

Recommended Commentaries by Old Testament Book

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Choosing the right commentary can be overwhelming. Nearly every book of the Bible has dozens of options, ranging from devotional to highly technical. The recommendations below are my personal favorites for each Old Testament book, organized into two categories:

- **Getting Started**—Recommended for personal Bible study, teaching, and sermon preparation.
- **Going Deeper**—Recommended for more advanced exegetical and scholarly study.

My recommendations reflect a historical-grammatical approach to biblical interpretation and affirm the full authority and trustworthiness of Scripture. These are commentaries I have used and continue to recommend because they are exegetically careful, theologically sound, and consistently helpful for understanding God's Word.

A Note on Multi-Book Commentary Series

Excellent series such as the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*, and *ESV Expository Commentary* cover multiple books of the Bible in a single volume, with each book written by a different contributor under the guidance of the series editors. These volumes provide outstanding value for building a well-rounded library, and many individual contributions are excellent.

Because several biblical books share each volume, however, the treatment of each book is necessarily less comprehensive than that of a dedicated, single-volume commentary. For that reason, I have limited this list to standalone commentaries. This is not a criticism of multi-book series but simply reflects my goal of highlighting the strongest individual resources for each Old Testament book.

PENTATEUCH (Overview)

Going Deeper

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

Reads the five books as a single, unified literary and theological composition; foundational for seeing the Pentateuch as a whole.

GENESIS

Getting Started

Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1988).

Homiletically shaped, with sermon outlines built into the exposition—a favorite for teaching prep.

John M. Soden and Randal Emery Pelton, *Genesis: A Commentary for Biblical Preaching and Teaching*, Kerux Commentaries (Grand Rapids: Kregel Ministry, 2025).

Careful biblical exegesis with a strongly preaching-oriented, Christ-centered, theological approach.

Going Deeper

Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1–15 and Genesis 16–50*, 2 vols., Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987; Dallas: Word, 1994).

The standard technical evangelical commentary on Genesis; meticulous attention to structure and literary artistry.

Victor P. Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1–17 and Chapters 18–50*, 2 vols., New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995).

Thorough, exegetically careful, and especially strong on Hebrew grammar and syntax.

Kenneth A. Mathews, *Genesis 1–11:26 and Genesis 11:27–50:26*, 2 vols., New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996, 2005).

Rich theological synthesis alongside careful exegesis; a standard evangelical technical treatment.

EXODUS

Getting Started

T. Desmond Alexander, *Exodus*, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016).

Sermon-ready structure built around a “big idea” per passage, with illustration and application helps.

Philip Graham Ryken, *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005).

A theologically substantial preaching commentary.

Going Deeper

Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006).

Clear, pastorally useful exposition with strong attention to the book’s theology of redemption.

Eugene Carpenter, *Exodus*, 2 vols., Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2012, 2016).

Extensive, detailed technical treatment of the Hebrew text.

Duane A. Garrett, *A Commentary on Exodus*, Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2014).

Substantial technical treatment with close attention to structure and historical background.

LEVITICUS

Getting Started

Jay Sklar, *Leviticus*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013).

Concise, theologically rich, and unusually clear on the sacrificial system for a non-specialist reader.

Kenneth A. Mathews, *Leviticus: Holy God, Holy People*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009).

Illustration-rich exposition tracing how Leviticus's sacrificial system and symbols foreshadow Christ.

Going Deeper

Gordon J. Wenham, *The Book of Leviticus*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979).

The classic evangelical technical commentary; still the starting point for serious study.

Mark F. Rooker, *Leviticus*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000).

Careful exegesis with sustained attention to holiness theology.

Allen P. Ross, *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of Leviticus* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002).

Exposition-focused, with the same sermon-ready shape as his Genesis volume.

NUMBERS

Getting Started

Gordon J. Wenham, *Numbers*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1981).

Compact, reliable, and a good entry point into the technical issues.

Jay Sklar, *Numbers*, Story of God Bible Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2023).

