

Randy Roberts' Bible Study Annotated Resource List

Loma Linda University Church

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 TNIV

We need to be careful to do **exegesis**¹—“critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of a text, especially of the Bible”—rather than **eisegesis**²—“an interpretation, especially of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text.”

Inductive Bible study is simple, effective, and fruitful and consists of three steps:

1. Observation
2. Interpretation
3. Application

Even if we pray and study, we still need help; and, there has never been more help available than there is today.

Book List

Boring, M.E., & Craddock, F.B. (2010). *The People's New Testament Commentary*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Douglas, J.D. & Tenney, M.C., Eds. (January 19, 1999). *New International Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Fee, G. D., & Strauss, M. L. (2007). *How to Choose a Translation For All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

*³Fee, G. D., & Strauss, M. L. (2002). *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Fee, G. D., & Strauss, M. L. (2003). *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- Very beneficial
- Written for non-scholars
- May have some points of view that don't match ours

¹ Exegesis. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Retrieved February 20, 2012, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/exegesis>

² Eisegesis. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Retrieved February 20, 2012, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/eisegesis>

³ *Books Randy Roberts says are “must haves” for effective Bible study.

Horn, S. H. (1960). *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary* (Volume 8 of the SDA Bible Commentary series). Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Keener, C.S. (February 1994). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press Academic.

**Nelson's Quick Reference Bible Handbook* (1994). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

- "Worth its weight in gold!" Randy Roberts
- Has a fabulous page for each book that gives the focus, reference, division, topic, location, and time
- Small, cheap, but thorough

Mounce, W. D., ed. (September 12, 2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Strong, J. (September 1, 2001). *The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Walton, J.H., Matthews, V.H., & Chavalas, M.W. (2000). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press Academic.

Bible Translations

For careful Bible study, Randy uses a range of translations (formal equivalence, functional equivalence, and free translation—paraphrase):

- *New American Standard Bible*
- *Today's New International version*
- *New Living Translation*
- *The Message*

Bible Study Resources

Bible study resources are an integral part of interpreting the text. Rightly used, they can be a source of help.

Bible Dictionary

A Bible dictionary is *absolutely critical* for Bible study. They give definitions for words, places, terms, objects, etc. Good examples include:

- *SDA Bible Commentary Series, Vol. 8 – Bible Dictionary*
 - Very good but more expensive
- *New International Bible Dictionary*
 - Based on the NIV

Bible Concordance

A Bible **concordance** provides (principally) an alphabetical list of all the words found in the Bible, including coding for finding the words from the original Hebrew and Greek languages

The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

- Has every single word in the Bible
- One of the limitations of concordances is that they are based on versions

Word study books are a very helpful resource for studying the meaning of words

- *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*
 - Includes both OT and NT
 - Is very user-friendly

Bible Commentaries

Bible commentaries 'comment' on the text, providing information. One way to tell how good a commentary is that they give all of the ways that it can be interpreted and the reason why they select their choice. The following list is in alphabetical order by title:

The Bible Speaks Today series. InterVarsity Press.

- A great series to sit down and read – it is the forest
- John Stott was the editor of the NT
- Get this book in the series: Stott (1985). *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press Academic.

The Daily Study Bible Series, George A. F. Knight (1981).

- For example:
 - *Psalms, Volume 1*
 - *Psalms, Volume 2*

For Everyone series. Wright, N. T. Westminster John Knox Press.

- To make the Bible accessible to people

The Expositor's Bible Commentary (revised edition). Zondervan.

- 12 volumes for about \$350
- For example:
 - *Psalms, Vol. 5*
- Fairly conservative
- Gives three kinds of info on each passage: Overview, Commentary, Notes

The IVP Bible Background Commentary OT; and, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary NT*. InterVarsity Press Academic.

- The purpose of these two volumes is to give you background information about the culture, beliefs, etc.
- They do not give exegetic resources
- The NT volume has been more helpful for Randy

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged. Christian Miracle Foundation Press.

- A good one-volume Bible Commentary

The Message of [one volume or more per book] (Bible Speaks Today) (2001).

- *The Message of Psalms, Vol. 1, 1-72*
- *The Message of Psalms, Vol. 2, 73-150*

The New Daily Study Bible series (revised edition) – William Barclay: Westminster John Knox Press.

- All the books of the New Testament
- Great devotional books

The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary (2003). Abingdon Press.

- Gives multiple translations and commentary on all
- Expensive
- Twelve volumes
- Gives multiple translations and commentary on all
- Expensive

The NIV Application Commentary. Scot McKnight: Zondervan.

- Multiple volumes available in both Old and New Testament
- This is very good for reading purposes
- Drawback: 50-52 volumes – buy a little bit at a time
- Conservative even though there may be some that you might take issue with, but mostly it is okay
- Has three sections:
 - Original meaning (what it meant) - at beginning of each passage
 - Bridging (from original to today)
 - Contemporary Significance

The People's New Commentary. M. Eugene Boring & Fred B. Craddock: Westminster John Knox Press.

- The authors wanted this to be accessible to the people
- Not as conservative as the *SDA Bible Commentary*

Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary. Steve Gregg: Thomas Nelson.

Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary (1960). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

- The second commentary that Randy turns to
- Seven volumes for the Bible, and one volume for the Bible Dictionary; other miscellaneous volumes are also available.
- Very good and thorough
- It is very good for what it does.
- Focuses on words in texts but doesn't give the full picture...looks at the trees but not the forest. However, the introduction for each book does give some "bigger picture" information on the book.

Online Resources

Experiencing God Bible Study

<http://llucbiblestudy.org/>

Find many online Bible study resources.