Book Reviews


Logos Bible Software has produced a third bundle of Zondervan resources that are already in print. (Cf. my reviews of the first bundle in Them 35 [2010]: 365–67 and the second bundle in Them 36 [2011]: 170–71.) This 63-volume bundle contains twelve collections of evangelical resources—each also available for purchase individually:

1. NIV Application Commentary: OT (12 vols.; 1999–2009). This includes the volumes on Genesis (Walton), Exodus (Enns), Leviticus and Numbers (Gane), Joshua (Hubbard), Judges and Ruth (Younger), 1–2 Samuel (Arnold), 1–2 Kings (Konkel), 1–2 Chronicles (Hill), Esther (Jobes), Psalms 1–72 (Wilson), Proverbs (Koptak), and Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs (Provan). BestCommentaries.com ranks ten of these twelve books in the top six for its respective book(s). NIVAC is relatively thin on exegeting the text but thick on applying it, which can be extraordinarily useful for preachers toward the end of sermon preparation.

2. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the NT (2 vols.; 2010). Galatians by Thomas Schreiner and Ephesians by Clint Arnold are two more excellent editions to the ZECNT, which combines the strengths of BECNT and NIVAC. I don’t know of another commentary series whose format is better suited for sermon preparation.

4. Counterpoints Upgrade (3 vols.; 2008–2011). Zondervan’s second Logos bundle includes fourteen volumes from this series, which debates controversial topics by having well-known advocates of particular views present their perspectives, followed by responses from advocates of opposing views. These three additional volumes debate divine providence (four views), the NT use of the OT (three views—a book that I assign as a primary textbook for courses on how the NT uses the OT), and the spectrum of evangelicalism (four views—a book I coedited with Collin Hansen).


6. Ancient Context, Ancient Faith Series (3 vols.; 2009–2010). These three popular-level books by Gary Burge are just over 100 pages each and filled with pictures: *The Bible and the Land*, *Encounters with Jesus*, and *Jesus, the Middle Eastern Storyteller*.

7. Church History (7 vols.; 2004–2011). The most valuable book in this collection is Gregg Allison’s *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*, which functions as a 778-page companion to Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*. Other books include Collin Hansen and John Woodbridge’s *A God-Sized Vision: Revival Stories that Stretch and Stir* and volume 1 of Everett Ferguson’s *Church History (From Christ to Pre-Reformation)*.

8. World Religions Upgrade (2 vols.; 2011). Ross Anderson’s *Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor* advises Christians how to relate to Latter-Day Saints, and Irving Hexham’s *Understanding World Religions* views major religions through the lens of history, philosophy, culture, beliefs, and practices.


11. Ethics and Apologetics (6 vols.; 2008–2011). This includes Wayne Grudem’s *Politics according to the Bible* (which I reviewed with Charles Naselli for *TGC Reviews* in November 2010) and *Why the Church Needs Bioethics* (ed. John Kilner), to which D. A. Carson contributes a chapter on the ethics of suicide and assisted suicide.
12. Practical Theology (4 vols.; 2011). The Hardest Sermons You’ll Ever Have to Preach: Help from Trusted Preachers for Tragic Times (ed. Bryan Chapell) suggests how to preach in specific difficult situations (e.g., dealing with the death of a child). This collection also includes Glen Scorgie’s 864-page Dictionary of Christian Spirituality. (This issue of Themelios reviews both of these books.)

Owning these books in your Logos library allows you to quickly search them and easily read them on multiple devices. Logos announced in January 2012, for example, that the Logos app for the iPhone and iPad now syncs notes and highlighting across all platforms. So if you highlight words on your phone, they will also be highlighted when you pull up that resource on your iPad or computer; if you add a note on your desktop or laptop, that note will appear when you pull up that resource on your iPhone or iPad; etc. I have enthusiastically used Logos for fourteen years, and my enthusiasm continues to grow.

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