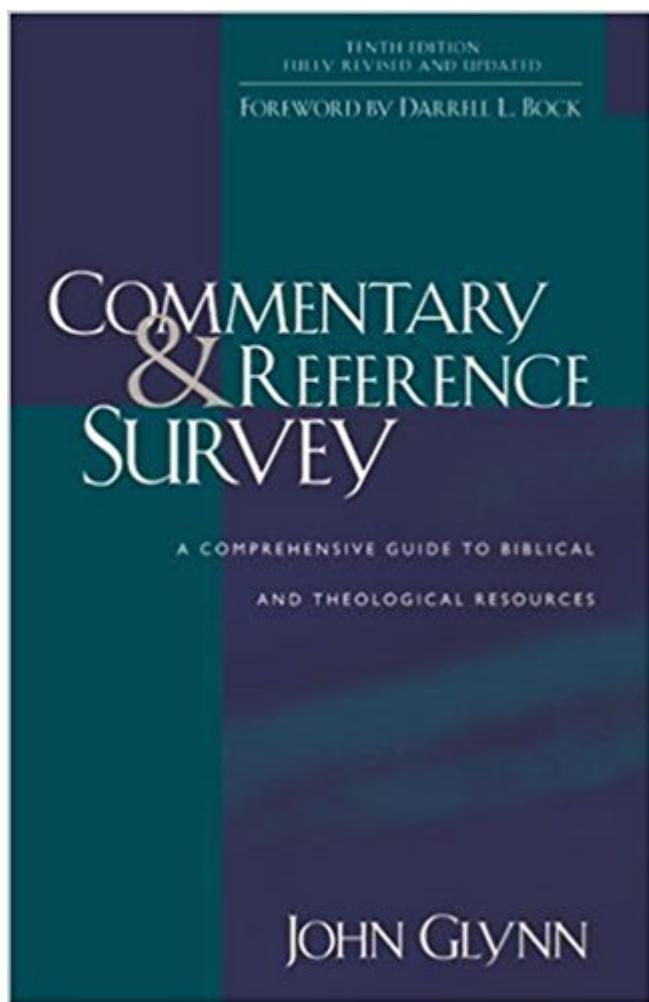


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Commentary And Reference Survey: A Comprehensive Guide To Biblical And Theological Resources



Synopsis

Now in its tenth edition, this reliable, acclaimed guide lists and ranks approximately 900 commentaries and 1,600 other biblical resources for the benefit of professors, Bible students, and pastors. Two new chapters on exegetical software round out this comprehensive guide.

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Customer Reviews

First assembled as a "labor of love" in 1994, John Glynn's survey of biblical and theological resources has won wide acclaim from professors, students, and pastors. This much-anticipated tenth edition lists and ranks approximately 900 commentaries and 1,600 other volumes related to biblical interpretation, theology, church history, and preaching. Commentaries are categorized by level and approach, while recommended titles are highlighted. Two new chapters on exegetical software round out this comprehensive guide. Praise for the ninth edition:

"This survey is a genuine service to students of the Bible. . . . [It] gives them a clear array of choices as well as good guidance." •Darrell L. Bock, Dallas Theological Seminary

"If you want to do Bible study, this is the help you need." •John H. Walton, Wheaton College and Graduate School

"It's great to have a consensus commentary and reference survey that combines the judgments of many other surveys. I highly recommend it." •George W. Knight III, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

"[A] marvelous bibliographic reference. For students, preachers, and teachers . . . this survey answers the question, Where will I get the best book for my bucks?"

•Haddon W. Robinson, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary “For most teachers of Scripture and pastors the problem is not finding good resources for biblical study . . . , the issue is determining the best resources.” Thanks to Glynn’s thorough research this problem will be solved for many. •Daniel I. Block, Wheaton College and Graduate School “A listing [that] surely represents the best of contemporary . . . scholarship.” •Eugene H. Merrill, Dallas Theological Seminary “I highly recommend this updated and reliable guide to the ‘must-have’ resources for serious biblical and theological study.” •Henry Holloman, Talbot School of Theology John Glynn, a life-long resident of Massachusetts, is a freelance academic proofreader and writer. He is a graduate of Emerson College in Boston. A member of the Evangelical Theological Society, he also authors the annual retrospective of Bible and Bible references for Preaching magazine.

