated) and themes of poverty and wealth. Each chapter has extensive notes for further study.

Moo, Douglas J. James. Tyndale New Testament Commentary. Downers Grove/Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press/Eerdmans, 1985.

Biblical Studies Bibliography

Although now somewhat dated, Moo's commentary provides an excellent treatment of this often misunderstood book. He gives careful attention to the problems plaguing Jamesian research in determining authorship, dating, provenance, genre, etc., in a concise yet thorough manner with plenty of footnotes for further reading. His commentary looks at each verse individually. Greek is transliterated and technical language is kept to a minimum. His thoughtful treatment of key themes and difficult passages makes this work an excellent resource for teachers and pastors.

Penner, Todd C. The Epistle of James and Eschatology: Re-reading an Ancient Christian Letter. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.

Penner's stated purpose is to "re-evaluate past trends in Jamesian research, and through an analysis of the framing structure of the epistle, to re-emphasize the predominant role which eschatology plays in interpreting this ancient Christian letter" (p. 7). In attempting to do such, Penner spends considerable time revisiting the dating and interpretation of James. His third chapter on the eschatological framework of the epistle is where he really develops his thesis and shows that eschatological themes and motifs dominate the opening and closing sections of the letter. He provides extensive and valuable footnotes. Chapter four deals with James in the context of Jewish and Christian texts where Penner shows James to be in continuity with other early Christian and Jewish texts in combining ethics and eschatology, and prophetic announcement and community instruction. Penner's work provides an excellent resource for serious students who do not mind wading through some heavy and sometimes technical material.

Deppe, Dean B. The Sayings of Jesus in the Epistle of James. Chelsea, MI.: Bookcrafters, 1989.

The purpose of this work is to gain insight into the gospel accounts of the sayings of Jesus through a study of the Epistle of James. Deppe explores such things as James' use of preexistent materials; the parallels between the Jesus tradition and the Epistle, the possible connections between James and Matthew, Luke, and Q; the transmission of the Jesus sayings in James, Paul and the Apostolic Fathers; and he attempts to answer the questions of authorship, dating, and background to James. Because this is a dissertation, it is loaded with technical language and quotations from Greek and German. However, Deppe's work is quite intriguing and should appeal to the

serious student of the New Testament.

Johannine Literature

Stibbe, Mark W.G. John's Gospel. New York/London: Routledge Press, 1994.

This book applies a number of literary approaches to John's gospel. Reader response criticism is utilized to look at John's characterization of Jesus as an elusive Messiah. Structuralist criticism deals with the plot of the gospel with Stibbe proposing that John used his "historical imagination" to weave together sayings and events in his sources. The gospel genre is explored utilizing archetypal criticism. Stibbe looks at the gospel in terms of Northrop Frye's four archetypal mythos (stories) in literature: spring (comedy), summer (romance), fall (tragedy), and winter (satire). Narrative criticism is used to investigate the style of the gospel by looking at such things as context, setting, narrator, characterization, and John's use of rhetorical devices. Finally, Stibbe uses a literary approach called 'the ethics of reception' to study the use of satire in the gospel, particularly how it is directed against the Jews. Stibbe views this use of satire as a means toward awakening apostate Jewish believers, and sees its use as the "fiercest form of pastoral love" (130). Although the language of literary criticism may be foreign to some, Stibbe communicates his message in a readable style that enables one to appreciate the contribution that literary criticism makes to the study of John's Gospel.

Countryman, L. William. The Mystical Way in the Fourth Gospel: Crossing Over into God. Trinity Press International, 1994.

This book looks at John's Gospel as structured according to the experience of the believer beginning with conversion and ending with mystical enlightenment and union; that is, knowing the Father and His revealer, Jesus Christ. This work is scholarly yet devotional as it gives fresh insights into Christian life in the present.

Hengel, Martin. The Johannine Question. Trinity Press International, 1989.

Based on lectures presented at Princeton Theological Seminary, this looks at the Johannine corpus as being the product of a "towering theologian" whose thought is "quite equal to that of Paul." Hengel looks at the first century community to which the Johannine letters were written, and he provides a profile of the 'elder,' tracing him back to the death of Jesus. An extensive section of notes makes this an invaluable tool for research.

Biblical Studies Bibliography

Smalley, Stephen S. 1,2,3 John. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 51. Dallas: Word, 1984.

Smalley provides a detailed analysis of the background relevant to the study of the Johannine letters as well as careful analysis and commentary on the text of the letters themselves. The extensive bibliographic materials that this commentary series is known for makes this an invaluable tool for study.

