

Suggestions regarding

Commenatries and Monographs on the Pentateuch and Historical Books

General Observations

1. The Interpreter's Bible is the most recent commentary series, and can be generally recommended. It is very uneven in quality. Many of the writers had differing goals in mind. It can be consulted with profit as an introduction to exegetical problems, but it is seldom exhaustive. It has not replaced the older standard commentaries.
2. The International Critical Commentary is the most thorough English commentary and based on the Hebrew text. The writers tend to concentrate on the philological, historical, and literary problems with little theological concern. Many of the volumes are very old. Still they are indispensable for thorough work. They can be used by a person having no knowledge of Hebrew.
3. The journal Interpretation has a series of good articles on the individual books of the O.T. with bibliographical entries, starting about 1950. Excellent annotated bibliography can be found in the following books: Peake (ed.), People and the Book (1925); H.W. Robinson (ed.), Record and Revelation (1938); H.W. Rowley (ed), OT and Modern Study (1951).

The Pentateuch

1. Genesis: The best English commentaries remains Skinner, ICC, old, technical, but thorough. Driver, Westminster, is reliable, written in popular form, English liberal approach to the theological problems. Richardson, Gen. 1-11 (Torch) attempts an existential interpretation. Delitzsch, New Commentary on Genesis, 2 vols. 1889 (not the Eerdmans reprint of Keil and Delitzsch!) is critically out-of-date, but remains a classic for its literary and theological sensitivity. Can be secured second-hand. In German, cf. Gunkel, von Rad, Zimmerli. Barth's exegesis of Gen. 1-3 in Kirchliche Dog. III/1 is highly suggestive, but often charismatic rather than scientific exegesis. Luther and Calvin's exegesis on Gen. should not be overlooked. Both have been reprinted.
2. Exodus: The classic in English remains Driver, Exodus (Cambridge). Very much in need of revision. McNeile (Westminster) is fair. Buber, Moses (paperback) is recommended for its theological interpretations. Basic is Gressmann's, Mose u. seine Zeit in spite of its radical nature. An interesting approach in Phythian-Adams, The Call of Israel (1934).
3. Lev. and Num: There is no recent work in English except I.B. Gray on Num. in ICC is standard. Gray's Sacrifice in the OT (1925) is thorough.
4. Deuteronomy: Driver, ICC, is still superior. G.A. Smith is for the English reader, and excellent. Wright, IB, is good. von Rad's monograph, Studies in Deut., highly recommended. Cunliffe-Jones, Torch, attempts a theological interpretation on a popular level.

Comments on the book by the author and other reviewers

General Observations

The book is a very good one. It is very well written and contains a lot of interesting material. It is a very good introduction to the subject and is well worth reading.

The author's treatment of the subject is very clear and concise. He has done a very good job of explaining the subject in a way that is easy to understand. The book is a very good one and is well worth reading.

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The best works for the Pentateuch as a whole are in German, e.g. Noth, von Rad. Simpson, The Early Traditions of Israel, represents the older, critical standpoint of literary criticism. W. Vischer, The Witness of the O.T. to Christ, tries to interpret Genesis and Exodus "christologically." Often he employs uncontrolled allegory, yet the book can be read with profit.

The Historical Books

1. Joshua: The best commentary is by Noth, in German. IB is a conservative rejoinder by Bright. Very carefully executed. Rowley, From Joseph to Joshua, offers a thorough treatment of the historical problems with exhaustive bibliography.
2. Judges: Moore, ICC, is still the classic. Burney and Cooke are also good commentaries.
3. Samuel: ICC is out-of-date. Driver, excellent for text and syntax, is not a real commentary and too technical for the average reader. Bright's Kingdom of God traces rise and development of kingdom with theol. implications.
4. Kings: ICC by Montgomery is a recent publication of the highest quality.
5. Chronicles: Elmslie (Cambridge and IB) is good. ICC is rather old. Welch's monograph, Work of Chr., is of interest. Excellent recent commentaries in German, e.g. Rudolph.
6. Ezra-Neh.: ICC and Cambridge are old. IB is very good. cf. the monographs of C.C. Torrey.

The basic monographs of this period are in German and include the works of Alt, Noth, von Rad, Rost, and Rudolph. A controversial, but stimulating work in English is E. Nielsen, Schechem. It covers a wide range of subjects of historical interest.

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The Historical Books

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