

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES AND THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY USEFUL TO BUSINESS SCHOLARS

Gregory Morrison
Wheaton College

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to broaden the Christian business scholars' perspective when addressing biblical passages and theological ideas relevant to business practice by becoming more faithful interpreters of the Bible and having a greater command of Christian theology and ethics.

INTRODUCTION

For this bibliographic review, the author was invited to highlight reference works that biblical and theological scholars commonly use. In preparation for this task the author sent an email to all of the Wheaton College faculty in the biblical and theological studies department and asked them to identify two or three reference books (e.g., encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks) that they have most often consulted in their scholarly work. Biblical scholars and theologians at other institutions may have additional sources that they prefer. Additionally, the reader is encouraged to consult the nearest library that includes theological and biblical study reference works in its holdings.

Based on the responses by biblical studies and theological faculty, it seems fair to generalize that dictionaries and encyclopedias are more a part of the research world for experts in biblical studies than in Christian theology. The greater reliance on this format in biblical studies is confirmed by the plenitude of Bible-related reference works. There are several important, multi-volume dictionaries and encyclopedias that serve biblical studies and biblical theology; first and foremost, the 6-volume *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (Freedman, 2008). Most of the theology dictionaries (non-biblical) are single-volume works.

The faculty responses also brought to light that a theological handbook or companion, especially those published by Oxford and Cambridge, is the principle source for literature reviews on theological topics. The closer equivalent to the handbook or companion for

biblical studies is the commentary. More will be presented regarding handbooks and companions below.

The author assumes that some readers will not have access to a good theological library nor the means to build a personal library. With that in mind, this review also recommends some free online resources for biblical and theological research.

ANNOTATED REVIEW OF BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A.1 General Guides and Bibliographies

There are excellent book-length guides to biblical and theological literature that the author consulted for this bibliographic survey. The titles by Glynn (2007), Evans (2016) and Bauer (2014) cover all types of literature with the majority of space given to guide the reader through the myriad of biblical commentaries. The authors evaluate and recommend commentaries with regard to the quality of scholarship, theological perspective and intended audience.

Glynn's book is the most ambitious in terms of scope. It is 380 pages in length, and consists mainly of bibliographic lists with short introductions but without much annotation. The author uses boldface type throughout to identify titles he judges to be the most useful or important. Despite being almost a decade old, Glynn's treatment of Bible commentaries is still highly regarded. He developed a paradigm for locating commentaries on the theological spectrum (e.g., evangelical/critical, conservative/moderate, liberal/critical), which is unique and useful to both laypersons and scholars. Evans reviews both Bauer and Glynn and recommends them. According to Evans, Bauer writes from "a Wesleyan and mildly critical stance," (Evans, 2016, p. 24) and Glynn is "unabashedly conservative [evangelical]." (Evans, 2016, p. 24) If the reader is interested in building a personal library, any one of these three guides will be useful.

Longman (2013) and Carson (2013) focus mainly on commentaries. Carson's survey has a section on New Testament introductions and theologies in the first chapter. He uses the more synthetic approach of a bibliographic essay, whereas Longman adopts the format of an annotated bibliography (i.e., he does not comment much on works in relation to one another). Longman applies a rating system using stars to indicate overall quality and also which readership, (L)ayperson, (M)inister and/or (S)cholar, will benefit most from the commentary.

Bauer, D. R. (2014). *Essential Bible Study Tools for Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Carson, D. A. (2013). *New Testament commentary survey* (Seventh edition.). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Evans, J. F. (2016). *A Guide to Biblical Commentaries and Reference Works: 10th Edition* (10th ed. edition). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Glynn, J. (2007). *Commentary & reference survey: a comprehensive guide to biblical and theological resources* (10th ed., fully rev. and updated.). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional.

Longman, T. (2013). *Old Testament commentary survey* (Fifth edition.). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic.

A.2 Guides and Bibliographies Online

Among the increasing number of excellent web-based guides to biblical and theological scholarship, here are two that come highly recommended by one or more Wheaton College faculty.

Best Commentaries: Reviews and ratings of Biblical, theological, and practical Christian works
URL - <http://www.bestcommentaries.com/> This web site is maintained by John Dyer, who is an author, web developer and a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. The site covers much more than biblical commentaries. He has developed a scoring method based on an algorithm that draws on both scholarly and popular reviews of commentaries. For the person unfamiliar with theological and biblical literature, this site may be overwhelming.

Denver Journal Book Reviews. URL: <http://www.denverseminary.edu/resources/denver-journal/>

Dr. Richard Hess, a respected Old Testament professor at Denver Seminary, is the editor of this online journal. Hess and a host of his faculty colleagues write thorough reviews (1200 words on average) of "all recent and significant books and published media relating to the major fields of biblical and theological studies." It includes reviews of commentaries, monographs and reference works. This site is tailored to experts who want to keep abreast of new literature in their field of research.

