

[ICC Briggs-Driver-Brown](#) | [CDH Lange-Schaff](#) | [EGT Nicoll](#) | [BC Delitzsch](#) | [Gosp](#)
[els-Fathers-Aquinas](#)

| [Old Testament Exegesis](#)

| [New Testament Exegesis](#)

Search for Bible Commentaries Online

Table of Contents: [Introduction](#) [21st-Century Commentaries](#) [20th-Century](#)
[Commentaries](#) [19t](#)
[h-Century Commentaries](#)

[Reformation Age](#)

[Medieval Commentaries](#)

[Patristic Commentaries](#)

[More Online Resources](#)

Introduction

Explore a rich collection of Bible commentaries and resources for biblical exegesis, theological research, and serious Bible study. The collection spans major periods of Christian and biblical scholarship, from medieval and Reformation-era works to influential 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century commentaries.

Featured resources include the *International Critical Commentary*, *Hermeneia*, *Anchor Yale Bible Commentaries*

,
New International Commentary on the Old Testament

,
New International Commentary on the New Testament

,
Word Biblical Commentary

,
Expositor's Greek Testament

, Lange's

Commentary on the Holy Scriptures

, Calvin's Commentaries, Luther's commentary on Galatians, Aquinas's

Catena Aurea

, and the Keil and Delitzsch Old Testament commentary.

These resources represent a wide range of approaches, including historical-critical scholarship, grammatical-historical exegesis, theological interpretation, pastoral exposition, and the study of early Christian and Reformation traditions.

21st-Century Commentaries

[Dunn, James D. G., and John W. Rogerson, eds. *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible* . Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.](#)

A premier single-volume Bible commentary that covers all the texts regarded by one or more Christian churches as canonical, including the Apocrypha and 1 Enoch. Edited by renowned scholars James D. G. Dunn (1939–2020), longtime Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University, and John W. Rogerson, the volume features contributions from

sixty-seven

world-class Bible scholars representing a wide variety of backgrounds and acknowledged leaders in the field of biblical studies. The 1,649-page volume encapsulates in nontechnical language the best of modern scholarship on the sixty-six biblical books plus the Apocrypha and selected Pseudepigrapha. Rather than attempting a verse-by-verse analysis, the commentary focuses on principal units of meaning, narrative, parable, prophetic oracle, and sections of argument, highlighting their interconnectedness with the rest of the biblical text. The volume also includes

thirteen

introductory and context-setting essays that do justice to the biblical documents both as historical sources and as scriptures, along with superb bibliographies and an extensive subject index. While the translation of choice is the New Revised Standard Version, many contributors offer their own vivid translations of the original Hebrew or Greek.

For theological and biblical research, the *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible* stands as a cutting-edge, comprehensive, and ecumenical resource that is both a fitting climax to the rich body of interconfessional work undertaken in the latter part of the twentieth century and a worthy launching pad for biblical study in the twenty-first. Its contributors include leading scholars such as Gordon J. Wenham, William D. Johnstone, David Noel Freedman, Craig A. Evans, Morna D. Hooker, Richard Bauckham, Anthony C. Thiselton, and Loren T. Stuckenbruck. The commentary addresses and answers major issues, including the range of possible interpretations, and refers readers to the best fuller discussions. While the volume is

not designed as a verse-by-verse exegetical work, its reader-friendly treatments and succinct summaries of each section of the text make it valuable to scholars, students, pastors, and general readers alike. Its ecumenical character and the breadth of its canonical coverage make it an essential resource for those seeking to understand the biblical text in its literary, historical, and theological contexts before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Witherington III, Ben, and Bill T. Arnold, general editors. *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003–.](#)