Witherington III, Ben. John's Wisdom: A Commentary on the Fourth Gospel. London: Lutterworth Press, 1995.

In this insightful and engaging work, Witherington provides a reading of John's Gospel through the lenses of Jewish and early Christian wisdom material to show the enormous influence the wisdom tradition had on the author of the Gospel. Throughout the commentary, Witherington also offers a number of excursions relevant to the particular text under examination. An important feature of his commentary is found in the 'Bridging the Horizons' segment of each chapter. Here Witherington provides fresh insight for making the Gospel relevant in the present. Endnotes and bibliography are provided for further study. The commentary is quite scholarly yet remains very readable and should be on the shelf of all students of the New Testament.

Archaeology

Connolly, Peter. A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus: From Herod the Great to Masada. New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 1987.

This lavishly illustrated book is one of the finest pictorial works devoted to the Herodian period. Connolly's drawings and reconstructions of significant sites such as Masada, Jericho and Jerusalem from the time of Herod the Great are striking and authentically reproduced from archaeological data. Various phases of everyday life in the first century are also illustrated with superb, small, colored drawings. The descriptions provided are brief, but contain pertinent information.

Finegan, Jack. The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Life of Jesus and the Beginning of the Early Church. Rev. ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992.

Finegan has selected 344 items of archaeological significance from the variety of sites in the Mediterranean. There are abundant black and white photographs and drawings of sites. Descriptions are based

on somewhat dated sources, but offer a survey of essential materials related to each site. The hardback edition is to be preferred to the paperback edition. Anyone contemplating travel to the Mediterranean world would do well to secure this work.

Harris, Roberta L. The World of the Bible. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1995.

This volume is among the most complete in providing a survey of the world of the Bible as found in the Old and New Testaments. The author gives a very fine summary of the major discoveries and the rise and development of the history of archaeological excavation in the Near East. This is the kind of volume that would complement a general introductory textbook for Old or New Testament studies. Illustrations, photographs in color, and special line drawings assists the reader. As a one volume work it is very comprehensive, up-to-date and balanced in its handling of academic material and general, biblical, background information. This would be an excellent volume to add to a church library.

McRay, John. Archaeology and the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

The primary work for anyone interested in pursuing the various aspects of the Graeco-Roman world. This is the best volume available on the technical details of civic, domestic and religious components of the archaeological remains surveyed. The life of Jesus and the journeys of Paul are presented within an expanded archaeological survey of sites, events and discoveries. McRay has served as a professor of New Testament Archaeology at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois for many years.

Millard, Alan. Discoveries from the Times of Jesus. Batavia, Illinois: Lion Publishing, 1990.

This work is arranged around topics that can be illustrated and described from archaeological evidence. There are six sections. Daily life, religious backgrounds, history of important New Testament rulers, customs related to crucifixion and burial practice, and formation of the New Testament canon are some of the selected topics handled by this work. It is among the finest general introductions to the essential background of the life and times of Jesus.

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. The Holy Land: An Archaeological Guide from the Earliest Times to 1700. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Biblical Studies Bibliography

This small volume could quite easily be packed in a suitcase to be taken on a tour of the Near East. The entries are alphabetically arranged. The descriptions of the major sites are terse, but adequate. This one volume provides an overview of the major archaeological sites in Israel.

Rousseau, John J. and Rami Arav. Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

This work is encyclopedic and far more complete than the Finegan work cited above. There are just over one hundred entries. The descriptions are very complete. Scriptural references are cited. There is a fine bibliography for each entry, though only a few black and white photographs. However, the line drawings and illustrations are excellent. This may be the finest dictionary available to provide an in-depth look at the impact of archaeological studies for the life and times of Jesus. The special strength of this work is the highlighting of the implications of research in various archaeological areas as these relate specifically to the life and times of Jesus.

Dead Sea Scrolls

1. Translations

Geza Vermes. The Dead Sea Scrolls in English, revised and extended fourth edition (New York and London: Penguin Books, 1995).

Vermes provides a cogent introduction to the history, beliefs, and daily life of the Qumran sect, together with a highly readable translation of all the significant scrolls and fragments.

Florentino Garcia Martinez. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

This is the critical (English) edition of choice, as Martinez provides a translations of each of the multiple versions of a given title found at Qumran (Vermes does this only for the Community Rule, Damascus Document, and War Scroll, and then only for the principle variant manuscripts). Martinez also provides translations of the apocryphal and pseudepigraphical texts found at Qumran (e.g., fragments of *1 Enoch* and *Jubilees*).

