
Isaiah through Malachi

By

Richard P. Belcher, Jr., Ph.D.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Virtual Campus

RTS Distance Education

The Virtual Campus of Reformed Theological Seminary offers students the convenience of home study with the quality of on-campus instruction. This course is based on classroom lectures using the GUIDE approach to learning.

Each lesson contains the following:

- G**etting Started To prepare adequately for each lesson, reading assignments and audio lectures are listed.
- U**nderstanding To maximize student learning, the purposes and objectives for the lesson are given.
- I**nvestigating To integrate readings, tapes, and outline, students are encouraged to notate information in a manner that will prove beneficial for study and examination. The study guide allows space for note-taking to expand the outline.
- D**eveloping To further develop the concepts presented, suggested readings and applications are offered.
- E**valuating To help students summarize and synthesize the material covered, study questions are provided.

Syllabus & Outline

Study Guide I Lessons 1-6

Study Guide II Lessons 7-15

Study Guide III Lessons 16-22

Appendix

COURSE SYLLABUS
Isaiah through Malachi
OOT516 3 hours
Dr. Richard P. Belcher, Jr.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Richard “Dick” Belcher is the Professor of Old Testament. He is an ordained minister in the PCA and pastored an urban nondenominational church in Rochester, NY for ten years before pursuing his Ph.D. This pastoral experience in an unusual and challenging setting gives him great insight into the practical, modern issues that will be faced by future pastors studying with him at RTS. He graduated from Covenant College and received his M.Div. from Covenant Seminary. He also received an S.T.M. from Concordia Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Westminster Theological Seminary.

Dr. Belcher published a book entitled *The Messiah and the Psalms* which attempts to show that not just the traditional Messianic psalms relate to Christ but that all psalms relate to either the person (humanity and deity) or work of Christ (prophet, priest, king). It lays a foundation for that approach and then goes through several different types of psalms to see how they relate to Christ.

Course Description

An expository study of the message of the prophets which looks at their meaning in the context of OT history, which is foundational for understanding their message for God’s people today. Issues surrounding the interpretation of prophecy, the unfolding of revelation in relationship to the Messiah, and the significance of the prophets for ministry are emphasized.

Course Objectives

- 1) To set the prophets in their historical setting in order to better understand the message of the prophets.
- 2) To be able to summarize the message of each prophetic book.
- 3) To become familiar with some of the issues related to the interpretation of prophecy.
- 4) To see how the prophets lay the groundwork for the coming of the Messiah.

Required Textbooks

Ray Dillard and Tremper Longman III, *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).

Willem A. VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990), hereinafter IPW.

D. Brent Sandy and Ronald Giese, Jr., *Cracking Old Testament Codes* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995).

John Walton, *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990).

Additional Required Reading

Richard Pratt, “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” *The Way of Wisdom* (eds. J. I. Packer and Sven K. Sonderlund; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203 (available for download within the Virtual Classroom).

The Prophetic books of the Old Testament, Isaiah through Malachi.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this handbook. You will find it located at the RTS/Virtual website under the Student Services tab.

Requirements in Brief

Master the readings and lectures.

A research paper

Three examinations

Required Reading

Prophetic Profiles

Participate in Forum Discussions (both with the professor and other students)

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper

Research Paper (30%)

A paper is required. It should focus on a particular passage from the prophets (see “Guidelines for the Research Paper,” page xi).

Examinations (45%)

There are three exams in Isaiah to Malachi. They follow a similar format and are not cumulative. No helps are allowed, including Bibles. Exam 1 will cover material through Lesson 6, Exam 2 through Lesson 15, and Exam 3 through Lesson 22. The student must give the outlines of prophetic books, which are provided in the syllabus (p xix). Memorize the outlines and produce them exactly as they are given to you. There are also identification questions, which consist of terms, names, or concepts that have been discussed in class. You should be able to answer the identifications in two or three fact-filled sentences. There is also a short essay question and a long essay question, which are based on the questions at the end of the lectures (called Evaluating). The student is given a choice in the identification questions and the essay questions. The third exam also has a section on key dates. The key dates are found in the syllabus following the outlines. There will be five key dates on the final exam. You should think in term of the event that took place and the significance of that event. All exams are to be requested online via the links in the Virtual Classroom. All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please upload your exam in the Virtual Classroom.

Required Reading (10% of final exam)

On the final exam you will be asked to report on how much of the required reading you have completed. Your answer will be in the form of a percentage. In order to receive full credit, the student must read all assigned readings noted in the Virtual Classroom, as well as the biblical books of Isaiah through Malachi.

Prophetic Profiles (10%)

A Prophetic Profile must be turned in on each prophetic book except for Obadiah and Joel. The Profile will be based on your assigned reading in IOT and IPW and will follow a Prophetic Profile guideline (see page xiii).

Forum Discussions (10%)

The student is to participate in forum discussions in the Virtual Classroom. The student must respond to the four Topical Discussion Forums during the weeks they occur. The student may then pose a question of their own to the Professor regarding either the research paper topic or course content in the Student to Professor forum. The student must then post five interactions with fellow students in the Student to Student forum.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MAR student must submit a completed Mentor Course Report Form at the conclusion of the course. For students who are not registered in the MAR program, you must submit a 200-word Course Application Paper communicating how this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All required coursework must be submitted by email attachment to Student Services at vcss@rts.edu, either as a Microsoft Word document or a PDF file. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time, according to the course end date communicated in your start letter. All work must be emailed by midnight of the course end date. No late submissions are permitted. Extensions must be arranged with the Registrar prior to the course end date.

Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE
Isaiah through Malachi
OOT516 3 hours
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Lesson One

Introduction
Divination

Lesson Two

Proclamation

Lesson Three

Interpretation

Lesson Four

Amos

Lesson Five

Hosea

Lesson Six

Jonah

Lesson Seven

Isaiah chapters 1-6

Lesson Eight

Isaiah chapters 7-39

Lesson Nine

Isaiah chapters 40-66

Lesson Ten

Zephaniah

Lesson Eleven

Nahum

Lesson Twelve

Habakkuk

Lesson Thirteen

Jeremiah

Lesson Fourteen

Obadiah

Lesson Fifteen

Joel

Lesson Sixteen

Ezekiel chapters 1-32

Lesson Seventeen

Ezekiel chapters 33-48

Lesson Eighteen

Daniel chapters 1-6

Lesson Nineteen

Daniel chapters 7-12

Lesson Twenty

Haggai

Lesson Twenty-one

Zechariah

Lesson Twenty-two

Malachi

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SUGGESTED READING

Isaiah through Malachi

OOT516 3 hours

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Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

- Aldrich, Willard M. 1954. The interpretation of Acts 15:13-18. *Bibliotheca Sacra* 111 (October): 317-323.
- Boyd, Gregory. 2000. *God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Frame, John M. 2001 *No Other God: A Response to Open Theism*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishers
- Helseth, Paul K. 2001. "On Divine Ambivalence: Open Theism and the Problem of Particular Evils." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44.3 (September): 493-512
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. 1977. "The Davidic Promise and the Inclusion of the Gentiles (Amos 9:9-15 and Acts 15:13-18): A Test Passage for Theological Systems." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 20 (June): 97-111.
- MacRae, A. 1953. The Scientific Approach to the Old Testament. *Bibliotheca Sacra* 110: 309-320.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. 1988. Hermeneutics of Continuity. In *Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*, ed. John S. Feinberg, 89-108. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.
- Sanders, John. 1998 *The God Who Risks: A Theology of Providence*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity
- Ware, Bruce A. 2001 *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.
- Warfield, B. B. 1997. "The Spirit of God in the Old Testament." In *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, 119-142. Amityville, NY: Calvary Press.
- Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 45.2 (2002) is devoted to Open Theism

GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

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The paper can be centered on one passage or it can look at a major theme in one of the books studied in this course. If the paper focuses on a theme in a book, it is important to see how that theme relates to the rest of the canon (OT and NT). If the paper focuses on one passage, the following questions should be kept in mind:

- a) How does the passage fit into the rest of the book?
- b) What is the major theme of the passage?
- c) How is the theme developed (an outline of the passage is helpful here)?
- d) Are there any significant literary, historical, or theological questions?
- e) Are there any major problems in the passage?
- f) Is the passage using prior revelation in any way?
- g) What is the message of the passage to the original reading audience?
- h) Is the passage used in a significant way in later Biblical history (either OT or NT)?
- i) What is the message of the passage for today?

The paper could revolve around a particular literary, historical, or theological issue in the passage or a particular problem encountered in the text. The paper should reflect a developed argument centered around a theme or an issue in the passage.

The following are criteria that will be used to evaluate the paper:

- a) Cogency of argument - how well does the argument hang together, and how well are pertinent and fundamental points brought out?
- b) Discussions of historical context, genre, and redemptive history (where these are appropriate)
- c) The use of sources: a variety of commentaries should be examined (use at least one older commentary, such as Calvin, Geneva series, etc.), and at least one journal article must be cited.
- d) The paper should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced with one inch margins on all sides, except the left margin should have a 1 1/4 inch margin.

Do not leave extra space between paragraphs!

- f) Please number the pages.
- g) You are expected to use as much Hebrew as you are able.
- h) The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) guidelines are to be followed, available either in book form (The SBL Handbook of Style), or in PDF form at <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/SBLHS.pdf>.

a) Sample first references for books, journal articles, and an article in a book:

1 John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 1-39* (NICOT; Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986) 25-28.

2 Edward. Robertson, "The 'Urim and Tummim'; What Were They?" VT 14 (1964) 67-70.

3 Meredith G. Kline, "The Covenant of the Seventieth Week," *The Law and the Prophets* (ed. John H. Skilton; Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1974) 452-55.

4 P. J. S. Els, "אֶהָב ('hb)," *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (ed. Willem VanGemeren; 5 vols; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997) I:277-99.

b) Second shortened footnote references:

5 Oswalt, *Isaiah 1-39*, 29-30.

6 Robertson, "Urim and Tummim," 70.

7 Kline, "The Seventieth Week," 457.

8 Els, "אֶהָב ('hb)," 1:288.

GUIDELINE FOR PROPHETIC PROFILES

Isaiah through Malachi

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The following information should be included in your Prophetic Profile based on your reading in IOT and IPW. Concerning the historical background and the reigns of the Jewish kings, you should read the appropriate sections in Kings and Chronicles (see “Kings of the Southern and Northern Kingdom” in the Course Notebook Appendix) so you can summarize the reign of the kings under which the prophet prophesied. Be sure to include the names and the significance and/or actions of any nation or ruler. Give as full an account of the history as you can from your reading. Your Prophetic Profile should be written out in paragraph form.

A) The Prophet

- 1) Family background
- 2) The place of origin (where is he from?)