Straightforward, story-shaped exposition that walks readers through Numbers and points them to Jesus.

Iain M. Duguid, *Numbers: God's Presence in the Wilderness*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006).

Christ-centered, illustration-rich exposition well suited for preaching.

Going Deeper

Timothy R. Ashley, *The Book of Numbers*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).

Thorough, careful technical treatment; the standard full-scale evangelical commentary on Numbers.

L. Michael Morales, *Numbers 1–19 and Numbers 20–36*, 2 vols., Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2024).

Magisterial, award-winning technical treatment tracing Numbers' literary and canonical connections across Scripture.

DEUTERONOMY

Getting Started

Daniel I. Block, *Deuteronomy*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

Clear bridge from exegesis to application, drawing on Block's deep expertise in the book.

Christopher J. H. Wright, *Deuteronomy*, Understanding the Bible Commentary Series (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996).

Warm, theologically attentive exposition from a leading voice on OT ethics.

Going Deeper

Daniel I. Block, *The Gospel according to Moses: A Commentary on Deuteronomy*, 3 vols. (Hong Kong: Inspirata Publishing, 2023–2024).

Massively expanded from his NIVAC volume, restoring the full exegetical detail Zondervan's series length had required him to cut.

J. Gordon McConville, *Deuteronomy*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002).

Careful, literarily attentive technical treatment from a leading Deuteronomy scholar.

Eugene H. Merrill, *Deuteronomy*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994).

Careful, exegetically sound; a standard evangelical technical treatment.

JOSHUA

Getting Started

Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, Focus on the Bible (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2000).

Warm, narrative-sensitive exposition well suited for teaching.

Richard S. Hess, *Joshua*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996).

Compact and reliable, with careful attention to the historical questions.

Going Deeper

David G. Firth, *Joshua*, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2022).

Sensitive literary reading paired with insightful theological analysis of Joshua's place in the canon.

Trent C. Butler, *Joshua 1–12 and Joshua 13–24*, rev. ed., 2 vols., Word Biblical Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014).

Detailed, up-to-date technical commentary; a standard reference.

David M. Howard Jr., *Joshua*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998).

Thorough evangelical technical treatment, strong on the book's covenantal theology.

JUDGES

Getting Started

Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*, Focus on the Bible (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2000).

Vivid, illustration-rich exposition in Davis's familiar narrative style.

Barry G. Webb, *Judges and Ruth: God in Chaos*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015).

Homiletical exposition tracing both books toward the hope of Christ, the coming King.

Going Deeper

Daniel I. Block, *Judges, Ruth*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Substantial technical treatment covering both books; strong on the cyclical theology of Judges.

Robert B. Chisholm Jr., *A Commentary on Judges and Ruth*, Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2013).

Detailed exegesis paired with homiletical suggestions for preachers.

Barry G. Webb, *The Book of Judges*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).

Careful literary and theological reading; a standard full-scale evangelical commentary.

RUTH

Getting Started

Christopher Ash, *Teaching Ruth and Esther*, Proclamation Trust Media (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2011).

Preacher-focused guide bridging exegesis and sermon preparation for both books.

Barry G. Webb, *Judges and Ruth: God in Chaos*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015).

Covers Ruth alongside Judges with the same homiletical, Christ-centered treatment (see Judges above).

Going Deeper

Daniel I. Block, *Judges, Ruth*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Covers Ruth alongside Judges with the same careful technical treatment (see Judges above).

Robert B. Chisholm Jr., *A Commentary on Judges and Ruth*, Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2013).

Detailed exegesis paired with homiletical suggestions for preachers (see Judges above).

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

Socio-historically aware reading attentive to ancient Israelite social customs.

1-2 SAMUEL

Getting Started

Robert B. Chisholm Jr., *1 & 2 Samuel*, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013).

Sermon-ready structure built around a "big idea" per unit.

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart* and *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*, 2 vols., Focus on the Bible (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2000, 2002).

Warm, narrative-driven exposition; brings out the theological drama of David's rise and reign.

