NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday School ---------- *Piper Quinnelly & Volunteer Needed*
10:50 a.m. Service ---------- *Mary Byars & Volunteer Needed*
6:30 p.m. Service ---------- *Hannah & Brenda White*
Wed. Evening Service ---------- *Volunteers Needed!*

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 8, 2026 -

Sunday School ---------- 13
Sunday Morning Service ---------- 34
Sunday Eve. Service ---------- 26
Wednesday Eve. Service ---------- 7

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November8, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 2,181.22
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/08/26: $ 2,297.44

- Week of November1, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 2,180.75
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/01/26: $ 2,306.68

- Week of October25, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,619.22
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/25/26: $ 1,745.15

- Week of October 18, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,588.87
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 130.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/18/26: $ 1,718.87

- Week of October 11, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,698.54
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/11/26: $ 1,824.47

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = $ 1,800.00



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

LISTEN TO -



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SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
23 EAST WELLS BOULEVARD
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA
SOUTHHEIGHTSBAPTIST.COM

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sundays -

9:45 a.m. ---------- Sunday School
10:50 a.m. ---------- Morning Service
6:30 p.m. ---------- Evening Service

Wednesdays -

7:00 p.m. ---------- Evening Service

Bi-Monthly -

11:00 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. ------ Ladies Bible Study
- 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

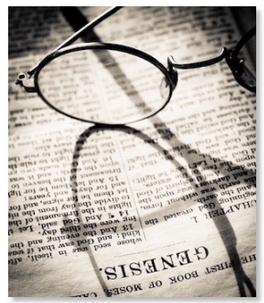
Church Directory

Todd W. White ---------- Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell ---------- Pianists
Derek Quinnelly ---------- Greeter
Shirley White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly/Larry Byars ---------- Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars ---------- Outreach
GinaMarie Shufelt ---------- Ladies Bible Study
Hannah Dietrich ---------- Flowers
Seth White ---------- Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery ---------- Trustees

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S *WEEKLY*

REMINDER

Volume XXXII **November 15, 2026** **Number 44**



Bible Commentaries and Study Books

Pastor's Note: *Recently, someone asked me for a suggestion regarding which Bible commentary(ies) I recommend. Evangelist David Cloud has written an excellent, but lengthy, article which addresses this subject, excerpts of which are found below. It will benefit those who are wanting to study God's Word more thoroughly using tools that are trustworthy.*

A BIBLE STUDY LIBRARY

Setting out to be a skillful Bible student and teacher as described in Hebrews 5:12-14 requires building a good Bible study library of carefully-selected titles. We recommend the following as a basic beginning library. All of these are described elsewhere in this report.

- ☐ Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity
- ☐ Strong's Concordance
- ☐ Way of Life Bible Commentary Series
- ☐ Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas (not the smaller edition)
- ☐ Believer's Bible Commentary
- ☐ Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary
- ☐ Nave's Topical Bible
- ☐ Complete Word Study Dictionary
- ☐ Treasury of Scripture Knowledge
- ☐ New Moody Atlas of the Bible
- ☐ Satellite Bible Atlas
- ☐ Vine's Dictionary of Bible Words
- ☐ Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

TWO COMMON PROBLEMS IN USING COMMENTARIES -

1. Leaning on them too much.

The Bible student should first go to the Bible and dig out as much meaning as possible for himself. For this, he must get a good understanding of how to interpret the Bible. The equivalent of a Bible Institute education is the starting point to be able to use commentaries effectually and test them properly so as not to be led astray by any error that might be present. We deal with this in the course The Effectual Bible Student, which is available at the Courses section of www.wayoflife.org.

2. Despising them.

On several occasions I have heard people disdain commentaries, but I have learned to love good commentaries and I thank God for them often. I thank God that I read and understand English, because that is where most of the good commentaries are today.

When I was a young Christian, I determined to read and study the Bible alone and to forgo consulting any commentaries or study books. I did this religiously for awhile, and the Lord made it plain to me that I need help from men and that He was not going to give me everything by direct enlightenment. It is not that the Bible is insufficient; it is that I am only one weak man and can't possibly know and understand everything without help. When I rejected the use of commentaries, I was left with my own meager resources, and though I have some gifts in understanding and teaching the Bible, I am still only a very man with limited ideas, learning, and experience when left to my own resources.

Any man who is honest before God will acknowledge that most of his knowledge and understanding is gleaned from other men. God has ordained this. That is why we start life as a child and are dependent upon parents and tutors, and even as we grow older, we remain very dependent upon the help of others.