B) The Historical Situation

- 1) The date(s)
- 2) The people to whom or against whom he is writing
- 3) The Jewish kings who reigned during his ministry and a brief description of their reign
- 4) The foreign nations or kings that are mentioned, including their actions and/or significance for Israel or Judah
- 5) Any other important events, such as battles or natural castastrophes

C) The Theme of the Prophetic Book

OUTLINE OF PROPHETIC BOOKS AND KEY DATES

Isaiah through Malachi

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Amos

- I. General judgments of God against all nations (1-2)
- II. Specific judgments of God against Israel (3-6)
- III. The judgments of God in symbolic visions (7:1-9:10)
- IV. The judgments of God will lead to restoration (9:11-15)

Hosea

- I. The Training of the Prophet (1-3)
 - A. Hosea's marriage to Gomer (1-2)
 - B. Hosea's remarriage to Gomer (3)
- II. The Teaching of the Prophet (4-14)
 - A. Unfaithfulness and its cause (4-6)
 - B. Unfaithfulness and its punishment (7-10)
 - C. Unfaithfulness and the love of God (11-14)

Jonah

- I. God's mercy opposes narrow pride (1:1-16) (Running away from God)
- II. God's mercy shown to his disobedient servant (1:17-2:10) (Running to God)
- III. God's mercy to repenting Gentiles (3:1-10) (Running with God)
- IV. God's mercy rebukes his despairing servant (4:1-11) (Running against God)

Isaiah

- I. Volume of Rebuke and Promise (1-6)
- II. Volume of Immanuel (7-12)
- III. Volume of God's Judgment on the Nations (13-27)
- IV. Volume of Hezekiah (28-39)
- V. Volume of Comfort (40-66)
 - A. Purpose of Peace (40-48)
 - B. Prince of Peace (49-55)
 - C. Program of Peace (56-66)

Micah

- I. First Cycle: God Saves a Remnant (1-2)
 - A. Prophecies of Judgment because of Religious Apostasy (1:1-2:11)
 - B. Prophecy of Hope: the Shepherd King Leads the People Triumphantly (2:12-13)
- II. Second Cycle: God Restores the Glory of the Remnant (3-5)
 - A. Prophecies of Judgment: Corrupt Leaders Bring the Downfall of the Nation (3:1-12)
 - B. Prophecies of Hope: Messiah Brings Security to His People (4:1-5:15)
- III. Third Cycle: God Forgives the Remnant of His Sinful People (6-7)
 - A. Prophecies of Judgment: Corrupt Leaders Lead to the Break-down of Basic Relationships (6:1-7:6)
 - B. Prophecy of Hope: God Will Provide for His People (7:7-17)

Adapted from Waltke, "Micah" in *The Minor Prophets*, ed. T. E. McComiskey (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993) 2:597-98.

Zephaniah

- I. The judgment of the day of the Lord (1-2)
 - A. The day of judgment upon Judah (1:1-2:3)
 - B. The day of judgment upon the nations (2:4-15)
- II. The salvation of the day of the Lord (3)

Habakkuk

- I. The Perplexity of the Prophet (1-2)
 - A. How can God allow wickedness to continue? (1:1-11)
 - B. How can God use a wicked nation to punish his people? (1:12-2:20)
- II. The Praise of the Prophet (3)

Nahum

- I. The Destruction of God's Enemies Decried (1)
- II. The Destruction of God's Enemies Depicted (2)
- III. The Causes of the Destruction of God's Enemies Described (3)

Jeremiah (You only need to know I, II A, B, III, IV)

- I. The Call of Jeremiah (1)
- II. Prophecies concerning Judah (2-45)
 - A. Prophecies before the Fall of Jerusalem (2-39)
 - 1) Prophecies concerning Judah's destruction (2-20)
 - 2) Prophecies concerning Nebuchadnezzar, God's instrument to punish Jerusalem (21-29)
 - 3) Prophecies of the future restoration of Judah (30-33)
 - 4) Prophecies against Zedekiah and Jehoiakim (34-36)
 - 5) Prophecies during the siege and destruction of Jerusalem (37-39)
 - B. Prophecies after the Fall of Jerusalem (40-45)
 - 1) Prophecies under Gedeliah (40-43:7)
 - 2) Prophecies in Egypt (43:8-44:30)
 - 3) Prophecy to Baruch (45)
- III. Prophecies against the Foreign Nations (46-51)
- IV. An Historical Appendix (52)

Joel

- I. The day of the Lord is a day of devastation (1:1-2:11)
- II. The day of the Lord is a day that calls for repentance (2:12-32)
- III. The day of the Lord brings judgment on the wicked (3:1-17)
- IV. The day of the Lord brings salvation to God's people (3:18-21)

Obadiah

- I. The pride of God's enemies (1-9)
- II. The mistreatment of God's people by God's enemies (10-14)
- III. The judgment of God's enemies (15-16)
- IV. The deliverance of God's people (17-21)

Ezekiel

- I. Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem (1-24)
 - A. Visions: the prophet's call and commission (1-3)
 - B. Sign acts: the destruction of Jerusalem depicted (4-5)
 - C. Speeches: the comprehensibility of God's judgment (6-7)
 - D. Temple vision: God abandons the temple (8-11)
 - E. Sign acts: the exile depicted (12)
 - F. Speeches: the inevitability of God's judgment (13-24)
- II. Prophecies against the foreign nations (25-32)
- III. Prophecies of restoration (33-48)
 - A. Preparation for restoration (33-39)
 - B. Restored temple and worship (40-48)

Daniel

- I. The training and testing of the remnant (1)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's dream and God's plan for the ages (2)
- III. The golden image and the fiery furnace (3)
- IV. Nebuchadnezzar's warning dream and humbling (4)
- V. Belshazzar's feast and God's judgment (5)
- VI. Daniel in the lion's den (6)
- VII. The triumph of the Son of Man (7)
- VIII. The vision of the ram and the he-goat (8)
- IX. The vision of the seventy weeks (9)
- X. Tribulations and the final triumph of God's people (10-12)

Haggai

- I. The rebuke of religious indifference (1)
- II. The promised glory of the new temple (2:1-9)
- III. Blessings for a defiled people (2:10-19)
- IV. God will triumph through his servant (2:20-23)

Zechariah

- I. Messages during the building of the Temple (1-8)
 - A. Call for national repentance (1:1-6)
 - B. The eight visions (1:7-6:15)
 - C. Obedience is better than insincere fasting (7-8)
- II. Messages after the building of the Temple (9-14): the full restoration of God's people
 - A. The redemption of God's people (9-10)
 - B. The problem of false shepherds (11)
 - C. The triumph of God's kingdom (12-14)

Malachi

- I. Introductory appeal: God's love for Israel (1:1-5)
- II. Oracles against the priests (1:6-2:9)
- III. Oracles against the people (2:10-4:3)
- IV. Concluding admonitions: keep the law and wait for the coming of the Lord (4:4-6)

KEY DATES FOR PROPHETS

Know the event and the significance of that event of the following dates for the final exam:

931
734
722
701
621
609
605
586
538
515

COUSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
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OT COMMENTARY SERIES

The Anchor Bible (AB)

The object of this series is to make the Bible accessible to the modern reader through exact translation, extended exposition, and reconstruction of the ancient setting. The authors are from a variety of backgrounds, including Protestants, Catholics, and Jewish scholars. Most sections include Notes on the translation of the text and Comment on the text.