Going Deeper

Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996).

Thorough, exegetically careful technical treatment.

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

Massive, detailed engagement with the Hebrew text and textual criticism.

David G. Firth, *1 & 2 Samuel*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009).

Literarily sensitive exegesis with close attention to narrative art and theology.

1-2 KINGS

Getting Started

David T. Lamb, *1 & 2 Kings*, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016).

Accessible, story-shaped commentary tracing how Israel's history bends toward the hope fulfilled in Jesus.

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly* and *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*, 2 vols., Focus on the Bible (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2002, 2005).

Davis's signature narrative sensitivity applied to the divided-kingdom history.

Going Deeper

John N. Oswalt, *1 Kings*, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2025).

Recent, detailed technical treatment from a widely respected evangelical Old Testament scholar.

Iain W. Provan, *1 and 2 Kings*, New International Biblical Commentary (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995).

Careful, theologically attentive technical treatment

Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995).

Thorough exegesis with strong attention to the books' theological shape.

1-2 CHRONICLES

Getting Started

John H. Sailhamer, *First and Second Chronicles*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1983).

Brief, accessible survey commentary aimed at general readers rather than specialists.

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

Clear, well-organized bridge from exegesis to application.

Richard L. Pratt Jr., *1 & 2 Chronicles*, Mentor Commentary (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 1998).

Substantial exposition attentive to Chronicles' distinct theological agenda.

Going Deeper

Eugene H. Merrill, *1 & 2 Chronicles*, Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2015).

Detailed technical treatment with close attention to the Chronicler's use of earlier sources.

Raymond B. Dillard, *2 Chronicles*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).

Careful, widely respected technical treatment (companion volume on 1 Chronicles by Sara Japhet in the OTL series, not in this list).

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

Getting Started

James M. Hamilton Jr., *Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2014).

Devotional, Christ-centered exposition consistent with the series' aim of preaching every book toward Jesus.

Tiberius Rata, *Ezra & Nehemiah*, Mentor Commentary (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2010).

Concise, readable synthesis combining Hebrew-text attention with practical, sermon-ready application.

T. J. Betts, *Nehemiah: A Pastoral and Exegetical Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

Bridges devotional and technical commentary, walking passage by passage through Nehemiah's leadership and prayer life.

Going Deeper

Gary V. Smith, *Ezra and Nehemiah*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2022).

Detailed technical treatment with close attention to the books' Persian-period setting.

Christopher J. H. Wright and David J. Shepherd, *Ezra and Nehemiah*, Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018).

Combines careful verse-by-verse commentary with sustained theological reflection on leadership and covenant renewal.

Israel P. Loken, *Ezra and Nehemiah*, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2011).

Section-by-section exposition designed for both the layperson and the serious student, with scholarly endnotes.

ESTHER

Getting Started

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

Clear, well-organized bridge from exegesis to application; a widely trusted starting point.

Christopher Ash, *Teaching Ruth and Esther*, Proclamation Trust Media (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2011).

Preacher-focused guide (see Ruth above); covers both books.

David G. Firth, *The Message of Esther*, Bible Speaks Today, rev. ed. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022).

Accessible, theologically attentive exposition from a widely trusted Old Testament narrative scholar.

Going Deeper

Anthony Tomasino, *Esther*, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2016).

Detailed technical treatment attentive to the book's Persian setting and literary artistry.

Frederic W. Bush, *Ruth, Esther*, Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 9 (Dallas: Word Books, 1996).

Thorough technical treatment drawing on narrative poetics and discourse analysis, with close attention to Esther's ancient Near Eastern setting.

JOB

Getting Started

Christopher Ash, *Job: The Wisdom of the Cross*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014).

Christ-centered, pastorally rich exposition attentive to Job's struggle with suffering.

John H. Walton, *Job*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

Strong on ancient Near Eastern background and the book's argument as a whole.

Going Deeper

Barry G. Webb, *Job*, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2023).

Detailed exegesis paired with biblical-theological synthesis, tracing Job's themes of creation, wisdom, and redemption across the canon.

