

OT 132-3 Latter Prophets and Writings
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Spring 2023 | Wednesday and Friday | 9:00-10:20am
#LPTSBible

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield
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Virtual Office Hours: gladly by appointment
email me with possible times

Course Description:

What does it mean to be prophetic? How do we live a wise life? How are ancient psalms relevant? This course introduces the historical, literary, and theological worlds of what is known in the Jewish tradition as the Latter Prophets and Writings. The course is one of four introductory courses on the Old and New Testaments at Louisville Seminary; it combines elements of a survey course and an exegetical seminar to meet the course objectives.

The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is a library of books that emerged out of historical situations and purports to describe historical events; so, we engage the *historical perspective*. The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, however, is also a work of literature that can be studied for its literary form; so, we engage the *literary perspective*. Finally, the Old Testament/Tanakh has the status of Scripture for a variety of religious communities; so, we engage the *theological perspective*.

Course Objectives/Dreams:

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Describe the general content and organization of the Latter Prophets and Writings including important historical events behind these texts and literary features within texts.
2. Analyze and differentiate the varied ancient theological perspectives within and among these biblical books.
3. Exegete biblical passages by asking and answering historical, literary, and theological questions of the text.
4. Reflect critically on hermeneutical issues in contemporary, theological readings of the Latter Prophets and Writings.

These objectives relate to the following degree program Student Learning Outcomes:

MDIV SLO #1: Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and the ability to use critical skills and educated imagination to interpret it in contemporary social and cultural contexts.

MAR SLO #1: Be able to interpret Scripture critically and imaginatively.

MAR SLO #3: Demonstrate an understanding of multiple theological perspectives, historical and contemporary.

Assignments & Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend class sessions *regularly* and *punctually*, to have completed the readings and assignments for each class period, to participate in discussions in class, and to have a Bible and textbook/readings accessible.

Assignments are listed here as *summaries* of the work required along with their due dates. Students will be given more information and a grading rubric for the assignments on Canvas. All assignments are due via Canvas. Please do NOT email them to me.

1. Bible Content Project. Due by **midnight Sunday, February 19th.**

(10% of final grade) [Course Objective #1]

Students will read 10 books from the Latter Prophets and Writings and create a content outline for each book. One line of textual summary per biblical book chapter. Read and summarize!

2. Response to *Piles of Slain* book. Due by **midnight Sunday, March 19th.**

(25% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #2 and #4]

Students will write a 5-page essay in response to this textbook.

3. HLT Reference Sheet on Wisdom Literature. Due by **midnight Sunday, April 9th.**

(20% of final grade) [Course Objectives: primarily #3, also #1 and #4]

Students will create a 3-page reference sheet that addresses 1 historical, 1 literary, and 1 theological issue within a given biblical passage in Proverbs, Job, or Ecclesiastes.

4. Exegesis Paper on a Psalm. Due by **midnight Sunday, April 30th.**

(25% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #3, #2]

Students will write an 8-page exegesis paper on a selected Psalm.

5. Take-Home, Open Book Final Exam. Due by **midnight Friday, May 12th.**

(20% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #1, #2, #3]

Students will write short essays during the course of exam week.

Grading Scale

95-100	A	73-76	C
90-94	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

Course Books & Materials:

1) A NRSV Study Bible. Choose among 3 options:

- A) *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. Edited by Walter Harrelson. Nashville: Abingdon. ISBN: 0687278325.
- B) *The HarperCollins Study Bible*. Edited by Harold W. Attridge, Society of Biblical Literature. HarperOne, 2006. ISBN: 978-0061228407.
- C) *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. Edited by Michael Coogan, Marc Brettler, Carol Newsom, PHEME PERKINS. Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0190276041.

2) *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. By Ellen F. Davis. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780190948948.

3) *Piles of Slain, Heaps of Corpses: Reading Prophetic Poetry and Violence in African Context*. By Jacob Onyumbé Wenyi. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2021. ISBN: 9781725268319.

In addition to these books, there will be required readings (articles, book chapters) placed on Canvas.

Course Policies:

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

--Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

--The Chicago Manual of Style. 17th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

See also the library's citation help page: <https://lpts.libguides.com/digitalresources/citingsources>

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site with information for current students.

Policy on late work: All written assignments are due on the date given in the syllabus. Assignments submitted late will be penalized in the grading by one grade increment for every day (a B+ paper becomes a B if one day late, a B- if two days, a C+ if three days, etc.). Assignments submitted more than ten days after the due date will not be accepted.

Course Schedule:

UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTIONS

Feb 3: What Are We Studying?

Topics:

Introductions to Course and Each Other

Old Testament vs. TaNaK vs. Hebrew Bible: Why does it matter?