The Apollos Old Testament Commentary (AOTC)

This series takes its name from Apollos, the Alexandrian Jewish Christian who taught the Scriptures powerfully (Acts 18:24-25). It seeks to combine a focus on the original text with an emphasis on giving insight for application to preachers, teachers, and students of the Bible. The format is very similar to WBC, with each author giving a translation, notes on the translation, an analysis of form and structure, an exposition of the text, and then explanation for today. The notes on the text are easier to read than WBC (larger font), and some authors give more attention to the Explanation Section. Many British Evangelicals contribute to this series.

The Bible Speaks Today (BST)

A series that attempts to expound the biblical text with accuracy, to relate it to contemporary life, and to do this in a readable format. The series is not a commentary series nor a series of sermons, but an exposition of the text.

The Evangelical Press Study Commentary Series

This series is published by Evangelical Press of Great Britain and is distributed in the USA through Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company. It wants to bridge the gap between the technical and the popular by making the technical understandable. The series takes an exegetical approach that is practical, designed for pastors to use in sermon preparation and for students to use in Bible study. It is written from a Reformed perspective, including some RTS professors.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary (EBC)

A twelve volume work covering the Old and New Testaments written by expositors for expositors with the goal of making clear the meaning of the text at the time it was written. Each book of the Bible covered includes an "Introduction." Besides the expository comments there is a brief section of "Notes" that deals with the Hebrew or Greek (with the use of Hebrew and Greek characters). The series is based on the NIV and is generally consistent with a pre-mill position, although not all expositors are pre-mill.

The Forms of the Old Testament Literature (FOTL)

This series is not a typical commentary series but approaches the text from a form-critical perspective analyzing each book and text from that angle with the goal of helping pastors and students engage in their own analysis of the text. There is a focus on the structure of the text with discussions of genre. Contains bibliographies and glossaries.

The Geneva Series of Commentaries

Reprints of classic, older commentaries. Although they need to be supplanted by new commentaries, many are excellent, and most are good devotional reading.

Hermeneia

The term Hermeneia in the ancient Greek-speaking world referred to the detailed, systematic exposition of a scriptural work. This series is a critical and historical commentary series without arbitrary limits in size or scope utilizing the full range of philological and historical tools for interpretation. It makes full use of the ancient Semitic and classical languages and is international and interconfessional in its selection of authors. Most sections of the commentary include a translation, notes to the translations, and interpretation.

International Theological Commentary (ITC)

The goal of this series is to make the OT come alive for the church with an emphasis on the theological interpretation of the Hebrew text and an emphasis on the importance of the NT for understanding the OT. It is also international in the choice of its authors. The focal concern of the series is the proclamation of the biblical message. Covers large sections of the text in an expositional format.

Interpretation

This series is designed to meet the needs of students, teachers, and ministers by integrating the results of historical and theological work in the exposition of the text. The format is not a word-by-word analysis but expository essays on the text, with application to faith and life. Based on the RSV and NRSV.

The New American Commentary (NAC)

This series is a continuation of An American Commentary published at the end of the nineteenth century. Its aim is to enable pastors and students to read the Bible with clarity and proclaim it with power. It focuses on communicating the theological structure and content of each biblical book by trying to show how each section of a book fits together. Based on the NIV. Written from a Baptist perspective and some writers are classical dispensationalists.

The New Century Bible Commentary (NCB)

This series attempts to be a verse-by-verse exposition while interacting with contemporary discussions. Based on the RSV. Brief in format.

The New International Biblical Commentary (NIBC)

The goal of this series is to break down the barriers between the ancient and modern worlds so that the power and the meaning of the biblical text can become transparent to contemporary readers. The series tries to bring together probing, reflective interpretation of the text with biblical devotion, what is called “believing criticism.” Follows a more expositional format.

The New International Commentary on the OT (NICOT)

An excellent series written from an evangelical perspective, with many Reformed writers, that has limited discussion of the Hebrew with good exposition of the text. Excellent on the historical situation with some emphasis given to NT appropriation.

The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB)

The general aim of the series is to bring the best in contemporary scholarship into the service of the church to enhance preaching, teaching, and study of the Scriptures. This is a multivolume work covering Old and New Testaments. The first volume in the OT has general articles dealing with the interpretation of the Bible, reading the Bible from various ethnic perspectives, and backgrounds to the Bible. Each commentary on the book of the Bible begins with an Introduction. Each unit of the text includes an Overview, the NIV and NRSV translation in parallel columns, a Commentary section which focuses on the final form of the text, and a Reflection section, which gives several trajectories of possible interpretations. The authors come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including a few evangelicals (like WC Kaiser).

The NIV Application Commentary Series (NIVAC)

The primary goal of this series is to help with the difficult task of bringing an ancient message into a modern context so that the series works through the process of moving from the original meaning of a passage to its contemporary significance. However, the series is not popular exposition or devotional. Each passage is broken into the format of Original Meaning, Bridging Contexts, and Contemporary Significance. The section on Bridging Contexts is meant to analyze what is timeless in the passage and how that is determined. The Contemporary Significance section helps identify contemporary situations that are compatible with those faced by the original audience and explores a variety of contexts in which the passage might be applied today.