David J. A. Clines, *Job 1–20, Job 21–37, and Job 38–42*, 3 vols., Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas/Nashville: Word Books/Thomas Nelson, 1989, 2006, 2011).

Massive, exhaustive technical treatment; the standard full-scale reference on Job.

PSALMS

Getting Started

James Johnston, *The Psalms*, 2 vols., Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015, 2016).

Illustration-rich, sermon-ready exposition across the Psalter.

Donald M. Williams, *Psalms 1–72 and Psalms 73–150*, 2 vols., The Preacher's Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986, 1989).

Non-technical, devotionally rich exposition built for communicators; a longtime favorite for sermon prep.

Going Deeper

Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, 3 vols., Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2011–2016).

Extensive, detailed technical treatment with translation notes throughout.

James M. Hamilton Jr., *Psalms*, 2 vols., Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2021).

Pairs careful exegesis with sustained biblical-theological synthesis across the Psalter.

David G. Firth, *Psalms*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (London: Apollos, 2025).

Recent, literarily sensitive technical treatment from a widely respected evangelical Old Testament scholar.

PROVERBS

Getting Started

John A. Kitchen, *Proverbs*, Mentor Commentary (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2006).

Combines careful exegesis with warm pastoral application, tracing how Proverbs connects with the rest of Scripture.

Raymond C. Ortlund Jr., *Proverbs: Wisdom That Works*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012).

Christ-centered, illustration-rich exposition well suited for teaching.

Going Deeper

Bruce K. Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs*, 2 vols., New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004, 2005).

The standard full-scale evangelical technical commentary on Proverbs.

Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993).

Careful exegesis across all three wisdom books in one volume.

Christopher B. Ansberry, *Proverbs: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2024).

Careful discourse analysis showing how Proverbs' literary structure serves its project of moral and theological formation.

ECCLESIASTES

Getting Started

Douglas Sean O'Donnell, *Ecclesiastes: Reflections on Life in a Fallen World*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014).

Vivid, illustration-rich exposition aimed squarely at preachers.

Edward M. Curtis, *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013).

Sermon-ready structure built around a "big idea" per passage for both books.

Going Deeper

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

Careful, philosophically informed technical treatment of Solomon's argument.

Daniel C. Fredericks and Daniel J. Estes, *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010).

Careful technical treatment pairing the two books, with close attention to their poetic and wisdom forms.

Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993).

Covers Ecclesiastes alongside Proverbs and Song of Songs (see Proverbs above).

SONG OF SONGS

Getting Started

Douglas Sean O'Donnell, *The Song of Solomon: An Invitation to Intimacy*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012).

Illustration-rich, pastorally careful exposition of a book that's easy to mishandle in preaching.

James M. Hamilton Jr., *Song of Songs and Lamentations*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2015).

Devotional, Christ-centered exposition consistent with the series' aim.

Edward M. Curtis, *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013).

Sermon-ready structure (see Ecclesiastes above); covers both books.

Going Deeper

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

Careful, literarily attentive technical treatment of the book's poetry.

Duane A. Garrett and Paul R. House, *Song of Songs / Lamentations*, Word Biblical Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004).

Detailed technical treatment pairing the two books in one volume.

Daniel C. Fredericks and Daniel J. Estes, *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010).

Careful technical treatment pairing the two books (see Ecclesiastes above).

ISAIAH

Getting Started

Alec Motyer, *Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1999).

Compact distillation of Motyer's larger technical work; a trusted starting point.

Raymond C. Ortlund Jr., *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005).

Christ-centered, illustration-rich exposition tracing Isaiah's gospel themes.

Going Deeper

Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1993).

Widely regarded as one of the finest single-volume evangelical commentaries on Isaiah.

John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah*, 2 vols., New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986, 1998).

Massive, exegetically careful, full-scale technical commentary.

Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1–39 and Isaiah 40–66*, 2 vols., New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007, 2009).

Thorough, up-to-date technical treatment with strong attention to structure.