Jewish divisions: Torah, Prophets (Former and Latter), Writings

Christian divisions: Law/Pentateuch, History, Poetry, Prophecy

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 1-7. "Introduction"

Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (New York: HarperOne, 2006), 193-199. [Canvas]

Take some time to compare/contrast the Jewish canon and the Protestant canon. Look at the different places within the canon for books such as Ruth, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezra & Nehemiah.

Which books are in the Latter Prophets section of the Jewish canon?

Which books are in the Writings section of the Jewish canon?

Feb 8: Exegeting the Text

Topics:

What is Exegesis?

3 Chairs and a Couch

Postmodern Christian Historicism

Required Readings:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.): 53-77. [Canvas]

Dale B. Martin, *Sex and the Single Savior: Gender and Sexuality in Biblical Interpretation* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006): 161-169. [Canvas]

Mercy Amba Oduyoye, "Biblical Interpretation and the Social Location of the Interpreter: African Women's Reading of the Bible," in *Reading from This Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation in Global Perspective* (edited by Fernando F. Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert; vol. 2 of Reading from This Place; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995): 33-51. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

William Brown, *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis* (Louisville: WJK Press, 2017): 3-10, 21-22.

Tiffany, Frederick C. and Sharon H. Ringe, *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996).

New Interpreters Bible, pages 2261-65, "Guidelines for Reading and Interpretation" by John R. Donahue, S.J. & pages 2268-72, "Varieties of Readings and Interpretations of the Biblical Text," by Edgar McKnight.

Pontifical Biblical Commission. "The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible." Vatican Curia. 24 May 24 2001. <https://www.ccrj.us/dialogika-resources/documents-and-statements/roman-catholic/vatican-curia/pbc-2001#1>.

Ronald Allen and John Holbert, *Holy Root Holy Branches: Christian Preaching from the Old Testament* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995): 15-31.

Presbyterians would do well to find the following two denominational documents: "Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture," and "Biblical Authority and Interpretation."

Feb 10: Reading Historically

Topics:

Israelite and Judahite History including major Events

The Babylonian Exile and Persian Period

Required Readings:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.), 27-39. [Canvas]

Douglas Knight and Amy-Jill Levine, *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (New York: HarperOne, 2011), 3-41. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

For those students with a strong interest in history, the next resource to read is the following:

Victor Matthews's *A Brief History of Ancient Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002).
Or Victor Matthew's *The History of Bronze and Iron Age Israel* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

For those seeking more information about exile, see:

Jill Middlemas, *The Troubles of Templeless Judah* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

For those interested in reading more about historical criticism, see:

David R. Law, *The Historical-Critical Method: A Guide for the Perplexed*. (London: T&T Clark, 2012).

As you read...

Construct your own chart or timeline for the MAJOR historical events related to the OT/HB (empires, rulers, kings, conquests, wars, important leaders, etc.). Which handful of dates seem the most important to you? The reading in *The Meaning of the Bible* contains a helpful chart on page 8.

UNIT TWO: PROPHETIC FIRE

Feb 15: What is a Prophet? What is Prophecy?

Topics:

Prophets, Prophecy, Prophetic Literature

5 elements of the Prophetic Perspective

Required Readings:

Ellen F. Davis, *Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014), 1-21. [Canvas]

Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* (New York: HarperOne, 2020), 43-48. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Martti Nissinen, *Ancient Prophecy: Near Eastern, Biblical, and Greek Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Carolyn J. Sharp, *Old Testament Prophets for Today* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

Esther J. Hamori, *Women's Divination in Biblical Literature: Prophecy, Necromancy, and Other Arts of Knowledge* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015).

Stephen Cook, John Strong, Steven Tuell, *The Prophets: Introducing Israel's Prophetic Writings* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2022).

Feb 17: Amos

Topics:

Social Justice Preacher

Exegetical Exercise: Amos 1:3-2:16

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 220-231. "Questioning Prosperity—Amos"

Corrine L. Carvalho, "The Challenge of Violence and Gender under Colonization," in *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives* (ed. Gale A. Yee; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018), 107-133. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Gale A. Yee, "Materialist Analysis of the Prophets," in *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets* (ed. Carolyn Sharp; Oxford University Press, 2016): 491-506.

Feb 22: Micah and Hosea

Topics:

Exegetical Exercise: Micah 6:1-8

Hosea's Marriage Metaphor

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 232-245. "Justice and Intimacy—Micah and Hosea"

Hosea 1-3

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Renita Weems, *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).

Yvonne Sherwood, *The Prostitute and the Prophet: Hosea's Marriage in Literary-Theological Perspective* (JSOTSup 212; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1996).

Susan E. Haddox, *Metaphor and Masculinity in Hosea* (StBL 141; New York: Peter Lang, 2011).

