A Global Perspective on Biblical Studies
An Annotated Bibliography

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* Indicates a work that is particularly helpful as compared to others in its section.

General Works


A very challenging book on the subject of the poor and powerless. It takes a critical look at passages from Scripture that discuss the situation of the poor.


This is a very comprehensive anthology on the hermeneutics of liberation theology. Gottwald brings together scholars from the traditional west as well as those from the Third World setting.


This book emphasizes the study of wealth and poverty in the Old and New Testaments. The conclusion reached by this study is that poverty is a direct result of hoarding and other selfish practices by the wealthy.


An extensive work that investigates the impact culture has on the methods of Biblical interpretation.


A great overview of some of the most prominent themes in cross-cultural biblical studies from a scholar who has extensive experience in missionary work.


Studies the Passover of King Josiah from 2 Kings in order to explain the connections between the social systems of Israel with their economic and political orders. It is widely considered a powerful work in sociological hermeneutics.

This is an excellent presentation of how liberation theology most effects the work of biblical scholars here and abroad.


This book discusses the impact social location has had on biblical studies. These “locations” do not merely represent place, but also ethnicity, class, and gender. The work of seventeen scholars comprise this volume.


A collection of papers on cultural exegesis with special emphasis on whether cultural backgrounds and experience of the reader of the Bible could influence the methods and results of historical and literary critical methodologies.


A collection of essays by exegetes and theologians from a Third World perspective. Topics range from exegetical methods and principles to an in depth study on the Exodus narrative.


The new edition has rearranged and omitted some material but has added fifteen new articles. There is no other book that better represents the breadth and depth in biblical interpretation by Third World scholars.

**African**


This book is recommended to those who want to gain a better understanding of the terms of the Old Testament that are closely related to Africans. Some of the prominent themes Adamo covers are the African presence in the monarchial period as well as in the prophets and Psalms.


This is a helpful study on the perception of salvation in Africa and how it compares with the biblical record.

A very clear-cut presentation of the impact of Apartheid on the churches of South Africa through the lens of the Bible.


A collection of essays solely by African women. It discusses the ways these women read and interpret the Bible from various cultural vantage points. It is very helpful for an overall look at how the Bible has been interpreted in the postcolonial setting.


In light of the way Jesus used stories, this book takes an in depth look at narrative components of African Christian theology. The authors’ experiences in Africa allow them to explain the inculturation of Christianity from a perspective few others possess.


A collection of essays that reflect different views that are prominent in African biblical studies. The primary genre is socio-intellectual, while the last half of the book focuses on aspects of the Old Testament.


Starting with the authority of Scripture, this African theologian works out a theology of proclamation for Africa.


This book covers a wide range of topics in African eschatology.


Explains that black liberation theology has failed to liberate because its proponents have failed to “break ideologically and theoretically with bourgeois biblical-hermeneutical assumptions.” He argues for the necessity of materialistic exegesis by using key texts from Micah and Luke in comparison with previous black theologians in South Africa.


This article covers Esther’s struggle for her survival and the survival of her people in comparison to the struggle of black women in South Africa under the Apartheid regime.

This book provides a helpful study of the origins and development of African theology. Parts six, seven, and eight take a closer look at the use of the Bible for African theology.


An excellent article on the themes important in the work of African biblical studies. Many of the concerns addressed are still prevalent today.


This article looks into the different points at which the Greco-Roman scholars criticized oracles or prophetic utterances and how it may have affected the interpretation of the New Testament.


This paper reviews an interconfessional project to provide explanatory notes for a contemporary translation of the Bible into Chichewa.


This book, more than any other, may get to the root of the hermeneutical method for liberation. Its inclusion of black theology, Latin American liberation theology and feminist theology makes it a very strong work.

**Asian**


A helpful article on dhvani, a method of interpretation used in India. The author discusses this method as a general hermeneutic and how it can be used in interpreting the Bible.


This book analyzes the effect the Western Church has had on Christianity in India. Beginning from the foundations of Indian Christian theology, Boyd explains the main influences that have negatively influenced Indian Christianity.

An in depth look at the primary theologians and topics within Indian Christianity. Part four includes a response to Hinduism.


A short book on how the Bible was translated in specific settings of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.


Legrand, a biblical scholar from India, examines the cultural context from three climactic episodes of the Bible. Part one, “Israel and the nations,” covers Israel’s evolution within the Cannanite setting as well as its interaction with Hellenism. Part two covers the culture in which Jesus lived and worked. Part three discusses the inter-cultural dynamics that the Apostle Paul faced during his missionary work.


The author takes an in depth look at three methods of hermeneutics used for religious writings in India.


This article is a study on the hermeneutical methods used by Indian academics and how they have handled the Bible.


Part one of this work covers the connection of poverty and liberation. Part two turns to religion and liberation and discusses whether western models of inculturation will work for Asia. Part three includes a section on linguistics and works out a theology of liberation for Asia.


This book focuses on hermeneutics in pluralistic Asia as well as women in biblical studies. Kwok concludes with a presentation of the postcolonial discourse she believes needs to take place for proper dialogue to happen.


Another of Sugirtharajah’s compilations of biblical studies from around the world. This collection investigates the consequences of postcolonial theory for biblical studies.


Sugirtharajah seeks to put postcolonial work on the biblical studies map with this book. It contrasts colonial ideals towards biblical studies against that of the emerging postcolonial outlook.