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Commentary and Reference Survey is basically a handbook that guides you to other books, including roughly 900 commentaries. Obviously, this is not a book that laypeople will read or will want to read. This is specifically for theologians, those in academia, pastors, teachers, seminarians and those laypeople with a keen interest in the Bible or specific Bible topics. While it provides trustworthy recommendations overall, these are some areas where the suggestions are average at best. By far, the book’s greatest strength lies in its categorization of Biblical resources by sub-genre and by the audience that it serves. For example, it details: (1) A “must-have” list of books each for laypeople, seminary students and pastors (2) Preferred computer-based exegetical programs (3) A list of recommended general Bible commentary series and further breaks them down according to audience (e.g. practical application, technical analysis, and exegesis) (4) Broad suggestions for category overviews (e.g. The Pentateuch and the New Testament) (5) Specific suggestions for each of the Bible’s books with a further breakdown based on area of concentration (e.g. technical, exposition) (6) Special studies that focus on a particular issue. Essentially, no matter what topic you are interested in, you will find a reference here. Ironically, what makes Commentary and Reference Survey strong is also where it fails. Because there are so many references in each category, picking between the different selections equates to throwing a dart on the wall blindfolded. Although the author does provide an algorithm of how he selected works for his book, once on a list,

there is no objective way to gauge differences between titles. The commentary references are quite strong, but suggestions for other topics can be a mixed bag. Commentary and Reference Survey will save you time and money by narrowing the field of selections for you. Certainly, this narrowing will be uneven throughout the course of the book, but it remains a solid choice and will serve you well in building a theological library.

The field of biblical studies is full of excellent resources - so full that many of us have no idea many of these resources exist. Unless you have an encyclopaedic memory you will need a guide to inform you and remind you of the most important works available to you as you research. John Glynn's Commentary and Reference Survey is designed for that very purpose. There are other good commentary surveys available (Carson's NT Commentary Survey and Longman's OT Commentary Survey), but what makes this one different is it is not limited to commentaries. Not only will you find lists of OT and NT Introductions, Surveys, and Theologies, but also a host of works on subjects like: the Septuagint, History of Interpretation, Rabbinics, Dead Sea Scrolls, Greco-Roman Religion, and Church History (including sections on the Reformation, Jonathan Edwards, and the Southern Baptist Convention) - just to name a few! Of course its greatest strength is also its greatest weakness. Because of the vast number of sources included there is virtually no room for commentary on the comparative value of one work over another. Those works the author considers the "best" in a particular field are in bold type, but aside from that the author aims mainly to make the reader aware of what is available. The book is already about 380 pages - one can only imagine how long it would be if the author commented on every book! This book is in its tenth edition and was last updated in 2007 - which means if you are looking for the latest commentaries you will need to look to a more recently updated guide such as Carson's mentioned above (revised in 2013). But for breadth and scope of coverage Glynn is still an excellent resource.

I have personally used Glynn's book for several editions now, and I agree with the earlier reviewers and the weaknesses they mention. I use this guide in conjunction with Dr. Evans volume, "A Guide to Biblical Commentaries & Reference Works, by John Frederick Evans. Both Evans & Glynn's books give a MUCH broader range of religious studies and works than Carson & Longman. The annotations and descriptions are much more detailed and helpful to student, pastor, and layman. For those that enjoy this volume, I recommend you take a look at Evans work and see if that fulfills your needs. I believe one should own all four of the above books, but if you can only afford two, my vote goes to Evans & Glynn. They complement each other and together they cover the entire

religious studies courses and curriculum. These books are most helpful to readers who wish to purchase the right volume for their needs. Thanks to the above reviewer who mentioned David Bauer's work---it's now in my shopping cart.

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