A multivolume commentary series that builds upon Cambridge University Press's longstanding reputation as a publisher of Bibles and academic books in biblical studies and theology. The series succeeds the original Cambridge Bible Commentary, a collection of exegetical volumes widely read and studied in the 1960s and 1970s. The general editors are Ben Witherington III and Bill T. Arnold, both of Asbury Theological Seminary, with an editorial board that includes James D. G. Dunn, Michael V. Fox, Robert P. Gordon, and Judith Gundry-Volf. The series aims to elucidate the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures for a wide range of intellectually curious individuals. Volumes are academically rigorous but do not assume that readers have specialized theological knowledge or command of biblical languages. The series incorporates advances in rhetorical criticism, social-scientific study of Scripture, narrative criticism, and other developing disciplines. The series has published over twenty volumes, including commentaries on Isaiah 40–66 (Katie Heffelfinger), 1–2 Samuel (Marvin A. Sweeney), the Pastoral Epistles (Scot McKnight), Lamentations (Joshua A. Berman), Hosea, Joel, and Amos (Graham R. Hamborg), Ephesians (David A. deSilva), Colossians and Philemon (Gary M. Burge), and 2 Peter (A. Chadwick Thornhill).

For theological and biblical research, the New Cambridge Bible Commentary offers a fresh and academically rigorous engagement with biblical texts that is accessible to students, pastors, and educated lay readers. While the series is not designed as a specialized technical resource for advanced scholars, its integration of recent methodological developments and its commitment to sound exegesis make it a valuable resource for those seeking a reliable, up-to-date guide to Scripture before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources. Its ecumenical character and the breadth of its canonical coverage make it an essential resource for understanding the biblical text in its literary, historical, and theological contexts.

[Barton, John, and John Muddiman, eds. *The Oxford Bible Commentary* . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.](#)

A comprehensive single-volume commentary that offers verse-by-verse explanation of every book of the Bible, including the Apocrypha and a number of non-biblical writings. Edited by John Barton (Oriel & Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford) and John Muddiman (G. B. Caird Fellow in New Testament Studies at Mansfield

College, Oxford), the volume was first published in 2001 and reissued in paperback in 2007. It brings together the work of

more than seventy

leading international scholars from diverse religious backgrounds, including both Christians and Jews, chosen to ensure a completely non-denominational perspective. The commentary is designed for twenty-first-century students and readers and can be used alongside any modern translation of the Bible. Its entries are arranged in biblical order, with each section providing discussion of meaning, context, language, and theological significance.

For theological and biblical research, the *Oxford Bible Commentary* stands as one of the most authoritative and ecumenical single-volume commentaries available in English. Its contributors include many of the world's foremost biblical scholars, and the commentary's non-denominational character ensures that a wide range of interpretive perspectives is represented. The volume includes extensive introductory essays on the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament, as well as a concluding essay on post-biblical Jewish literature and extracanonical early Christian writings. While the commentary does not provide the exhaustive technical detail of a multi-volume critical series, its succinct, reader-friendly treatments and its comprehensive coverage of the entire Christian canon make it an essential resource for students, educators, pastors, and researchers seeking to understand the biblical text in its literary, historical, and theological contexts before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Cross, Frank Moore, and Helmut Koester, eds. *Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1971–.](#)

[https://www.fortresspress.com/store/category/287091/Hermeneia-series \(accessed 9 August 2026\).](https://www.fortresspress.com/store/category/287091/Hermeneia-series)

A

prestigious, multivolume critical commentary series inaugurated in 1971 and published by Fortress Press. The name *Hermeneia*, drawn from the Greek tradition of detailed scriptural exposition, reflects the series' commitment to thorough, systematic interpretation of the biblical text. Under the founding editorial leadership of Frank Moore Cross for the Old Testament and Helmut Koester for the New Testament, the series is by design international and interconfessional in the selection of its authors. Its editorial boards currently include Sidnie White Crawford, Peter Machinist, and Bernd U. Schipper for the Old Testament, and Harold W. Attridge, Adela Yarbro Collins, and Eldon Jay Epp for the New Testament. The series now encompasses over fifty published volumes spanning the Old Testament, New Testament, Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, New Testament Apocrypha, and the Apostolic Fathers. *Hermeneia* utilizes the full range of philological and historical tools, including textual criticism, tradition history, genre analysis, and the history of religion, and provides English translations of all comparative materials alongside citations in their original languages.

