



Genesis 1-15

Gordon J. Wenham

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Recent scholarship has shown a marked preference for a simpler analysis of Genesis, says Dr. Gordon Wenham, and with this trend his commentary identifies.

Dr. Wenham has a remarkable gift for clarity of expression in discussing even the most difficult problems. His terse, crisp style serves well in his interaction with the multiplicity of arguments in primary arenas of scholarly concern-textual analysis, compositional sources, chronology, theological significance. Throughout, he effectively shares his broad knowledge of current research on Genesis and provides invaluable bibliographic information.

Among the topics discussed are: Genesis in recent research and an evaluation of current critical positions An analysis of the principal source hypotheses of the early 19th century to the present The new literary criticism and its relationship to source criticism The theological relationship of Genesis 1-11 to ancient Near Eastern ideas, to the rest of the Pentateuch, and to modern thought.

It would be difficult to find a more concise yet thorough discussion of technical and textual matters. At the same time, Dr. Wenham displays unusual sensitivity to the compositional artistry of Genesis and the importance of storytelling in God's self-revelation to the human family.

Dr. Wenham shows the opening chapters of Genesis as describing an avalanche of sin that gradually engulfs mankind—the alienation of the first man and woman and their expulsion from the presence of God in the garden, mankind's near-annihilation in the flood, the folly of Babel and humanity's dispersal over the face of the globe teaching that without God's blessing mankind is without hope. "But the promises to Abraham and the patriarchs begin to repair that situation," says Dr. Wenham. "The covenant will benefit not just Abraham and his descendants, but in him all the nations of the earth will find blessing, and the ultimate fulfillment of the creator's ideals for humanity is guaranteed . . . Let us beware of allowing ourselves to be diverted from the central thrust of the book so that we miss what the Lord, our creator and redeemer, is saying to us."

Genesis 1-15 Details

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From Reader Review Genesis 1-15 for online ebook

Edwin says

A little dated but this commentary is one of the finest.

William says

An excellent commentary on Genesis. Wenham is up-to-date and covers the bases well. His translation and textual notes are extremely helpful as are his comments (following the WBC format). He covers text critical issues well while remaining conservative in his judgements. Preachers, especially, will find his "explanations" full of helpful material when it comes to theological application. Many people don't seem to like the WBC format, but I've never found it usually organises the information well.

Michael Schmid says

Great careful and thorough, but not too wordy commentary. Some sections are too academic for my liking, but I greatly appreciate the insights into the Hebrew words of the text.

Laurent Dv says

the best commentary on genesis

David Carlson says

I am only on chapter 3, but I appreciate scholarship that doesn't get lost in the weeds. Good reading of the text as it is, with insights into stylistic nuance.

David Varney says

Carefully argued, thorough dealing with the historical context. I will return to Wenham time and again.

Dan says

The Word Bible Commentary (WBC), is an extremely scholarly and many time critical Biblical commentary, yet it is one that I have always desired to own. I was introduced to them in my second year of Seminary and found them extremely useful in writing academic papers, in sermon preparation, and in

Sunday school preparation. As this commentary series grows in my collection so does my respect for the series as a whole.

A few years ago the word bible commentary switch Publishers again, and came under the ownership of Zondervan Publications. Under their leadership this series has seen a rejuvenation of sorts. While the format remains unchanged (providing a phenomenal bibliography, translation, notes on translation and setting, followed by comments and explanation), the binding of the book has changed as well as the addition of revised versions of previously released commentaries.

While the WBC is world renowned for its high academic pursuit of God's Word, I was pleasantly surprised at its accessibility to the pastor and not just the academically-minded Bible scholar. In the book that I have the privilege of viewing is a re-issuing of the 1st volume of this series containing Genesis 1-15, by Gordon J. Wenham which previously released under a previous publisher, but has a re-release under Zondervan's leadership.

While reading an assortment of passages in the book of Genesis, I was saddened to see a lack of commentary about each verse with regard to application and contextualisation. Yet on the other hand comments about the Biblical Hebrew language as well as syntax of each verse are indispensable information that is sorely lacking in almost every modern commentary.

While knowledge of the Biblical Hebrew language is handy when utilizing this commentary, it is not a necessary requirement for some utilization. With that said having a deep knowledge of the Biblical Hebrew will greatly enhance a readers ability to use this commentary. I highly recommend this commentary to pastors and scholars due to its thorough academic approach combined with its accessibility to academia and the pastorate.

This book was provided to me free of charge from Zondervan Academic Publishers in exchange for an unbiased, honest review.

Seph says

Helpful in-depth look at the first chapters of Genesis. Wenham deals with the documentary theory, mythology and the various theories relevant to God's Genesis text. Erudite, thorough and well documented. Not an armchair read.

Mike Jorgensen says

Simply amazing. I read this and his other volume on Genesis while doing exegetical work for school. In many cases, I felt that this commentary was sufficient aid to my translation and footnotes in and of itself. At the times I needed to consult other commentators, Wenham provided succinct summaries of opposing views so that I knew where to look for further research.