Wheaton faculty singled out several commentary series consistently for their high quality. They include, for the New Testament, the *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Hermeneia*, and the *New Testament Library*, and for the Old Testament, the *New International Commentary on the Old Testament* and the *New American Commentary* series. Bestcommentaries.com is the most accessible and reliable resource to evaluate and identify the most suitable commentary on a particular Bible book.

Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament series. (1992-). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group.

Hermeneia: a critical and historical commentary on the Bible. (1972-). Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press.

New Testament Library. (2002-). Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press.

The New American commentary series. (1991-). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman.

The New international commentary on the Old Testament. (1965-). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

B.1 Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias - Multi-Volume Bible Reference Works

Freedman, D. N. (Ed.). (1992). *The Anchor Bible dictionary* (1st ed.). New York, NY: Doubleday.

"Every generation needs its own Dictionary of the Bible." (Freedman, 1992, p. xxxvii) Commonly referred

to often by its initials, *ABD*, this monumental six-volume work continues to be the premier Bible dictionary even though it was published in 1992, and has not been revised. Yale University Press purchased the copyright to the Dictionary from Doubleday several years ago, and we can safely assume that Yale is already working to make it the Dictionary of the Bible for the next generation as well. When it was first published in 1992, *ABD* represented the most extensive, authoritative and up-to-date review of biblical scholarship available in English. More than 1000 biblical scholars from around the world contributed to the project. The arrangement is alphabetical by topic. The articles in the *ABD* can run several pages, are signed by the author and include generous (but now dated) bibliographies that give readers an expert's pick of the most important literature on a subject. Bible professors at Wheaton College included *ABD* in their top three reference works more often than any other resource.

After the *ABD*, the InterVarsity Press (IVP) Bible Dictionaries, the "Black" series, were the most frequently named reference works among the College's Bible faculty. With all eight volumes together we have a resource comparable in scope to the *ABD* but more up to date, and from a distinctly evangelical perspective, "utilizing the best of critical methods, and maintaining dialog with contemporary research and challenges facing the church" (<http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2900>). In each of these dictionaries the reader can expect to find general entries on each Bible book as well as major biblical figures, events, and theological themes. These IVP dictionaries are very affordable. An even more affordable option is the *IVP Dictionary of the New Testament: A One-Volume Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship* (Reid, 2004), which draws together the essential articles from all of the New Testament dictionaries listed below. An equivalent compendium for the Old Testament titles has not been published to date. Titles in the *IVP Bible Dictionary* series:

- Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch
- Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books
- Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings
- Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets

- Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (2nd Edition)
- Dictionary of Paul and His Letters
- Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments
- *Dictionary of New Testament Background*

Representing a similar but more expansive endeavor, Oxford University Press, starting in 2011, began releasing its own series entitled the Oxford Encyclopedias of the Bible (*OEB*) including one devoted to ethics with entries on "Economics," "Capitalism," "Poverty" and "Wealth and Possessions." There are now also eight titles in this series, but each title encompasses two volumes. *OEB* differs from the IVP series by its integrative approach. The majority of the titles bring the entire Scriptures into conversation with another subject. Titles in the *Oxford Bible Encyclopedia* series:

- *Oxford encyclopedia of Biblical Interpretation*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and Ethics*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and Law*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and the Arts*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Bible and Theology*
- *Oxford encyclopedia of the Books of the Bible*

Sakenfeld, K. D. (Ed.). (2009). *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Volume 5 - NIDB*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Though the New Interpreter's Dictionary (*NIDB*) did not show up on anyone's top three list, it deserves mentioning. It may have aspired to replace the *ABD* as the premier Bible dictionary, but that clearly did not happen. One criticism of the Dictionary is the lean or non-existent bibliographies for several entries. *NIDB* does have the distinction of being intentionally more "theological in focus," and of course it is about fourteen years more up to date than *ABD*.

B.2 Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias - Single-volume Bible Reference Works

As their titles suggest, Walton (2000) and Keener (2014) contextualize the Scriptures within the ancient near eastern and the Greco-Roman worlds. For going

deeper into ANE backgrounds, the experts go to the four-volume *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (Sasson, 1995). For Greco-Roman backgrounds, the best one-volume reference work is *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Though it is just one volume, it fills 1792 pages.

Hornblower, S., Spawforth, A., & Eidinow, E. (2012). *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (4 edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Keener, C. S. (2014). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament /* (Second Edition.). Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press.

Reid, D. G. (Ed.). (2004). *The IVP dictionary of the New Testament: a one-volume compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press.