For theological and biblical research, Hermeneia stands as one of the most authoritative and rigorously scholarly commentary series available in the English language. Its volumes are written by leading international scholars and provide full critical discussion of each problem of interpretation, with extensive primary data upon which the discussion is based. The series imposes no systematic-theological perspective upon its authors, allowing each contributor to lay bare the ancient meaning of the biblical work through competent historical discourse. While the commentaries are not designed for homiletical application, their detailed exegesis and thorough engagement with textual, historical, and religious contexts make them an indispensable resource for advanced students, scholars, and researchers seeking to ground their work in the most critical and historically informed interpretation of the biblical text before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[The Anchor Yale Bible Commentaries. Edited by David Noel Freedman, John J. Collins, and Candida Moss. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1964–.](#) It constitutes one of the most trusted and long-running scholarly commentary series in biblical studies, representing a project of international and interfaith scope in which Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish scholars from many countries contribute individual volumes. Founded in the tradition established by William Foxwell Albright and David Noel Freedman, and originally published by Doubleday from 1956 before being acquired by Yale University Press in 2007, the series now spans over 90 volumes covering the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Apocrypha. Each volume offers a book-by-book translation and exegesis, including original translations with textual notes, historical and literary overviews, verse-by-verse commentary, treatment of competing scholarly theories, and extensive bibliographies. The series is committed to presenting the best contemporary scholarship in a way that is accessible not only to scholars but also to the educated nonspecialist, grounded in exact translation of the ancient languages and an appreciation of the historical and cultural context of the biblical books, supplemented by insights from modern methods such as sociological and literary criticism.

[Hubbard, Robert L. Jr., and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965–.](#)

A premier commentary series that enjoys a worldwide readership of scholars, pastors, priests, rabbis, and serious Bible students. The series was inaugurated in 1965 under the editorship of E. J. Young, who served from 1965 to 1968. He was followed by R. K. Harrison, who guided the series from 1968 to 1993. Since 1994, Robert L. Hubbard Jr. has served as general editor, with Bill T. Arnold joining as co-editor in 2020. The series is published by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company and currently comprises over thirty published volumes, with new volumes continuing to appear. Each volume features an extensive introduction treating the biblical book's authorship, date, purpose, structure, and theology, followed by the author's own translation of the original Hebrew and a verse-by-verse commentary. The commentary balances coverage of technical matters with exposition of the biblical text's theology and implications.

For theological and biblical research, the NICOT stands as one of the most respected commentary series in the English language, recognized for combining superior scholarship with an evangelical view of Scripture as the Word of God and concern for the life of faith today. The series serves as an authoritative guide bridging the cultural gap between today's world and the world of ancient Israel. While the commentaries are grounded in rigorous academic study of the Hebrew text, they remain accessible to pastors and serious students of the Bible. The NICOT series offers a trusted foundation for understanding the Old Testament, making it an indispensable resource for students, pastors, and scholars seeking to ground their work in careful, historically informed interpretation before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Green, Joel B., ed. *New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1951–.](#)

Faithful criticism characterizes volumes in the New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT). Begun in the late 1940s by an international team of New Testament scholars, the NICNT series has been widely recognized by pastors, students, and scholars alike for its attention to the text of Scripture, its currency with contemporary scholarship, and its service to the global church. The interpretive work reflected in these commentaries is based on careful study of the Greek text, but commentary readers need not be practiced in the biblical languages in order to benefit from them. In the same way, NICNT volumes reflect serious work in technical areas such as linguistics, textual criticism, and historical concerns, but the commentary itself focuses on understanding the text rather than navigating scholarly debates. Readers can turn to the footnotes and excursuses for more specialized interaction with the Greek text and engagement with critical issues and literature. The series is published by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company and has flourished under the editorship of outstanding New Testament scholars. Past series editors include Ned Stonehouse (1946–1962), F. F. Bruce (1962–1990), and Gordon D. Fee (1990–2012). The current series editor is Joel B. Green (2012–), with Amy Peeler serving as associate editor (2023–).