The Old Testament Library Series (OTL)

Many of the older commentators in this series wrote from an historical critical view, although some of the newer commentators write from a literary standpoint. Volumes vary widely in their approach and usefulness.

The Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (TOTC)

The aim of this series is to provide the student with a handy, up-to-date commentary on each book, with the primary emphasis on exegesis. Major critical questions are discussed in the introductions and additional notes. The commentary series is based on the RSV.

Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)

The format has several parts: (a) a bibliography section that can be helpful for finding journal articles for your papers; (b) a translation from the Hebrew with Notes explaining the translation; (c) a “Form/ Structure/Setting” section which deals with genre issues and the views of modern scholarship; (d) a “Comment” section which gives the exposition of the text; and (e) an “Explanation” section which deals with the relevance of the text. Its aim is to be useful to the scholar, student, and minister.

COMMENTARIES ON THE PROPHETS

Amos

- Hubbard, David A. *Joel and Amos*. Vol. 22b of TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989.

Amos: a well balanced discussion of the issues, including a review of the literary forms and devices in the book.

- McComiskey, Thomas Edward. "Amos," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein; Vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985, 267-331.

Solid, historic premill, shows how Amos speaks against a perverted doctrine of election and argues that the exile continues until the coming of the Messiah.

- Motyer, J. A. *The Message of Amos: The Day of the Lion*. BST. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1974.

The books in the BST Series are neither full commentaries nor sermons. Their goal is to expound the biblical text with emphasis on application and readability. Motyer gives a concise analysis of the society of Amos' day and the message of Amos to that society. Good for preaching.

- Niehaus, Jeff. "Amos," in *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas McComiskey; Vol 1. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Extensive discussion of important genres in Amos, including the covenant lawsuit form and the royal titulary, with examples from the ANE and application to the importance for Amos. The introduction also covers Amos' relationship to the covenant phraseology of the Pentateuch, as well as discussions concerning the theology and anthropology of Amos.

- Smith, Gary. *Amos. A Mentor Commentary*. Christian Focus, 1998.

This commentary focuses on important textual questions, background studies on literary traditions and forms of speech, rhetorical markers that aid in structural analysis, exegetical issues, and main theological themes. The commentary has helpful introductory comments of major sections giving an overview of each section, as well as more detailed comments on translation and verses. Gary Smith also does Amos in the NIVAC series (with Hosea and Micah); the Mentor commentary is much more detailed in analysis and deals more with the Hebrew and the NIVAC commentary is good for getting the big picture.

- Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of WBC. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Excellent commentary with solid discussions of most issues with an emphasis on theology. Deals extensively with the prophet's relationship to the Mosaic covenant (includes a list of covenant curses in the General Introduction). The best option.

- Wolff, Hans Walter. *Joel and Amos*. Continental Commentary Series. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1977.

This commentary focuses a great deal on the language and composition of the book of Amos. The book had a long history of literary growth with a good portion of the book going back to Amos or his disciples. The present format of the book was completed in the post-exilic period. Each section of the book has a bibliography, comments on the Hebrew text, and discusses the text around the headings of Form, Setting, Interpretation, and Aim.

Hosea

- Garrett, Duane A. *Hosea, Joel*. Vol. 19a of NAC. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997.

A commentary that has an excellent review of most of the issues in Hosea, including the structure and the abrupt transitions in the book. Offers the best review of the options concerning the character of Gomer and the relationship of the children to the marriage. Garrett argues that Gomer was unfaithful at the time of the marriage and that “children of unfaithfulness” are children who bear the disgrace of their mother. Contains several Excursus, including one entitled “Feminism and Hosea.”

- Hubbard, David A. *Hosea*. Vol. 22a of TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1989.

An excellent commentary that emphasizes the thematic unity of the book, the variety of literary forms and stylistic techniques, and the context and purpose of each passage. It also compares Hosea with Amos at key points. The marriage of Hosea is a literal marriage with Gomer being chaste at the time of the marriage.

- Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Hosea*. BST. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1981. Good exposition, brief.
- McComiskey, Thomas. “Hosea,” in *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas McComiskey; Vol 1. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

In depth discussion of the marriage and character of Gomer, arguing that the command to take a wife also includes adopting the children, so that there are two groups of children, the adopted children and the children of Gomer and Hosea. This commentary is short on introductory issues, but good interaction with the Hebrew.

- Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of WBC. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Excellent commentary with solid discussions of most issues with an emphasis on theology. Deals extensively with the prophet’s relationship to the Mosaic covenant. Hesitates to draw conclusions about Gomer’s character since all Israelites at that time could be labeled with the term “harlotry.”

- Wood, Leon J. "Hosea," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein; Vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985, 161-228.

Solid but brief. Hosea's marriage is literal with Gomer being chaste at the time of the marriage based on the parallel between the relationship of God and Israel in history. Pre-millennial.

Jonah

- Alexander, Desmond, David W. Baker, & Bruce Waltke. *Obadiah, Jonah, Micah*. Vol. 23a of TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.

Provides an excellent discussion of the major issues surrounding Jonah, including the central message, genre, and purpose of the book. Especially good on defending the historicity of the book.

- Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Fuller treatment of the recurring motifs and forms are treated in connection with the commentary on Micah while canonicity and textual criticism is covered under Joel. Jonah is understood as a parable with allegorical features and is not meant to be taken historically. The most likely date is the fifth or fourth century BC.

- Nixon, Rosemary. *The Message of Jonah: Presence in the Storm* (BST; Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003)

A scholarly but practical exposition of the book of Jonah with attention given to the experience of the prophet and the literary characteristics of the book. The book is stronger on theological insight and application, but weak in that the question of the historicity of the text is left open because the language of the book is metaphorical.

- Ellison, H. L. "Jonah." *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. 7: 359-391.