God has given ministry-gifted men to the churches, and He uses them to edify the saints (Ephesians 4:11-14; II Tim. 2:2). If I were shut up on a remote island with only the Bible, I am sure the Lord would give me everything I needed for that situation directly through His Word, but that is not His normal way of operation.

I am thankful that some of the excellent teaching of past and present generations has been captured in print so I can possess it

(continued inside)

and consult it whenever I please. Such material is worth its weight in gold. It is priceless.

Many older commentaries, such as Barnes, Matthew Henry, Matthew Poole, Jamieson-Fausset-Brown, the Biblical Illustrator, and John Gill were written by men who were fluent not only in the biblical languages, but also in Latin and other languages so that they could dig out treasures from more ancient commentaries and translate them into English. For the most part, the ancient commentaries which were written in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Syriac, and other languages, have not been translated into English, and since very few people today read the ancient languages (and even if they did, those commentaries are not readily available), this material has largely disappeared from use. But by God's grace many excellent thoughts from the ancient commentaries were captured for us by some of the older English commentators.

Some preachers seem to disdain books. I once heard a man say at a preacher's meeting, "We don't need more books; we need more preaching."

That's a statement of shocking ignorance. A good Christian book is simply good preaching and teaching in printed format. While it is true that there are many heretical books available in the average Christian bookstore, and while it is true that we must weigh every book by the infallible standard of God's Word, it is ridiculous to discount the value of good books.

The Apostle Paul was a student to the end of his life. Even when in prison awaiting his death, he said to Timothy, ***"The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." (II Tim. 4:13).***

"Bring the books" said the stalwart old warrior! "Bring the books" said the man whom we are told to imitate. ***"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me" (I Cor. 4:16). "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (Philippians 3:17).***

Men of God through the centuries have valued the written and printed page. Charles Spurgeon advised the preachers in his Bible College, "Sell your shirt and buy books." He was talking about the value of good books in the ministry.

It has been said, "The man who doesn't read is no better off than the man who cannot read," and, "Five years from now you will be the same person except for the people you meet and the books you read."

It is obvious that many men of God of former times were more studious than the average preacher today, and wiser about the value of good books.

For fifty years, I have had the privilege of accessing a wealth of commentary and Bible study material and delighting as new thoughts swarm around me like twittering swallows!

SOME TIPS FOR USING COMMENTARIES EFFECTIVELY -

At the same time, the Bible student must learn how to select the right commentaries and know how to weigh the teaching of every commentary. The wise Bible student will ***"prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21).*** This means that the better he knows how to rightly divide Scripture through diligent study and sound bibllical education, the better he can test commentaries and every other form of Bible teaching.

1. Commentaries must be judged by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11; I Cor. 14:29; I Thess. 5:21). Commentaries don't judge Scripture; Scripture judges commentaries. A commentator is simply a Bible teacher, and no commentator is infallible. The wise Bible student will carefully test everything the commentator says by comparing it to Scripture itself.

It is important for believers to be grounded in the teaching of God's Word before they spend much time in commentaries other than those that are the most theologically sound. In fact, as already mentioned in this report, I consider the equivalent of a Bible Institute education to be a bare starting point to have the foundation necessary to weigh commentaries effectively.

Beware of the presumption of commentators who try to change or add to the Word of God or who ignore the plain meaning of Scripture.

2. The Bible student should know the theological position of the commentator and should be aware of potential errors.

It is important to know the theological position of the commentator, as this will usually be reflected in his notes.

There is the problem of the allegorical interpretation of prophecy. Most of the most widely-used commentaries are written from an amillennial perspective. As a result, they interpret prophecy allegorically and, therefore, falsely. This is true of ***Matthew Henry, Jamieson-Fausset-Brown, John Wesley, John Calvin, Adam Clarke, Albert Barnes, Matthew Poole,*** and a great many others.

There is the problem of Protestant theology. Most of the commentaries are written from a Protestant rather than a Baptist perspective and therefore err on the doctrines of the church, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, among others.

