

# An Annotated Bibliography

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Before you start perusing my annotated bibliography, permit me to first share a couple of things with you:

One, we are called to study to show ourselves approved to God as a workmen in the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). Reading the Bible, therefore, always stands head and shoulders above all books we should give time and attention to. It is the book which feeds the soul and grows us up in the faith. Make sure, then, you have a daily time alone with God and His Word.

Two, learning how to interpret and understand the Bible is enhanced by reading books which can help you achieve this worthy life goal. I've included many books which can assist you in this quest.

Three, my list is, at points, dated. Of course it is. I've been buying and reading theology/Bible books for at least forty-five years, so you can expect a few publications dates which are, well, back in time. Many of these books, however, are still in print because they are that good. So, look for them. Used will do just fine as well.

Four, this list just comprises the hard copy books I am reading, have read, or plan on reading. The list does not contain the other 5,000 biblical books I possess and read with my Logos Bible software. By the way, this is an excellent program to use for Bible study and reading. There are many levels to choose from, depending on your academic needs.

Five, Mortimer J. Adler's *How to Read a Book* is the best book on this particular subject you could ever dig into. Whether it's imaginative literature or science and mathematics, Adler will give you the tools you need to properly and effectively read any book. Great purchase for a college bound student.

Six, you should have a biblical reading plan. Put differently, you should have a stated plan for reading the Bible and for reading theological/biblical books. Remember, some reading is better than no reading. Here's what I typically do. I write the dates I plan on reading next to the chapters in a table of contents of a given book. When I've read the chapter in question, I check it off and move to the next chapter.

Seven, to help you remember the content of a given chapter, I would suggest mind-mapping. It is what I do when I read. At the end of a chapter I'll draw a mind map to make sure I have a firm grasp on the content I just read. Later you can go back and review your notes, ensuring you are burning the info into your mind. Howard's book titled *The Owner's Manual for the Brain* has an

excellent discussion about mind mapping, plus other ways to take notes for better cognitive retrieval.

## Greek Bibles

- *The Greek New Testament*. K. Aland, B. Metzger, et al., editors. 4th ed. New York, NY: United Bible Societies, 1994. The current standard critical text of the Greek New Testament. The edition with the dictionary appended at the end is probably the easiest to use of current GNTs. Lists only the textual variants that affect translation but gives very full information about their support.
- *Novum Testamentum Graece*. D. Eberhard Nestle. Stuttgart: Privilegierte Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1932. Harder to read Greek New Testament because of the font choice; however, a must to have because it possesses more textual variants than the UBS text above.
- *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. John R. Kohlenberger III. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House Publishing House, 1987. Great for daily reading if you have a familiarity with Hebrew.

## Hebrew Bibles

- Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1977. This is the leading Hebrew Bible available. It is what I've used since grad school. There is no English in this Bible.
- Kohlenberger, John R. *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987. Good inter-linear Hebrew/English Bible of the Old Testament. I use this when I want to read through a Bible book and work on my Hebrew.

## Paraphrase Bibles

- Peterson, Eugene H. *The Message: the Bible in Contemporary Language*, Lk 7:7–10. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005. Many people assume that a book about a holy God should sound elevated, stately, and ceremonial. If this is how you've always viewed the Bible, you're about to make a surprising discovery. *The Message* brings the life-changing power of the New Testament, the vibrant passion of the Psalms, and the rich, practical wisdom of Proverbs into easy-to-read modern language that echoes the rhythm and idioms of the original Greek and Hebrew. Written in the same kind of language you'd use to talk with friends, write a letter, or discuss politics, *The Message* preserves the authentic, earthy flavor and the expressive character of the Bible's best-loved books. Personally, I like to read this translation as I am working on a given passage because it does help open up the meaning.

## Lexicons

- Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000. Common abbreviation: BDAG. The standard Greek-English lexicon of the GNT. This is the newest edition, easier to read and use than earlier editions and updated with more effective definitions. A must have if you want to find the lexical and etymological meanings of Greek words.
- Brown, Francis, Samuel R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford, 1907. The standard lexical reference for Hebrew and Aramaic words as found in the NT. Next to my Bible, this is one of the most important books I own for Bible study. Yes, it is easier to use if you know Hebrew, since the entries are all in Hebrew. However, you can access its wealth of information by using the following title by Einspahr.
- Liddell, H. G., R. Scott and H. S. Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed., revised. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. Common abbreviation: LSJ. The standard lexicon of all of ancient Greek, from Homer to the end of the Byzantine period. Aids you in understanding the etymological development a given Greek word.

## Concordances

- Moulton, W. F., A. S. Geden, H. K. Moulton, and I. Howard Marshall. *A Concordance to the Greek Testament*. 6th ed. Edinburgh: Clark, 2002. Use to find Greek word usage in the New Testament. You must know Greek to use this book.
- Wigram, George. *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970. You must know Hebrew to use this, but it is excellent for showing word usage.
- Young, Robert. *Analytical Concordance to the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975. I know there are other concordances, but this is the one I cut my educational teeth on, therefore, I love it. Great at giving you the Hebrew or Greek words you are looking for in a given passage.

## Bible Study or Language Short-cuts

- Archer, Gleason L. *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. Dr. Archer, a classic Old Testament scholar, moves methodically in this work through all the books of the Bible answering complex and vexing questions. Some answers are final; however, some are suggestions based on the fact that we don't have all the facts. Wonderful book to have on your shelf as you study and read the Bible.
- Friberg, Barbara and Timothy Friberg. *Analytical Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1981. Identifies all the grammatical characteristics of every word of the Greek New Testament in the order of appearance.

- Han, Nathan. *A Parsing Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1971. Lists all the verbs in the Greek New Testament in order of appearance and parses them. You must know Greek to use this.
- Hill, Gary and Gleason L. Archer. *The Discovery Bible New Testament*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1987. This contains the H.E.L.P.S. system for Bible study. This format builds into the text special codes letting you, the English reader, know when something significant is found in the Greek text which impacts meaning and interpretation. Buy it if you can find it.
- Robertson, A.T. *Word Pictures in the New Testament, Luke 7:7–10*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933. *Word Pictures in the New Testament* brings to scholars, pastors and lay Bible teachers interpretive insights on words and phrases from each book of the New Testament from one of the outstanding biblical scholars of the twentieth century. The material is arranged book by book beginning with chapter one of the book and moving sequentially throughout the book. This treasure trove represents a lifetime of careful, insightful scholarship that will enrich personal study, preaching and teaching throughout the twenty-first century.
- Torrey, R.A. *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 2004. Of all the books in my library this is one of the most important. It goes verse by verse through the entire Bible, breaking down the verse by its key words. It then gives you other places to go in the Bible to find other passages which *thematically* match the concept in question. This is an invaluable tool for Bible study, teaching and preaching. Back in the late 1970s, Dr. John MacArthur said if you were marooned on an island and were limited to possessing three books for Bible study this would be one of the three. I took his advice back then and, now over 30 years later, I would say I wholeheartedly agree with his statement.

## Dictionaries & Encyclopedias

- Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979–88. I own and use these volumes all the time. In fact, there is probably not a week goes by that I don't use these books.
- Tenney, Merrill C., ed. *The Zondervan Publishing House Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975. Conservative, well-written, and well-documented biblical encyclopedia. If you are studying Scripture at a deeper level, you will need to have a copy of this set.
- Unger, Merrill F. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Rev. and updated edition. Ed. by R. K. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishing, 2006. Good source of background information for the lay person.

## Bible Study Methods

- Adams, Jay E. *Truth Applied*. Ministry Resources Library, 1990. How do you effectively and biblically move from exegesis to application? It's a question this book shows in a most

pragmatic fashion. I read this probably twenty-five years ago and it is still impacting my Bible study and sermon preparation.

- Bullinger, Ethelbert William. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. London; New York, NY: Eyre & Spottiswoode; E. & J. B. Young & Co., 1898. E. W. Bullinger describes 217 figures of speech, each with etymology, descriptions, and citations from the Bible. Nearly 8000 biblical passages are cited. If you really want to dig deep, then this book is a must. I personally use it just about every time I prep for a sermon or a lesson.
- Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Hendricks, Howard G. and William D. Hendricks. *Living By the Book*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1991. One of the first classes students took at Dallas Theological Seminary was Bible Study Methods by Dr. Hendricks. The inductive Bible study method he taught us forms the bedrock of my study today. This particular book is merely that classroom method packaged in a book form. Every Christian should read, study and apply the principles for proper hermeneutics as presented in this book.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Exegetical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1981. Anything Kaiser writes is a must read, especially this book.
- Mickelsen, A. Berkeley. *Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963. An old stand-by for learning and sharpening your skills for studying the Bible.
- Pratt, Richard. *He Gave Us Stories*. Brentwood: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1990. If you want to learn how to properly and powerfully interpret narrative literature, then this is the book.
- Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1970. This is one of those books you do not read just one time, but multiple times, and then you keep it near you as you study in the future. I can't tell you how many times I have gone back to Ramm's fine work to help me understand the proper method(s) for interpretation.
- Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature...and Get More Out of It*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie Books, 1984. One of the best books I've ever read on how to understand, to interpret and to apply the various types of biblical literature. Whether you want to learn how to understand the construction of stories and narrative literature or how to effectively understand proverbial or parabolic constructions, this is the book to own.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Terry, Milton S. *Biblical Hermeneutics, a Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie Books, 1999. An older work, but worth having and reading. This is another tool I use for making sure I am on track with proper hermeneutical approaches.
- Traina, Robert A. *Methodical Bible Study, a New Approach to Hermeneutics*. Willmore: Ashbury Theological Seminary, 1980. I learned how to do inductive Bible study by working my way through this book.

- Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics, Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1981. An outstanding book for sharpening your Bible study methods. A must own. A must read.
- Wald, Oletta. *The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1975. An easy to use book on how to do basic inductive Bible study. I cut my teeth on this book during my first year at Dallas Theological Seminary under the tutelage of Howard Hendricks.
- Water, Mark. *Bible Study Made Easy. The Made Easy Series*. Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishers Ltd, 1998. Learn how to study the Bible on your own with this easy-to-understand reference guide. It's perfect for anyone new to Bible study or for teaching your teens how to study the Bible.

## Character Studies

- Lucado, Max. *Cast of Characters*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008. In this book, Lucado, the great story teller, digs into the lives of twenty-two people from the Bible. Use this to feed your soul and to learn how to do these types of fun, exciting studies.
- McArthur, John. *Twelve Extraordinary Women*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005. McArthur does a fine job covering eleven women from both testaments. By reading this book, you will pick up ideas of how to do your own biographical studies of biblical characters.
- Meyer, F.B. *Great Men of the Bible, Vol. 2*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. Wonderful study of the lives of David, Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing Group, 1997.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Elijah: A Man of Heroism and Humility*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000. Wonderful study of the prophet's life. I've gone back to this moving book many times for study and reflection.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Esther*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997. Swindoll's analysis of the life and book of Esther is a wonderful mixture of sound biblical interpretation and practical applications.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives*. Edinburgh: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2005.
- Whyte, Alexander. *Bible Characters from the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1990. For those learning how to do biographical studies of biblical characters, this book is most helpful. It covers 159 people from both testaments, giving you insights into their characters so you can learn what to look for as you study them further.

## Theological Dictionaries

- Barclay, William. *New Testament Words*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1964. A limited number of New Testament words are treated; however, the ones which are give you a wonderful understanding of their rich meaning for interpretation purposes. You will

need to know the Greek word you are looking for to use this book. All words are transliterated so it is easier to use for non-Greek readers.

