Selected Biblical Commentaries

“Superior scholarship in accessible format.”*


*Apollos Old Testament Commentary series*, InterVarsity Press (Downers Grove, IL). 
The series preface says each volume will contain: original text translation, textual notes, discussion of literary form, structure and background, and comments on exegesis, concluding with a study of each passage’s interpretational development. Designed to tie academic pursuit with contemporary application.


*Berit Olam*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 1996-. 
“Primarily literary approach to exegesis of the OT, with emphasis on the theological message of the text. The NRSV is the main English translation to which the commentators make reference.”

Complete series at WTS. Selected at UD.  
This more conservative scholarship is probably dated.

*Blackwell Bible Commentaries*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004-.  
Commentary series focuses on the influence of the Bible on Western culture. Scholars from a wide range of fields review how the text has influenced literature, art, music, film, religious beliefs, and society.

*Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2005-.  
Newer commentary series, individual commentaries authored by theologians (not biblical scholars!) wanting to tie the text to Reformed theology. A good way to bring in other disciplines, but perhaps not the first commentary to check when writing an exegesis paper.

*Eerdmans Critical Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000-.  
Authors from a wide range of confessional backgrounds (Jewish and Christian, Catholic and Protestant, etc.) provide their own translation, critical notes, and basic reviews of the literary/historical/cultural aspects of the text. The series notes a focus on newer methodological approaches to the text.
Conservative evangelical scholarship, aimed at pastors preparing sermons. Contains a separate section focusing on more practical application, followed by detailed scholarly notes almost as an appendix to each chapter.

“Classic historical-critical project…. Its strength is its attention to ancient sources and parallels to the biblical text, and to ancient rhetorical and literary features.”

Complete series at WTS. Older editions at UD: BS 491 .I5
“Highly technical series first produced at the turn of the 20th century and being redone….”

“Short, insightful commentaries…centering on a theme identified as central to the particular book under consideration.”

Focuses “on the final form of the text and on its significant literary and theological features.”

Cambridge is re-doing their old CBC series from the 60’s and 70’s. The series assumes no prior knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, or theology. This new edition seeks to specialize in rhetorical, social-scientific, and narrative criticisms.

“A fine series prepared largely by evangelical scholars…. The endnotes are good at conveying the history of interpretation and the variety of majority contemporary interpretations.”

(OT) 1952- (NT).
Scholarly series written by top evangelical scholars.

A technical series on the Greek New Testament with detailed, lengthy commentaries that focus on historical and linguistic issues.

BS 491 .I68 1994
Ecumenical, scholarly. Good connection between commentary and reflection. Also has general articles. Shelved as series in Circulating and Reference Collections