The Methodist Adam Clarke inserts infant baptism into his commentary on Matthew 28:19, even though there is no mention of such a thing in the Scripture: "But, certainly, no argument can be drawn from this concession against the baptism of children. When the Gentiles and Jews had received the faith and blessings of the gospel, it is natural enough to suppose they should wish to get their children incorporated with the visible Church of Christ; especially if, as many pious and learned men have believed, baptism succeeded to circumcision, which I think has never yet been disproved" *(Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible).*

Matthew Henry, a Presbyterian, also inserted infant baptism into his commentary. "This law will be further useful to us, (1.) To illustrate the right God has to the children of believing parents, as such, and the place they have in his church. They are by baptism enrolled among his servants, because they are born in his house, for they are therefore born unto him, Eze. 16:20" (commentary on Exodus 21:2-6). Henry also promoted sprinkling -- "either dipping them in the water, or pouring or sprinkling water upon them, which seems the more proper" (commentary on Mt. 28:19).

There is the problem of modern textual criticism. Most commentaries err on the doctrine of the preservation of Scripture and accept the heresy of modern textual criticism and follow the critical Greek text. And in many cases, they don't even acknowledge that there is a textual issue.

For example, *The Preacher's Complete Homiletical Commentary* has the following comment on 1st Timothy 1:1 -- "Our translation changes both the order and the language of the Greek text, presumably to be consistent with common usage. The title 'Lord' is not in the original, and the order that Paul used both times in verse 1 Timothy 1:1 was Christ Jesus." This is not true. The KJV follows the Greek Received Text which reads exactly as the KJV reads. It is the critical Greek text that removes "Lord" and changes the order of Jesus Christ.

B. H. Carroll is typical in rejecting the Trinitarian statement in First John 5:7. "Now, as to the integrity of this book, there is one exception. In the King James Version, I John 5:7-8 reads: 'For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.' Now look at verse 8, two words of the second line, 'in earth' — 'there are three that bear witness in earth.' Let us take out of the King James Version all verse 7 and the words, 'in earth,' of verse 8. They are unquestionably an interpolation." ***Carroll was wrong on this.*** We will definitely **not** take out those words from the King James Bible and for very good reasons. (See "A Defense of I John 5:7" at www.wayoflife.org.)

In order to properly weigh such things, the Bible student must be grounded in his understanding of the issue of Bible texts and versions. We recommend *Why We Hold to the King James Bible*, available from *Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org. We also recommend Touch Not the Unclean Thing: The Text Issue and Separation* by David Sorenson

There is the problem of sovereign election. For example, the Believer's Bible Commentary teaches sovereign election in Romans 9. *"The potter, of course, is God. The clay is sinful, lost humanity. If the potter left it alone, it would all be sent to hell. He would be absolutely just and fair if He left it alone. But instead He sovereignly selects a handful of sinners, saves them by His grace, and conforms them to the image of His Son. Does He have the right to do that? Remember, He is not arbitrarily dooming others to hell. They are already doomed by their own willfulnezss and unbelief."*

The problem with this comment is that it goes beyond the teaching of Scripture and contradicts Scripture. Romans 9:22-23 says that there are vessels of wrath and vessels of mercy, but it doesn't say that they are so by God's sovereign design. Verse 22 says some are "fitted to destruction," but it doesn't say why they are so fitted.

There is the problem of New Evangelicalism. When we read today of "top evangelical scholars," we must understand that this refers to *New Evangelicalism.* In the 1940s, evangelicalism renounced "separatism" and has since been corrupted to various degrees by unscriptural associations with error.

Many evangelical commentaries entertain liberal positions that can confuse and weaken the readers. For example, some evangelical commentaries and dictionaries give some credence to the view that there was a "natural" element in the destruction of Sodom, such as saying that the miracle pertained to the timing of a natural earthquake, or that the crossing of the Red Sea was through a lake or marsh, or that the backing up of the Jordan River when Israel crossed into the Promised Land was a natural event that has happened at other times, or that the judgments upon Egypt were party natural, or that Noah's Flood was not global, or that Genesis 1 allows for evolutionary ages, or that the prophets were referring to pagan myths in passages such as Ezekiel 28:11-14.