For theological and biblical research, the NICNT stands as one of the most respected commentary series in the English language, recognized as a critical yet orthodox commentary marked by solid biblical scholarship within the evangelical Protestant tradition. In order to keep the commentary fresh and contemporary, volumes are revised and replaced as needed. Newer volumes in the NICNT account for emergent emphases in biblical studies, including heightened attention to rhetorical features of New Testament texts, the cultural settings within which they were written, and their theological significance for God's people. In this way, the NICNT series endures as an accessible, authoritative guide to the biblical text. While the commentaries are not designed as homiletical works, their detailed exegesis and thorough engagement with textual, historical, and theological matters make them an indispensable resource for students, pastors, and scholars seeking to ground their work in the most careful and historically informed

interpretation of the New Testament before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

20th-Century Commentaries

[Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: With the New International Version of the Holy Bible*. 12 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976–1992.](#) This twelve-volume set presents a comprehensive, verse-by-verse commentary on the entire Bible, using the New International Version as its base text and drawing on the contributions of seventy-eight evangelical scholars from North America and Europe, with general editor Frank E. Gaebelein overseeing the project alongside associate editor J. D. Douglas and consulting editors including Walter C. Kaiser Jr. . The first volume provides introductory articles on the authority and inspiration of Scripture (Carl F. H. Henry), its transmission and translation (F. F. Bruce), hermeneutics (Geoffrey W. Bromiley), biblical geography, eschatology, and other foundational topics , while the subsequent volumes cover the Old and New Testaments book by book, combining exegetical rigour with pastoral application and homiletical usefulness. Originally issued by Zondervan between 1976 and 1992 , the series quickly became a standard reference for pastors, teachers, and students, prized for its balance of scholarly depth and practical accessibility.

[Brown, Raymond E., Joseph A. Fitzmyer, and Roland E. Murphy, eds. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1990.](#)
<https://archive.org/details/newjeromebiblica0000unse> (accessed 9 August 2026).

A landmark one-volume Catholic commentary on the entire Bible, representing a thorough revision and expansion of the earlier

Jerome Biblical Commentary

(1968). This 1990 edition retains the same editorial team—Raymond E. Brown (1928–1998), Joseph A. Fitzmyer (1920–2016), and Roland E. Murphy (1917–2002)—three of the most distinguished Catholic biblical scholars of the twentieth century. The volume runs to approximately 1,484 pages and features contributions from an international team of nearly seventy scholars, predominantly Catholic but including Protestant and Jewish participants as well. The commentary employs a historical-critical methodology throughout, with each book introduced by articles on authorship, date, literary structure, and theological themes, followed by verse-by-verse exegesis. A substantial introductory section covers general topics such as the canon, text criticism, hermeneutics, and the history of Israel.

For theological and biblical research, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* stands as one of the most authoritative and accessible single-volume commentaries available in English. Its editors were all past presidents of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, and their

combined expertise ensures a work that is both rigorously scholarly and pastorally aware. The commentary is particularly valued for its clear exposition of the historical-critical method within a confessional framework, its attention to the theological unity of Scripture, and its extensive bibliographies that guide readers to more specialized secondary literature. While the scholarship reflects the state of biblical studies in the late 1980s and does not incorporate the most recent archaeological discoveries or literary approaches, this volume remains an essential resource for students, pastors, and researchers seeking a comprehensive and reliable overview of each biblical book before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources. Its availability through the Internet Archive's digital lending library makes it an accessible starting point for serious engagement with the biblical text.

[Carson, D. A., R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, and G. J. Wenham, consulting editors. *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*. 4th ed. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994.](#)

A comprehensive one-volume evangelical commentary on the whole Bible, representing the fourth edition of a work that has served students, pastors, and lay readers for decades. This 21st Century Edition is a thorough revision and expansion of the earlier third edition (1970), which was edited by D. Guthrie and J. A. Motyer. The consulting editorial team for this edition includes D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, and G. J. Wenham, with contributions from an international team of evangelical scholars. The volume runs to xiii, 1,455 pages and features introductory articles on how to read the Bible, followed by book-by-book commentaries that divide the text into sections for ease of reference.

For theological and biblical research, the *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition* offers a trusted and accessible entry point into evangelical biblical interpretation at the end of the twentieth century. Its contributors engage with the historical-critical questions of their day while maintaining a commitment to the authority and inspiration of Scripture. The commentary provides concise exegesis, theological reflection, and practical application for each biblical passage, making it a valuable resource for sermon preparation, teaching, and personal study. While the scholarship reflects the state of evangelical biblical studies in the early 1990s and does not incorporate the most recent archaeological or literary developments, it remains a foundational reference work for understanding the interpretive traditions that shaped late-twentieth-century evangelicalism. Its availability through the Internet Archive's digital lending library makes it an accessible starting point for engaging with the biblical text before consulting more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Hubbard, David A., Glenn W. Barker, John D. W. Watts, and Ralph P. Martin, founding editors. *Word Biblical Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 1977–.](#)