JEREMIAH

Getting Started

Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Message of Jeremiah*, Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2014).

Warm, theologically attentive exposition well suited for teaching and preaching.

Duane A. Garrett and Calvin Pearson, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*, Kerux Commentaries (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2022).

Pairs exegesis with homiletical strategy in the Kerux "Big Idea" preaching model.

Going Deeper

J. A. Thompson, *The Book of Jeremiah*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980).

Long regarded as the best overall commentary on Jeremiah; technical in places but fully accessible, with Hebrew transliterated throughout.

Walter C. Kaiser Jr. and Tiberius Rata, *Walking the Ancient Paths: A Commentary on Jeremiah* (Grand Rapids: Lexham Press, 2019).

A conservative evangelical exposition that combines historical and exegetical analysis.

F. B. Huey, *Jeremiah, Lamentations*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993).

Solid, exegetically careful technical treatment covering both books.

LAMENTATIONS

Getting Started

Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Message of Lamentations*, Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2015).

Pastorally sensitive exposition of a book too often skipped in preaching.

James M. Hamilton Jr., *Song of Songs and Lamentations*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2015).

Devotional, Christ-centered exposition (see Song of Songs above).

Duane A. Garrett and Calvin Pearson, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*, Kerux Commentaries (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2022).

Covers Lamentations alongside Jeremiah (see above).

Going Deeper

F. B. Huey, *Jeremiah, Lamentations*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993).

Covers Lamentations alongside Jeremiah (see above).

Duane A. Garrett and Paul R. House, *Song of Songs / Lamentations*, Word Biblical Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004).

Detailed technical treatment (see Song of Songs above).

EZEKIEL

Getting Started

Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Message of Ezekiel*, Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001).

Clear, theologically attentive exposition of a famously difficult book.

Douglas Stuart, *Ezekiel*, The Preacher's Commentary, vol. 18 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1989).

Non-technical, communicator-focused exposition useful for sermon and lesson preparation.

Iain M. Duguid, *Ezekiel*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999).

Clear bridge from exegesis to application, drawing on Duguid's expertise in the prophets.

Going Deeper

Daniel I. Block, *The Book of Ezekiel*, 2 vols., New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, 1998).

The standard full-scale evangelical technical commentary on Ezekiel.

Lamar Eugene Cooper Sr., *Ezekiel*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994).

Thorough, exegetically careful technical treatment.

DANIEL

Getting Started

Wendy L. Widder, *Daniel*, Story of God Bible Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016).

Accessible, application-oriented exposition from a scholar specializing in Daniel.

Daniel L. Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2017).

Christ-centered exposition.

Going Deeper

J. Paul Tanner, *Daniel*, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2020).

Extensive, detailed technical treatment of the Hebrew and Aramaic text.

Stephen R. Miller, *Daniel*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994).

Thorough, exegetically careful technical treatment.

Joe M. Sprinkle, *Daniel*, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

Exegetically careful treatment tracing Daniel's theological themes across the canon.

THE MINOR PROPHETS (Overview)

Going Deeper

Michael B. Shepherd, *A Commentary on the Book of the Twelve: The Minor Prophets*, Kregel Exegetical Library (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2018).

Treats all twelve books together with attention to their unity as a single collection.

Paul R. House and Stephen M. Coleman, *The Minor Prophets: Seek the Lord and Live*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2025).

Illustration-rich, sermon-ready exposition covering all twelve books in the Preaching the Word style.

HOSEA

Getting Started

Gary V. Smith, *Hosea, Amos, Micah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Clear bridge from exegesis to application across all three books.

Allan Moseley and Jonathan Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2025).

Devotional, Christ-centered exposition consistent with the series' aim of preaching every book toward Jesus.

Paul R. House and Stephen M. Coleman, *The Minor Prophets: Seek the Lord and Live*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2025).

Illustration-rich, sermon-ready exposition covering all twelve books in the Preaching the Word style.

Going Deeper

Duane A. Garrett, *Hosea, Joel*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997).

