An Annotated Bibliography of Reference Works and Commentaries on the Greek New Testament
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This bibliography is aimed at introducing students in at least their second year of study of NT Greek to the range of resources available for NT exegesis. The commentary listing should also be useful to students of the NT in English. The bibliography focuses mostly on print media, with occasional nods to digital resources. For a guide to the New Testament on the web, see Mark Goodacre’s wonderful New Testament Gateway (www.ntgateway.com).

Editions of the Greek New Testament
Most editions of the GNT differ only slightly in regard to which of the relatively minor variations among NT manuscripts that they follow. Each of the following are “modern critical texts,” not the “Received Text” or Textus Receptus on which the KJV was based, a text assembled before the development of principles of textual criticism.

*The Greek New Testament*. K. Aland, B. Metzger, et al., editors. 4th ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1994. The current standard critical text of the GNT. The edition with the dictionary appended at the end is probably the easiest to use of current GNTs. Lists only the textual variants that affect translation but gives very full information about their support. [1]


Lexicons
Alsop, John R. *An Index to the Revised Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich Greek Lexicon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. Lists words in the GNT in the order in which they appear and gives the page number and section of the page from BAGD 2nd edition, where the word as it is used in that text is discussed. Speeds up the use of BAGD, but doesn’t work with the BDAG (3rd edition). [2]


LIBRARY BUILDING GUIDE
These numbers at the end of entries indicate recommendations on the value of each work for the typical personal library:

[1] Among the most useful for personal study.
[2] A helpful supplement to the most useful works.
[3] Important for specialized research but less valuable for ordinary exegesis.
and quicker for basic information, but if you are going to spend the money, you might as well spend a little more and get the really good one. [2]

Greenlee, J. H. *A New Testament Greek Morpheme Lexicon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983. Lists NT words by their constituent parts (e.g. δαναβάνει is listed under δαν and βανει) so that the meaning of words with the same parts can be compared. Useful for very careful word study. [3]


Louw, Johannes P., et al. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989. Groups words according to meaning (the groups are called “semantic domains”) so that words with similar meanings can be compared. Also provides a descriptive definition of words instead of a one-word or phrase that is an English equivalent. [2]

Lust, J., E. Eynikel, K. Hauspie, G. Chamberlain. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1992. LSJ will do what this does, but this is smaller and easier to use. [3]


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**Grammars**


Owings, Timothy. *A Cumulative Index to New Testament Greek Grammars*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983. An index of most of the major NT Greek grammars by scripture text cited. The most efficient way to find out what the grammars say about a text that you are studying thoroughly. [3]


**Concordances**


Note also the widely marketed programs that generate concordances of words or phrases in the GNT (Logos Library, BibleWorks), the TLG program that generates concordances of Greek words from about 80% of extant ancient Greek literature, the Perseus website that allows searches for Greek words in a decent range of literature (http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/vor?lang=gr) and the GRAMCORD program (ACCORDANCE for Mac, some limited capability also on BibleWorks) that generates concordances of the GNT based on combinations of grammatical features. When evaluating concording software, note the edition of the GNT on which the program is based and remember that cheap systems based on the KJV and Strong’s numbers only let the user see through a glass darkly. As with other matters, one gets what one pays for with concording software.

**Theological Dictionaries**


**Works on the New Testament Text and Textual Criticism**


Metzger, Bruce M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1975. Discusses the variants cited in the UBS GNT, laying out the issues and explaining the editors’ conclusions. The quickest way to get a thorough explanation of any major variant in the NT. [1]


**Tools, Aids, Crutches and Cheaters**

The outstanding electronic crutch is BibleWorks, which enables the user to point and parse/define. If the following print works are addictive like cocaine, then BibleWorks is crack cocaine.


At the time that this bibliography was assembled, a completely parsed and lemmatized text of the GNT was available at [http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~fisher/gnt/](http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~fisher/gnt/).
Works on the Use of Greek in Interpretation


Louw, Johannes P. Semantics of New Testament Greek. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982. Rather technical and demanding discussion of lexical semantics, i.e. how words convey meaning, as it affects the study of the NT. [3]


Stagg, Frank. “The Abused Aorist,” Journal of Biblical Literature 91 (1972) 222-31. Famous article pointing out the many ways that the fallacy of “one-time action” for the aorist has been put to use in NT exegesis. [3]


Commentaries on Matthew


**Commentaries on Mark**


**Commentaries on Luke**


**Commentaries on John**


**Commentaries on Acts**


**Commentaries on Romans**


**Commentaries on 1 Corinthians**


**Commentaries on 2 Corinthians**


**Commentaries on Galatians**


**Commentaries on Ephesians**


**Commentaries on Philippians**


**Commentaries on Colossians and Philemon**

Barth, Markus and Helmut Blanke. *The Letter to Philemon: A New Translation with Notes and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. With over 500 pages devoted to a letter that was probably written on a single sheet of papyrus, this work will be consulted by all who want the most thorough treatment of Philemon and avoided by the rest of us. [3]


Lightfoot, J. B. *St. Paul’s Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1959 (= 1879). Classic comments by one of the greatest. [2]


**Commentaries on 1–2 Thessalonians**

Bruce, F. F. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. WBC 45. Waco, TX: Word, 1982. Rather fragmented in presentation, this commentary is not Bruce’s best but still reflects considerable learning and mature reflection. [3]


Malherbe, Abraham. *The Letters to the Thessalonians*. AB 32B. New York: Doubleday, 2000. The *magnum opus* of one of the leading scholars of Paul in his Greco-Roman social setting, this commentary is remarkably readable for so thorough and learned a work. [1]


Wanamaker, Charles A. *The Epistles to the Thessalonians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. Best available commentary on the Greek text of the epistles, advocating the unusual notion that 2 Thessalonians was written first. [2]

Commentaries on 1-2 Timothy and Titus


Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The First and Second Letters to Timothy*. AB 35A. New York: Doubleday, 2001. Who would have expected that the Anchor Bible would include a commentary on these letters that argues for Paul’s authorship? Johnson reads with a keen eye to the setting of the letters and to their contemporary relevance. [1]


Commentaries on Hebrews


Commentaries on James


Commentaries on 1 Peter

Goppelt, Leonhard. *A Commentary on 1 Peter*. ET. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. An example of the best German scholarship of this century, now somewhat out of date. [2]


**Commentaries on 2 Peter and Jude**


**Commentaries on 1-3 John**


**Commentaries on Revelation**


Beale, G. K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. Thorough like Aune, with a comparable focus. Detailed argument may make it difficult for many readers to extract the point, but it’s there to be found. [2]