Brief. Argues for the historical view of Jonah against the parabolic view. Good on historical details but weaker on the purpose of the book.

- Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of WBC. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Excellent discussion of the issues, including the date and setting of the book as well as the message and purpose of the book. Argues for the historicity of the prophet and the events.

Isaiah

- Childs, Brevard. *Isaiah*. OTL. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Childs argues that “a fresh interpretive model that does not get lost in methodological debates, and that proves to be illuminating in rendering a rich and coherent interpretation of the text as sacred scripture of both church and synagogue” is needed (xi). Although Childs hesitates to use the term “canonical” in describing his approach because the term has caused confusion, he wants to look at the final form of the text. Many times he will review the older critical approaches, but then note that they are not adequate before he gives his view. The canonical text is authoritative, not the process of how the text came together. Childs is strong on emphasizing the role of biblical theology in exegesis, in affirming a messianic interpretation of key passages, and in stressing NT appropriations. Childs denies single authorship, but emphasizes the unity of the book and a close relationship between the sections. While Childs affirms the final form of the text, he still uses the traditional historical critical terminology of First, Second, and Third Isaiah.

- Goldingay, John. *Isaiah*. NIBC. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2001.

The author sees four human voices in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah himself is called the Ambassador. The disciples of Isaiah preserve his teaching and speak about Isaiah in the third person. Some believe the disciples expound Isaiah’s words in 1-39 in the time of Josiah (the poetic words are Isaiah’s and the prose sections are the sermons of his disciples on Isaiah’s texts). The Poet has traditionally been termed Second Isaiah (he preached on texts from First Isaiah and edited chaps 1-55). The Preacher has traditionally been termed Third Isaiah (he preached on passages from First and Second Isaiah and produced a new edition of their words). The latter part of the book is inspired by Isaiah but not authored by Isaiah. The Introduction discusses Yahweh in Isaiah, Israel in Isaiah, the World in Isaiah, and Spirituality in Isaiah. The author also sees different lenses through which to read Isaiah (Jesus lens, church lens, mission lens, spiritual life lens, Israel lens, and world lens). The comment sections of the commentary are very brief.

- Grogan, Geoffrey W. “Isaiah.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelin. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. 6: 3-356.

A conservative commentary with a brief introduction written from a pre-mill, but not dispensational, perspective.

- Motyer, J. Alec. *The Prophecy of Isaiah*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

This commentary, which seems to be from the Tyndale series without being published in the TOTC format, combines literary analysis and historical interests. He sees five lines that bind Isaiah together: the Messianic hope, the motif of city, the term Holy One of Israel, issues of history and faith, and literary features. He argues strongly for the unity of authorship and majors on explanation. Although the way he divides the book is unusual at points (1-5, 6-12; and 1-37, 38-60) this is an excellent commentary, the best one volume option.

- Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 1-66*. NICOT; 2 vols.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

An excellent commentary that shows how the book of Isaiah is not only a unified composition but how each part speaks to a specific historical setting (1-39 Isaiah's own life, 40-55 the exile, and 56-66 the return). Shows clearly how issues raised in the first part need to be dealt with in later sections, and how the theology of the book becomes false if the unity of the composition is denied since many times the strong theological statements are united to the ability of God to proclaim something in advance. The author analyzes the contents of each section showing how they relate to each other. The best option.

- Seitz, Christopher R. *Isaiah 1-39*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1995.

The author wants to do justice to both historical roots and literary contexts in understanding the book of Isaiah. Thus the Introduction has brief sections dealing with Historical, Literary, and Theological Structure. The unity of the book is stressed, but it was written by many authors as they tried to present Isaiah's material to later generations. Before each major section there is an Overview which looks at broader structural organization.

- Watts, John D. W. *Isaiah 1-33*. Vol. 24 of WBC. Dallas: Word Books, 1985.

A commentary that stresses the literary unity of the book and so avoids excessive use of form, source, and redaction criticism. The first audience for the book lived in 435, the date of the completion of the book, which is consistent with the latest historical setting. The book is a Vision that takes the form of a drama. The author argues that the fifth century in which the book was completed is the new age, reflecting Yahweh's change of strategy from ruling through the Davidic king to ruling through the empires, a change that Ahaz adapted to but Hezekiah did not.

Micah

- Smith, Gary V. *Hosea/Amos/Micah*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

The Micah section focuses on how Micah relates to the reign of the kings of the period and the failure of the leadership of Israel and Judah.

- Waltke, Bruce. "Micah." *Obadiah, Jonah, Micah*. Vol 23a of TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988: 135-207.
- _____ . "Micah." *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993. 2: 591-764.

Waltke does Micah in both the TOTC and the volume edited by McComiskey. The commentary in the latter volume is expanded, including a translation by the author, a section

that examines the Hebrew text, and a bibliography.

Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

- Baker, David W. *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. Vol. 23b of TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1988.

Very brief but orients you to the major issues.

- Longman, Tremper. "Nahum." *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993. 2: 765-829.

Good analysis of Nahum with an emphasis on the literary character of the book and God the divine warrior.

- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

An engaging commentary that discusses these seventh-century prophets together in the introduction covering the historical background and their theological perspective (including an examination as to why there is no trace of messianism in these books) before dealing with each book separately. The best option.

- Sweeney, Marvin A., *Zephaniah* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003)

A forty-one page introduction covers all the key issues pertaining to Zechariah and is unique in that half of the introduction is devoted to investigating the origins, manuscripts, textual features, and sociohistorical setting of each of the text traditions for Zephaniah (LXX, Qumran, Targums, Peshitta, NT and Rabbinic traditions). Basically the whole book is from Zephaniah, with only a few later expansions (1:3, 4; 3:20). The book was written to support Josiah's reform before the discovery of the book of the law. Comments are detailed and exhaustive (leaping over the threshold refers to the priests as the only ones who can enter the temple). The one glaring weakness is that there is no attempt to deal with the contemporary church and Christian.