- Botterweck, G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 15 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1974-2006. Far too much information for the casual reader, but a wealth of information on biblical words for the person who is interested in digging and reading. Expensive too.
- Brown, Colin, ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975-79. Useful for studying the background and usage of theologically significant words in the GNT. Note also the useful appendix on theologically significant prepositions. I have used this since my seminary days in the 80s. Helpful for those who do not read Greek but want a fuller understanding of Greek terminology.
- Easton, M. G. *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996. Excellent source of biblical information regarding histories, people and customs. Fine for laypeople.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1980. Supplies the researcher with excellent info on the meanings of Hebrew words. Must know Hebrew to use this.
- Kittel, G. and G. Friedrich, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1933-1976. TMI ("too much information") for most uses, and flawed especially in the early volumes by critical and theological agendas, but still the most thorough source for information about words in the GNT.
- Richardson, Alan. *A Theological Word Book of the Bible*. New York, NY: MacMillan, 1950. If you can find a copy of this, it is worth the purchase. Although it is not exhaustive, it is quite helpful in giving you a working and fuller understanding of biblical words.

## Inerrancy of the Bible

- Geisler, Norman L. *Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979. I read this when I had Geisler for Bibliology and Dispensationalism while I attended Dallas Theological Seminary. If you don't know anything about the subject and want to delve into it, or if you are somewhat familiar with it, this book provides sound, solid information.
- Pache', Rene'. *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1969. One of the old standbys regarding the topic at hand. If you read anything on this subject, you should read this particular book. Pache will show you how the Bible is truly a distinct, divine book.

## Textual Transmission

- Bruce, F.F. *The Books and the Parchments, Some Chapters on the Transmission of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1963. Anything Bruce writes is worth the read. He provides his typical scholarly analysis of the scribal process, coupled with an introduction to everything from canonicity to the various early Bible versions.
- Geisler, Norman L. and William E. Nix. *From God to Us, How We Got Our Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1981. If you want to understand how we got the Bible, if you are interested in canonicity, then this is the book, especially for you as a layperson.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A General Introduction to the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1968. I don't know how many introductions I've read like this, but somewhere along the line you need to read a couple of them to give you good bedrock to work from as you study the Bible. In my personal estimation, you can get no better than Geisler.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament*. Oxford, 1987. Either of these books by Metzger are a must read in this given field. I have read and studied them over and over again throughout the years because they are so important to fully understand. If you have people attacking the veracity of the Bible in your hand, then you need to become very familiar with these titles.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The New Testament, Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Abingdon, 1965. I read this years ago and have gone back to it many times when data was needed in regards to this key subject. How did we get the New Testament? What were the processes behind its construction? These are the type of answers you find in this work.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament, Second Edition a Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament (4th Rev. Ed.)*, p 118. New York, NY: United Bible Societies, 1994. One of the chief purposes of the commentary is to set forth the reasons that led the Committee, or a majority of the members of the Committee, to adopt certain variant readings for inclusion in the text and to relegate certain other readings to the apparatus. On the basis of a record of the voting of the Committee, as well as, for most sessions, more or less full notes of the discussions that preceded the voting, the present writer has sought to frame and express concisely (a) the main problem or problems involved in each set of variants and (b) the Committee's evaluation and resolution of those problems. In writing the commentary, it was necessary not only to review what the Committee had done, but also to consult once again the several commentaries, concordances, synopses, lexicons, grammars, and similar reference works that had been utilized by members of the Committee during their discussions. More than once, the record of the discussion proved to be incomplete because, amid the lively exchange of opinions, the Committee had come to a decision without the formal enunciation of those reasons that appeared at the time to be obvious or self-evident. In such cases, it was necessary for the present writer to supplement, or even to reconstruct, the tenor of the Committee's discussions.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Text of the New Testament, Its Transmission Corruption and Restoration*. Oxford University Press, 1968. I had to read this when I was a Greek major at Dallas Theological Seminary. Excellent book regarding how scribal schools functioned in getting the Scriptures in our hands. It also contains a helpful primer on how scholars engage in textual criticism where textual “errors” occur in the biblical text.
- Reader’s Digest. *The Bible through the Ages*. The Reader’s Digest Association, Inc., 1996.
- Wurthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979. Read this as part of my Master’s degree in the OT. Good and helpful, but quite heady. If, however you desire to understand how your OT text became part of your Bible, then this is a must read.

## Dead Sea Scrolls

- Bruce, F.F. *Second Thoughts on the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977.
- Shanks, Hershel, James C. Vanderkam, P. Kyle McCarter, Jr. and James A. Sanders. *The Dead Sea Scrolls after Forty Years*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1991.
- Shanks, Hershel. *Understanding the Dead Sea Scrolls*. New York, NY: Random House, 1992.

## Old Testament Introductions

I won’t comment on each one of these, unless there is something important to say. If they are listed here, I read and use them.

- Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Rev. ed. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1974. One of the best titles you can own on this subject. Read it many times.
- Harrison, Roland Kenneth. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1969. Massive work on the subject. Excellent scholar who has written an Old Testament introduction with a plethora of information. Topics: the development of the Old Testament, Old Testament archaeology, ancient near Eastern chronology, the Old Testament text and canon, Old Testament history, Old Testament religion, Old Testament theology, the Pentateuch, the former prophets, the latter prophets, the sacred writings (Ruth, song of Solomon, the book of Lamentations, the book of Ecclesiastes, and the book of Esther), the Apocrypha.
- Hill, Andrew & Walton, John. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House Publishing, 1991. This is one of those introductions you can read as you read through the Old Testament. Each Bible book is addressed in a helpful format, giving you a working knowledge of the purpose and plan of the book in question, coupled with excellent archaeological and theological background information.
- Unger, Merrill F. *Introductory Guide to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1951.

- Wood, Leon. *Israel's United Monarchy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1979.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Prophets of Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1979.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Survey of Israel's History*. Rev. by David O'Brien. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986. An easy read, plus it's chock-full of excellent information about said subject. If you are studying some part of the Old Testament, you will find it helpful to read a chapter from this book which pertains to your study focus. For example, if you're reading through Exodus you will gain new insights by reading Chapter 6: Life in Egypt. Additionally, if you are studying the life and times of David, then you will find chapter II most helpful as it addresses the life of David. This is a conservative analysis of Israel's history.

## Old Testament Tools

- Beitzel, Barry J. *The Moody Press Atlas of Bible Lands*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985. Another excellent Bible atlas. You cannot have just one.
- Botterweck, G. Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Vols. 1-15. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1974-. I have all these volumes and use them when I am studying the OT, especially Hebrew. True, the articles are quite lengthy and full of a wealth of etymological information; however, you will always find your time investment in this work will prove quite beneficial in enhancing your knowledge of a given word.
- Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1977. Moving from Genesis to Malachi in a chapter and verse format, Einspahr tells you how to find all the key words in a particular passage in Brown, Driver, and Briggs' Hebrew lexicon. You might call this a short-cut which will save you thousands of dollars because you will not have to take Hebrew classes.
- Fingberg, Charles L. *Israel: At the Center of History and Revelation*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1980.
- *The Englishmen's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970. Great tool, especially if your Hebrew is lacking or rusty. Allows you to find Hebrew words as used throughout the OT from an English perspective. I use this one quite often as well. Saves time when you are studying.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1987. Easy to read book designed to help westerners gain cognitive appreciation of the Middle Eastern world of biblical times.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, 2 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1980. The church which ordained me, Green Valley Baptist, gave me this as a gift. I cannot tell you how many times it has benefitted my Bible study and sermon preparation. You must know Hebrew to use it, though.

## Old Testament Topics

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography of the Bible*. London: Westminster, 1979. If you desire to broaden and deepen your understanding of biblical geography, this is the book to own and read on the subject. This was required reading for a Ph.D. in Semitics when I was in the program at DTS back in 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. New York, NY: Macmillan, 1977. Every Bible student should have a copy of this sitting on their bookshelf. It provides excellent maps for many of the key events in both testaments.
- Craigie, Peter C. *The Problem of War in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983. During my fourth year at Dallas seminary, I did a private study with Dr. Eugene Merrill, an Old Testament professor at the school, concerning the concept of holy war in the Old Testament. This is one of the books I used as I prepared my detailed exegetical paper on the subject. If you are in the military, I think you'll find this book challenging and helpful. And if you are strapped for time you will enjoy the fact that it is only 112 pages.
- De Vaux, Roland. *Ancient Israel: Social Institutions*, Vol. 1. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1965. Yes, I know this is an old book and that will probably be hard to find; yet, should you desire to get a good handle on the background of life in Old Testament times, then this is the book you should read. Here is a list of some of the topics: Family Institutions, Slaves, The Israelite Concept of the State, The Person of the King, They Royal Household, Military Institutions, and Religious Institutions to name a few.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *Bible History: Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1992. An excellent read from a Jewish Christian perspective of the Old Testament.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Temple: Its Ministry & Services*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985. It contains one of the best descriptions of how the Old Testament Temple functioned in everyday life. Great discussions concerning the various sacrificial offerings and the plan and purposes of the various religious feasts.
- Feinberg, Charles F. *Israel: At the Center of History & Revelation*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1980. With the rise of anti-Semitism globally and nationally as prophesied in the Old Testament and in parts of the New Testament (i.e. Revelation 13), this book is a must-read. The late Dr. Feinberg, a world renowned Old Testament and Hebrew scholar and a converted Jew, unequivocally demonstrates the place of Israel and God's sovereign plan for mankind. It's a short read of 222 pages; however, in these final chapters you will gain a new appreciation and new insights into God's plan to redeem Israel at the end of time.
- Freeman, Hobart E. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1968. This is THE book, in my estimation, on OT prophets. He has great info on all of the prophets individually, and his opening chapters dealing with the role and purpose of the prophets is without parallel.

- Heaton, E. W. *Everyday Life in Old Testament Times*. New York, NY: Scribner's, 1956. If you can find this, buy it because it is EXCELLENT. A must read if you want to gain a deeper understanding of the OT world.
- Heschel, Abraham J. *The Prophets: an Introduction and Volume II*. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers, 1962. These two volumes are two of the best works I've ever read on Old Testament prophets. I read them back in the mid-70s and have gone back to them again and again over the years as I've studied the prophets.
- Jukes, Andrew. *The Names of God in Holy Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1991. His nine chapters cover nine main names for God in the Bible. Highly informative without getting you lost in all of the original language terminology.
- Negev, Avraham. *The Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land*. 3rd ed. New York, NY: Prentice Hall Press, 1990. The definitive one-volume reference to the ancient lands of the Bible, wedding scientific discovery and literacy and religious traditions to create a more precise understanding of man's culture. The three great world religions are treated thoroughly, incorporating the most up-to-date archaeological information.
- Unger, Merrill. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1954. Another dated book to be sure; however if you can find it is worth purchasing and reading. For example, if you have ever wondered why the Lord had the ancient Israelites eradicate the ancient Canaanites, then after you read the chapter on Canaanite theology/mythology and how it was pragmatically and brutally administered in the populace you'll see why God moved the way He did.
- Walton, John. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity, 2000. Whether you're reading through the Old Testament or simply studying a particular Old Testament book, you will find that this book will enrich and enhance your reading investment. The author, a skilled Old Testament scholar, takes you through each book of the Old Testament in a methodical fashion, explaining problematic passages, sayings, and customs from the cultural milieu of the times. This is a must-have for your library, especially if you're a teacher.
- Wolff, Hans Walter. *Anthropology of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1981. Another excellent book designed to help you understand Old Testament times, coupled with Old Testament/Jewish thinking about the construction of man, how he viewed time, sleep, sickness and healing, growing old, parents and children, and male and female relationships.

## New Testament Introductions

- Gromacki, Robert G. *New Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House Academic, 1974. Before coming to grips with an individual verse or passage in the New Testament, Bible students and expositors must understand how it relates to the theme of the book. Robert Gromacki's *New Testament Survey* provides a solid foundation for in-depth exegesis of each book in the New Testament.

- Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Ditto.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*, Rev. Ed. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity, 1990. A large book, consisting of almost 1,000 pages, but well worth your reading time. I worked my way through in grad school as I worked on a master's degree in New Testament Greek. I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the time investment.
- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 3 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1975–77. My favorite set on the subject. Read through it many times and I continually use it as a reference. Any commentary he has written is also worth reading. He is a fine, highly practical Greek scholar.

