

JOB COMMENTARIES AND STUDIES

Text-Driven Preaching Workshop on Job October 8, 2018

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Exegetical Commentaries

Clines, D. J. A. *Job 1–20*. WBC. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1989.

First of three volumes. Large volume [1,500 pages plus]. Extensive treatment of linguistic and textual issues. May be a bit more than most pastors want to wade through but generally worth the effort. Consult if you have the time.

_____. *Job 21–37*.

_____. *Job 37–42*.

Delitzsch, Franz. *Job*. Commentary on the Old Testament. Vol. 4. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985 reprint).

Dated but solid, from the pen of the famous conservative OT German scholar. The introduction is 44 pages, 11 of which cover the history of the exposition of Job.

Dhorme, Édouard. *A Commentary on the Book of Job*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984.

The original French edition was published in 1926 and translated into English in 1967. Dhorme was professor of OT in Jerusalem until 1931 and then in 1933 became Professor of Hebrew, Assyrian, and Old Testament Exegesis at the École des Hautes Études in Paris and in 1945 in the College de France until 1951. One of the finest technical commentaries ever written on Job.

Gordis, Robert. *The Book of Job: Commentary, New Translation and Special Studies*. New York: The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1978.

Gordis was a top Jewish OT scholar who was an expert on Job. This commentary is 600 pages. It is somewhat unique in that it combines a translation of Job, commentary, and 42 short studies on the language, structure and contents of Job.

Seow, C. L. *Job 1–21: Interpretation and Commentary*. Illumination Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.

This is probably the top of the line exegetical commentary on Job. Serious expositors should consult it. It will become one of the classics on Job. (971 pages)

Expositional Commentaries

Robert Alden. *Job*. NAC. Nashville: B&H, 1993.

Good coverage of introductory matters and text. Solid exposition.

Andersen, Francis. *Job*. TOTC. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1976.

One of the best expositions in the past 50 years. Verse by verse in approach. David Bauer says it is “among the most substantive and authoritative volumes in the Tyndale series.”

Aquinas, Thomas. *The Literal Exposition of Job: A Scriptural Commentary Concerning Providence*. Trans. Anthony Damico. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.

Contains an interpretive essay of 60 pages on Aquinas’ on Job by Martin Yaffe. The commentary itself is over 400 pages.

Archer, Gleason. *The Book of Job: God’s Answer to the Problem of Undeserved Suffering*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1982.

Good blend of exposition and application. Helpful for preaching.

Barnes, Albert. *Notes on Job*. 2 vols.

Spurgeon calls it “exceedingly good; ... the student should purchase this work at once, as it is absolutely necessary to his library.”

Davidson, Andrew. *Job*. Cambridge Bible Commentary.

Childs considered this a “lucid, sober analysis of the literal sense of the text.”

Estes, Daniel. *Job*. Teach the Text Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Estes is Distinguished Professor of Bible at Cedarville University. He has authored other OT books and commentaries as well. This series is helpful to preachers in that it provides up to date scholarship that present the information in such a way to aid the preacher/teacher to move from the meaning of the text to effective communication. The book (and all in the series) divides Job into preaching units and limits the discussion to six pages. This allows pastors to grasp the most important information quickly.

Gibson, Edgar. *The Book of Job*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1978 reprint.

First published in 1899, it contains useful outlines, helpful to expository preachers. Good word studies.

Green, William Henry. *The Argument of the Book of Job*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1981.

“Few works are as helpful as this one in tracing the argument of the book,” Barber said.

Hartley, J. E. *The Book of Job*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Solidly evangelical and well-researched. Rosscup calls it one of the best conservative works on Job. Hartley attempts to canonically connect Job with the rest of the Old Testament.

Lawson, Steven. *Job*. Holman Bible Commentary. Nashville: B&H, 2004.

Lawson is a good writer/speaker (he was once a sportswriter for the Texas Rangers and Dallas Cowboys). Solid expositional commentary that would be very helpful to preachers. Chapter titles for each chapter of Job are good sermon title ideas as well!

Longman, Tremper. *Job*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament: Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

Longman attempts a theological explanation of Job. Emphasis on place in the canon and relationship to the New Testament.

Simonetti, Manlio and Marco Conti, eds. *Job*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Vol. 6. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.

What did the early church fathers say about Job? Material from their sermons and commentaries here that would be helpful to the preacher.

Walton, John. *Job*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Excellent commentary providing solid exposition and helpful application for the preacher.

Devotional Commentaries

Blackwood, Andrew. *A Devotional Introduction to Job*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1959.

The title says it all.

Caryl, Joseph. *Job: Exposition with Practical Observations*. 12 vols. [Also in abridged form under the title *An Exposition of Job*] Grand Rapids: Kregel.

Puritan treatment in excess! Published between 1644 and 1646. Expository and devotional. If you have the time, you will find some good nuggets for preaching in the 12 volumes. Otherwise, consult the abridged volume.

Chambers, Oswald. *Baffled to Fight Better*. 4th ed. Oxford: Alden & Co., n.d.

Expository messages on the book by the author of the classic *My Utmost for His Highest*. Mac Brunson said it was especially helpful to him during a difficult time in his ministry.

Cox, Samuel. *Commentary on the Book of Job*. London: C. Kegan Paul and Co., 1880.

Excellent devotional commentary.

Morgan, G. Campbell. *The Answer of Jesus to Job*. Wipf & Stock, 2013 reprint.

Warren Wiersbe says, "It is so good you will be tempted to preach it." Morgan relates the book to Christ and the New Testament.