Jeremiah

- Bright, John. *Jeremiah*. AB. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1965.

This commentary follows the format of the older AB commentaries. It is not really a commentary but presents a fresh translation of the text with notes seeking to justify the translation. The lengthy Introduction examines the history and nature of the prophetic movement and discusses extensively the historical background to Jeremiah (the greatest strength of the book) in light of the topical arrangement of the material of Jeremiah.

- Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah/Lamentations*. (NIVAC; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).

Jeremiah: This commentary is a good mix of historical, theological, and literary perspectives to the book of Jeremiah. The author operates with a Trinitarian hermeneutic, with Christ as the center. Thus Jeremiah should be read ecclesiologically, with the prophecies of Jeremiah having relevance to the church within an already/not yet focus. Good NT connections are prominent.

- Harrison, R. K. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Vol. 19 of TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1973.

A commentary that emphasizes the historical background with some emphasis given to archaeological matters and the nature of the first and second century covenants. It also deals briefly with literary types and the problems relating to the composition of the book. The author seems to draw too much of a dichotomy between the individual and the communal in the discussion of the new covenant.

- Thompson, J. A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

This commentary includes extensive discussions of the major issues related to the book of Jeremiah, including the composition of the book, the historical background, the “confessions” of Jeremiah, the life of Jeremiah, the relation of the oracles to his life, and the message of the book. The author leans toward the view that the prose sections of Jeremiah represent free reconstructions of Jeremiah’s sayings by editors who transmitted his teaching to the next generation, which means that the final composition of the book is much later than the ministry of Jeremiah. The commentary is very helpful in understanding the oracles in the context of Jeremiah’s life.

Obadiah

- Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Fuller treatment of the recurring motifs and forms are treated in connection with the commentary on Micah while canonicity and textual criticism is covered under Joel. Obadiah commentary helpful in relating Obadiah to the other minor prophets and in setting forth the message of Obadiah.

- Baker, David W. “Obadiah.” *Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. TOTC. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 1988. 19-46.

A very brief look at a brief prophecy, understanding the context of the book to be the fall of Jerusalem. Believes the book is a unity, partly found in the principle of lex talionis.

- Niehaus, Jeffrey J. "Obadiah." *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993. 2: 495-541.

Niehaus argues for a pre-exilic Jehoram date of Joel based on Obad 10-14 as injunctions against future conduct and the relationship of Obadiah to other prophets. He entertains the idea that Obadiah is the Obadiah of Elijah and comments on the poetic devices used by Obadiah.

- Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of WBC. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Excellent commentary with solid discussions of most issues. Deals extensively with the prophet's relationship to the Mosaic covenant (includes a list of covenant curses in the General Introduction). This is the best option for Obadiah. It is good on the discussion of the historical situation and the relationship of Edom with Israel, including Edom being a paradigm for Israel's enemies.

Joel

- Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Fuller treatment of the recurring motifs and forms are treated in connection with the commentary on Micah while canonicity and textual criticism is covered under Joel. A good review of the issues relating to the date of Joel, favoring the period around 520 (Haggai and Zechariah). A good discussion of the composition of the book (he favors unity) and the issue of the locusts (he sees the locust plague as literal).

- Dillard, Raymond B. "Joel." *The Minor Prophets*. Ed. Thomas Edward McComiskey. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. 1: 239-313.

Dillard deals concisely with the difficult issue of the date of Joel examining all the external evidence that needs to be weighed and concludes that the evidence tilts toward a post-exilic date. He suggests that the date is such a difficult issue in Joel because it was a liturgical text to be repeated at national laments over a disaster or military threat and so became general to fit any number of occasions.

- Hubbard, David A. *Joel and Amos*. Vol. 22b of TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1989.

Hubbard places Joel in the context of the other prophets, not only discussing the canonical order but also the Day of Yahweh. Emphasizes how the message of Joel relates to the cult, both in its destruction and its restoration. Although he thinks Joel is to be dated anywhere from 630-500, he prefers a date of 515, after the return from exile, making Joel contemporary with Haggai and

Zechariah.

- Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Vol. 31 of WBC. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Excellent commentary with solid discussions of most issues. Deals extensively with the prophet's relationship to the Mosaic covenant (includes a list of covenant curses in the General Introduction). The best option. The occasion of the book of Joel is an invasion of Jerusalem, either in 701 or 587, although Stuart does not consider the locusts to be literal but a metaphorical description of the invading army. A good discussion of Joel's message.

- Wolff, Hans Walter. *Joel and Amos*. Continental Commentary Series. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1977.

The time of the composition of the book best fits the time of 445-343, which fits a period where the temple is in operation, Jerusalem's internal affairs are in the hands of priests and elders, and the mood reflects the smoothly functioning Persian period. There is also an interesting discussion on the position of Joel in the canon, which is often to date the book early, but the author believes its position relates to content. The rest of the prophets were to be read in light of Joel, who has a comprehensive view of prophecy. The author understands Chap 1 to be looking back at a locust plague, which brought temporary economic disaster, and Chap 2 to look forward to a final catastrophe that will come to Jerusalem. The prior event is an omen that Jerusalem's eschatological destruction is at hand. On this basis the author argues for the unity of the book (while at the same time not precluding later literary additions). There is also discussion concerning the language of Joel (lamentation liturgy) and the message of Joel (the day of Yahweh), but the author draws a dichotomy between the priestly word of the post-exilic community (Ezra/Nehemiah) and the prophetic word (the word of Torah).

Ezekiel

- Allen, Leslie C. *Ezekiel 20-48*. Vol. 29 of WBC. Dallas: Word, 1990.
- _____ . *Ezekiel 1-19*. Vol. 28 of WBC. Dallas: Word, 1994.