Evangelical commentaries follow "modern scholarship." They also tend to quote heretics with no warning. For example, they frequently quote Augustine and C.S. Lewis. The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* even quotes C.H. Dodd. Dodd was a terrible heretic who should never be quoted favorably by a Bible believer. In his book, *The Authority of the Bible,* Dodd claimed that God is not the author of the Bible, that it was written in "imperfect human words," that it errs in "matters of science and history," that Moses "left us no writings, and we know little of him with certainty," that Moses was "a magician, a medicine man, whose magic wand wrought wonders of deliverance," that Ezekiel was "a psychic medium' with "symptoms of abnormality," that Jehovah "is cruel, capricious, irritable, unjust, and untruthful," that those who believe in the infallible inspiration of Scripture are "blinded by superstitious bibliolatry" (p. 127), "the prophets were sometimes mistaken" (p. 128), "there are sayings of Jesus ...which either simply are not true, in their plain meaning, or are unacceptable to the conscience or reason of Christian people" (p. 233), "Jesus was a man of his time" (p. 237), and "the idea of vicarious expiation [Christ's substitutionary atonement] is not wholly rational" (p. 215). In the book *The Bible Today*, Dodd called creation, the fall of man, the Deluge, the building of Babel, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Jonah's whale "myths" and "legends" (pp. 17, 112, 150), and said "the disciples' post-resurrection meetings with our Lord may have been visionary" (p. 102).

Many evangelical commentaries also promote the unscriptural ecumenical movement. For example, *The Preacher's Complete Homiletical Commentary* has this heretical note on Luke 6:38: "At the beginning of the ecumenical movement between Catholics and Protestants, I led a conference for a group of Catholic nuns. We had a marvelous week together, but at the final communion I was told that the priests had ruled I could not partake of the Eucharist because I was a Protestant. The nuns were incensed and delivered an ultimatum. 'If our brother Bruce can't come to our Lord's table, we will not come.' The priests were in a tizzy, but they reconsidered the matter and decided to break the rules for that one occasion. That was a long time ago, and it is unlikely such a situation would arise today. But it pointed out to me that God's law of love goes far beyond 'keeping the rules.'" This commentator is grossly ignorant of Rome's sacramental gospel and the heretical nature of the Catholic "eucharist" (mass).

For more about what has happened to evangelical scholarship since the 1940s, see *New Evangelicalism: Its History,*

Character, and Fruit, available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

MY FAVORITE COMMENTARIES -

My favorite whole Bible commentaries are Notes on the Old and New Testament by Albert Barnes, Annotated Bible by Arno Gaebelein, Constable's Expository Notes, Everyman's Bible Commentary, An Interpretation of the English Bible by B.H. Carroll, Matthew Henry, Jamieson-Fausset-Brown, and John Phillips. Descriptions of these are found in the following studies.

ONE- AND TWO-VOLUME BIBLE COMMENTARIES AND SURVEYS -

THE CONCISE BIBLE COMMENTARY by James M. Gray (1851-1935).

EXPLORE THE BOOK by J. (James) Sidlow Baxter (1903-1999).

MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY. This was written by 29 teachers at Moody Bible Institute and edited by Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham. It is conservative, premillennial, and pre-tribulational, and has many helpful maps, charts, and comments, though not all of them are equally sound or valuable. *This commentary is written from a Calvinistic slant.*

NEW TESTAMENT A BOOK-BY-BOOK SURVEY by Mark Cambron (1911-2000). This was first published in 1958 by Zondervan. At the time Cambron was teaching at Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Lee Roberson wrote the introduction. In addition to *New Testament Survey*, he authored *Bible Doctrines: Beliefs That Matter, Daniel and Revelation Made Plain, Mastering the Bible: A Text on Biblical Hermeneutics, Progressive Program of Prophecy.* In 1962, Cambron and A. Ray Stanford founded Florida Bible College of Orlando, and Cambron was the president and president emeritus until 1986.

UNGER'S COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT by Merrill F. Unger (1909-80). Unger was professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary for many years and his commentary on the Old Testament is packed with helpful comments.

UNGER'S BIBLE HANDBOOK by Merrill F. Unger (1909-80). We consider this one of the best Bible handbooks. It has a concise survey of the the Bible with an introduction and outline to each book, 25 maps, charts (such as a chronology of the dual kingdom and comparison of the four Gospels), archaeological studies, a defense of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, studies on the intertestamental period, Bible weights and measures, and other things. Unger interprets prophecy by the normal-literal method, but he supported a type of gap theory and modern textual criticism.

UNGER'S GUIDE TO THE BIBLE by Merrill F. Unger. This contains some of the same material as the Unger's Bible Handbook, but it also has a Bible dictionary, a small concordance, and color Bible maps. The studies on the individual books are a little more extensive.