## New Testament Tools

- Alsop, John R., Ed. *An Index to the Revised Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich Greek Lexicon*, 2d ed. by F. Wilbur Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981. Enables you to find Greek words from a given passage you are studying in Bauer-Arndt- and Gingrich's Greek Lexicon. If you do not read Greek, or if your Greek is not what is used to be, then this is an invaluable tool.
- Barclay, William. *New Testament Words*. London: Westminster, 1974. I love this book. It gives you some insightful understandings into New Testament words. The only drawback is it is limited, meaning it does not cover very many words. I liken it to some of the tools in my toolbox I do not use often, but when I need them they are invaluable.
- Brown, Colin. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, 3 Vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House Publishing House, 1975.
- Kittel, Gerhard. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 10 Vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964-. The definitive etymological study of New Testament words. If you know Greek, or can gain access to this book by means of using the Logos Bible study software, your Bible study will be immediately enhanced by pouring over the entries in this series. Whenever I am working in the New Testament with Greek, I make sure I spend adequate time in Kittel. The reading can sometimes be daunting; however, it is always profitable because you find these rich theological gems which open up the meaning of the biblical text in a refreshing, exciting fashion.
- Thomas, Robert L., and Stanley N. Gundry. *A Harmony of the Gospels with Explanations and Essays*. New York, NY: Harper, 1978. I would put this on par with Robertson's Harmony of the Gospels.
- Robertson, A. T. *A Harmony of the Gospels for Students of the Life of Christ*. New York, NY: Harper, 1950. Every Bible student should have this book when they study the gospels. It will help you appreciate the chronological flow of NT gospel events.
- Trench, Richard Chenevix. *Synonyms of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1953. You need to know Greek to use this tool; however, it is invaluable for understanding NT words if you do know Greek.

## New Testament Topics

- Barrett, C. K. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. S.P.C.K., 1958. If you do not know what the Mishnah or Talmud are, this book will teach you by giving you excerpts from them for your knowledge enhancement. I have used it since the mid-1980s.
- Bouquet, A. C. *Everyday Life in New Testament Times*. New York, NY: Scribner, 1953. If you can find a copy of this, it is EXCELLENT. Nothing is better for giving you a great understanding of what it was like to live in the NT world.
- Bruce, A. B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1963. THE work on the subject. If you want to understand how the Lord developed the disciples into being great leaders who would impact the world as we know it, then this is the book to read.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services as They Were at the Time of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985. Should you desire to gain a deeper understanding of how the ancient Solomonic temple worked on a daily basis, then this is a must read.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1954. This is EXCELLENT, too, for getting your mind around the NT world of Jesus and His life and ministry. It is a really lengthy book but well worth the read. You will also find yourself coming back to it again and again as you study over the years.
- Keener, Craig S. *The Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993. This is the New Testament version of Walton's Old Testament analysis as introduced above. Again, I would suggest you have a copy of this handy for when you read the New Testament book.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1969. This Jewish scholar gives one of the best descriptions of Jerusalem in the times of Jesus I have ever read. Yes, it is no short read, but well worth your time if you are studying the NT. Each page is jam-packed with excellent information about what it was like to live in Christ's world.
- Josephus, Flavius. *Complete Works*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1960. Nobody but NT scholars or graduate students sits down and reads this massive tome; however, it is one you should own and refer to. Again, it is like a key tool in your tool box you do not use often but when you need it ... you need it.
- Pentecost, J. Dwight. *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981. It does not get any better than this. A must have.
- Reicke, Bo. *The New Testament Era*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1968. One of the more important books on the history of the world of Christ and the disciples. I read it back in 1985 and have gone through it many times since then. In fact, my copy is literally falling apart. A key tool to have on your shelf.

## General or Special Commentaries

- Richards, Larry, and Lawrence O. Richards. *The Teacher's Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987. In this outstanding Christian education resource, the entire Bible—Genesis 1 to Revelation 22—is divided into teachable units. There are many “link-to-life” ideas to help teach each unit to any age group.

## Commentary Sets

Before we look at which commentaries I would suggest reading/owning of a given Bible book, first let me offer some insights about the various volumes you will encounter in the books I will list. Refer back to this discussion as you look through those books to see how they might benefit you. Also, realize the books in the sets list below are not always transferred over to their Old or New Testament book location. I have them and use them, but haven't listed all of them so as to save time on my end.

- Alford, Henry. *The Greek Testament*. 4 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1958. Excellent work but you really need to know Greek to use it.
- Anders, Max. *Holman Old Testament Commentary*, 20 vols. Old Testament Commentary. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2009. Very user friendly for lay people. If you want a quick overview of given passage, coupled with a helpful teaching outline and practical pointers, then buy these commentaries. You'll also like the Main Idea section which aids you in understanding what a given passage is all about. Good for reading when you have either already done all your technical study or if you want to just read devotionally.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Holman New Testament Commentary*, 12 vols. Same points as mentioned above.
- Baker, David and Wenham, Gordon. *Apollos Old Testament Commentary*, 8 vols. So far. Wheaton, IL: IVP Academic, 2002. Newer commentary set still in production. Structured like the Word Biblical Commentary: Bible translation from the Hebrew text, form and structure analysis (looks at how the passage is put together from a literary perspective which is helpful when you teach), comment section gives thorough and detailed exegetical information, and the explanation section, which is the heart of the series, offers a full exposition of the theological message of the passage in question. Quite good.
- Barclay, William F. *The Daily Bible Series*, Rev. ed. 18 vols. London: Westminster, 1975. For NT backgrounds and word meanings, no one is better than Barclay. His liberalism, however, detracts from the miraculous nature of the biblical story. If, however, I had to choose which commentary sets I would own, this would be one of my top choices.
- Bruce, F. F., ed. *New International Commentary on the New Testament*, 20 vols. so far. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Typical chapter by chapter and verse by verse analysis of a given Bible book. Strong on the meaning of the text for the time being. Weak, in my view, on application; however, it is an excellent set for the information it

supplies in relation a book or passage you are studying. Also classified with the acronym NICNT.

- Carson, D.A. Editor. *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*, 14 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991. A relatively “new” commentary set and is proving itself to be one of the best. Easy to read, a plethora of information on a given biblical passage, coupled with user friendly discussion of important Greek words, etc. Again, this is another set I read when I study and prepare messages. Here is how the publishers describe this fine work: The Pillar New Testament Commentary [PNTC] is specifically designed for those students of Scripture who believe that the study of the text is critical for understanding the Bible correctly. Therefore, this series is an exegetical commentary which, though oriented to the NIV, adjudicates all questions on the basis of the Greek text. Writers of the PNTC volumes interact with the most important, informed contemporary debate yet avoid undue technical detail. Their ideal is a blend of rigorous exegesis and exposition, scholarship and pastoral sensitivity, with an eye alert both to biblical theology and to the contemporary relevance of the Bible. Historical and social data attendant to the text round out each volume. This is an extremely accessible and readable resource for students and pastors. This 14 volume set includes Matthew, Mark, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians/Philemon, 1&2 Thessalonians, Hebrews, James, 2 Peter/Jude, 1, 2, & 3 John. Contributors: D. A. Carson, Roy E. Ciampa, Peter H. Davids, James R. Edwards, Gene L. Green, G. Walter Hansen, Colin G. Kruse, Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, Peter T. O'Brien, David G. Peterson, Brian S. Rosner.
- Harrison, R. K. Editor. *New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, 15 vols. so far. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Same observations as above. Its acronym is NICOT. These are some of the first commentaries sets I purchased years ago and I still use them extensively.
- Hendriksen, William, and Simon J. Kistemaker. *New Testament Commentary*, 12 vols. so far. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1954-. Superb commentary set for those desiring a balance between deeper study and practical meaning.
- Hubbard, David, and Glenn W. Barker. *Word Biblical Commentary*, 52 vols. when complete. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing. Good analysis of the Bible text. It has three main movements as it addresses a given Bible book: Form/structure/setting (which is important if you are doing a Bible study/lesson), comment, and then explanation. You will probably find the comment section somewhat challenging insofar as there is a good deal of discussion about Hebrew or Greek words. Yet, I think the authors do a good job at letting you know what words they are discussing; therefore, it is not that foreboding.
- Keil, C. F., and F. Delitzsch. *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, 11 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1968. The commentary on the Hebrew text of the OT. One of the best Hebrew commentaries on the Old Testament. Tough to read in sections if you don't know Hebrew; however, if you can read around some of their intricate grammatical discussions, you will find this set is invaluable.

- Lenski, R. C. H. *Interpretation of the New Testament*, 12 vols. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1943. Excellent. I started using this in college in the late 1970s and I still use it today. Good Greek analysis.
- Longman, Tremper and Garland, David, General Editors. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. 13 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House. Short, succinct analysis of both Old and New Testament books. You do not have to know biblical languages to use this set, and the biblical words are discussed in English while the Hebrew or Greek is bracketed.
- MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983-. Need I say more? MacArthur's commentaries are excellent. Although I do not support his Lordship view of salvation for a variety of grammatical and theological reasons, his commentaries are ones I always refer to when studying.
- Morris, Leon, ed. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, Various eds., 20 vols. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity. A great set to own as a layperson. Good scholarship and short, succinct comments. Good to also read for daily devotions.
- Muck, Terry. Editor. *The NIV Application Commentary*, 20 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001. This commentary set contains fine biblical research, good outlines, coupled with some of the best practical insights you will find. When I work my way through a Bible book, this is one of the commentaries, of the many, I read from cover to cover. Here's how the publishers explain their great commentary: Most Bible commentaries take us on a one-way trip from the twentieth century to the first century, and along the way involve us in any number of valuable discussions. But sometimes, we feel like something has been left out. While we want to know the background of the biblical text, we also want help determining what it means for today. The creators of the NIV Application Commentary series believe that if we remain in the ancient world and don't translate the Bible into our world, the task of biblical interpretation remains incomplete. Thus the NIVAC series provides both the historical-exegetical meaning of the text, while also providing a bridge from the ancient world to the Bible's relevance today. Furthermore, the format of the NIVAC reflects its content by clearly denoting when it is discussing ancient context, the interpretive process that allows us to understand the text in our own setting, and when it is applying interpretations of the text to our daily life. This obvious nature of the format makes it exceptionally easy for the reader to know exactly where they are in the commentary itself, the interpretive process, as well as in the biblical book. In addition to its unique reader friendly format, the NIVAC is directly pinned to the NIV translation of the Bible making it, once again, exceptionally easy for non-specialist readers to follow the thoughts and direction of the commentator. While authors will, at times, work with the original languages full descriptions about any such terminology are given in non-technical language. Moreover, each author fluidly translates complex elements and interpretive matters into language the average lay person can fully understand and easily apply. Finally, the NIVAC series is highly recommended as a guide for Bible teachers of all kinds, and is an excellent resource for

research, preaching, garnering theological understanding, advanced devotional reading, and life application. Key Elements

- Commentary Type: Non-Technical
- General Perspective: Main Stream Evangelical
- Audience: Written by Scholars for Pastors, Students, & Laity
- Scripture: Inspired
- Theological Tradition: Mixed
- Knowledge of Hebrew and/or Greek is not necessary for using this series.

This last point should be most exciting for those not skilled in the biblical languages.

- Nicoll, W. Robertson. *The Expositor's Greek Testament Commentary*, 5 volumes. New York, NY: George H. Doran Company. There are five volumes in this set, providing the best Greek analysis you can have at your disposal. Virtually every word in the NT is treated. Lengthy introductions to biblical books are also helpful. Knowing Greek will aid you in appreciating the value of this work.
- Ogilvie, Lloyd. Editor. *The Preachers Commentary on the Old or New Testaments*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1986. Designed specifically for the layperson. Biblical Hebrew and Greek words are transliterated so you can read them, and the discussion of the given books is done in a concise, practical fashion. Good to read for devotions or after you have done deeper study and you just desire a bird's eye view of a given passage.
- Robertson, A. T. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, 6 vols. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1930. Every time I prepare a Bible study or sermon I refer to the entries in this set. He assists you by opening up the meanings of biblical words in the passage you are considering.
- Tasker, R.V.G., editor. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1981. Some commentaries are too technical for the average layperson, while others are so brief they give you very little spiritual milk and almost no meat. The aim of this set is to provide commentaries on the New Testament which will contain a sampling of both approaches. This approach gives us highly usable and practical commentaries written by a wide array of world renowned New Testament scholars. If you are looking for a good first starter set, then this is it.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary: An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire "BE" Series Volume 1 & 2*. Nashville, TN: Victor Books, 1989. Written from a pastoral perspective, you will gain much from this set. His chapter divisions are good, his analysis of the text is insightful, and his application of the biblical truths discovered is motivational as well as instructive. I typically read his commentary on a book I am studying after I've read the more intricate, complex commentaries. He helps you see the forest instead of feeling like you are lost in the forest.
- Yarbrough, Robert and Stein, Robert. Editors. *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005. One of the more important commentaries for serious students of the Word. I use this when I study any New Testament book. It offers excellent observations and discussions, plus its Greek analysis is most helpful and

enlightening. Knowledge of Greek is helpful, though not completely necessary, if you desire to use books from this set.