Feb 24: First Isaiah

Topics:

Isaiah's Theology

Exegetical Exercise: Isaiah 7 and 9

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 256-268. "Isaiah: Seeing the King: Isaiah 1-39"

Tyler D. Mayfield, *Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020), 61-67, 81-85. [Canvas]

Isaiah 7:10-16; 9:2-7

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Patricia Tull, *Isaiah 1-39* (Smyth and Helwys Commentary; Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2010).

March 1: Second Isaiah

Topics:

Prophetic Response to Exile

Servant Figure

Exile, Return, and the Mexican Immigrant Experience

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 269-279. "The Vision Expands: Isaiah 40-66"

Gregory Lee Cuéllar, *Voices of Marginality: Exile and Return in Second Isaiah 40-55 and the Mexican Immigrant Experience* (New York: Peter Lang, 2008): 82-96, 118-134. [Canvas]

Isaiah 40:1-11; 42:1-4; 49:1-6

March 3: Third Isaiah

Topics:

Isaiah 56:1-8

Isaiah 66:1-6

Required Readings:

Joseph Blenkinsopp, *Isaiah 56-66* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003): 42-51, 292-301. [Canvas]

March 8: Christian Approaches to the Prophets

Topics:

Violence

Israel and America

Prophecy-Fulfillment Approach

Prophecy as Future Telling

Required Readings:

Carolyn Sharp, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets* (Oxford University Press, 2016): 646-648. [Canvas]

Tyler D. Mayfield, *Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020), 21-26, 33-37. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Julia M. O'Brien, *Challenging Prophetic Metaphor: Theology and Ideology in the Prophets* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008).

L. Juliana M. Claassens, *Mourner, Mother, Midwife: Reimagining God's Delivering Presence in the Old Testament* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

March 10: Jonah

Topics:

Jonah in early Jewish and Christian Interpretation

Required Readings:

Robert C. Gregg, *Shared Stories, Rival Tellings: Early Encounters of Jews, Christians, and Muslims* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 335-340, 349-357, 395-407. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Amy Erickson, *Jonah: Introduction and Commentary*, Illuminations, 2021.

Susan Niditch, *Jonah*, Hermeneia, 2022.

UNIT THREE: WISDOM WAYS

March 22: Wisdom Tradition

Topics:

What is wisdom?

Sages

Required Readings:

Kathleen M. O'Connor, *The Wisdom Literature* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990), 13-34. [Canvas]

Amy Plantinga Pauw, *Church in Ordinary Time: A Wisdom Ecclesiology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017), 11-18. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014).

David H. Kelsey, *Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology* (Louisville: WJK, 2009), 1: 159-241.

March 24: Proverbs & Wisdom Woman

Topics:

Short Sayings

Woman Wisdom

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 335-341. "Proverbs and Ecclesiastes"

Proverbs 1-2, 8-9

March 29: Wisdom Exegetical Seminar

Topics:

Prologue to Proverbs: Proverbs 1:1-7

Conclusion to Proverbs: Proverbs 31:10-31

Required Readings:

William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 30-39. [Canvas]

Mmapula D. Kebaneilwe, "Paddling the Bellowing Waters Away from the Margins: African Perspectives on Proverbs 31," in *The Bible, Centres and Margins: Dialogues between Postcolonial African and British Biblical Scholars* (eds. Johanna Stiebert and Musa Dube; London: T&T Clark, 2018), 27-39. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Timothy J. Sandoval, "Revisiting the Prologue of Proverbs," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 126 (2007): 455-73.

March 31: Job

Topics:

A Long Poem surrounded by Prose

Why do Innocent People Suffer?

Required Readings:

Kathleen M. O'Connor, *The Wisdom Literature* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990), 86-113. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 348-359. "Learning to Struggle with God—Job"

Job 1-3, 38-42

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Samuel E. Balentine, *Job* (Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary; Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2006).

UNIT FOUR: PSALMS

April 5: Introduction to Psalms

Topics:

Genre of Psalms

Theology of Psalms

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 312-324. "The Psalms"

S. Tamar Kamionkowski, "Psalms," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 270-280. [Canvas]

Psalms 1-5

April 12: Exegetical Seminar on Psalms

Topics:

Psalms 122

Psalms 100

Required Readings:

Psalms 100 and 122

Frank Lothar Hossfeld and Eric Zenger, *Psalms 3* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011), 332-343. [Canvas]

J. Clinton McCann, Jr. "The Book of Psalms" in *The New Interpreter's Bible, Volume IV* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996), 1077-1080. [Canvas]

April 14: Exegetical Seminar on Psalms

Topics:

Psalms 22

Required Readings:

Psalms 22

Bernd Janowski, *Arguing with God: A Theological Anthropology of the Psalms* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 322-329. [Canvas]

Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, *The Bible with and without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* (New York: HarperOne, 2020), 347-353, 358-379. [Canvas]

UNIT FIVE: FIVE SCROLLS

April 19: Esther

Topics:

Esther

Required Readings:

Robert Williamson, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018), 137-172.