WILLMINGTON'S BIBLE HANDBOOK by Harold Willmington (1932-2018). The heart of this handbook is a brief chapter-by-chapter commentary on the Bible, with introductions to each book. The volume also contains many other helpful studies, such as how we got the Bible, archaeology and the Bible, units of money and measurement in the Bible, and ancient nations of Bible times. The brief Harmony of the Gospels and Old Testament Prophecies in Part 2 are excellent. This is one of the best brief book-by-book surveys.

ZONDERVAN KING JAMES COMMENTARY. This two-volume commentary is edited by Edward Hinson and Daniel Mitchell. Other contributors include Charles Feinberg, Edward Dobson, Woodrow Kroll, H.L. Wilmington. There are many helpful comments and word studies, and it is based on the King James Bible and its underlying text. It is written from a consistently "high view" of the divine inspiration of Scripture and is largely "baptistic."

HELPFUL MULTI-VOLUME COMMENTARIES -

COMMENTARY ON THE HOLY BIBLE by Matthew Poole (1624-1679). Poole was a Puritan. "He graduated from Emmanuel College in Cambridge in 1645, and succeeded the great Anthony Tuckney at St. Michael-le-Querne church. This was the only pastorate Poole would hold. A strict Presbyterian, he resigned his living rather than conform to the Act of Uniformity." His commentary, which was originally called a "Synopsis," required 10 years of earnest labor. He awoke at 3 or 4 a.m. and studied and wrote until the afternoon. His work was first written in Latin, and its translation into English was finished after his death. Poole's commentaries are not as extensive as that of Matthew Henry, but the tone and approach is similar. It is a helpful, concise commentary on the entire Bible. Poole's commentary was originally published in 1685, not long after the completion of the King James Bible. He ransacked the commentary material of his day, incorporating the best of it into his work. A lot of thought is packed into the concise language of this commentary. Charles Spurgeon wrote, "... having read Matthew Henry as I have, I would rather have none other commentary beside that of Matthew Poole."

EXPOSITION OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS by Matthew Henry (1662-1714). This set of early 18th-century commentaries (first published in part in 1708-10) is one of the most helpful in print, in my estimation. In some areas, we disagree with Matthew Henry's doctrinal position (e.g., his allegorical interpretation of prophecy, his Protestant universal church, infant baptism), but rarely do we regret having consulted him. Henry, a nonconformist Presbyterian pastor, was the son of a pastor, Philip Henry, who said, "All grace grows as love to the word of God grows." Matthew was a master of biblical languages and a diligent Bible student who ransacked the old commentary material of his day to pass the meat along to us. He had a lovely gift for organizing and expressing his thoughts. He died before completing the full commentary, having finished his work only through the book of Acts. The New Testament commentary from Romans to Revelation was completed by 14 other preachers of that day, all dissenters from the Church of England. We agree with Baptist pastor Charles Spurgeon's assessment of Matthew Henry: "You will find him to be glittering with metaphors, rich in analogies, overflowing with illustrations, superabundant in reflections. Every minister ought to read Matthew Henry entirely and carefully through once at least. You will acquire a vast store of sermons if you read with your note-book close at hand; and as for thoughts, they will swarm around you like twittering swallows around an old gable towards the close of autumn." Spurgeon says that George Whitefield read Matthew Henry through four times during his life. All of this reminds us that men of God used to study the Bible far more diligently than most preachers do today, and the evidence is the biblical shallowness that characterizes so many pulpits.

IRONSIDE COMMENTARIES by Henry A. Ironside (1878-1951). These commentaries are devotional, practical, and Christ-centered. Ironside held a literal pre-millennial, pre-tribulational approach to Bible prophecy in contrast to most of the well-known commentators. The complete set of Ironside commentaries is available electronically in the *Treasury of Rare Dispensational Commentaries* available from Way of Life Literature. Some of them are also available for OliveTree and other Bible software packages.

KELLY (WILLIAM) COMMENTARIES (1821-1906) were published on most books of the Bible in the late 1800s and republished in the first half of the 20th century. Kelly was born in Ireland and graduated from Trinity College, Dublin. He was converted at age 20 and joined the Plymouth Brethren, becoming one of their most able preachers. He wrote boldly against a wide variety of errors, including Roman Catholicism. One of his last statements was this: "There are three things real--the Cross, the enmity of the world, and the love of God." The commentaries are dispensational and fundamentalist, and we have found many of the comments to be fresh and helpful. The Kelly commentaries are available in the Treasury of Rare Dispensational Commentaries available from Way of Life Literature.