## Commentaries on the Old Testament

### Genesis

- Davis, John J. *Paradise to Prison*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1976.
- Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1963. One of the most famous older commentaries on the book of Genesis.
- Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1976. Written from the perspective of a world-class scientist. Interesting, thought-provoking insights not found in other commentaries.
- Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessings: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of the Book of Genesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1988. He taught me Hebrew at Dallas Theological Seminary. Fine man and great Old Testament scholar. In my estimation, this is one of the best commentaries on Genesis.

### Exodus

- Davis, John J. *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1986.
- Pink, Arthur W. *Gleanings in Exodus*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1981. You just don't get any better than Pink's analysis. He draws out spiritual concepts many others miss, leaving you challenged, comforted and convicted.
- Swindoll, Charles. *Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999.

### Leviticus

- Bonar, Andrew. *A Commentary on the Book of Leviticus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1959.
- Noordtzij, A. *Leviticus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus. New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979. An old stand-by. If you sink your interpretive spade into this Bible book, then you'll need to purchase this commentary for additional and proven insights.

### Numbers

- Harrison, R.K. *The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary: Numbers*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1990.
- Noordtzij, A. *Bible Student's Commentary: Numbers*. Chicago, IL: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983. Short but jam packed with excellent technical insights and observations that even a lay person will benefit from.

## Deuteronomy

- Christensen, Duane L. *Word Biblical Commentary: Deuteronomy 1:1-21:9*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001. Meaty treatment but highly useable. Better suited for a Bible educated person or pastor; however, if you, as a lay person, venture into the deep waters of all of this fine analysis, you will be blessed. So dig in.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Word Biblical Commentary: Deuteronomy 21:10-34:12*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001.
- Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy: New International Critical Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976. A study of this Mosaic book would be incomplete without this commentary. One of the best.
- McGonville, J.G. *Deuteronomy*. Wheaton, IL: IVP Academic, 2002.
- Payne, David F. *The Daily Study Bible Series: Deuteronomy*. Atlanta, GA: Westminster John Knox Press, 1985. Wonderful cultural and historical analysis of the text in question.

## Joshua

- Campbell, Donald K. *No Time for Neutrality*. Nashville, TN: Victor Books, 1981.
- Davis, John J. *Conquest and Crisis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1969. User-friendly treatment of Israel's battle for the Promised Land.
- Pink, Arthur. *Gleanings in Joshua*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1964.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- Woudstra, Marten H. *The Book of Joshua: New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1981. Another must-have for a study of this particular Bible book.

## Judges

- Campbell, Donald K. *Judges: Leaders in Crisis Times*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989. Dr. Campbell taught me at Dallas Theological Seminary. Fine scholar, godly man, and astute teacher and writer.
- Campbell, Edward F. Jr. *Ruth: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1975.
- Wood, Leon J. *Distressing Days of the Judges*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975. Lengthy and thorough treatment of the book in question.

## Ruth

- Campbell, Edward. *The Anchor Bible: Ruth*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1975. A liberal commentary but well worth the read.

- Chisholm, Robert. *A Commentary on Judges and Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2013. He was one of my Hebrew professors back in the 80s. Excellent scholar who has written a truly helpful and layperson friendly commentary on two pivotal Old Testament books. I took his exegetical class on Ruth and benefitted greatly from it. His commentary will do the same for you.

### **I & II Samuel**

- Andrews, Stephen J. and Robert D. Berken. *Holman Old Testament Commentary: I & II Samuel*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2009.
- Arnold, Bill T. *The NIV Application Commentary: I & II Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.
- Hertzberg, Hans Wilhelm. *I & II Samuel*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1960.
- Payne, David F. *The Daily Study Bible Series: I & II Samuel*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982.

### **I & II Kings**

- Konkel, August H. *The NIV Application Commentary: I & II Kings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2006.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Elijah: A Man of Heroism and Humility*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2000.

### **I & II Chronicles**

- Corduan, Winifred. *Holman Old Testament Commentary: I & II Chronicles*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2003.
- Hill, Andrew E. *The NIV Application Commentary: I & II Chronicles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.

### **Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther**

- Barber, Cyril J. *Nehemiah and the Dynamics of Effective Leadership*. Neptune NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1976.
- Campbell, Donald K. *Nehemiah: Man in Charge*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1984. Again, one of my former professors who truly impacted my life. Permit him to impact yours for Christ by sinking your interpretive spade into the rich soil of this book. Easy read but powerful and instructive.
- Fensham, Charles F. *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament: The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982. One of the first commentaries I purchased on these three Old Testament books. This purchase has never disappointed.

- Moore, Carey A. *Esther: A New Translation*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1971.
- Whitcomb, John C. *Esther: Triumph of God's Sovereignty*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1979.

## Job

- Anderson, Francis I. *Job*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity, 1976.  
Hartley, John E. *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament: The Book of Job*, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988. Hartley, educated at Brandeis University, has been one of the most influential mentors in my life. As the Chairman of the Religion Department of Biblical Studies and Professor of Old Testament at Azusa Pacific University, he challenged and deepened my thinking and faith more than any other professor I had in eight years of higher education. Truly a remarkable, godly, intelligent man. While in college, I had the opportunity to proof some of his work on this commentary. You will not find a better Old Testament scholar than Dr. Hartley. His mastery of biblical languages, coupled with this love of God and deep reverence for biblical truth will inspire you to greater spiritual things.
- Pope, Marvin H. *Job: A New Translation*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1983. Liberal, higher critical view of Job but one of the best commentaries nonetheless.
- Rowley, H. H. *The New Century Bible Commentary: The Book of Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.

## Psalms

- Alexander, J. A. *The Psalms Translated and Explained*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, no date.
- Anderson, A. A. *The New Century Bible Commentary: Psalms 1-72*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972.
- Craigie, Peter C. *Word Biblical Commentary: Psalms 1-50*. Nashville, TN: Word Book Publishing, 1983.
- Lawson, Steven J. *Old Testament Commentary: Psalm 76-150*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2006.
- Leupold, H. C. *Exposition on the Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1969.
- Longman, Tremper III. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008.
- Scroggie, W. Graham. *The Psalms*. London: Pickering, 1965.
- Spurgeon, C. H. *The Treasury of David, 3 vols.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1966.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing Group, 1997.

- Williams, Donald M. *The Preacher's Commentary: Psalms 1-72*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Preacher's Commentary: Psalms 73-150*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.
- Wilson, Gerald H. *The NIV Application Commentary: Psalms Volume 1*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2002.

### Proverbs

- Aitken, Kenneth T. *Proverbs: The Daily Study Bible Series*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1986.
- Alden, Robert L. *Proverbs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1983.
- Bridges, Charles. *A Commentary on Proverbs*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1968.
- Hubbard, David. *Mastering the Old Testament: Proverbs*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1989.
- McKane, William. *Proverbs*. Old Testament Library. London: Westminster, 1970.
- Phillips, John. *Exploring Proverbs, Volume Two: Proverbs 19:6-31:31*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux, 1996.

### Ecclesiastes

- Hubbard, David A. *The Preacher's Commentary: Ecclesiastes/Song of Solomon*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991.
- Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1952. As I have said before, you don't get any better than Leupold.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Living on the Ragged Edge: Coming to Terms with Reality*. New York, NY: Guideposts, 1985. I read this after I exited the Ph.D. program at DTS. I gained hope, direction, and life purpose by reading this fine work. I'm sure you'll find the same for your spiritual journey as you pour over these theologically sound pages.

### Song of Songs

- Glickman, S Craig. *A Song for Lovers*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1978. He taught me the doctrine of soteriology at Dallas Theological Seminary. Great teacher. Great book.
- Hubbard, David. *The Preacher's Commentary: Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991. Good, succinct, practical, lay friendly commentary of these intriguing Bible books.

### Isaiah

- Sawyer, John F.A. *Isaiah*, 2 vols. Westminster: John Knox Press, 1986. Excellent cultural background information.
- Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*, 3 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965-72. One of the best commentaries on Isaiah, but it is from a

covenant position, eschatologically speaking. So take note of this as you read prophetic sections.

## Jeremiah

- Feinberg, Charles L. *Jeremiah: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. One of my favorite writers on any biblical subject. Dr. Feinberg, a converted Jew, taught at Talbot for many years and wrote extensively. If I were you, I would buy every book I could find by him and read them.
- Thompson, J.A. *The Book of Jeremiah: The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.

## Lamentations

- Harrison, R. K. *Jeremiah and Lamentations: Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity, 1973.
- Jensen, Irving L. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1974. Designed for the layperson.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A Biblical Approach to Personal Suffering*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1982. One of the top Old Testament scholars in the world today. He is another man you should read. His passion for Christ and the Word of God in a relativistic, ever-changing culture will energize your faith and equip you for the tough times ahead.

## Ezekiel

- Feinberg, Charles L. *The Prophecy of Ezekiel*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1969. As I've said, none better.
- Lange, John Peter, Philip Schaff, Wilhelm Julius Schröder, Patrick Fairbairn, William Findlay, Thomas Crerar, and Sinclair Manson. *A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Ezekiel*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2008.

## Daniel

- Strauss, Lehman. *The Prophecies of Daniel*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1969. Former pastor of Emmanuel Bible Church in Escondido, Dr. Lehman, a DTS educated scholar, was well-known in his day as a gifted bible student and communicator. Should you find any of his books, purchase them. They are easy to read and evidence a fine balance between the technical and the practical.
- Walvoord, John F. Daniel, *The Key to Prophetic Revelation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1971. Former President for many years of Dallas Theological Seminary. Here is another great, godly man who impacted my life before the Lord called him home. Dr. Walvoord was a humble, quiet, kind Bible scholar, who used his teaching/writing abilities to touch the lives of untold thousands of pastors. I had lunch with him and some other pastors just a couple of

weeks before the lord called him home. What a man. He was also one of the most famous scholars in the realm of eschatology in his day, using his background to defend the pre-millennial, dispensational position.

- Wood, Leon J. *Commentary on Daniel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1972. Very conservative, thorough treatment of Daniel.

## Minor Prophets

- Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976.
- Barin, David. *Commentary on Zechariah: His Visions and Prophecies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publication, 1988.
- Craigie, Peter C. *Twelve Prophets, Volume 1 & 2*. Louisville, KY: The Westminster Press, 1984 & 1985. Sound cultural and historical background information.
- Feinberg, Charles L. *The Minor Prophets*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976. Top-drawer treatment of the minor prophets. One drawback, though, is it hard to find chapter and verse analysis quickly because they are not readily noted in the text. You'll have to make those notations as you read, but this book is at the top of one's you'll need to own if studying these ancient inspired works.
- Finley, Thomas J. *Joel, Amos, Obadiah: The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1990.
- Maier Walter A. *The Book of Nahum*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1959.

## Commentaries on the New Testament

### Matthew

- Barclay, William. *The Gospel of Matthew Volume 1*. Louisville, KY: The Westminster Press, 1975.
- Blomberg, Craig. *Matthew, New American Commentary 22*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1992. Readable and insightful.
- Carson, D. A. *Matthew, EBC*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984. Thorough and conservative.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.
- Keener, Craig S. *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999. Thorough, including thoughtful insights on the social and literary world of the first century and Matthew's interaction with it.
- Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Matthew's Gospel*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961. Lenski comes at the text from a Lutheran perspective. His Greek and textual analysis is excellent and thorough, leaving no stone unturned. Multiple views will be given and then he will chose and defend his choice. Holds a high view of Scripture.