Jacueline S. du Toit, "Esther, Pious and Brave: Reading Children's Bibles as Commentary on Twentieth-Century Afrikaner Culture," in *The Five Scrolls* (Texts@Contexts 6, London: Bloomsbury, 2018), 210-220. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Carol M. Bechtel, *Esther* (Interpretation; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002).

Jon D. Levenson, *Esther: A Commentary* (Old Testament Library; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997).

Mona West, "Esther," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 242-250. [Canvas]

April 21: Ruth

Topics:

Faith of a Foreigner

Reading against the Grain: A Womanist Approach

Required Readings:

Yolanda Norton, "Silenced Struggles for Survival: Finding Life in Death in the Book of Ruth," in *I Found God In Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader*, ed. Mitzi J. Smith (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2015): 265-279. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 164-172. "Ruth"

Ruth 1-4

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Jeremy Schipper, *Ruth* (Anchor Yale Bible Commentary; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016).

April 26: Song of Songs

Topics:

Sex and Body

Allegorical Readings

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 360-375. "The Ecstasy of Intimacy—Song of Songs"

André S. Musskopf, "Song of Songs," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 326-338. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.), chapters 5&6.

Williamson, *Forgotten Books*, 1-31.

April 28: Ecclesiastes

Topics:

Ephemerality and mortality

Required Readings:

Robert Williamson, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018), 107-136. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 341-345. "Living with Death—Ecclesiastes"

Ecclesiastes 1-3

CONCLUSION

May 3:

Topics:

Between the Testaments

Second Temple Judaism

Jesus, the Messiah

Required Readings:

Matthias Henze, *Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings Between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017), 31-50, 53-85. [Canvas]

May 5: Conclusion

Topics:

Final Thoughts

Required Readings:

Dale Martin, *Sex and the Single Savior* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006): 170-179. [Canvas]

Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Exegetical Tools

1) Dictionaries / Encyclopedias

- Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2000.
- HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- Hayes, John H., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. 2 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Meyers, Carol, ed. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocrypha, Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Currently 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006 –
- Hepper, F. N. *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Plants: Flowers, Trees, Fruits, and Vegetables*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Losch, Richard R. *All the People in the Bible: An A-Z Guide to the Saints, Scoundrels, and Other Characters in Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Metzger, Bruce M. and Michael D. Coogan. *The Oxford Guide to People & Places of the Bible*. New York: Oxford, 2001.
- Ray-Schwartz, Donald. *Noah's Ark: An Annotated Encyclopedia of Every Animal Species in the Hebrew Bible*. Aronson, 2000.
- Van der Toorn, Karel, Bob Becking, et al. *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible (DDD)*. Boston: Brill, 1999.

2) Atlases

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. Jerusalem: Carta, 2002.
- Curtis, Adrian, ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Dowley, Tim, ed. *The Baker Atlas of Christian History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.
- Pritchard, James B. *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

3) Concordances

- A specific concordance matches a Bible version.
- Goodrick, Edward W. and John R. Kohlenberger, eds. *NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan,
- Metzger, Bruce M. *NRSV Exhaustive Concordance*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991. Moulton and Geden. *A Concordance to the Greek Testament*. 6th edition, ed. by I. Howard Marshall. London: T.&T. Clark, 2002. Reference: BS 2302 .M8 2002
- Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Updated ed. Hendrickson, 2007.
- Whitaker, Richard E., and John R. Kohlenberger. *Analytical Concordance to the NRSV of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; New York: Oxford, 2000.

4) Commentary Series

Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries

Anchor Bible

Berit Olam

Hermeneia

International Critical Commentary

Interpretation

JPS Torah Commentary

New Century Bible Commentary

New International Commentary, Old Testament Series

New Interpreter's Bible

Old Testament Library

Westminster Bible Companion

Word Biblical Commentary

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/Old Testament

5) One Volume Commentaries

Adeyemo, Tokunboh, ed. *Africa Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

The HarperCollins Bible Commentary. Rev. ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2000.

The New Jerome Biblical Commentary. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1990.

Newsom, Carol A. and Sharon H. Ringe, eds. *Women's Bible Commentary, Expanded Edition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

The Oxford Bible Commentary. NY: Oxford, 2001.

Queer Bible Commentary (ed. Guest, Goss, West, Bohache);

Global Bible Commentary (ed. Patte);

The International Bible Commentary (ed. William R. Farmer);

The Africana Bible (ed. Hugh R. Page Jr.)