Careful, exegetically sound technical treatment of both books.

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).
Detailed technical treatment spanning six of the Minor Prophets.

Joshua N. Moon, *Hosea*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018).

Careful literary and theological reading attentive to Hosea's marriage metaphor and covenant themes.

JOEL

Getting Started

Allan Moseley and Jonathan Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2025).

Covers Joel alongside Hosea, Amos, and Obadiah (see Hosea above).

Irvin A. Busenitz, *Commentary on Joel and Obadiah*, Mentor Commentary (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2003).

Substantial exegesis paired with ministry-focused application.

Going Deeper

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).
Covers Joel within the six-book set (see Hosea above).

Duane A. Garrett, *Hosea, Joel*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997).

Covers Joel alongside Hosea (see above).

James D. Nogalski, *The Book of the Twelve: Hosea–Jonah*, Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2011).

Substantial technical treatment attentive to how the Book of the Twelve functions as a deliberately unified collection.

AMOS

Getting Started

Gary V. Smith, *Hosea, Amos, Micah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Covers Amos alongside Hosea and Micah (see Hosea above).

Alec Motyer, *The Message of Amos*, Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1974).
A classic, still-trusted, accessible exposition of Amos's call for justice.

T. J. Betts, *Amos: An Ordinary Man with an Extraordinary Message*, Focus on the Bible (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2011).

Accessible, preacher-focused exposition that shows Amos's relevance to a prosperous, complacent people.

Going Deeper

JoAnna M. Hoyt, *Amos, Jonah, and Micah*, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019).

Careful Hebrew exegesis across all three prophets paired with biblical-theological and devotional application.

M. Daniel Carroll R., *Amos*, Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020).

Recent, careful technical treatment from a leading Amos specialist.

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).
Covers Amos within the six-book set (see Hosea above).

OBADIAH

Getting Started

Allan Moseley and Jonathan Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2025).

Covers Obadiah alongside Hosea, Joel, and Amos (see Hosea above).

Irvin A. Busenitz, *Commentary on Joel and Obadiah*, Mentor Commentary (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2003).

Covers Obadiah alongside Joel (see above).

Going Deeper

Daniel Block, *Obadiah: The Kingship Belongs to YHWH*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2013).

Careful exegesis by one of the finest Old Testament scholars.

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).

Covers Obadiah within the six-book set (see Hosea above).

JONAH

Getting Started

James Bruckner, *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Clear bridge from exegesis to application across all four books.

Going Deeper

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea–Jonah*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).

Covers Jonah within the six-book set (see Hosea above).

Kevin J. Youngblood, *Jonah: God's Scandalous Mercy*, Hearing the Message of Scripture (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013).

Careful exegesis paired with sustained attention to biblical theology.

MICAH

Getting Started

Gary V. Smith, *Hosea, Amos, Micah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Covers Micah alongside Hosea and Amos (see Hosea above).

Going Deeper

Bruce K. Waltke, *A Commentary on Micah* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

Massive, detailed technical treatment; the standard full-scale evangelical commentary on Micah.

Kenneth L. Barker and Waylon Bailey, *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Single accessible, pastor-oriented volume covering all four books; cross-referenced under Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah below.

NAHUM

Getting Started

James Bruckner, *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Covers Nahum alongside Jonah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah (see Jonah above).

David W. Baker, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1988).

Compact, reliable technical entry point covering all three books.

Going Deeper

Kenneth L. Barker and Waylon Bailey, *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Covers Nahum alongside Micah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah (see Micah above).

HABAKKUK

Getting Started

James Bruckner, *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Covers Habakkuk alongside Jonah, Nahum, and Zephaniah (see Nahum above).

David W. Baker, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1988).

Covers Habakkuk alongside Nahum and Zephaniah (see Nahum above).

Going Deeper

Kenneth J. Turner, *Habakkuk: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2023).

Recent discourse-analysis treatment tracing Habakkuk's argument through careful attention to Hebrew grammar and syntax.