- Toussaint, Stanley D. *Behold the King, A Study of Matthew*. New York, NY: Multnomah, 1980.
- Weber, Stuart K. Vol. 1, *Matthew: Holman New Testament Commentary*, p 115. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000. Good, solid commentary for laypeople. Easy to read and helpful discussions and practical comments.

### Mark

- Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1963. Competent discussion of the Greek text. Not very practical though.
- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *Mark, a Portrait of the Servant*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1974.

### Luke

- Hendricksen, William. *New Testament Commentary: Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1978.

### John

- Hughes, R. Kent. *John: That You May Believe*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
- Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Living Water: Studies in John 4*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2009. You just don't get any better than Dr. Lloyd-Jones. This book will be refreshing water for the dry soil of your life.
- Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John, the English Text with Introduction, Exposition and Notes*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.
- Pink, Arthur. *Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1945.
- Ryle, J.C. *Expository Thought on John, Volumes 1-3*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of the Truth Trust, 1987.
- Westcott, B. F. *The Gospel According to Saint John*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1950.

### Acts

- Bruce, F. F. *The Book of Acts: New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1956.
- Couch, Mal, ed. *A Bible Handbook to the Acts of the Apostles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004. Dr. Couch has combined the best of a Bible handbook with that of a theology book into this one book. Excellent maps, wedded to sound and insightful discussion of biblical backgrounds for the book in question.
- Harrison, Everett F. *Acts: The Expanding Church*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976.
- Larkin William J., Jr. *Acts: The IVP New Testament Commentary Series*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

## Romans

- Barnhouse, Donald. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982. One of the best commentaries you will ever read on this monumental work by Paul the Apostle.
- Cranfield, C. E. B. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*, 2 vols. International Critical Commentary; T. & T. Clark, 1975–77.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Preaching the Word: Romans*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991. Pastor of College Church in Wheaton, IL, Illinois, Dr. Hughes brings great scholarship and practical understanding to biblical books. Read this as well as his other commentaries.
- Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Romans*, 13 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971–76. The definitive work on the book of Romans. None better than this.

## I & II Corinthians

- Barrett, C. K. *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. New York, NY: Harper and Row Publishers, 1973.
- Fee, Gordon D. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987.
- Plummer, Alfred. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914.
- Robertson, Archibald, and A. Plummer. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. International Critical Commentary; T. & T. Clark, 1914.

## Galatians

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Galatians, a Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.
- Hogg, C.F. and W.E. Vine. *The Epistle to the Galatians and the Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Scripture Truth Book Company, no date.
- Kent, Homer A., Jr. *The Freedom of God's Sons: Studies in Galatians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1976.
- Lightfoot, Joseph Barber. *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1966.

## Ephesians

- Barth, Markus. *Ephesians 1-3: A New Translation*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1967.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ephesians 4-6: A New Translation*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1974.

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians: New International Commentary on the New Testament*; Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1984.
- Hendriksen, William. *Epistle to the Ephesians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1966.
- Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Expositions on Ephesians*, 8 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1972–82.

## Philippians

- Lightfoot, Joseph B. *Commentary on the Epistle of St. Paul Philippians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1953.

## Colossians

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians: New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1984.
- Lightfoot, Joseph Barber. *St. Paul's Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1959.

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians

- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *The Thessalonian Epistles*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1971.
- Hogg, C.F. and W.E. Vine. *The Epistle to the Galatians and the Epistles to the Thessalonians*. Carlisle, PA: Scripture Truth Book Company, no date.
- Morris, Leon. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians: New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1959.

## 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

- Fairbairn, Patrick. *Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1956.
- Kent, Homer A. *The Pastoral Epistles*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1982.

## Philemon

- Barclay, William. *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster: John Knox Press, 1975.
- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *Titus and Philemon*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1957. Excellent, lay-friendly, short commentary by a gifted New Testament Greek scholar.
- Lightfoot, J.B. *Saint Paul's Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1959. An old stand-by written by a world renowned Greek scholar. Knowledge

of Greek is helpful in reading this commentary, but you can still glean much from it if you are just steeped in English.

## Hebrews

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Hebrews: New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990.
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- Kent, Homer A. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 1972.
- Westcott, Brooke Foss. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1970.

## James

- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *The Epistle of James, Tests of a Living Faith*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1979.

## 1 Peter

- Grudem, Wayne A. *1 Peter*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity, 2009.
- Hiebert, David Edmond. *First Peter*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1984. One of my favorite, Greek educated New Testament Scholars. He puts the grammar into helpful perspective.

## 2 Peter, Jude

- Hiebert, David Edmond. *Second Peter and Jude*. Greenville SC: BJU Press, 1989.
- Kelly, J.N.D. *A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter and Jude*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981. He transliterates the Greek so English speaking readers can enjoy his analysis. Very helpful.

## 1, 2, 3 John

- Bruce, F.F. *The Gospel and Epistles of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983.
- Westcott, Brooke Foss. *The Epistles of Saint John*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1966. A knowledge of Greek would prove helpful in reading this commentary.

## Revelation

- Barnhouse, Donald Grey. *Revelation: An Expository Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971.
- Morris, Henry M. *The Revelation Record*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1986.

- Seiss, J. A. *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House. Originally published in 1900.
- Thomas, Robert L. *Revelation 1-7, An Exegetical Commentary*, Vol. 1 of 2 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992.
- Walvoord, John F. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1966.

## Apologetics

- Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. London: Paternoster Publishing, 2006. THE work, in my estimation, on the four viable types of apologetics available for saints in their commitment to defend the faith. Although it is a long book (some 500+ pages), it is worth the read. You'll come away with for excellent methods to use as you engage a godless world. He even gives you conversation scenarios to learn how to employ the apologetic method in question. This is so helpful because many times you need to shift your tactics depending on whom you are speaking with and where they are coming from scholastically, philosophically, and so forth.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, Baker Reference Library*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999. The opus magnum of a popular Christian apologist. Based on a lifetime of study, this comprehensive reference covers everything in apologetics from Anselm to Zen.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and Randy Douglass. *Bringing Your Faith to Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Fantastic, though cognitively difficult introduction to biblical apologetics. Do not read this at bed-time! And it might even be a good idea to read it with another person, and from experience, I must say, it is also beneficial to read a given chapter over several times so the thinking and method can be better understood and applied to your life.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ethics: Alternatives and Issues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971. I know, it's an old book but the topic and answers never grow old. You will find the chapters still pertinent for the questions our culture poses today on so many thorny issues.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *How Should We Then Live?* Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be an Atheist*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004. Of all of the apologetic books you can read, you must read this one. This is the kind of book I read through multiple times to broaden my understanding of how to do apologetics effectively in our culture. Whether you are dealing with someone who opposes the Christian faith because of their belief in science, or you are debating someone regarding the concept of miracles this is the book to equip you to know what to say. I have read literally thousands of pages on apologetics over the years, and I can safely say this is one of the top books I have read. It is also an excellent book to give to your atheistic, agnostic, science loving, skeptical friends.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Battle for the Resurrection*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Why I Am A Christian: Leading Thinkers Explain Why They Believe*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001. Got any skeptical, agnostic, atheistic friends or family members? Don't know how to speak to them about God and His gospel? This powerful book will equip you to be an effective voice to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and Ravi Zacharias. *Who Made God?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003. Tough questions about the Christian faith can leave you speechless if you don't know the answers, and, yes, there are answers. You name the tough question and Geisler and Zacharias address it head-on in this info-packed book. You can either read it all the way through, which is what I did, or you can just read chapters here and there pertaining to the issue at hand. Either way, this purchase is a win-win deal.
- Hindson, Ed and Ergun Caner. *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2008. Need a book for devotions and to deepen your understanding of how to defend the faith? If so, then purchase this book and commit to reading a few entries per day. You name the modern day issue negatively impacting the faith in Christ and this book addresses it in a concise, easy to understand fashion.
- House, H Wayne and Joseph M. Holden. *Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2006. EXCELLENT source of quick info on said subject.
- Howe, Frederic R. *Challenge and Response*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. A great primer on the art of apologetics and how it differs from evangelism.
- Koukl, Greg. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2009. If you read any book on the art of apologetics, this should be it. I have read and re-read it, studied it and re-studied it countless times. Of all the books on apologetics I've read over the last thirty years, this is one of the best, especially for laypeople. When you are finished reading this book, you will know how to guide a discussion about spiritual things in a non-combative, effective fashion.
- Kumar, Steve. *Christianity for Skeptics*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000. Written with the layperson in mind, which is, I'm sure, right down you alley. Good book to have around the house, also, if you have high-schoolers or college age students. When they start saying things like, "I just don't believe in God anymore," or "It doesn't seem to be logical to believe in God," then you are going to be glad you have this copy in your possession.
- Lutzer, Erwin W. *Exploding Myths That Could Destroy America*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1986. If you can still find this book in print, you must buy a copy. I guarantee that you will devour it. Although it was written twenty-eight years ago, it is still pertinent to our present day, deceived and brainwashed culture. A listing of some of the myths he addresses will whet your appetite for deeper study: The Myth That Life Began By Blind Change, The Myth That We Can Have Morality Without Religion, The Myth That The Roles Of Men And Women Are Interchangeable, The Myth That Pornography Is A Harmless Adult Pleasure, The Myth

We Can Take On Water And Stay Afloat. At this point you are probably reaching for your computer so you can get on Amazon and make this purchase. I don't blame you. Wise move.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ten Lies About God and How You Might Already Be Deceived*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000. He is one of my top five favorite apologetic authors. I read everything he writes. His logic is airtight, and his analysis of false systems of belief is enlightening and equipping. With this book you have another must read. To make a lasting, spiritually profitable impact on people in your life who have been duped by the false worldviews of our day, you have to read and study this work. Dr. Lutzer takes the lies our culture has fed us and shows how they are far afield from sound logic and sound theology. Here are a few of those lies he treats: Lie 1: God Is Whatever We Want Him To Be; Lie 2: Many Paths Lead Into God's Presence; Lie 3: God Is More Tolerant Than He Used To Be. See what I mean? All in all, he covers ten cultural lies.
- McDowell, Josh. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Campus Crusade for Christ, 1972. When critics criticize the faith, it leaves some believers wondering what to say in return. How do you defend the deity of Jesus? How can you possibly trust the Bible? With his typical detailed scholastic style McDowell gives you potent, logical answers to these questions. You'll walk away not just more informed, but better equipped to go on the offense with the reasonableness of the faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Evidence for the Resurrection*. Grand Rapids, MI: Regal Publishing, 2009. The title pretty much summarizes the content.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *More Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Campus Christ for Christ, 1975. Higher critics, that usually populate our non-Christian universities, make mental mincemeat out of the young minds who sit under their tutelage by using their liberal techniques to discredit the Scriptures. In 27 chapters, McDowell pulls back the curtain on their erroneous and fallacious claims, thereby, preparing you to reason them toward faith, or to, at least, leave them without a contrary word to say. One of my friends, whose straight-A, Christian daughter was mentally mugged at U.C. Davis years ago, used the content from this study to help her understand that her faith had great intellectual and logical validity.
- Moreland J.P. *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1987.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. A difficult and challenging book to read, but if you want to get a real handle on the art of apologetics then this is a must read.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *A Christian Manifesto*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1981. For much of my life, Schaeffer was my apologetic mainstay. I read everything by him I could get my hands on. What a fine mind. What a great teacher. He's now with the Lord, but his powerful works live on and you cannot go wrong with any of them. In this manifesto, Schaeffer shows why morality and freedom have evaporated in our culture, and what the Church should be doing about it to stop the slide into further darkness and decadence.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Addicted To Mediocrity: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christians and the Arts*. Cornerstone Books, 1981.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Art & the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1977.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Back To Freedom and Dignity*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Church before the Watching World*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Escape From Reason*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The God Who Is There*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1968. Another good book on the tenuous nature of non-Christian worldviews and how the Christian worldview is the most viable, logical, and tenable one.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *He Is There and He Is Not Silent*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1972. I cannot tell you how many times I've used the content of this little, short book to guide non-believers to Christ. If you want an excellent non-biblical argument for the existence and presence of a living, personal God, then you have to read this book. You will also need to memorize some of his great stories which illustrate theological truths so you can guide the lost to Jesus. One of my all-time favorites.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Mark of the Christian*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *No Little People*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1978. Yes, I know another old book. You are right but sometimes the older ones are the better ones. I read this right after I finished college and quickly learned that God typically uses obscure, unknown people to accomplish great things for His kingdom.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *True Spirituality*. Carol Stream IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971. The process of spiritual maturation is addressed in a great way in this book. Another good book to read for devotions.
- Sproul R.C. *Lifeviews: Understanding the Ideas that Shape Society Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1986. I read this back in the 80s but it is still pertinent today. In order for you to effectively combat the false thinking of our day, you must understand the worldview you are working with and what its inherent and logical weaknesses are. This work will assist you in that worthy endeavor. Sproul finishes off the last half of the book with an excellent discussion about the role of the Christian in a godless, carnal world. Great book for any Christian, and especially helpful for parents with children headed to college or for students already in the university setting.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998. I've used this book and the following one in training many saints over the last several years. In this book, Strobel methodically goes through all the evidence available regarding the person and work of Jesus as the true Messiah and Savior. He appeals to experts in various fields in order to validate the truth about Jesus's divine identity. A must read for those who engage our culture.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Case for Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000. Sadly, I've heard my share of stories of university bound church teens who park their faith because they have issues with it. I've also heard my share of questions posed by skeptics, atheists, and agnostics in their quest to denigrate the Christian faith. By reading this book, you'll bump