NOTES ON THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT by Albert Barnes (1798-1870), Frederic C. Cook (1810-1889), and James Murphy. There are 14 volumes in this invaluable set of commentaries. Barnes was a Presbyterian preacher and Bible expositor. He was brought to trial in 1835 for his rejection of the unscriptural doctrine of limited atonement. He advocated total abstinence of alcoholic beverages, was a soul winner, and promoted Sunday Schools. In our opinion, it is one of the most helpful of the old commentaries, though prophecy is interpreted allegorically.

SPURGEON'S EXPOSITORY ENCYCLOPEDIA by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. This is the only collection of Spurgeon's sermons classified by topic and alphabetically arranged. The 750 sermons are comprehensively indexed. There are also a number of other sets of Spurgeon's sermons with indexes. Spurgeon has been called "the prince of preachers." The main problem is his allegorical interpretation of prophecy, but he is always worth reading.

THRU THE BIBLE by J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988). This five-volume set contains the messages preached by the late J. Vernon McGee on his Thru the Bible radio broadcasts. Though I was saddened by McGee's New Evangelical compromise in many areas, he always gladdened my heart with his warm, Christ-centered commentary on the Word of God. I particularly recommend his commentaries on the Old Testament prophets, because he maintained a literal pre-millennial, pre-tribulational approach in contrast to most of the well-known Bible commentators.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE by David Sorenson (2004). Dr. Sorenson labored on this project for over ten years. He is a third-generation fundamental Baptist preacher who, in preparation for this work, read the Bible through over 200 times. He is a pastor, church planter, soul winner, church builder, and a widely-read author. Understanding the Bible was not written for academia but for pastors and Christian workers. Dr. Sorenson's commentaries are conservative, fundamentalist, and dispensational. There is also an electronic edition available. Northstar Ministries 1820 West Morgan Street Duluth, MN 55811, 218-726-0209, davidsorenson@juno.com.

WAY OF LIFE COMMENTARY SERIES. This series is designed in a unique format to be used as verse-by-verse commentaries, as Bible teaching courses, and for expository preaching. The commentaries are thorough, serious, broad, insightful, and practical, with an emphasis on application to the Christian life and ministry. Context is honored; words are defined; figures of speech are explained; difficulties are tackled. The commentaries are backed by 48 years of intense Bible study and are packed with historical backgrounds and archaeological studies based on the author's personal research, which is reflected in books such as the Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity, Things Hard to Be Understood, Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms, and Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future. The interpretation is from a literal, dispensational perspective. The basis is the King James Bible and its underlying original language texts. The King James Bible is explained and illuminated but not criticized. The church is given priority as the pillar and ground of the truth and the headquarters for world evangelism. There is no hint of modernism or influence from compromised evangelicalism. The user will find no reference to or dependence upon men such as Origen, Jerome, Augustine, C.S. Lewis, Eberhard Nestle, or Bruce Metzger.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES COMMENTARY. 28 volumes, published by John Ritchie Ltd. One preacher commented, "I would recommend 'What the Bible Teaches' series. It covers every book in the Bible from a dispensational and pre-tribulational rapture standpoint. Especially recommended for the Epistles, Job, Isaiah, Daniel, and Revelation." We have not personally used this set.

OTHER BIBLE STUDY BOOKS -

We are including some study books that are recommended by others, and this will be obvious from the descriptions. We are thankful to Missionary Bill Hardecker for permission to use some of his reviews of Bible study books.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS by Josephus Flavius. see

The Jewish War.

BELIEVER'S BIBLE DICTIONARY by David Cloud, www.wayoflife.org. This volume contains most of the Bible words from the *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, but it is designed to be more affordable and transportable. The Believer's Bible Dictionary is unique. In an hour in which the black and white of truth is exchanged for the gray of compromise, waffling, uncertainty, relativism, and ecumenical blending, it is our desire that the reader not find the slightest hint of doubt in this volume. It is founded on a confidence that the Bible is the infallible, plenarily, verbally inspired Word of God, that God is Trinity; that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the virgin born incarnate God with us, the only Saviour who made the essential atoning sacrifice by His blood and death, who rose from the dead bodily, ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, and is coming again in power and glory to establish His eternal kingdom.

We encourage every believer, young and old, to have his own Bible dictionary and to have it right beside his Bible as he studies, and we are convinced that this is one of the best Bible dictionaries available today.