A premier multivolume commentary series that delivers the best in critical biblical scholarship from leading scholars who share a commitment to Scripture as divine revelation. From the series' inception in

1977, founding editors David A. Hubbard, Glenn W. Barker, John D. W. Watts, and Ralph P. Martin envisioned commentaries that would emphasize a thorough analysis of textual, linguistic, structural, and theological evidence, offering judicious and balanced insight into the meanings of the text in the framework of biblical theology. The series was originally published by Word Publishing, which began acquiring and publishing volumes in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thomas Nelson acquired Word Publishing in 1992 and took over the series. In 2012, Thomas Nelson was acquired by Zondervan's parent company, and the Word Biblical Commentary moved under the Zondervan Academic imprint shortly after, with the Zondervan Academic team beginning to sell the series at academic meetings in 2013. The series now encompasses over 60 volumes and more than 26,000 pages of content, featuring an international team of over 50 top scholars. The current editorial team includes David B. Capes as New Testament editor (appointed 2020), Nancy deClaissé-Walford as Old Testament editor, and Zondervan Academic's executive editor Katya Covrett.

For theological and biblical research, the Word Biblical Commentary stands as one of the world's leading commentary series, widely recognized for its rigorous scholarship and commitment to the authority of Scripture. Each commentary begins with an extensive introduction that establishes important issues about the biblical text's context, date, authorship, composition, interpretive issues, purpose, and theology. The series is perfect for scholars, students of the Bible, ministers, and anyone who wants a theological understanding of Scripture. While the commentaries engage deeply with critical scholarship and provide thorough analysis of textual and historical evidence, they remain firmly committed to the authority of Scripture as divine revelation. The series serves as an exceptional resource for the professional theologian and instructor, the seminary or university student, the working minister, and everyone concerned with building theological understanding from a solid base of biblical scholarship. Its detailed exegesis and engagement with textual, linguistic, structural, and theological matters make it an indispensable resource for students, pastors, and scholars seeking to ground their work in careful, historically informed interpretation before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Buttrick, George Arthur, ed. *The Interpreter's Bible: The Holy Scriptures in the King James and Revised Standard Versions with General Articles and Introduction, Exegesis, Exposition for Each Book of the Bible*. Vol. 5, *Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs; Isaiah; Jeremiah*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1956.](#)

The fifth volume of a landmark twelve-volume commentary series that remains one of the most comprehensive and influential mid-twentieth-century works of biblical interpretation. Published between 1951 and 1957 under the general editorship of George Arthur Buttrick (1892–1980), a renowned American preacher and professor at Union Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School, the series brings together an ecumenical team of more than one hundred scholars, pastors, and theologians. Each volume provides the full text of the King James Version and the Revised Standard Version in parallel columns, accompanied by exegesis and

exposition for every passage. This volume covers the wisdom literature of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs, alongside the prophetic books of Isaiah and Jeremiah, with contributions from leading scholars including O. S. Rankin on Ecclesiastes and H. H. Rowley and John Bright on the prophets.

For theological and biblical research, *The Interpreter's Bible* offers a rich resource that bridges critical scholarship and pastoral application. The series was groundbreaking in its commitment to engaging with historical-critical methods while remaining accessible to preachers and teachers. Its contributors represent a wide spectrum of Protestant traditions, and the commentary's dual focus on exegesis and exposition provides both rigorous analysis and practical reflection. While the scholarship reflects the state of biblical studies in the 1950s and does not incorporate more recent archaeological discoveries or literary approaches, this volume remains a valuable resource for students, pastors, and researchers seeking to understand the interpretive traditions that shaped twentieth-century Protestant thought. Its availability through the Internet Archive's digital lending library makes it an accessible starting point for engaging with these Old Testament books before consulting more specialized primary and secondary sources.