into those problematic questions, while also finding logical, viable answers to them. When you finish the former book, you should probably read this one next.

- Watkins, William D. *The New Absolutes*. Grand Rapids, MI; Bethany House Publishers, 1996. True moral absolutes have been strategically and cunningly replaced by the false teachers of our day. Learn how to isolate these false teachings, deconstruct them, and point the person in question to biblical, unchanging, life-giving truth.
- Zacharias, Ravi. *Beyond Opinion*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007. There are not many apologetic books I go back to again and again, but this is one. Whether you are headed off to the university, or just want to get a handle on how to defend the Bible and Christianity in an ever-increasing hostile world, you need to work your way through this book. Multiple apologetic authors cover everything from Difficult Questions posed by Post-modernism, Atheism, Islam, and Science, to Addressing the Questions behind the Questions. Read this book to equip you to be a better defender of the faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Can Man Live without God?* Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus among Other Gods*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000. The book spine on my copy is completely broken. That should tell you something. In a world with a plethora of religions, why is Jesus unique? Ravi will answer that question and he will also definitively demonstrate how all religions cannot possibly be all true at the same time. He'll also show why Jesus was who he claimed to be, thereby making Him the way, the truth, and the life.

## Church History

- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity, Volume 1 & 2*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1953.
- Reid, Daniel G., Robert Dean Linder, Bruce L. Shelley, and Harry S. Stout. *Dictionary of Christianity in America*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990.
- Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*. Waco, TX: Word Publishing, 1982.

## Cults

- Bowman, Robert M., Jr. *Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1989. All of these books by Bowman are superb. His exegesis of problematic texts is sound and powerful.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses: Why They Read the Bible the Way They Do*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Why You Should Believe in the Trinity: An Answer to Jehovah's Witnesses*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1989. JWs are strict monotheists, meaning they deny the concept and existence of the trinity. In order to walk them toward the truth of the trinity, you need to know what

they think, where they go wrong in their hermeneutics, and how to properly interpret the pivotal texts concerning this doctrine.

- Dolan, David. *Holy War for the Promised Land*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991. Old work but still timely and pertinent for Middle Eastern study and analysis.
- Gabriel, Mark A. *Islam and Terrorism: What the Quran Really Teaches About Christianity, Violence and The Goals of the Islamic Jihad*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2002. Mark grew up in Egypt, earned a doctorate in Islamic studies and taught at the prestigious Al-Azhar University in Cairo prior to coming to faith in Jesus as the true God and Messiah. His Ph.D. is Christian Education and he holds a master's degree in world religions. Believe me, he is an apologetic force to be reckoned with and a person you need to read regarding this most pertinent subject. He lives in our area, so if you ever get an opportunity to hear him speak, seize it. Prior to that, purchase his books and get educated about how Islam is theologically diametrically opposed to the Christian faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus and Muhammad: Profound Differences and Surprising Similarities*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2004. One of the best comparative/contrastive studies between Jesus and Muhammad I've read.
- Geisler, Norman L. and Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. A definitive work on the Islamic faith. For those among us who deal with this faith in a geo-political/military setting, this is a book you need to read to broaden your understanding of truth verses error.
- Hexham, Irving. *Concise Dictionary of Religion*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Hoekema, Anthony. *Christian Science*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963. Anything you find by this author, buy and read it .
- Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. I heard the late Dr. Martin teach and debate on several occasions when I was younger. In his day he was THE apologist of the Christian faith, especially gifted where cults were concerned. This book, in my view, is THE book you should have regarding cults. It contains a wealth of information about cults, showing you what they teach and contrasting that with the true teaching of the Word of God.
- Marshall, Paul, Roberta Green and Lela Gilbert. *Islam at the Crossroads: Understanding Its Beliefs, History, and Conflicts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.
- McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. *Handbook of Today's Religions*. Orlando, FL: Here's Life Publishers, Inc. 1983. Your book shelf should have this copy at the ready. Mine does. I keep it close for quick reference. All major cultic systems we face nationally and internationally are treated in this book.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Occult: The Authority of the Believer Over the Power of Darkness*. Nashville, TN; Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Understanding Secular Religions*. Orlando, FL: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1982.

- Morey, Robert. *The Islamic Invasion: Confronting the World's Fastest Growing Religion*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1992. Excellent book to get you in-the-know with Islamic teachings and goals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Understanding the Occult*. Orlando, FL: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1982. If you have someone in your life who is dabbling in the occult, read this book for it will tell you how to reach out to them to help protect them from the wiles of the Devil.
- Passantio, Robert and Gretchen. *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers.
- Sire, James W. *Scripture Twisting: 20 Ways Cults Misread the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, Inc., 1980. Cults are skilled at making Scripture say what God never intended. Sire will show you how they pervert the text and how to bring them back to the true meaning of the Word.

## Leadership

- Blackaby, Henry and Richard. *Moving People On To God's Agenda: Spiritual Leadership*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2001.
- Davis, Ron Lee. *Mentoring: The Strategy of the Master*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991.
- Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1994. All staff are required to read this top-drawer work. The world teaches us their version of leadership, which is good to a point; however, it is vastly different, in many respects, from spiritual leadership as articulated in the Word of God. By reading this book you'll know what it costs to be God's leader among God's people.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Hand Me Another Brick: Principles of Effective Leadership*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1978. Great study of leadership from one of the great leaders in the Old Testament, Nehemiah.
- Yeager, William E. *Who's Holding the Umbrella?* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984. The late Dr. Yeager was the Senior Pastor at the 5,000 member First Baptist Church in Modesto, CA where he stayed for thirty years. In my thirties, he mentored me, along with Norman Giesler's childhood/teenage pastor Dr. Adolph Braun, in the ways of a biblical shepherding. I am who I am today as a pastor/leader because of their influence on my life. Really, Dr. Yeager taught me the pragmatic side of caring for and guiding a local church based on biblical principles. I miss him dearly but still employ all he taught me. Want to be stretched as a leader? Good ... then read this book.

## Marriage

- Adams, Jay E. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1980. A very short treatment of a very important subject, but well worth the read, I've gone back to this work many times over the last thirty years.

- Dobson, James. *Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives*. Nashville, TN: Word Books Publisher, 1980. Got marriage issues? Need to get your marriage back on track? Here is the book for both of you.
- Harley Willard F Jr. and Jennifer Harley Chalmers. *Surviving an Affair*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1998. Another wonderful book designed to help those whose mate has compromised their once exciting and joyful marriage.
- Jenkins, Jerry B. *Hedges: Loving Your Marriage Enough To Protect It*. Nashville, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, Publishers, Inc., 1989. Every married person needs to read this book! He teaches you highly practical and logical ways to protect yourself and your mate from having an affair. Don't think it can happen to you? Think again. Wise people do wise things to safeguard their unity. Within these pages you'll find out the dos and don'ts of dealing and interacting with people of the opposite sex if you are married. Hey, here is a novel idea: read this book with your mate and discuss it openly and honestly. You will be glad you did.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. *The Family*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1982. Fine, biblical treatment of how God views the family and what is expected of us as husbands, wives, and parents.
- Peterson, J. Allan. *The Myth of the Greener Grass*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1985. Affairs plague our culture, especially in the D.C. environment where power and prestige, coupled with long hours away from your wife or husband come into play. For those struggling with illicit activity, you need to read this book and begin to apply its marriage enriching principles.
- Smoke, Jim. *Growing Through Divorce*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1986. Working through a divorce in many respects is like dealing with a death. For those who are either going through a break-up or who are legally divorced, this book will show you how to function and behave from a biblical perspective.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Strike The Original Match*. Minneapolis, MN: World Wide Publications, 1977. Want to breathe life, joy, and peace into your marriage? This is an old title, but it is chock-full of great stories and even better biblical guidance to enable you to build a marriage which will bring you happiness and God much glory.
- Warren, Neil Clark. *Date Or Soulmate?* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Books, 2002. For those who are dating, you can't find a better book to equip you in how to properly identify a soul-mate. I can't tell you how many young people I've steered toward this enriching, educational book.
- Yorkey, Mike, General Editor. *The Focus on the Family Guide To Growing A Healthy Home*. Nashville, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers, Inc., 1990.

## Parenting

- Dobson, James. *Dare To Discipline*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1970. I think my mother is convinced the premise of this book kept me from a life of crime. If you happen

to have a strong-willed child, you'll gain hope and direction, along with a game plan for heading to peace in this work.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Hide or Seek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1979.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Parenting Isn't For Cowards*. Nashville, TN: Word Books Publisher, 1987.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preparing for Adolescence*. Savannah, GA: Vision House, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Strong-Willed Child*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1984. My mother said the content of this book, as applied consistently to my life, saved me from a life of crime! Thanks, mom. Should you have a strong-willed child, Dr. Dobson will show you how to get control of them and grow them into a viable family member and contributor to society.
- Huggins, Kevin. *Parenting Adolescents*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1989.
- Meier, Paul, Donald Ratcliff and Fredrick Rowe. *Child-Rearing and Personality Development*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. A great to help you work through the various stages of child development. Also, this book contains some excellent grids/templates on how not to raise certain problematic personality types. Very interesting.

## Prayer

- Bounds, E. Me. *Power through Prayer*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books House, 1977. There are no greater books written on prayer than these books. If you would like to read about the powerful life of E.M. Bounds, then I would direct you to Warren Wiersbe's *Walking with the Giants*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Prayer and Praying Men*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Purpose in Prayer*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Essentials of Prayer*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Necessity of Prayer*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Possibilities of Prayer*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Reality of Prayer*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Weapon of Prayer*.
- Foster, Richard J. *Prayer, Finding the Heart's True Home*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992.
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Whitaker House, 1981.

## Political Books

- Beck, Glenn, *Arguing With Idiots*. New York, NY: Mercury Radio Arts, Inc., 2009.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *An Inconvenient Book*. New York, NY, NY: Mercury Radio Arts, Inc., 2007.
- Bloom, Allan. *The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy and Impoverished the Souls of Today's Students*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1987. An excellent

book if you are interested in what has happened to water down the thinking abilities of the modern educated person.

