Annotated Bibliography

Andersen, Francis I. 1976. *Job: Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Vol 14.* Inter-Varsity Press.

Andersen was a professorial fellow in the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Melbourne when he wrote this commentary, but in later years was the David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Seminary. He was broadly educated and engaged several fields of study. He writes for scholars and pastors but does provide interesting and well informed insights for the reader interested more in the stories and characters than Hebrew syntax. If you are looking for a commentary that explores the breadth of historical, linguistic, literary, and doctrinal issues and challenges the education of the reader, then Andersen will provide a fulfilling experience. Although he himself exhibits a conservative respect for the ancient biblical texts, he does entertain various perspectives from authors and academics with views that treat Scripture as more mythical and allegorical than literal.

Atkinson, David. 1991. *The Message of Job: The Bible Speaks Series*. Inter-Varsity Press.

When Atkinson wrote this commentary, he was chaplain and fellow of Corpus Christi College at Oxford University. Atkinson pursued chemistry in his early years of teaching before seeking a graduate degree in theology. His interests then migrated toward psychology of religion, which is evident in his interpretations of the speeches of Job. He focuses on the suffering of Job. As he says in the opening chapter commenting on the prologue, “We are being prepared . . . not only to face the questions of suffering, but to see them in the larger framework of Job’s relationship to God” (p 32). Atkinson relies on Francis I. Andersen’s scholarship for introductory details and exegetical issues as he pursues an approach to Job with which he is more comfortable, i.e., the emotional impact of suffering on one’s relationship to God. He has some worthwhile discernments and questions that reach into the well of one’s soul.

Delitzsch, Franz J. 1861, 1975. *The Book of Job: Commentary on the Old Testament.* Vol IV. Erdmans.

Delitzsch was a 19th century German scholar who studied the ancient biblical and related languages in great depth. He was so familiar with the ancient Jewish commentaries that he was often thought to be Jewish himself. His commentary is often difficult to read due to the author’s assumption that the reader would be familiar with Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and Latin. The commentary was originally written in German. As an Assyriologist Delitzsch knew the Middle Eastern culture quite well, and if one can hurdle the language barriers, there are many nuggets to be mined from this man’s meticulous engagement with Job.

Dillard, Richard B. and Longman III, Tremper. 1994. *An Introduction to the Old Testament.* Zondervan.

Although schooled in the more liberal interpretations of the Bible, both of these scholars were evangelicals and colleagues at Westminster Theological Seminary until Dillard’s death in 1993. The few pages devoted to Job briefly cover the background, literary style, structure of the book, and conclude with a focus on wisdom and suffering as themes and the connection to the New Testament. Dillard and Longman reference both Delitsch and Andersen (mentioned above) demonstrating the continuing thread of scholarship in the development of commentary on Job. Although short, their comments serve as a quick overview to the book of Job and a great introduction to the book.

Green, William Henry. 1873. McHugh, Michael J. Ed. 1996. *The Book of Job Unfolded*. Christian Liberty Press.

This book is typical of 19th century pastoral reflections on the book of Job. McHugh does not do much to update the book with recent scholarship. Green takes a pastoral approach referencing complementary scriptures and providing commentary demonstrating the thoughtfulness of a culture without the distractions of modern day media. This book is thematic but not in the theological sense. Green looks more at the characters of the book such as Satan, Job’s friends, Elihu, and of course the Lord. As he examines the relationships of these persons, he explores the theological implications. The book has been identified as “culturally important” by scholars and is available on Amazon.

Hess, Richard S. 2016. *The Old Testament: a Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction.* Baker Academic.

Hess received his Ph.D. at Hebrew Union College where many rabbis receive their linguistic training for the ministry. He is recognized as one of the leading scholars regarding the interpretation of the Hebrew language. His technical knowledge of the Old Testament is unsurpassed. His chapter on Job offers the opinions of several scholars from ancient rabbinic writings to Augustine to Calvin (p 402-03). His summary of Samuel Terrien’s description of three possibilities Job’s desire for God’s presence in his life (414-15). Reader should note that Hess is influenced by some less than conservative perspectives.

Huckabay, Gary C. and Hannibal, James R. *A Spy and the Book of Job: a Bible Study Companion for The Paris Betrayal.* Lightraiders Press.

This is an interesting little book that has some value for devotional reading. Unfortunately, the book was written as a companion for a spy novel written by James Hannibal. The intent of the book was to provide Christian book clubs and community groups with discussion questions that tied the spy novel and the Bible together. The book’s appendices, discussion starters, and short commentaries and study questions on 12 different themes from Job make it a worthwhile study guide. But reading Hannibal’s spy novel first makes it much more interesting.

Kaiser, Walter C. Ed. 2005. *Archaeological Study Bible: New International Version.* Zondervan.

This Bible is the New International Version with articles, pictures, and graphics from over 60 scholars and organizations that were used as references in connection with the English version of the text. The articles provided background material and insights into the life and times of Job.

Lasor, William Sanford, Hubbard, David Allan, and Bush, Frederic William. 1996. *Old Testament Survey: the Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament.* Erdmans.

This survey of the Old Testament was essentially authored by the Old Testament department of Fuller Theological Seminary (known as a Presbyterian school). The chapter on Job covers the basic information found in most chapters including authorship, name, place in the Bible, and background. The authors spend several pages discussing the structure and literary nature of the book before getting to the theological implications. In the theological section they highlight God’s freedom (sovereignty), the role of Satan as he relates to testing Job’s loyalty, retribution and justice, the “strength” of suffering, and Job’s faithfulness. The thoughts of these three scholars are well worth considering.

Ortlund, Eric. 2017. *Knowing the Bible, Job: a 12-Week Study.* Crossway.

J. I. Packer is the theological editor of this series of biblical studies. Bryan Chapell, president emeritus of Covenant Theological Seminary gives the series high marks. Ortlund takes a devotional approach to Job and offers up several valuable questions. His emphasis is on understanding God’s purpose of suffering for our lives while looking ahead to our resurrection and the hope of new life. Great book for devotional use.

Shepherd, Duane A. Ed. 1996. *Shepherd’s Notes-Job.* Holman.

This is a Baptist publication that strives provide an inductive approach to the book of Job through devotional questions. Because it poses many more questions than answers, it serves the reader, or Bible study groups, well as they use their little grey cells and the help of the Holy Spirit to try and discern the meaning of events and comments in Job. Of course this process then becomes meaningful as the reader applies one’s own discoveries to one’s own life and life in general.

Williams, C. J. 2017. *The Shadow of Christ in the Book of Job.* Wipf & Stock.

As the title implies, the focus of this book is on Job as a type of Christ. Job is seen as a messianic figure pointing to the suffering of Christ and the unjust accusations of the Jewish leaders. Williams takes time to trace the scriptural threads of the promised messiah before getting into the story of Job. He sees Job as a royal and priestly figure and the victim of sinless suffering. He develops the promise of redeemer and Job’s longing for a mediator between him and God that might vindicate him. Williams provides a useful study especially for those who see the central theme of the Old Testament as the coming of the messiah.