

# The Best Tools in the Box: Pentateuch

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## INTRODUCTION

The pastor works in the realm of the heart and mind, and there is no substitute for serious interaction with quality material, for the sake of his own heart as well as for the sake of his people. This list is designed with the working pastor/preacher in mind. Qualifications for books on this list:

1. Recent. While there is a wealth of material from church history that is tremendously helpful, the focus of this list is to recommend contemporary resources for studying the text.
2. Aimed at the pastor, not the professional scholar. While all pastors ought to be good thinkers, they need not be technical, specialized scholars. Technical commentaries and resources have been omitted from this list.
3. Prioritized for a budget. Of the buying of books, there is no end. While there are always more books that are worthwhile, I have listed books that I would prioritize purchasing for pastoral use.

For an up-to-date and extensive annotated Old Testament bibliography, see the list maintained by Denver Seminary at <http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/annotated-old-testament-bibliography-2012/>. The Master's Seminary offers a list of "850 Books for Biblical Expositors" at <http://www.tms.edu/pdf/850Books.pdf> with many older books included. For a much more concise but very helpful list, see the book list compiled by the faculty at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary at <http://dbts.edu/pdf/Booklist.pdf>. You may also want to consult [www.bestcommentaries.com](http://www.bestcommentaries.com). A published source on Old Testament commentaries is Tremper Longman, III, *Old Testament Commentary Survey*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Baker, 2007).

## SERIES ABBREVIATIONS

- AOTC Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Edited by David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham. InterVarsity
- NAC New American Commentary. Edited by E. Ray Clendenen. Broadman & Holman
- NICOT New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Edited by Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. Eerdmans.
- NIVAC New International Version Application Commentary. Edited by Terry Muck. Zondervan.
- TOTC Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Edited by Donald J. Wiseman. InterVarsity.
- WBC Word Biblical Commentary. Edited by David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker. Word or Nelson.

## PUBLISHERS KEY:

Baker	Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI
BMH	BMH Books, Winona Lake, IN
Brill	Brill Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands
B & H	Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN
Concordia	Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO
Eerdmans	William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI
Hendrickson	Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA
InterVarsity	InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL
Moody	Moody Press, Chicago, IL
Nelson	Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN
WJK	Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY
Word	Word Books, Waco, TX
Zondervan	Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI

## OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND INTRODUCTION

- Archer, Jr., Gleason *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised ed. Moody, 1994.
- Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Zondervan, 2006.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baker, 2008.
- Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised ed. Zondervan, 2010.
- Steinmann, Andrew E. *From Abraham to Paul: A Biblical Chronology*. Concordia, 2011.

## HEBREW CONCORDANCES, LEXICONS, GRAMMARS, AND THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES

- Kohlenberger III, John R. and James A. Swanson. *The Hebrew-English Concordance to the Old Testament*. Zondervan, 1998.
- Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs. *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Hendrickson, 1979.
- Koehler, L., and W. Baumgartner et al., ed. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 5 vols. Brill, 1994-2001; Study edition, 2 vols. Brill, 2001.
- Pratico, G. D. and M. V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. Zondervan, 2001.
- Waltke, B.K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- Harris, R.L., G.L. Archer, Jr., and B.K. Waltke, ed. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Moody, 1980.
- VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Zondervan, 1997.

## EXEGETICAL GUIDES

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

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis. A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. WJK, 2001.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PENTATEUCH

Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to the Promised Land*. Baker, 1995.  
Hamilton, Victor R. *Handbook to the Pentateuch*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baker, 2005.

## COMMENTARIES

### Genesis

Mathews, Kenneth A. *Genesis 1-11:26*. NAC. B&H, 1996. *Genesis 11:27-50:26*. NAC. B&H, 2005.  
Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Baker, 1988.  
Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15*. WBC 1. Word, 1987. *Genesis 16-50*. WBC 2. Word, 1994.

### Exodus

Stuart, Douglas K. *Exodus*. NAC. Broadman & Holman, 2006.  
Ryken, Philip Graham. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*. Preaching the Word. Crossway, 2005.  
Enns, Peter. *Exodus*. NIVAC. Zondervan, 2000.

### Leviticus

Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1979.  
Rooker, Mark F. *Leviticus*. NAC. B&H, 2000.  
Ross, Allen P. *Holiness to the LORD: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus*. Baker, 2002.

### Numbers

Ashley, T. R. *The Book of Numbers*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1993.  
Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. NAC. B&H, 2000.  
Wenham, Gordon. *Numbers: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. InterVarsity, 1981.

### Deuteronomy

Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1976.  
Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. NAC. B&H, 1994.  
McConville, J. G. *Deuteronomy*. AOTC. InterVarsity, 2002.

\*\*\*I have seen John D. Currid's commentaries on the books of the Pentateuch (Evangelical Press) highly recommended. Unfortunately, I did not have access to them, which is the reason for their omission from this list.

#### PREACHING THE PENTATEUCH (Theory and Examples)

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Baker, 2002.

Kaiser, Walter. *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament: A Guide for the Church*. Baker, 2003.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from Genesis: Foundations for Expository Sermons*. Eerdmans, 2007.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*. Preaching the Word. Crossway, 2004.

Ryken, Philip Graham. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*. Preaching the Word. Crossway, 2005.

MacArthur, John. *The Battle for the Beginning*. Nelson, 2001.