[Briggs, Charles Augustus, Samuel Rolles Driver, Alfred Plummer, and Francis Brown, eds. *The International Critical Commentary on the Holy Scriptures*. 1866–1924.](#)

The undisputed high-water mark of late-Victorian and early 20th-century historical-critical biblical scholarship in the English-speaking world. Spearheaded by an elite transatlantic team of editors—including Brown, Driver, and Briggs (the linguistic minds behind the foundational BDB Hebrew Lexicon)—the ICC series was built to compete with the dominant German academic commentaries of the era. Renowned for its uncompromising focus on philology, textual criticism, and source analysis, it deliberately omits homiletical or devotional material to focus entirely on what the original texts meant in their ancient contexts. It remains a legendary, highly technical landmark of critical biblical exegesis.

[Peake, Arthur Samuel, and Alexander James Grieve. *A Commentary on the Bible*. 1920.](#) A landmark milestone in the democratization of modern biblical scholarship. Edited by the prominent Methodist theologian A.S. Peake, this single-volume commentary was designed to bring the fruits of late 19th and early 20th-century historical-critical analysis to ordinary laypeople, Sunday school teachers, and local preachers. Rejecting strict verbal inerrancy while deeply respecting the spiritual authority of Scripture, it introduced a generation of English readers to contemporary archaeological discoveries, literary criticism, and progressive revelation. It remains an invaluable historical snapshot of early 20th-century liberal Protestant consensus.

[Bennett, William Henry. *The Century Bible: A Modern Commentary* . 1910.](#) A celebrated early 20th-century series designed to provide concise, cutting-edge commentary alongside the text of the Revised Version. Under the general editorship of Walter F. Adeney, with key volumes authored by distinguished Old Testament scholar W.H. Bennett, The Century Bible stood out for its accessibility and visual utility, featuring detailed maps and critical introductions for each biblical book. Bennett's work in this series exemplifies the era's effort to harmonize a high view of scriptural inspiration with the evolving insights of higher textual criticism, making it highly influential in contemporary British theological education.

[Nicoll, William Robertson, ed. *The Expositor's Greek Testament* . 1897–1910.](#) A brilliant 5-volume masterpiece of New Testament exegesis designed as the spiritual successor to Henry Alford's classic Greek Testament. Under the masterful editorial direction of Sir William Robertson Nicoll, this series gathers the elite cream of early 20th-century British biblical scholarship to provide an exhaustive, word-by-word examination of the Greek text. Striking a perfect balance between technical precision and grammatical-historical analysis, it gives students and ministers the critical tools necessary to unpack the nuanced theological weight of the original Greek syntax without losing sight of the broader narrative. It remains an enduring classic for serious Greek-text exegesis.

[Lange, Johann Peter, and Philip Schaff. *A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Critical, Doctrinal, and Homiletical* . 1902.](#) An extraordinary 25-volume encyclopedic bridge between German academic rigor and American pastoral theology. Originally conceived by German theologian Johann Peter Lange, the series achieved its iconic status through the monumental translation and expansion efforts of church historian Philip Schaff and a team of over forty American scholars. Each section of the commentary features a unique, tri-fold structure: first providing a critical textual and grammatical analysis, followed by an exploration of its systematic doctrinal truths, and concluding with robust homiletical outlines for preaching. This massive synthesis stands as a vital historical testament to the 19th-century effort to unite deep biblical science with active church life.

19th-Century Commentaries

[Ellicott, Charles John \(editor\). *A Bible Commentary for English Readers: An Old Testament Commentary for English Readers, 1897.*](#) [*A New Testament Commentary for English Readers, 1878.*](#)

A premier 19th-century multi-volume reference work specifically engineered to bridge the gap between technical, academic commentary and the spiritual needs of the educated layperson. Spearheaded by the brilliant Anglican scholar and bishop C.J. Ellicott, this series features

contributions from top-tier conservative and moderate British scholars of the Victorian era. Ellicott's unique focus was to provide rigorous grammatical and historical insight without overwhelming the reader with untranslated Greek and Hebrew footnotes, resulting in a commentary that is both intellectually serious and deeply devotional.