There are eight ways it can help you: (1) It can help you understand the Bible. The first requirement for understanding the Bible is to understand its words. (2) It can help you understand out-of-use words and phrases from the King James Bible, such as blood guiltiness, die the death, and superfluity of naughtiness. (3) It can help you to do topical studies. The student can study the full range of Bible doctrines by following the thousands of cross references from entry to entry. (4) It can help you to study issues relating to morality and practical Christian living, such as capital punishment, child training, cremation, and divorce. (5) It can help you to study Old Testament types of Christ, such as day of atonement, high priest, Melchizedek, passover, and tabernacle. (6) It can help you to find the meaning of Bible customs and ancient culture, such as agriculture, idolatry, military, money, music, and weights and measures. (7) It can help you to study Bible places and geography, such as Assyria, Babylon, Caesarea, Ephesus, and Jordan River. (8) It can help you in preaching and teaching. The doctrinal material in this dictionary is presented in a practical manner with outlines that can be used for teaching and preaching, in the pulpit, Sunday Schools, Bible Colleges and Institutes, home schools, family devotions, prisons and jails, nursing homes, etc. Missionary author Jack Moorman calls the dictionary "excellent" and says, "The entries show a 'distilled spirituality.'

BIBLE ATLAS. We recommend the the Moody Atlas of the Bible, Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas, and the Satellite Bible Atlas. See the descriptions elsewhere.

BIBLEMAPPER.COM. This is program available for Windows allows the student to create personalized maps. It comes with 37 pre-made maps, which are excellent except for the Exodus from Egypt which has Israel crossing the Bitter Lakes.

BIBLE TIMES AND ANCIENT KINGDOMS: TREASURES FROM ARCHAEOLOGY by David Cloud, www.wayoflife.org. ISBN 978-1-58318-121-8. (Enlarged edition for 2018) Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms is a training course on Bible geography, Bible culture, Bible history, and Bible archaeology, which has a two-fold objective: to present apologetic evidence for the Bible and to give background material to help the student better understand the setting of Bible history. It is a package consisting of a book and a series of PowerPoint and Keynote (Apple) presentations which are a graphical edition of the book. The PowerPoints are packed with high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips.

CHRIST IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES by A.M. Hodgkin. First published 1909, this commentary focuses on Christ in the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Poetical Books, the Prophets, the Gospels, and Acts and the Epistles.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT by Floyd Nolen Jones. Jones' dates are based on the God-honored Hebrew Masoretic Text and align closely with those published by the great biblical scholar and linguist James Ussher in the 17th-century masterpiece The Annals of the World. "The author carefully and thoroughly investigates the chronological and mathematical facts of the Old Testament, proving them to be accurate and reliable. This biblically sound, scholarly, and easy-to-understand book will enlighten and astound its readers with solutions and alternatives to many questions Bible scholars have had over the centuries.

COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY. This is based on the research of Spiro Zodhiates (1922-2009). He was a native Greek, born in Cyprus. He published *Pulpit Helps* magazine, which aimed to assist preachers in preaching. It focused on word studies, sermon construction, and illustrations. He founded AMG Publishers which is headquartered in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is available as a two-volume book set and as a module for Olive Tree and Logos Bible Software.

CRUDEN'S COMPLETE CONCORDANCE. "This tool differs from Strong's in that the Cruden's concordance does not focus so much on listing all the words of the King James Bible. Rather, it includes most of the important or key words. It is a much smaller work than Strong's to be sure, but a handier tool to cart along, or to have for a quick reference.

THE JEWISH WAR by Josephus Flavius. Josephus was a Jewish eyewitness to the first Jewish-Roman war and the destruction of the Second Temple. "Adopted" by the Roman general Vespasian, Josephus moved to Rome and took the Vespasian family name of Flavius. There he wrote *The Jewish War* (AD 78) and *Antiquities of the Jews* (history of the Jews, 93 AD), among other things. These are among the most important histories outside of Scripture for information on Bible times.

JEWS IN FIGHTER JETS: ISRAEL PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE by David Cloud, www.wayoflife.org. ISBN 978-1-58318-2402-0. Jews in Fighter Jews covers the past 2,500 years of the history of the most important and amazing nation on earth, the only nation directly created by God and called by God "my people," the nation to whom "were committed the oracles of God" and "of whom, as concerning the flesh Christ came" (Romans 3:2; 9:5).