Sasson, J. M. (Ed.). (1995). *Civilizations of the ancient Near East*. (Vols. 1-4) New York, NY: Scribner.

Walton, J. H. (2000). *The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament /*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

B.3 Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias - Biblical theology

Vanhoozer, K. J., Bartholomew, C. G., Treier, D. J., & Wright, N. T. (Eds.). (2005). *Dictionary for theological interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic.

DTIB is a unique and important dictionary, edited by four highly respected evangelical scholars, that aims to reunite “an interest in the academic study of the Bible with a passionate commitment to making this scholarship of use to the church” (Vanhoozer, Bartholomew, Treier, & Wright, 2005, p. 19). They view this work as a step toward reconnecting the realms of biblical studies and theology that have been driven apart in the academic discourse since the Enlightenment. The Introduction restates several times the aim and purpose of this dictionary. In its final summation, the “ultimate aim” of the dictionary is “to commend ways of reading Scripture that lead to the blessing of knowing God

and of being formed unto godliness.” (Vanhoozer et al., 2005, p. 25).

Botterweck, G. J. (1977). *Theological dictionary of the Old Testament* (Rev. ed.) - *TDOT*. (Vols. 1-15) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Harris, R. L., Archer, G. L., & Waltke, B. K. (Eds.). (1980). *Theological wordbook of the Old Testament - TWOT*. (Vols. 1-2) Chicago: Moody Press.

Kittel, G. (1964). *Theological dictionary of the New Testament – TDNT*. (Vols. 1-10) Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.

Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (Abridged). Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans.

Strong, J. (2001). *The strongest Strong’s exhaustive concordance of the Bible /* (Larger print ed.; fully rev. and corrected). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan.

Verbrugge, V. D. (Ed.). (2000). *The NIV theological dictionary of New Testament words: an abridgment of New international dictionary of New Testament theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan Publishing House.

TDOT (Botterweck, 1977) and *TDNT* (Kittel, 1964) are translations from the German, and, in spite of their datedness, they remain monumental works of scholarship that continue to be consulted by students and experts. They combine elements of a lexicon (e.g., etymology, syntax, and meaning) and an encyclopedia (e.g., describing theological tradition and historical development). There is an abridged version of Kittel’s 10-volume *TDNT* by the same name also published by Eerdmans in 1985 (Kittel, 1985). *TDOT* encompasses 15 volumes and is not available in an abridged version. Knowing at least the Hebrew or Greek alphabet is helpful for navigating these works since the entries are in alphabetical order according to the original language. In the abridged *TDNT*, however, the editors added tables of both transliterated Greek and English keywords, which essentially makes knowledge of the original languages a non-issue. Likewise, Verbrugge’s abridgement includes an English subject index and a scripture index

at the back of the volume. The two-volume *TWOT*, although alphabetically arranged according to the Hebrew, is keyed to the well-known Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Strong, 2001), which also circumvents the language barrier. Researchers can find the Strong's number easily on the Internet through sites like Blue Letter Bible (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>). Using the Strong's number, the reader can turn in *TWOT* to the "Index" at the end of volume 2 to see the corresponding *TWOT* entry (not page) number.

B.4 Hebrew and Greek Lexicons

Arndt, W. F. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Brown, F. (1996). *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English lexicon: with an appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic: coded with the numbering system from Strong's Exhaustive concordance of the Bible* ([New ed.]). Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers.

Liddell, H. G. (1996). *A Greek-English lexicon* (Rev. and augm. throughout). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Lexicons are essential for serious Bible study and theology but they are often neglected because fewer readers these days know any Hebrew or Greek. The language challenge is not present so much in reading the entries, which are largely in English, but with finding one's way to the desired entry in the first place. Thankfully, this problem is largely circumvented with online resources such as Tyndale House's STEP software program (see below). If the printed lexicons are all a person has access to, it is still possible to use them by having a chart of the Hebrew or Greek characters (in alphabetical order) to reference while consulting the lexicon. Hebrew is decidedly more difficult to decipher at first. The lexicons referenced above are three of the most heavily consulted titles for biblical studies. Liddell's lexicon (aka Liddell-Scott-Jones or LSJ) is devoted mainly to classical Greek, but also includes references to the Greek Septuagint (LXX) and the New Testament.

C.1 Christian Theology and Ethics - dictionaries and encyclopedias

Green, J. B., Lapsley, J. E., Miles, R., & Verhey, A. (Eds.). (2011). *Dictionary of scripture and ethics*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic.

This Dictionary (*DSE*) shares a comparable goal with *DTIB* to relate ethics to biblical studies "in a scholarly way." *DSE* starts with three lengthy introductory essays before resorting to the standard alphabetical listing. It includes articles on biblical books, lengthier "orientation" articles (e.g. "economic ethics," "business ethics") and shorter entries on specific issues like capitalism, loans and technology.

