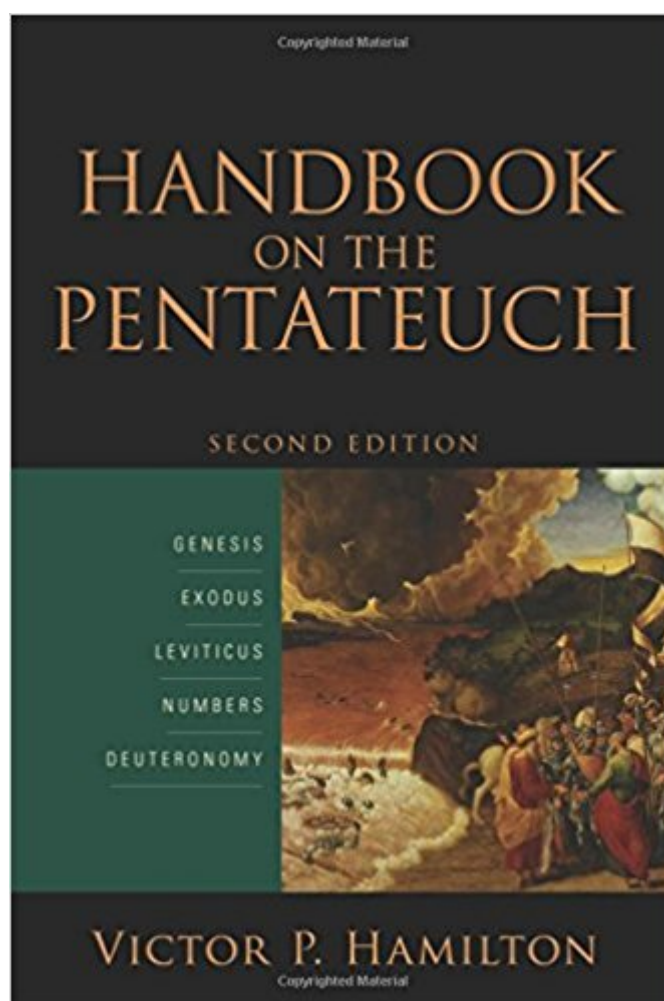


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Handbook On The Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy



Synopsis

In this introduction to the first five books of the Old Testament, Victor Hamilton moves chapter by chapter through the Pentateuch, examining the content, structure, and theology. Hamilton surveys each major thematic unit of the Pentateuch and offers useful commentary on overarching themes and connections between Old Testament texts.

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Customer Reviews

"The strengths of Hamilton's revised Handbook on the Pentateuch include its balanced attention to all five books of the Pentateuch, helpful bibliographies, fair-minded exposure to critical debates and competing viewpoints, sustained attention to theological themes and insights, and a clear and readable style. The book functions as a substantive one-volume commentary on the Pentateuch written from a moderate and informed evangelical perspective."--Dennis Olson, Princeton Theological Seminary

"It is a pleasure to recommend this work as an excellent introduction to the first five books of the Bible. Its sensitivity to the literary structures and emphases in the texts as well as its full awareness of classic and contemporary exegetical issues and scholarship provide an essential tool for introducing students and all interested readers to the fascinating world of the Pentateuch."--Richard S. Hess, Denver Seminary

"The second edition of Hamilton's Handbook on the Pentateuch follows in the tradition of the first. It is not simply a rehearsal of biblical content but offers concise and scholarly summaries and articulations of modern scholarship on the Pentateuch, while also offering well-crafted, traditional, evangelical positions on many difficult issues that

confront readers of the Pentateuch. The bibliographies are remarkable and provide valuable guidance to college and seminary students as they begin their own research."--Peter Enns, Eastern University"Hamilton has produced a second edition that is even more helpful for present and future generations of Bible students than the first edition. He has succeeded by revising and expanding the first edition with insights garnered from biblical scholarship at large and from his own study as a biblical commentator and college teacher. The book is brimming with information that exhibits the proper balance of comments on ancient backgrounds, critical theories, and the biblical text."--Kenneth A. Mathews, Beeson Divinity School"Hamilton achieves with apparent ease what so many only attempt. He unites historical study with literary insight; he integrates diachronic critical concerns with synchronic, structurally sensitive insights; and he deftly places his own fresh reading of the texts in conversation with an astonishing range of scholarly literature that represents the full spectrum of research on the Pentateuch. All this is done within a sound theological framework that allows the text to be heard naturally as a rule of faith for the church."--Lawson Stone, Asbury Theological Seminary

Victor P. Hamilton (PhD, Brandeis University), now retired, was professor of Bible and theology at Asbury University for more than thirty-five years. He is the author of major commentaries on Genesis and Exodus as well as Handbook on the Historical Books.

This book was assigned as part of the reading for an OT survey course in a M.Div program. I found Hamilton's compilation of the many positions taken on various aspects of the scriptures to be most helpful. As another reviewer pointed out, the book provides insights from a broad spectrum of Christian traditions. Nonetheless, the author tends to defend the conservative viewpoint more often than not. Ironically, one of the criticisms some level at Hamilton is his hesitance in expressing his own opinion; he is accused by some of giving every opinion but his own! I didn't find this to be case, entirely. It is true that he is concerned with giving the most popular opinions across a large swath of Biblical scholarship, but a careful reading reveals that the author's interjections tend to back up some opinions more than others. Overall, I found this book to be quite helpful for a survey course. The bibliographies at the end of each section, alone, make the book a worthwhile addition to your shelf.

I purchased this for a course I will be taking this fall and have been using it as i read alongside the text in preparation. I've found the discussion of interpretations of the text and the linking of other

Biblical texts and thematic connections extremely helpful. The author seems to address the exact questions I've been writing in the margins of my Bible and though meant for a class it's been great as a devotional in the meantime.

I recommend this one because a) it's perfect for students and those who are desiring to deepen their (maybe shallow) understanding of the Pentateuch b) it's lays out the big picture through each of the five books c) it brings about different perspectives and opinions, therefore, leading you to wrestle through it yourself d) and it transitions into each books pretty well Along with those four lovely points, it's well written and straight forward. Great read! Not too wordy, but not shallow.

This is not a commentary on the Pentateuch, but a "handbook." Each book of the Pentateuch is broken down into sections, in which literary themes and structures are discussed. It is essentially a fantastic tool for understanding how the "components" of the Pentateuch function as part of the whole unit. Anyone who reads this will gain a much deeper understanding of the first five books of the Bible.

While some of the Pentateuch is unappealing to casual readers, this text brought it to life with hundreds of applications and fascinating connections with ancient biblical contemporaries and with New Testament references. Glad that this textbook from my DTS class is now in my personal library!

Good Book

Nice

Handbook on the Pentateuch, : Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy This makes sense - the big picture and all of its details fit. This was my feeling as I worked my way through Hamilton's book. In fact, the discovery was not only a big relief, after scanning a number of books of its type and feeling overwhelmed and lost in issues I did not understand and never knew existed, excitement fill my heart and mind. Just enough and but not too much for this novice adventurer into the Old Testament.

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