[Delitzsch, Franz. *Biblical Commentary & New Biblical Commentary* . 1874-1888.](#) The crown jewel of 19th-century conservative German biblical criticism. Best known for his monumental collaboration with Carl Friedrich Keil (the classic Keil & Delitzsch Old Testament series), Franz Delitzsch's commentary work represents a masterful blend of rigorous philological precision, deep rabbinic erudition, and conservative Lutheran theology. His later New Commentary series (particularly on Genesis and Isaiah) showcases the fascinating evolution of his thought, as he gradually integrated elements of the emerging documentary hypothesis without sacrificing his profound conviction in the divine inspiration and spiritual depth of the text. His deep familiarity with Jewish tradition and Hebrew linguistics makes these commentaries an enduring, foundational resource for Old Testament exegesis.

[Keil, Karl Friedrich, and Franz Delitzsch. *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament* . 1864.](#) The theological bedrock of the legendary Keil & Delitzsch collaboration. A stalwart champion of conservative German Lutheranism, Karl Friedrich Keil dedicated his career to defending the historical integrity and divine authority of the Old Testament against the rising tide of 19th-century rationalism and radical higher criticism. His commentaries—which span the historical books, the Pentateuch, and the major prophets—are celebrated for their exhaustive grammatical-historical analysis, meticulous attention to structural details, and uncompromising defense of traditional authorship. Keil's deeply disciplined scholarship provides the structural, objective framework that perfectly balanced Delitzsch's poetic and rabbinic insights, making this series an immortal classic of orthodox biblical exegesis.

[*Commentary on the Old Testament* at \[theologygateway.info\]\(http://theologygateway.info\).](#)

[*Commentary on the Old Testament* from the SWORD at \[stepbible.org\]\(http://stepbible.org\).](#)

[Spence-Jones, Henry Donald Maurice. *The Pulpit Commentary* .](#) One of the largest, most ambitious homiletical commentary sets ever produced in the English language. Spanning over 50 volumes, this massive 19th-century project was curated by Anglican divine H.D.M. Spence-Jones and Joseph S. Exell to serve as a comprehensive resource for sermon preparation. Each section of Scripture is broken down into three distinct layers: an analytical

exposition (critical and linguistic notes), a homiletic outline (theological framework), and homilies from various contributors (practical preaching points). It stands as a towering monument to Victorian-era homiletics and pastoral resource development.

Reformation Age

[Luther, Martin. *A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians* . 1535.](#) Widely considered Martin Luther's theological masterpiece and the definitive textbook of the Protestant Reformation. Based on his 1531 lectures, this 1535 commentary outlines his central doctrine of justification by faith alone (*sola fide*), using Paul's sharp contrast between law and grace to challenge the medieval Catholic penitential system. Luther famously regarded the Epistle to the Galatians as his "Catherine von Bora" (the name of his wife), declaring himself "wedded to it." It remains a fiery, deeply pastoral, and foundationally historic text that fundamentally reshaped Western Christianity's understanding of salvation and Christian freedom.

[Calvin, John. *Calvin's Commentaries* .](#) A monumental achievement in biblical exegesis and the bedrock of Reformed theology. Spanning nearly the entire Bible—written between 1540 and Calvin's death in 1564—these commentaries are celebrated for their commitment to grammatical-historical interpretation and their rejection of purely allegorical readings. Guided by his famous principle of "lucid brevity," Calvin sought to let the scriptural text speak clearly to the reader, balancing rigorous academic scholarship with practical, pastoral application. This expansive collection remains one of the most influential and frequently consulted exegetical works in Christian history.

[*Calvin's Commentaries* at *theologygateway.info*.](#)

[*Calvin's Commentaries* at *ccl.org*.](#)

Medieval Commentaries

[Aquinas, Thomas, and John Henry Newman. *Catena Aurea: Commentary on the Four Gospels, Collected out of the Works of the Fathers* . 1842.](#)

A monumental intersection of medieval scholasticism and 19th-century theological scholarship. Commissioned by Pope Urban IV in the 1260s, St. Thomas Aquinas's *Catena Aurea* ("Golden Chain") masterfully weaves together patristic commentary—from both Latin and Greek Church Fathers—into a seamless, verse-by-verse exposition of the four Gospels. This historic 1842

edition represents the landmark English translation organized and edited by John Henry Newman (prior to his conversion to Catholicism) as part of the Oxford Movement's efforts to revive patristic study within the Anglican Church. It remains an indispensable resource for understanding early Christian biblical exegesis and the continuity of theological tradition.