2. General Introductions to the Qumran Community and Theology of the Scrolls

James C. VanderKam. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994).

Florentino Garcia Martinez and Julio Treballe Barrera. *The People of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Writings, Beliefs and Practices* (Leiden: Brill, 1995).

Lawrence Schiffman. *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls* (New York: Doubleday, 1994).

Each of these three volumes introduces the reader in greater depth to the composition, history, and life of the Qumran sect, the peculiar form of Judaism promoted in the Scrolls, and the impact the discovery of these texts has made on our understanding of Old Testament textual criticism, Jewish biblical interpretation around the turn of the era, the notion of "canon" within Judaism, and the varieties of messianic and eschatological expectation in early Judaism. The first two books also provide excellent general overviews of the relevance of the Scrolls for the study of the early church and its New Testament.

3. The Scrolls and the New Testament

J. H. Charlesworth, ed. *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (New York: Doubleday, 1992).

J. M. O'Connor and J. H. Charlesworth, eds. *Paul and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (New York: Crossroad, 1990).

J. H. Charlesworth, ed. *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (New York: Crossroad, 1990).

These three collections of essays exemplify how the Dead Sea Scrolls can be used to illumine aspects of the life and teaching of Jesus and the thought-worlds of Paul and John, demonstrating how the discovery of the Scrolls has provided a wealth of helpful information concerning the Jewish backgrounds and environment of the Jesus movement and the early church.

Jewish and Greco-Roman Backgrounds

1. General Introductions

Everett Ferguson. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987; rev. ed. 1993).

If you read no other book in this area, read this one. Ferguson provides a thorough introduction to the history, politics, philosophical

Biblical Studies Bibliography

movements, and religious cults found in the first-century Mediterranean world. He also provides bibliographies at the head of each subsection for further study, making this an indispensable resource.

James D. Newsome. *Greeks, Romans, and Jews: Currents of Culture and Belief in the New Testament World* (Philadelphia: Trinity Press, 1992).

Newsome does provide some good material on Hellenism, the rise of Roman rule, and the philosophies and religions of the Greco-Roman culture, but primarily deals with Jewish parties, institutions, theology, and literature. It is an excellent introduction to Intertestamental Judaism.

E. P. Sanders. *Judaism: Practice and Belief 63 B.C.E - 66 C.E.* (Philadelphia: Trinity, 1992).

Sanders, a well-published and well-respected scholar of Judaism, devotes the first half of this book to recovering the beliefs and religious practices of "non-sectarian" Jews (priests, Levites, and Israelites) at the turn of the century; in the second half he probes the forms of Judaism represented by Sadducees, Essenes, and Pharisees.

2. Literature from the Intertestamental Period

Michael Stone, ed. *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984).

Written by an international team of scholars, this is the premier introduction to extra-biblical Jewish literature from the Intertestamental Period. It contains chapters on historical writings, wisdom writings, Qumran texts, Philo, Josephus, apocalypses and testaments, and early rabbinic literature.

J. H. Charlesworth, ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* (2 vols.; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1985).

This has become the standard collection of Jewish pseudepigrapha (texts like the Apocrypha, closely related to Biblical traditions, but not contained in that collection). Each text is prefaced by excellent introductions to its date, setting, historical and theological contributions, and connections with canonical and Apocryphal literature.

H. F. D. Sparks, ed. *The Apocryphal Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1985).

If the price of Charlesworth's two-volume collection is forbidding, the more important intertestamental texts are contained in this single volume.

- C. A. Evans. *Noncanonical Writings and New Testament Interpretation* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992).

Evans provides a sort of digest of Stone's volume with a special eye to the relevance of non-biblical literature from the intertestamental period for reading the New Testament. As such, this book is a valuable guide for every student of the New Testament.

3. Greek and Latin literature

Loeb Classical Library (London: Heinemann, and Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1912-).

The student of the New Testament must become familiar not only with the Jewish literature of the period, but also the literature of Gentile authors. The *LCL* contains a treasury of Greek and Latin works from the eighth century BC through the fourth century A.D. I would personally recommend the following authors and titles for a start: Aristotle, *Nicomachian Ethics* and *Art of Rhetoric*; Cicero, *Rhetorica ad Herennium*; Dio Chrysostom, *Orations*; Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*; Epictetus, *Dissertations*; Lucian, "The Passing of Peregrinus"; Pliny the Younger, *Letters and Panegyricus*; Plutarch, *Moralia*; Seneca, *Moral Essays* and *Epistles*; Tacitus, *Annals* and *Histories*. The complete works of the Jewish authors Philo and Josephus are also available within this collection.