In keeping with the title, this book explains the use of the Bible for purposes of expansion during the three periods of colonization.


Examines the ways the vernacular has influenced and will continue to influence the process of biblical interpretation.


This is an interesting comparison between the person and work of Christ and that of the traditional understanding of the Asian guru.

Black American


This commentary covers the major aspects of David’s life, from his accession to the throne, to his conquests of the neighboring nations, to his affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.


This book is a collection of essays in primarily Black biblical studies to honor the work done by Charles Copher. Other topics deal more specifically with theological agendas.


This article discusses in what ways modern biblical criticism and hermeneutical methods have hindered and helped the Black preacher.


An important look at Gen. 9:25-27 and why it should not be interpreted in a manner that justifies the oppression of black people.


An anthology of the work of Copher in biblical and theological issues on the Black presence in the Bible.

A review of the multiple aspects in which the Bible discusses the Black person. Although not greatly discussed in the past, Copher shows just how predominant Black people are in the Bible.


A short work emphasizing the meaning of Negro and Ethiopia found in the Bible. Other topics include the Egyptians, the land of Cush, and the Black Warrior.


This book covers the history of the trials of the African-American and how the Gospel can be used to begin to remedy the situation.


A collaborative work of eleven essays from leading African-American writers in biblical studies. Its topics range from biblical authority and enhancing biblical interpretation to the Black presence in the Bible with an emphasis on slavery.


Understood as the definitive resource for studying the Black religious experience contained in the Bible. This work covers topics from Ancient Ethiopia to New Testament foundations in the nuclear age.


This book focuses on the Pauline teaching on freedom and how Black Americans can experience it in religious, social, and economic areas.


A black pastor argues that the primary tenets for Black Theology are unbiblical.


A book that helps Black Americans return to their cultural heritage. He begins with the Africentric perspective and from there works out a hermeneutical scheme.


Roberts is an important figure in the field of Black Theology. In part one of this book he lays out the hermeneutics and method for forming the Black Theology.

This is a collection of essays brought together to give a well rounded perspective on the black North American perspective of faith. Important for this bibliography is its section on Christology.


Shannon takes us through the highs and lows of the Jews of the Bible and the faith that sustained them.


A reevaluation of the Gospel through the eyes of a Black American writing during the civil rights protests. It is foundational for later works in Black American Theology.


A collection of essays devoted to the topic of asceticism and how it plays out in the New Testament. It begins with the Gospels and works its way through the New Testament.


One of the most popular works in meaningful ways that women can connect across class, culture, race, and time. Topics include, Hagar and Sarah, the women who followed Jesus, and Lot’s wife and her daughters.


A unique work on the symbolism found within the prophets that use women to convey their message to the people of Israel.


Explains the reason for the slow emergence of Black Theology and biblical studies in America. It is particularly strong in explaining a hermeneutics of liberation.


An in-depth exegetical work of 1 Corinthians 7 that ties together the context of the Corinthians, the message of the New Testament as a whole, and the thought of the Greco-Roman world.
**Hispanic**


A helpful work in that it begins by covering prominent sources for Liberation Theology. It then covers the hermeneutical foundations for a theology of the poor and finishes by working out the praxis of a God of love and justice.


One of the earliest books from a Latin American ‘insider’ that covers the impact of Catholicism and Protestantism on their culture. It discusses the changes in hermeneutics, praxis, and class struggle as Christian leaders began to take sides with the oppressed.


This book covers the history of the plight of the poor as they existed in the Bible and God’s reaction to their circumstances. Beginning with the Exodus of the Jews to the present, they examine and search for the best option for the poor in light of what God has revealed through the Bible.


Exalted as one of the clearest explanations of Liberation Theology available to the general reader. It contains the hermeneutical perspectives and work that has been done in this theology.


This is a powerful work in Christology from a leading Liberation Theologian. It examines the work of the Cross from Jesus’ perspective and the early church up to today.


Explains well the challenge that hermeneutics plays in studying the person of Jesus.


This book takes an evangelical approach to biblical and liberation topics. It also focuses on the Latin American context and how sin and salvation are worked out within it.


A concise work presenting a reader response approach to draw out the timeless messages of the Bible. The book is split into three main topics: textual primacy, preunderstanding of the reader, and the enlargement of the text by its reading.
Croatto uses the theme of Exodus to work out the meaning of Liberation Theology. He focuses on the Old Testament prophets, Jesus, and Paul as liberators.


This book is based on Mesters work in Brazilian base communities where the communities use the Bible with more freedom. They relate to it because their lives are similar to first century Palestine, and he argues they are more faithful to the meaning of the text in light of its context.


Gutierrez is recognized as the “father of Liberation Theology” and thus his significant influence in this theology is obvious. In this book the first two parts focus on the method of liberation theology and its hermeneutical principle.


Liberation Theology from an evangelical perspective from one whom has lived and worked with the poor of Latin America.


A collection of essays from the author himself. The first part covers the expansion of decolonization and liberation in relation to biblical criticism with an emphasis on pedagogical discourse and the place of postcolonial criticism today.


An in-depth commentary from one of the foremost writers in Latin America.


Keeping in line with other prominent liberation theologies, Tamez presents a controversial stance on justification by faith. She breaks down the writings of Paul concerning justification and builds a theology of justification on a socio-economic level.


Another challenging and powerful commentary that has been widely acclaimed.