Elwell, W. A. (Ed.). (2001). *Evangelical dictionary of theology* (2nd ed). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic.

Since the publication of the first edition in 1984, this dictionary has represented evangelical scholarship at its best. It takes up 1312 pages to cover significant theological topics, historical events, movements, and figures as well as current social and scientific subject such as bioethics, eugenics, abortion, etc. For example, there is a substantial entry by Douglas Adie (Ph.D. Univ. of Chicago) on "Wealth, Christian View of." (pp. 1261-1265) Baker Academic will release a fully revised third edition in 2017.

C.2 Theology and Ethics - handbooks and companions

Gill, R. (Ed.). (2012). *The Cambridge companion to Christian ethics* (2nd ed). Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Oslington, P. (Ed.). (2014). *The Oxford handbook of Christianity and economics*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

Theology faculty at Wheaton College confirmed to the author that they turn to handbooks and companions to stay current in their field and to track the developments and trends in theological discourse more generally. At the time of publication, each handbook

or companion serves as an up to date, authoritative, comprehensive literature review on the subject. *The Cambridge Companion* (2012) and *The Oxford Handbook* (2014) above are two such books that also explore the intersection of Christianity, ethics and economics. *The Cambridge Companion* has a chapter entitled “Business, economics, and Christian ethics,” (Gill, 2012, p. 239) co-authored by Max Stackhouse and David W. Miller. *The Oxford Handbook* has thirty essays organized into five parts (below). Most of the chapters run about fifteen pages and include an extensive bibliography.

- Part I - Historical relationships between economics and Christian theology
- Part II - Contemporary theological economics
- Part III - Christianity, capitalism, and development
- Part IV - Economic analysis of religion
- Part V - Interdisciplinary exchanges

D.1 Core Journals - Biblical studies, theology, and ethics

As in any other academic discipline, Bible and theology scholars also monitor certain journals to stay current in their field. Here are just a few essential journals that scholars might want to track, who are working at the intersection of business or economics and Christian theology, ethics or biblical studies. Articles published in these journals can be found by searching the ATLA Religion Database for coverage of business- and economics-related topics. Whether the reader is looking for literature that is explicitly dealing with business and economics or ethics and theology more generally, the following peer-reviewed journals are worth considering.

- Christian Scholar’s Review
- Journal for the Study of the New Testament
- Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
- Journal of Biblical Literature
- Journal of Markets and Morality
- Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
- Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics
- Modern Theology
- Theological Studies
- Theology Today

If the reader does not have access to ATLA Religion Database, Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) will serve almost as well. Go to Scholar’s advanced search screen, where one can limit a search of keywords by a particular journal or author. Scholar may offer up the full text once in a while, but more often the reader will have to either purchase it or request it through their school’s or public library’s interlibrary loan service.

D.2 Bible Study Tools Online

In addition to the sources reviewed above, two Internet sources that provide free Bible study tools are worth highlighting.

Scripture Tools for Every Person (STEP) <https://www.step-bible.org/>

STEP is an ongoing digital project at the Tyndale House, a world-renowned center for biblical research in Cambridge, England. STEP developers have brought together several essential Bible study tools (e.g., concordance, lexicon) into a single, intuitive interface. Other built-in features include digital maps from Google Earth and the British Library, and an interlinear and parallel function that allows one to compare Bible translations and see variants in the original biblical manuscripts.

One of STEP’s most valuable features, as mentioned above, is its seamless integration of Hebrew and Greek lexicons. As indicated above, the standard lexicons for studying the Bible such as *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English lexicon* (Brown, 1996) or *A Greek-English lexicon* (Liddell, 1996) can be, in their printed form, arduous to use for persons without the language skills. With STEP, the researcher need only click on a word in the biblical text and the lexical information from these and other respected lexicons appears in a separate window to the right of the passage. The STEP web site has a very helpful introductory video at <https://youtu.be/jUMQn5n1GrI>, which the author recommends for first-time users.

How to Study the Bible <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/how-to-study-your-bible/george-guthrie>

Finally, George Guthrie’s “How to Study the Bible” site is an excellent primer for anyone looking to improve their biblical exegesis knowledge and skills. The

author found the chapter on “Word Studies” especially helpful, and recommends specifically the section on “word study fallacies.”



Gregory Morrison is Associate Professor of Library Science at Wheaton College in Illinois, where he serves as the subject librarian to several academic departments including Biblical and Theological Studies, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages. His current research interests include the history of the faith-learning integration movement in Evangelical higher education, the history of Wheaton College’s Faith and Learning Program, and a theology of learning.