KINGDOM OF PRIESTS: A HISTORY OF OLD TESTAMENT ISRAEL by Eugene Merrill (b. 1934). This is an extensive Old Testament survey. The author refutes liberal views of the Old Testament and argues for its divine inspiration, historicity, and conservative dating. He uses archaeology and secular history to give the background of Bible times.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS THE MESSIAH by Alfred Edersheim, "a Vienna-born biblical scholar who converted from Judaism to Christianity." *The Life and Times* "is a storehouse of information on the background of the New Testament. This classic work successfully portrays the streets, the marketplaces, the religious conflicts, the people, and the places of Jesus' earthly ministry."

NAVE'S TOPICAL BIBLE by Orville Nave (1841-1917). Nave produced his topical Bible over a period of 14 years while serving as a chaplain in the United States Army. He described the project as "the result of fourteen years of delightful and untiring study of the Word of God." It was first published in 1905. He said, "The object of this book is to bring together in cyclopedic form and under familiar headings all that the Bible contains on particular subjects. The subjects formulated are of practical value to every profession and to all who desire to consult the Bible." It has 20,000 topics and subtopics and references more than 100,000 Bible verses.

NEW MOODY ATLAS OF THE BIBLE, edited by Barry Beitzel. This atlas has a lot of excellent features. We believe it is the best overall Bible atlas. On the negative side, the atlas grossly misplaces Ur of the Chaldees and has Israel crossing a lake instead of the Red Sea. The double-page map of Solomon's international trading networks is excellent. Our three top recommendations are Moody Atlas of the Bible, Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas, and the Satellite Bible Atlas.

NEW TOPICAL TEXTBOOK by R.A. Torrey. It has more than 600 topics, 20,000 subtopics, and 30,000 Bible references. Biblehub.com has online editions of Nave's and Torrey's, supplemented with its own topical studies.

ROSE THEN AND NOW BIBLE MAP ATLAS. (This is not to be confused with the much smaller Deluxe Then and Now Bible Maps.) This should be obtained as a reference, but it also can be read and studied as a course. It has more than 120 color topographical maps and a wealth of color photos and charts. It has unique clear plastic overlays that allow the student to see where ancient countries and cities are located in a modern setting. Excellent maps showing the exploits of Elijah and Elisha. Good studies of the Assyrian era and maps of the campaigns of Assyrian kings in northern Israel and Judah; the book of Esther and its historical background; and the Herods and the Roman era in Israel. Our three top recommendations are Moody Atlas of the Bible, Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas, and the Satellite Bible Atlas.

SATELLITE BIBLE ATLAS. This atlas is unique and irreplaceable. It should be carried on any tour of Israel. (As practically all modern Bible atlases, this one has Israel crossing a the Bitter Lakes instead of the Red Sea.) Our three top recommendations are Moody Atlas of the Bible, Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas, and the Satellite Bible Atlas.

STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE. We believe the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is the most important single Bible study tool ever published. The editor was James Strong (1822-1916). He was a conservative Methodist who was proficient in biblical Greek and Hebrew as well as some other ancient languages. As a professor at two Bible colleges, he defended biblical inspiration against the onslaught of theological modernism. He spent a lifetime studying Bible words and their meaning from the context. James Strong should not be confused with Augustus H. Strong, 1836-1921, who taught at Rochester Theological Seminary and was tainted with theological liberalism.

TREASURY OF SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself, and herein lies the value of the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. It was first published in about 1836. Usually I turn first to the original Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, because the Ultimate Cross Reference Treasury has too many cross references to use in a quick fashion. I only turn to the Ultimate Cross Reference Treasury if I am not satisfied with what I find in the original Treasury.

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS by William Edwy Vine (1873-1949). He was a longtime elder in a Plymouth Brethren assembly in Bath, England. Vine's gives definitions to the New Testament Greek words, shows various ways they are used, gives Greek synonyms for English words, and otherwise has a wealth of information. Vine's New Testament dictionary is sometimes published with a dictionary of Old Testament words, though he did not write this dictionary.

WEBSTER'S 1828 DICTIONARY OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE. Noah Webster (1758-1843) was a master lexicographer, and he was not strictly secular in his approach to words, as so many have been. Webster brought a wide knowledge of foreign languages to his work. Ultimately he mastered 26 languages, and he spent a full decade in tracing the origin of English words in these languages--but he was always oriented, first and foremost, to the Bible and to absolute truth. ■

- Excerpted from the much longer original, leaving out references to liberal works that, though important to know about, might lead young Christians or those not well-grounded in true biblical doctrine astray. - TWW