Since Allen wrote chapters 20-48 first, each volume has a separate introduction which covers different material. Volume 1 includes an overview of the three major sections of the book (1-24, 25-32, and 33-48) while volume 2 discusses Ezekiel the prophet and the composition of the book. Allen takes a mediating position between literary and redaction approaches.

- Block, Daniel I. *The Book of Ezekiel: Chapters 1-48*. 2 vols.; NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

An excellent commentary that seeks to make the book of Ezekiel understandable and meaningful to the contemporary reader. Besides offering his own translation and commenting on specific verses, the commentary includes for each section "Nature and Design" (which deals with style and structure) and "Theological Implications" (which is a summary of theological lessons to

guide pastors and teachers).

- Feinberg, Charles L. *The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord* (Chicago: Moody, 1969), a dispensational approach to Ezekiel.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Ezekiel*. Vol. 18 of The Communicator's Commentary. Dallas: Word, 1988.

As part of the Communicator's Commentary Series (also called Mastering the OT) the goal is to help pastors and Bible Study leaders to understand Scripture in order to better communicate its message. The Introduction is short and the expositions of the passages are not long. Stuart seems to avoid any specific eschatological pronouncements in dealing with chapters 40-48.

- Taylor, John B. *Ezekiel*. Vol. 20 of TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1969.

A commentary that avoids undue technicalities and tries to help the reader understand Ezekiel, especially parts that are easy to ignore. Solid on unity of authorship, historical background, and issues relating to the person of Ezekiel.

Daniel

- Baldwin, Joyce G. *Daniel*. Vol. 21 of TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1978.

An excellent commentary, long on introductory issues (one-third of the book), especially questions related to issues of history and the date of the book. Contains additional notes on the son of man and the seventy weeks.

- Goldingay, John E. *Daniel*. Vol. 30 of WBC. Dallas: Word, 1989.

The Introduction to this commentary deals extensively with the history of the interpretation of Daniel, concluding that it is hazardous to claim that the book directly refers to the events of one's own day (i.e., today). Daniel brings a message meaningful to people in the post-exilic period. The author accepts predictive prophecy, but believes that the book was produced in the second century and is a mixture of fact and fiction. A Conclusion to the commentary deals with the structure, origin, and theology of the book. The visions of the book culminate in the events of Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century BC.

- Miller, Stephen. *Daniel*. Vol. 18 of NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

A solid commentary written from a premill perspective. The introduction deals extensively with the date of the book, arguing in great detail for a sixth century date.

- Walvoord, John F. *Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.

This commentary is written from a dispensational perspective, which emphasizes the separation of Israel and the church in God's purposes. Although the author never makes this distinction explicitly, it is evident in the way he interprets Daniel. For example, in commenting on the dream in chap. 2 he notes that the latter days for Israel are not the same as the last days for the church. The last days for the church culminate in the rapture and are not related to the time of the end for Israel. The author is at his best in laying out various responses to the critical historical questions related to Daniel and answering them from a position of belief in the trustworthiness of Scripture.

- Young, Edward J. *Daniel*. Geneva Series. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1949.

An older commentary that is short on introductory issues, but excellent on the meaning of the prophecies of Daniel. Interacts with different eschatological viewpoints but argues the amil position. Has extensive appendices covering historical issues, including the identity of the empires. Still the best option, if supplemented by Baldwin for introductory issues.

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

- Baldwin, Joyce G. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Vol. 24 of TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1972.

A good commentary that has a beginning section dealing with the background to the period of restoration, the importance of the temple, and Messianic hopes. There are also individual introductions to each of the prophets; exceptionally good on Zechariah and the meaning of 9-14.

- Meyers, Carol L. and Eric M. Myers. *Haggai, Zechariah 1-8*. Vol. 25b of AB. New York: Doubleday, 1987.

This commentary sets Haggai and Zechariah solidly in the context of the rebuilding of the temple. The authors argue that Haggai-Zechariah 1-8 is a composite work completed for the dedication of the temple in 515. Haggai focuses on the reluctance of the people to build the temple and Zechariah 1-8 wrestles with Yahwehism without an independent territorial state. The Introduction has good discussions of the structure of the text, the Hebrew as prose or poetry, and recent studies on Haggai-Zechariah (as of 1984). The commentary contains a translation, notes on the Hebrew text, and then Comments on the passage.

- Meyers, Carol L. and Eric Meyers. *Zechariah 9-14: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Vol. 25c of AB. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

The authors place Zechariah 9-14 in the context of the first half of the fifth century which reflects a situation that was not as hopeful as Haggai and Zechariah 1-8. This changed situation explains the heightened eschatological thrust of Zechariah 9-14. Although they recognize that Zechariah 9-14 “exhibits an inner canonical logic and even elaborates on many of the themes” of Zechariah 1-8, they agree with the consensus view that Zechariah 1-8 and 9-14 have different authors. The authors show clearly the connections of Zechariah 9-14 with 1-8 as well as the numerous references in Zechariah 9-14 to other prophetic material (intertextuality). The authors are very cautious in their conclusions.

- Moore, T. V. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Geneva Series. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1993.

This commentary was originally composed in the 1850’s by a pastor for thinking laymen and pastors. Moore offers his own translation. There is an interesting introduction to prophecy and the prophetic office leading to a discussion of the Restoration period. There are also several pages of comments on the important commentaries on these prophets in the author’s day. Each prophetic book has its own introduction, and each chapter ends with Practical Inferences, which seek to draw out principles and application for the text.

- Smith, Ralph L. *Micah-Malachi*. Vol. 32 of WBC. Dallas: Word, 1984.

This commentary covers 6 books in about 350 pages, which means it is a little briefer than other commentaries on these books. Interesting discussion in Zechariah concerning the scope of the Messianic prophecies.

- Verhoef, Pieter A. *The Books of Haggai and Malachi*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

This commentary deals extensively with introductory issues to each book and has helpful summaries dealing with the message and application of each section.