- Bork, Robert. *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. New York, NY: Regan Books, 1996. My copy is well-worn, stained, and falling apart because I've read it and studied it so many times. The late Judge Bork does a tremendous job showing how modern godless liberalism has strategically and purposefully destroyed our Judeo-Christian culture in order to give us the ultimate Statist power. This is THE most important book you can read on the current culture war in order to equip you as Christian to do your part in holding back the descending darkness. One book reviewer's words capture the essence of this work so well: "They just didn't go into universities. The radicals were not likely to go into business or the conventional practice of the professions. They were part of the chattering class, talkers interested in policy, politics and culture. They went into politics, print and electronic journalism, church bureaucracies, foundation staffs, Hollywood careers, public interest organizations; anywhere attitudes and opinions could be influenced".

Robert H. Bork saw it coming. This quotation from his brilliant 1996 book "Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline" depicts the tactics employed by the 1960's radicals to assert themselves and gain influence in virtually every aspect of American life. Evidently it has worked like a charm because the decline of American values, culture and standards that Bork foresaw 17 years ago has largely come to pass. Recently, I decided to re-read "Slouching Towards Gomorrah" in an effort to get some kind of handle on just what is going on in this country. As it turns out Mr. Bork's book is quite prophetic and a real eye opener.

According to Mr. Bork the root of our decline is the rise of modern liberalism, which stresses the dual forces of radical egalitarianism (the equality of outcomes rather than opportunities) and radical individualism (the drastic reduction of limits to personal gratification). These were ideas that were embraced by the student radicals of the 1960's and these folks have been working tirelessly to advance them in any way they could ever since. These days there is no need for violence or confrontation because these very same radicals now control the very institutions that they formerly attacked. In the pages of "Slouching Towards Gomorrah" Robert Bork points to dozens of examples of how these values are now being foisted on the American people and how liberals will use their friends in the courts to forward their radical agenda when they are unable to succeed legislatively. As Mr. Bork astutely points out our Founders may have erred by not putting any checks and balances on the judiciary.

Take some time to survey the political landscape of America today and you will see the evidence of what Robert Bork is talking about in his book. Crime, illegitimacy and welfare are all on the rise. The culture of death has made abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia much more acceptable to a large segment of the American public. Our educational institutions at all levels are a mess and the "dumbing down of America" continues.

Meanwhile, Hollywood and their counterparts at the television networks continue to 'push the envelope' with evermore lewd and tasteless offerings. Morale in our military is at an all-time low and there are genuine concerns about the security of our nation. This simply does not seem to be much of a priority with the folks in charge these days. And despite the fact that the United States elected its first black President in 2008 the racial divide in this country continues to widen. The fact is that Barack Obama has sought to divide the people of this nation in every way imaginable. From where I sit the decline of our nation is accelerating and this is precisely what Robert Bork predicted in his book.

I find that every so often it is useful to re-read a book to gain insight and perspective on what is going on in the world. Such was the case with "Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline". I was quite impressed the first time I read it back in 1996 and even more impressed this time around. Very highly recommended!

- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Tempting of America: The Political Seduction of the Law*. London: Collier MacMillan Publishers, 1990.
- Buchanan, Patrick. *The Death of the West*. New York, NY: St. Martin Press, 2002. Mr. Buchanan gives us the research to demonstrate how the Judeo-Christian west is under direct assault from internal and external factors. In light of the influx of illegal aliens, I think you will find the chapter titled "La Reconquista" most enlightening and alarming.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Suicide of a Superpower*. New York, NY: St. Martin Press, 2011. The title says it all. The author shows us how we are purposefully being destroyed as a nation on multiple fronts. He closes with wise words about what we should do before we don't have a nation anymore, or at least one that our forefathers would recognize.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Where The Right Went Wrong*. New York, NY: St. Martin Press, 2004.
- Colson, Charles. *Against The Night*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1989. Designed to help you know how to do apologetics in a secular humanistic environment. One of the more important books I have ever read on our culture from a theological perspective.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Body*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1992.
- Coulter, Ann. *Liberal Lies About The American Right*. New York, NY: Crown Publishers, 2002.
- Day, Vox. *The Return of the Great Depression*. Washington, D.C.: WorldNet Daily, 2009.
- Dershowitz, Alan. *The Case for Israel*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003.
- Flynn, Daniel J. *Why The Left Hates America*. New York, NY: Prima Publishing, 2002.
- Gersemann, Olaf. *Cowboy Capitalism: European Myths, American Reality*. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 2004
- Hannity, Sean. *Let Freedom Ring*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2002.
- Henry, Carl F. *The Christian Mindset In A Secular Society: Promoting Evangelical Renewal & Nation Righteousness*. New York, NY: Multnomah Press, 1984. Gaining insight in our cultural decay is crucial for Christians and this book will assist you to that end.

- LaPierre, Wayne R. *Guns, Crime and Freedom*. Washington, D.C.: Regenery Publishing, Inc., 1994.
- Levin, Mark. *Ameritopia*. New York, NY: Threshold Editions, 2012. The author's general premise is one we all readily see in our culture: utopianism must replace constitutionalism and capitalism. Such will prove to be the death of our once great nation as the author demonstrates by looking at historical utopian teachings and movements.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Liberty or Tyranny*. New York, NY: Threshold Editions, 2009. A must read if you want to get a handle on socialistic, statist attempts to overthrow the wonderful liberties given to us by our Constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Men In Black: How The Supreme Court Is Destroying America*. Washington, D.C.: Regenery Publishing Inc., 2005. Our democracy is quickly evaporating, being replaced by judges who rule over and over rule the vote of the people. The premise is simple: If you can't get the people to vote on your godless concepts so the power base of your political group can be enhanced, then get those concepts approved by judges, who, in turn, can force the populace to embrace them. How many times did I see the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals override the vote of the people in California when I lived there? Too many.
- Limbaugh, David. *Persecution: How Liberals Are Waging War Against Christianity*. Washington, D.C.: Regenery Publishing Inc., 2003. A detailed, story by story account of how Christianity and Christians are under assault by those who oppose any vestige of the faith.
- London, H.B. Jr. *Pause, Recharge, Refresh*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2009.
- McIlhenny, Chuck, Donna McIlhenny and Frank York. *When The Wicked Seize A City*. Lafayette, LA: Huntington House Publishers, 1993. This book shows what actually happened in San Francisco as the radical gay agenda rose to a position of power and prominence.
- Menninger, Karl. *Whatever Became of Sin?* Portland, OR: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1974.
- Netanyahu, Benjamin. *A Place Among the Nations: Israel and the World*. New York, NY: Bantam Books, 1993. Helpful analysis of the place of Israel on the world stage, written from someone who understands history and the current geo-political situation.
- Parsley, Rod. *Culturally Incorrect: How Clashing Worldview Affect Your Future*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- Savage, Michael. *Liberalism is a Mental Disorder*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Current, 2005.
- Steyn, Mark. *America Alone: The End of the World As We Know It*. Washington D.C.: Regenery Publishing Inc., 2006. Read this book before you read "After America," and this book is a core book to read to gain a precise understanding of the battle between radical Islam and the West. Here is how one reviewer describes this analysis: It's the end of the world as we know it... Someday soon, you might wake up to the call to prayer from a muezzin. Europeans already are. And liberals will still tell you that "diversity is our strength" --while Talibanic enforcers cruise Greenwich Village burning books and barber shops, the Supreme Court decides sharia law doesn't violate the "separation of church and state," and the Hollywood Left decides to give up on gay rights in favor of the much safer charms of polygamy. If you

think this can't happen, you haven't been paying attention, as the hilarious, provocative, and brilliant Mark Steyn--the most popular conservative columnist in the English-speaking world--shows to devastating effect. The future, as Steyn shows, belongs to the fecund and the confident. And the Islamists are both, while the West is looking ever more like the ruins of a civilization. But America can survive, prosper, and defend its freedom only if it continues to believe in itself, in the sturdier virtues of self-reliance (not government), in the centrality of family, and in the conviction that our country really is the world's last best hope. Mark Steyn's *America Alone* is laugh-out-loud funny--but it will also change the way you look at the world.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *After America: Get Ready For Armageddon*. Washington D.C.: Regenery Publishing, 2011. Regardless of which political party you belong to, the facts of this book are most chilling. One write up captures the essence of this book: In his giant New York, NY Times bestseller, *America Alone: The End of the World as We Know It*, Mark Steyn predicted collapse for the rest of the Western World. Now, he adds, America has caught up with Europe on the great rush to self-destruction. It's not just our looming financial collapse; it's not just a culture that seems on a fast track to perdition, full of hapless, indulgent, childish people who think government has the answer for every problem; it's not just America's potential eclipse as a world power because of the drunken sailor policymaking in Washington--no, it's all this and more that spells one word for America: Armageddon. What will a world without American leadership look like? It won't be pretty--not for you and not for your children. America's decline won't be gradual, like an aging Europe sipping espresso at a café until extinction (and the odd Greek or Islamist riot). No, America's decline will be a wrenching affair marked by violence and possibly secession. With his trademark wit, Steyn delivers the depressing news with raw and unblinking honesty--but also with the touch of vaudeville stand-up and soft shoe that makes him the most entertaining, yet profound, columnist on the planet. And as an immigrant with nowhere else to go, he offers his own prescription for winning America back from the feckless and arrogant liberal establishment that has done its level best to suffocate the world's last best hope in a miasma of debt, decay, and debility. You will not read a more important--or more alarming, or even funnier--book all year than *After America*.
- Thomas, Cal. *The Things That Matter Most*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1994. Get a handle on where our culture is headed by pouring over these pages. Also, gain an understanding from a gifted writer regarding what you can do to stem the tsunami of wickedness coming our way.
- Young, Curt. *The Least Of These: What Everyone Should Know About Abortion*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983.

## Preaching

- Jones, G. Curtis. *1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching*, p 147. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1986. If you teach a class, then this book is crucial and helpful for finding pertinent stories for illustrating biblical truths.

## Prophecy

- Feinberg, Charles L. *Millennialism: The Two Major Views*, 3d ed. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1980. THE best book ever written about the difference between the Covenant and Premillennial positions regarding eschatology. It is an excellent defense of the later position, which just happens to be my position as well based on years of Bible study. One of the best books I have ever read on the millennialism debate. Dr. Feinberg, a converted Jew and former Old Testament professor at Talbot Theological Seminary, had a fine mind and clear understanding of the issues involved in this key eschatological debate God's purpose regarding Israel and the Church. This is the type of book I've read multiple times to make sure I understand its arguments. Whether you are of the pre-millennial position or not, this book is a must read.
- Lucado, Max. *When Christ Comes: The Beginning Of The Very Best*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999. In thirteen practical and biblical sound chapters Max brings the reader into the realm of what will transpire when the Lord returns. Many of your fundamental questions about prophecy will be answered by this book, and you'll walk away encouraged, comforted, and energized to share your faith in lieu of His immanent coming. Easy read, too.
- McClain, Alva J. *The Greatness of the Kingdom*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1959. Next to Feinberg's *Millennialism: The Two Major Views*, I think this is the second most important book you can read in relation to God's prophetic program for Israel and the Church.
- Payne, J. Barton. *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*. New York, NY: Harper, 1973. Quite helpful in getting you up to speed regarding the whole field of eschatology.
- Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1958. He taught at DTS while I attended there. Fine NT scholar. This particular book is another must read in the realm of eschatology. I have read it several times and always find it helpful and enlightening.
- Water, Mark. *Bible Prophecy Made Easy, The Made Easy Series*. New Alresford, Hampshire: Hunt & Thorpe, 1998. This guidebook provides a great introduction to the subject of biblical prophecy, beginning with a compilation of false doomsday prophecies that draw the reader in to this fascinating topic. Includes discussions of the book of Revelation, second coming of Christ, biblical symbols, forth-telling/foretelling, and the marks of a genuine prophet. Also contains helpful lists such as Matthew's 65 references to the Old Testament and a *Who's Who?* of Bible prophets.