[Japheth ben Ali ha-Levi. *A Commentary on the Book of Daniel* . 10th cent.](#) A rare and brilliantly sophisticated window into early medieval Judeo-Arabic biblical exegesis. Written by Japheth ben Ali, a towering 10th-century scholar from the Karaite sect (a Jewish movement that rejected the Oral Torah/Talmud in favor of the strict literal text of Scripture), this commentary represents the apex of Karaite scholarship in Jerusalem. Written in Arabic using Hebrew script, it features highly meticulous grammatical analysis alongside bold historical-eschatological interpretations of Daniel's apocalyptic visions, often mapping them onto the geopolitical clashes of the Islamic golden age and Byzantine empire.

Patristic Commentaries

[Nesch, Seraphim \(Elliott\), ed. *Early Christian Commentary* . Early Christian Commentary, 2026. <https://www.earlychristiancommentary.com/> \(accessed 9 August 2026\).](#)

An online resource devoted to the study of the beliefs, practices, and history of early Christianity. The site currently hosts a verse-by-verse New Testament commentary from the early Christians, a reference guide to topics discussed by the early Christians, a comprehensive collection of early Christian writings, and audio recordings of various early Christian texts. The commentary project is in the process of developing a software solution to compile all of the footnoted biblical allusions, references, and quotations within the Church Fathers in canonical order from Genesis to Revelation, including the Apocrypha. Texts are taken from the thirty-eight volume *Early Church Fathers* (Hendrickson edition), which includes the Ante-Nicene Fathers and the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers (series 1 and 2). The editor of the commentary and dictionary is Seraphim (Elliott) Nesch, who is also the editor of the book *Early Christian Commentary of the Sermon on the Mount*.

For theological and historical research, the *Early Christian Commentary* offers a valuable resource for accessing the patristic interpretation of Scripture. By compiling the biblical allusions, references, and quotations of the Church Fathers in canonical order, the site provides a unique window into how the earliest Christian writers understood and applied the biblical text. Its verse-by-verse format allows researchers, students, and pastors to quickly locate patristic commentary on any given passage, making it an indispensable tool for understanding the development of Christian doctrine, exegesis, and spiritual formation in the early centuries of the church. While the site is a work in progress and relies on the Hendrickson edition of the Church Fathers, it offers a trusted foundation for engaging with the interpretive traditions of the early

church before delving into more specialized primary and secondary sources.

More Online Resources

[Dyer, John, ed. *Best Commentaries*. BestCommentaries.com, 2008—.
https://bestcommentaries.com/ \(accessed 9 August 2026\).](https://bestcommentaries.com/)

A comprehensive, free online database and discovery tool designed to help Bible students, pastors, and scholars identify the most useful commentaries for their study. Launched in 2008 by John Dyer (Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary) as a seminary class project, the site has grown to become a widely used resource that aggregates reviews, ratings, and recommendations from published scholars, academic journals, and site users. The database currently includes nearly

15,000 books

and

6,000 reviews

across a variety of categories, with coverage spanning Old and New Testament commentaries, single-volume works, commentary series, study Bibles, and background volumes. The site employs a proprietary scoring algorithm that weights average user and journal ratings, the total number of reviews, inclusion in curated libraries, and internal modifiers for academic sources to produce a ranked list for each biblical book. Users can filter commentaries by technical, pastoral, or devotional focus, and the site provides export tools for bibliographic software such as Zotero and EndNote.

For theological and biblical research, Best Commentaries offers an invaluable starting point for navigating the vast and often overwhelming landscape of available commentary literature. Often described as the Rotten Tomatoes for biblical studies, the site synthesizes the collective wisdom of scholars and practitioners into an accessible, data-driven format. Its book-by-book rankings and detailed bibliographic information enable researchers to quickly identify the most highly regarded works on any given text, saving hours of preliminary bibliographic work. While the site's scoring algorithm and evangelical Protestant orientation have been noted as potential biases, its transparent methodology and extensive database make it a trusted resource for students, educators, and researchers seeking to ground their work in a solid foundation of secondary literature before engaging with more specialized primary and secondary sources. Its free availability and user-friendly interface make it an essential tool for anyone engaged in serious biblical study or sermon preparation.