Kenneth L. Barker and Waylon Bailey, *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Covers Habakkuk alongside Micah, Nahum, and Zephaniah (see Micah above).

ZEPHANIAH

Getting Started

James Bruckner, *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Covers Zephaniah alongside Jonah, Nahum, and Habakkuk (see Nahum above).

David W. Baker, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1988).

Covers Zephaniah alongside Nahum and Habakkuk (see Nahum above).

Iain M. Duguid and Matthew P. Harmon, *Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2018).

Christ-centered, application-rich exposition covering all four post-exilic prophets in one accessible volume.

Going Deeper

Jason S. DeRouchie, *Zephaniah*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2025).

Detailed discourse analysis reading Zephaniah's fifty-three verses as saturated with messianic hope.

Kenneth L. Barker and Waylon Bailey, *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999).

Covers Zephaniah alongside Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk (see Micah above).

HAGGAI

Getting Started

Mark J. Boda, *Haggai, Zechariah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Clear bridge from exegesis to application covering both books.

Andrew E. Hill, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012).

A clear, concise, and pastorally oriented commentary that combines sound evangelical scholarship with practical application.

Going Deeper

Richard A. Taylor and E. Ray Clendenen, *Haggai, Malachi*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2004).

Careful, exegetically sound technical treatment of both books.

Anthony R. Petterson, *Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015).

Careful exegetical treatment setting the three post-exilic prophets in their wider biblical-theological context.

Eugene H. Merrill, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Exegetical Commentary* (Biblical Studies Press, 2003).

Detailed technical treatment spanning all three post-exilic prophets.

ZECHARIAH

Getting Started

Mark J. Boda, *Haggai, Zechariah*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004).

Covers Zechariah alongside Haggai (see above).

Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Zechariah*, Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003).

Clear, accessible exposition of a notoriously difficult book.

Andrew E. Hill, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012).

A clear, concise, and pastorally oriented commentary that combines sound evangelical scholarship with practical application (see Haggai above).

Going Deeper

George L. Klein, *Zechariah*, New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008).

Thorough, exegetically careful technical treatment.

Eugene H. Merrill, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Exegetical Commentary* (Biblical Studies Press, 2003).

Covers Zechariah alongside Haggai and Malachi (see Haggai above).

Anthony R. Petterson, *Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*, Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015).

Covers Zechariah alongside Haggai and Malachi (see Haggai above).

MALACHI

Getting Started

Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Malachi: God's Unchanging Love* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984).

Warm, accessible exposition well suited for teaching and preaching.

Going Deeper

Andrew E. Hill, *Malachi*, Anchor Bible (New York: Doubleday, 1998).

Massive, exhaustive technical treatment; a standard scholarly reference.

W. Dennis Tucker Jr., *Malachi: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2024).

Recent discourse-analysis treatment reading Malachi's central theme as covenant fidelity to Israel's great King.

Allen P. Ross, *Malachi Then and Now: An Expository Commentary Based on Detailed Exegetical Analysis* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Expository commentary blending careful exegesis with sustained application for preachers and teachers.

Favorite Multi-Volume Commentary Series (Old Testament)

Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (EEC)

Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic. Extensive, detailed technical treatment volume by volume.

Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (EBTC)

Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press. Locates each Old Testament book within redemptive history, pairing careful exegesis with sustained biblical-theological synthesis.

Apollos Old Testament Commentary (ApOTC)

Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. Scholarly yet accessible, with an annotated translation of the Hebrew text underlying each volume's comments.

Kerux Commentaries

Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic. Pairs exegesis with homiletical strategy in the Kerux "Big Idea" preaching model.

Reformed Expository Commentary

Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing. Christ-centered, application-rich exposition well suited for teaching and discipleship contexts.

Preaching the Word

Wheaton, IL: Crossway. Illustration-rich, sermon-ready exposition aimed squarely at preachers.

Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary

Nashville: Broadman & Holman. Devotional, Christ-centered exposition consistent with the series' aim of preaching every book toward Jesus.