## Science & Religion

- Ackerman, Paul D. *It's A Young World After All*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1986. Young earth creationists love a book of this nature because it gives ample, tenable proofs to support their premise. Worth the read if you struggle with how to mesh the biblical creation account with the supposed ancient age of the earth.
- Barbour, Ian G. *Issues in Science and Religion*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1966.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *When Science Meets Religion*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2000. The write-up for this book on the Christian Discount Book is helpful: Ian Barbour is the winner of the 1999 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, as well as a professor emeritus of physics and religion at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. In *When Science Meets Religion* he offers a wonderful illumination of the critical encounter between the spiritual and quantitative dimensions of life. He focuses on six foundational questions which have arisen in the interaction between science and religion.

Question one concerns the overall relationship between science and religion. Are science and religion enemies? Or are they two equally valid but divergent ways of viewing life? Can one combine the materialistic insights of science with the moral insights of religion?

Question two concerns the interpretation of cosmic history. What does the Big Bang signify, if it is an actual event? Does a specific beginning point to the presence of a creator?

Question three focuses on how quantum physics has changed the way we look at time, causality, and the nature of reality. Quantum physics is inherently uncertain and, to some extent, unquantifiable. How does this relate to the knowability of the future? Does God answer the questions raised in quantum physics?

Question four centers on Darwinism and evolution. Did God create the universe as it is, or did he create it through the process of evolution? God transcends nature; is he also immanent in it? Is the idea of continual creation viable?

Question five looks at genetics and issues related to human nature. Can the traditional view of a dualism between body and soul or matter and mind stand up to genetic analysis? What is the connection between being a biological organism and a responsible self?

Question six investigates whether predestination (a divine blueprint) is consistent with what we know about how the world works and what we know about evil. Does God have to limit himself in his dealings with creation, particularly with humans? When God is said to act in the world is it a violation of the laws of science?

You may not agree with all of Barbour's answers, but the questions will certainly stimulate thought. A fascinating and illuminating book.

- Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Good book designed to support the intelligent design argument for creation. He is Professor of Biochemistry at Lehigh University.
- Bowden, M. *Ape Men: Fact or Fallacy?* London: Sovereign Publications, 1977.
- Clark, Robert E. D. *The Christian Stake in Science*. Chicago, IL Moody Press, 1967.
- Collins, Francis S. *The Language of God*. New York, NY: Free Press, 2006. Head of the Human Genome Project. He holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Yale, received his medical

degree from the University of North Carolina. As a Christian, Dr. Collins seeks to show how faith and science should naturally coexist by and through his analysis of the complex DNA chain.

- Davidheiser, Bolton. *Evolution and Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Presbyterian and Reformed Publish Co., 1969.
- DeYoung, Donald. *Astronomy and the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1989. The author, a teacher of physics and astronomy at Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana, bring a Christian worldview to this awe-inspiring subject. By reading this book you will gain a new appreciation for the magnificence, complexity, and greatness of the God who created the cosmos by the word of His mouth.
- Friar, Wayne and Percival Davis. *A Case for Creation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983.
- Giberson, Karl W. and Francis S. Collins. *The Language of Science and Faith*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.
- Gish, Duane T. *Evolution: The Challenge of the Fossil Record*. Powder Springs, GA: Creation Life Publishers, 1986.
- Ham, Ken. *The Lie: Evolution*. Dallas, TX: Master Books, July 1987.
- Kofahl, Robert E. *Handy Dandy Evolution Refuter*. San Diego, CA: Betta Books, 1977.
- Lammerts, Walter E. *Scientific Studies in Special Creation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Presbyterian and Reformed Publish Co., 1971.
- Lammerts, Walter E. *Why Not Creation?* Grand Rapids, MI: Presbyterian and Reformed Publish Co., 1970.
- MacArthur, John. *The Battle for the Beginning*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2001. MacArthur does a great job at directing Christians back to the biblical account of man's origins. Naturalism, which is embraced by the scientific world at large, has negatively impacted many Christians in this crucial area of thought. MacArthur seeks to re-acquaint saints with the veracity of the biblical account of the formation of the cosmos as we know it.
- McGrath, Alister. *Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes, and the Meaning of Life*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2004. McGrath offered the first book length response to the popular and provocative "scientific" works of Richard Dawkins. In this work, the apologist engages head-on the most sacred arguments of against God and Christianity, and he does it with a solid, consistent, hard to refute logic.
- Morris, Henry M. *The Bible Has The Answer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1971. The late Dr. Morris is well-qualified to write on subjects of science and religion. He has a B.S. from Rice University and a M.S and Ph. D. from the University of Minnesota, the latter with a major in hydraulics and hydrology, minors in geology and mathematics.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Gary E. Parker. *What Is Creation Science?* Dallas, TX: Master Books, 1987. In this book, two Christian scientists provide convincing arguments, from the world of science, in support of creation over evolution.

- Nelson, Paul, Newman, Robert, and Van Till, Howard. *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House: 1999. Can a young earth be reconciled with a universe that appears to be billions of years old? And what about Christians embracing an old earth theory for the creation account? Is this wise? Or should we accept theistic evolution? By reading this Counterpoint book you will be equipped to know how to think biblical and consistently about this crucial subject.
- Richards, Jay, Editor. *God and Evolution: Protestants, Catholics and Jews Explore Darwin's Challenge to Faith*. Seattle, WA: Discovery Institute Press, 2010.
- Water, Mark. *The Bible and Science Made Easy*. The Made Easy Series. Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishers Ltd, 2001.
- Whitcomb, John C. and Donald B. DeYoung. *The Moon: It's Creation, Form and Significance*. Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The World That Perished*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1973.

## Spiritual Life

- Bridges, Jerry. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1983.
- Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Salvation*. Van Kampen Press, 1917. Founding President of Dallas Theological Seminary and a world-class Bible theologian. His little book on salvation is written in his typical methodical, systematic, practical style.
- Colson, Charles and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999. Colson, Chuck. *Kingdoms in Conflict*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Greenville, SC: Crossway Books, 1991.
- Jeremiah, David. *A Bend in the Road: Experiencing God When Your World Caves In*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Captured by Grace: No One is Beyond the Reach of a Loving God*. Brentwood, TN: Integrity Publishers, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God in You: Releasing the Power of the Holy Spirit in Your Life*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Publishing Group, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Slaying the Giants in Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing Group, 2001.
- Lucado, Max. *A Gentle Thunder*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Great House of God: A Home for your Heart*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *He Still Moves Stones*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1993. Does God care when I hurt, when I face formidable life obstacles? Indeed. If you have these kinds of questions, or know someone else who does, you will find hope and comfort within these practical pages.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *In The Eye of the Storm: A Day in the Life of Jesus*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1991. How can you navigate through the waters of doubt, demands, and failure? Answers to these tough life issues are derived from how Jesus responded to them in His day.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *When God Whispers Your Name*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1994. Sometimes God's seems distant and His voice silent. I'm sure you can relate. By taking biblical stories and telling them in a modern context you'll find hope in how to listen to God in the tough times.
- MacDonald, Gordon. *Ordering Your Private World*. Alpharetta, GA: Oliver-Nelson Books, 1985. How should you structure your private, personal world before God? What disciplines should you focus on? MacDonald will give you more than you will bargain for, but much which you can use in getting on track with spiritual growth and maturity.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*. Alpharetta, GA: Oliver-Nelson Books, 1986. Life has a way of sucking the life out of your faith, doesn't it? Sometimes life events are so tough and trying it moves you away from God instead of toward Him. Do you feel like that right now but desire to get back into a vibrant, profitable relationship with Jesus? If so, then you'll benefit from this read.
- Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. New York, NY: Multnomah Books, 2003.
- Sproul, R.C. *The Holiness of God*. Carol Stream IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998. God's character is a perfect balance between his communicable and incommunicable attributes; however, at his core, if you can say that, is holiness. What does this mean? How does this facet of His lofty person relate to my life? Here is another great book to read for daily devotions.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame: A Passion for the Holy Spirit*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1993. You will not find too many books written on the Holy Spirit, and when you do they are usually "out there," theologically and biblically speaking. Here is a work which is rock-solid and insightful, while also offering practical pointers for those desiring to maximize the Spirit's power in their lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986. Gives you the basics for how to grow up in Jesus. Good book to read for devotions and/or to give to a new Christian.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Improving Your Serve*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1981. A must read for all Christians for it lets us know the mindset we should have each and every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Laugh Again*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1991. Legalists will hate this book, but it is exactly what they need to read to make sure their faith and belief are firmly grounded in biblical truth. If life has taken the wind out of your proverbial sails, you get a big burst of fresh wind by working your way through this helpful treatment of Christian living.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Mystery of God's Will*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999. A really good, concise treatment of a very important, practical topic.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Quest for Character*. New York, NY: Multnomah Press,
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Simple Faith*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *So You Want To Be Like Christ?* Nashville, TN: Word Publishing Group, 2006.

## Systematic Theology

- Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*, 8 vols. Dallas, TX: Dallas Seminary, 1947. We could not graduate from seminary until we had read these volumes. Excellent information, but not an easy, quick read.
- Geisler, Norman. *Systematic Theology, Volumes 1-4*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2002. It doesn't get any better than this. Many of these chapters come from classes he taught at Dallas Seminary, classes I took. If you want a thorough treatment of biblical doctrines, if you want to read about all possible viewpoints on a given subject, if you want to see the pros and cons for various views, then you must purchase this set. Well worth the money and time investment.
- Ryrie, Charles. *Basic Theology*. Chicago, IL: Victor Books, 1986. One of my standbys when I study and prepare sermons.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1959. Helps you understand the biblical theology of the books of the NT. Great if you want a theological overview of said books.
- Thiessen Henry Clarence. *Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949. Great, conservative, dispensational treatment of biblical theology. Well-organized and well-written.

## Theology

- Alcorn, Randy. *If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil*. New York, NY: Multnomah Books, 2009. A massive, meticulous treatment of an age old, problematic question: if God is good, then why is there suffering and evil?
- Davis, John Jefferson. *Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1985. Although dated, the concepts and issues developed and treated in this book are still pertinent for Christians today
- Feinberg, John, Norman Geisler, Bruce Reichenbach and Clark Pinnock. *Predestination and Free Will*. Wheaton, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986. Over my pastoral career, I don't know how many times I've been asked questions about this complex, thorny topic. Guidance and insight is gained from this particular and precise treatment.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Problem of Pain*. London: The MacMillan Company, 1957. Another must read for those struggling with this difficult subject.
- Lightner, Robert P. *The Death Christ Died: A Case For Unlimited Atonement*. Schaumburg IL: Regular Baptist Press, 1967. He taught me systematic theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. Sound treatment of an all-portent theological subject.
- Lucado, Max. *Six Hours One Friday*. New York, NY: Multnomah Publishing, 1989. Classic and practical analysis of the death of Jesus. Moving, instructive and insightful, as you'd expect from Pastor Lucado.
- Lutzer, Erwin. *The Necessity of Ethical Absolutes*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House Publishing, 1981. Our culture is duped and deceived by the relativistic

worldview. Although a short read, Lutzer's book is a must read to equip you to engage our culture over this critical area.

- MacArthur, John E. Jr. *The Vanishing Conscience: Drawing the Line in a No-Fault, Guilt-Free World*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1994. MacArthur, in his typical biblical style, demonstrates the logical result of a relativistic worldview and how we, as Christians should respond to it. He also gives you a heightened understanding of the dangerous nature of sin and how we should live in relation to it.
- Ryrie, Charles Caldwell. *The Grace of God*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1963. If you know any legalistic believers, then this a book they need to read. From the first to the last chapter Ryrie showcases God's grace and how this relates to our lives.
- Walvoord, John F. *Jesus Christ Our Lord*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1969. Dated book but worth owning and reading if you can find it. Dr. Walvoord, the late President of Dallas Theological Seminary, covers everything you should know about the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you read a book about Jesus, this should be at the top of your list.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2003.
- Zacharias, Ravi. *The Grand Weaver*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007. When your life seems senseless and hopeless, God is at work weaving all the various strands together into a beautiful thing which will bless you and give Him glory. This is the motif of this helpful title. Should you be in the middle of a life storm, or perhaps you've just gone through one, this book will benefit you immensely from a spiritual perspective. You'll walk away with wind in your sails again.