

## Reference Tools for Old Testament Study

### Editions of the Old Testament

- Elliger, A. E. et al. eds., *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1977. (Follows the Leningrad Codex.)
- Rahlfs, A., ed. *Septuaginta*, 8th ed., 2 vols. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1954. (An eclectic text using mostly the Codices Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, and Alexandrinus.)
- Swete, Henry Barclay, ed., *The Old Testament in Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1909. (This edition follows the Codex Vaticanus. It is out of print, but it is worth buying if you can find it.)

### Recommended Modern English Translations

- New Revised Standard Version* (HarperCollins, Oxford, and New Interpreter's are good study Bibles).
- New International Version*.
- New Jerusalem Bible*.
- Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures*. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1988).

### Guides to Textual Criticism

- P. Kyle McCarter, *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986)
- Scott, William R., *A Simplified Guide to the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. BIBAL Press, 1987.
- Tov, Emmanuel, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
- Würthwein, E., *The Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

### Lexicons

- Brown, F. S., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, corrected ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1952. Reissued as *The New Brown, Driver, and Briggs . . . Numerically Coded to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- The Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Vol's. 1-5, *The New Koehler Baumgartner in English*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994.

### Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- Achtemeier, P. J., ed., *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1996. (Keyed to *HarperCollins Bible Commentary*, see below.)
- The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Freedman, D. N., ed., 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992. (A very complete dictionary. Also available on CD Rom)
- Hayes, John H., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. (A dictionary of interpreters and biblical interpretation through the ages.)
- Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 16 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1971.

### Concordances

- Lisowsky, G., *Konkordanz zum hebräischen Alten Testament*, 2d. ed. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958. (Beautifully hand-lettered.)
- The NRSV Concordance Unabridged*, John Kohlenberger, ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
- Strong, J., *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* New York: Cranston Curts. 1894; frequently reprinted by various publishers. (A concordance to King James, but numbering matches that in the BDB, which makes it useful.)
- Young, R., *Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, 8th ed. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1939; reissued by other publishers.

### **Atlases**

- Aharoni, Y. and M. Avi-Yonah, *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*, rev. ed. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1977.
- Avi-Yonah, M. *The Holy Land from the Persian to the Arab conquests (536 BC to AD 640): A Historical Geography*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.
- May, H. G., *Oxford Bible Atlas*, 3d. ed., rev. by J. Day. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

### **Non-Biblical Comparative Material**

- Charlesworth, J. H., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 2 vols. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, 1983-1985.
- Pritchard, J. B., ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 3d. ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
- Vermes, G., *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, 2d. ed. Hammondsworth: Penguin Books, 1974.

### **Hebrew Grammars**

- Kelley, Page, *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992.
- Kautzsch, E., ed., *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910. (A classic.)
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.
- Waltke, Bruce and M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Eisenbrauns, 1990. (Actually more of a reference work than an introduction. I find it very helpful for things not covered in introductory grammars.)

### **Commentaries**

#### *One-Volume Commentaries:*

- James L. Mays, ed., *HarperCollins Bible Commentary*, rev. ed (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2000).  
[An excellent comprehensive commentary. Its companion volume, the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (see above) is keyed to it]
- Carol Newsom and Sharon Ringe, eds., *The Women's Bible Commentary*, rev. ed (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1998). [Not intended to be a full commentary, but to supplement other commentaries by keying in on passages particularly relevant to women.]

### **Commentary Series**

*The New Interpreter's Bible* in 12 volumes (Nashville: Abingdon Press). [The heir of the old Interpreter's Bible of fifty years ago. An excellent commentary with theological reflections, now complete. Also available on CD Rom.]

*The Old Testament Library* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press). [A very respectable standby. Many of the volumes are being updated by new authors. Separate volumes on each book of the Bible, and several additional volumes on particular topics.]

*Hermeneia* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press). [An exhaustively technical scholarly commentary, especially good for textual and language issues.]

*Interpretation* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press). [This series, nearing completion, is especially geared for clergy and laity. Separate volumes on each book of the Bible. Many have, or will have, companion Bible Study guides in the Interpretation Bible Study Series.]

*Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary Series* (Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys). [Like NIB and Interpretation, geared for clergy and laity. Only a few volumes have appeared. Contains not only commentary but also interpretive artwork, and a CD-Rom version]

*Westminster Bible Companion* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press). [Another excellent new series in paperback, very affordable.]

*Word Biblical Commentary* (Waco, TX: Word Publ. Co.). [A more conservative series, with excellent bibliography.]

### **Histories of Israel and Judah**

Bright, J., *A History of Israel*, 3d. ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981. (Widely used.)

Miller, J. M. and J. H. Hayes, *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986. (Historically more skeptical than Bright, opens up interesting historical questions.)

### **Introductions to the Old Testament**

Birch, Bruce. *Let Justice Roll Down: The Old Testament, Ethics, and Christian Life*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991. (Oriented toward ethics, as the title suggests.)

Craigie, Peter. *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986. (A good basic intro, easy to read.)

Rendtorff, R. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. Fortress, 1983. (Sometimes cryptic in its brevity, but very up-to-date and often creative.)

Schmidt, Werner. *Old Testament Introduction*. New York: Crossroad. 1984. (More historical-critical than some other recent ones.)

### **Journals for Old Testament Study**

*Interpretation*. (Geared for pastors, both readable and up-to-date.)

*Journal of Biblical Literature*. (The most important journal for Biblical scholarship published in this country.)

*Semeia*. (Published by JBL. Oriented toward literary and sociological studies of the Bible.)

*Journal of Old Testament Studies*. (Published in Great Britain, also oriented toward literary studies and tends to be somewhat less esoteric than *Semeia*.)

*Zeitschrift für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*. (Don't let the German scare you--many articles are published in English.)

*Vetus Testamentum*. (The articles, however, are not in Latin!)

*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. (On archeology; more technical than the following two, fewer pictures.)

*Biblical Archaeologist*. (A popularization of BASOR, above.)

*Biblical Archaeology Review*. (More conservative, but good.)

### **Guides to Published Materials**

*ATLA Religion Database* (A CD Rom index of recent articles and reviews, available on the computer in the reference room.)

*Religion Index One* (The periodical guide for religious publications.)

*Old Testament Abstracts* (published three times a year. Offers brief synopses of all major books, articles, and chapters of collected works related to the Old Testament. Also available on computer.)

### **Computer Software**

BibleWorks for Windows. (Highly recommended. Several versions of English, Hebrew, Greek, plus expanded lexicons, grammatically tagged search engine. Several additional resources and intention to continue expansion. Requires CD Rom or can be downloaded into hard drive.)

Logos (Not as powerful a BibleWorks as a search engine, but has made available electronic versions of many reference works, such as the Anchor Bible Dictionary and Koehler-Baumgartner Lexicon.)