Thomas, David. *The Book of Job, Exegetically and Practically Considered*. James & Klock Publishing, 1976 reprint (originally published in 1884).

This work contains 91 homiletic sketches well worth your consideration in preaching Job.

Special Studies

Bradley, George. *Lectures on the Book of Job: Delivered in Westminster Abbey*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888.

Bradley was the Dean of Westminster. Lectures given in 1885-86.

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Poetic Books of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody, 1979.

Excellent general introduction to Job.

Ciholas, Paul. *Consider My Servant Job*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson 1998.

Ciholas is a retired professor of Religion, philosophy, and history of ideas at the Univ. of Kentucky and Kentucky State. The subtitle says it all: "Meditations on Life's Struggles and God's Faithfulness." 60 meditations will provide lots of homiletical help to the preacher!

Draper, James. *Where Real Worship Begins: Lessons from the Life of Job*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux, 1995.

17 brief devotional studies on selected texts from Job by one of Southern Baptists great preachers and statesman who pastored FBC, Euless, TX and then was President of LifeWay.

Ellison, H. L. *From Tragedy to Triumph: The Message of the Book of Job*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1958.

Not a verse-by-verse commentary, but helpful, especially on Job's friends.

Fyall, Robert. *Now My Eyes Have Seen You*. New Studies in Biblical Theology, vol. 12. ed. D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.

Subtitle is “Images of Creation in the Book of Job.” This would be a helpful resource on this subject when preaching Job.

Gariepy, Henry. *Portraits of Perseverance*. Victor Books, 1989.

Here are 100 meditations from Job that would be helpful to the preacher. Lots of good illustrations to boot!

Holbert, John. *Preaching Job*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999.

In the Preaching Classic Texts series which has the goal of helping preachers understand texts in the light of current scholarship. Provides exegetical help, suggestions on how to preach the text, and sample sermons. Holbert is Professor Emeritus of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, and an ordained Methodist pastor.

Mason, Mike. *The Gospel According to Job*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1994.

Helpful devotional treatment (“reflective meditations”) of selected passages in Job. Preachers will find lots of help here. Mike Mason is the best-selling, award-winning author of *The Blue Umbrella*, *The Mystery of Marriage*, and many others.

Mitchell, Stephen. *The Book of Job*. New York: Harper Collins, 1987.

Originally published as *Into the Whirlwind* in 1979, this is a fascinating poetic translation of Job. Mitchell is a scholar and eminent translator of other works. Lots of ideas for how to express Job in more contemporary language here for the preacher!

Walton, John and Tremper Longman. *How to Read Job*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2015.

Clear and concise (200 pages), this is a helpful volume to the preacher. The book is divided into four parts: 1) Reading Job as Literature, 2) Getting to Know the Characters of the Book of Job, 3) The Theological Message of the Book of Job, 4) Reading Job as a Christ. Watch out, though! They The authors believe Job “may have been a real person” but “the rest of the book is a literary work of art providing a wisdom discussion that is framed by extremes.”

Wolfers, David. *Deep Things Out of Darkness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Wolfers spent the last 20 years of his life studying Job and this is the fruit of his study. Wolfers provides a literal translation based on the Hebrew text followed by commentary. He considers Job an allegory in which Job represent the people of Judah at the time of the Assyrian conquests and the exile of the ten tribes. This is problematic, but the book is helpful.

Zuck, Roy. *Sitting with Job: Selected Studies on the Book of Job*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

This volume contains 34 chapters by scholars on key aspects of the book, including D. A. Carson, R. Laird Harris, Claus Westermann, and many more. Helpful to all who plan to preach through Job. Zuck was Senior Professor Emeritus of Bible Exposition at Dallas Seminary where he taught for many years.

Sermons

Gregory the Great. *Magna Moralia* (famous sermons on Job. Childs said it was used by the church for a thousand years.)

Calvin, John. *Sermons from Job*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.

Calvin preached 159 sermons on Job during the weekdays of 1554-1555! This volume presents 20 of them selected by the translator, Leroy Nixon. See also Calvin's Sermons on Job, 751 pages, published by Banner of Truth in 1993.

Chappell, Clovis. *Sermons from Job*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1957.

See on "10 Commandments" above. Here are 15 textual sermons from the pen of a gifted Methodist preacher.

Jeremiah, David. *Tried, Tested, & Triumphant: The Book of Job*. 2 vols. San Diego: Turning Point, 2010.

Fifteen studies (sermons) from the well-known pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California. Sermon outlines, illustrations, and more!

Lawson, Steven. *When All Hell Breaks Loose*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1993.

I suspect this book was a sermon series Lawson preached in his pastoral days in Mobile, Alabama. The book is 13 chapters that treat all of Job. Great sermon title ideas in this book for

the chapter titles as well: “I Need you on my Team; Not on my Back!” and “There’s Hope at the End of Your Rope!”

Spurgeon, Charles. (Spurgeon preached more than 88 sermons on Job).

Stedman, Ray. *Let God be God: Life-changing Truths from the Book of Job*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 2007.

Sermons and studies from the famous pastor of Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, California for forty years. Stedman died in 1992. “With warmth, encouragement, and even humor, renowned Bible teacher Ray Stedman offers solid biblical comfort and counsel on Job’s (and your) deeply personal and agonizing questions and helps you work through the problem of human suffering.” (From the back cover)

Vines, Jerry. “The Woeful World of Uz.”

Series of sermons available on DVD or download from Jerry Vines Ministries at www.jerryvines.com. Vines is one of Southern Baptist’s most famous expository preachers who served for a quarter of a century as Co-Pastor and Pastor of FBC, Jacksonville, FL.