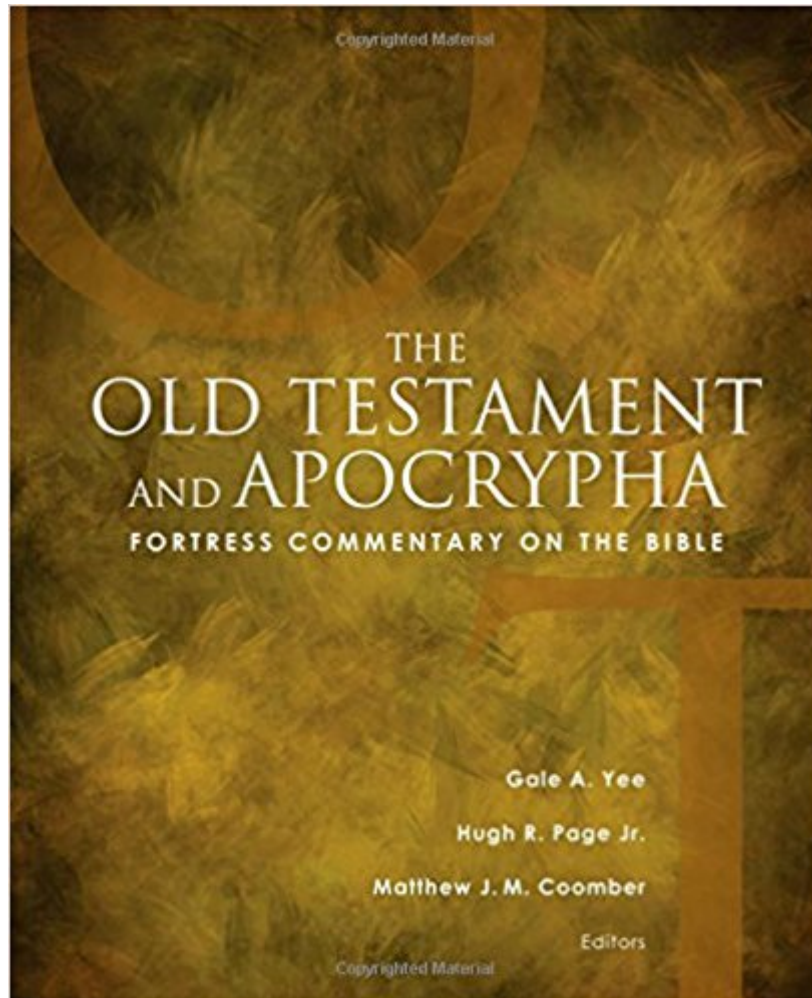




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# **Fortress Commentary On The Bible: The Old Testament And Apocrypha**



## Synopsis

The Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The Old Testament and Apocrypha presents a balanced synthesis of current scholarship, enabling readers to interpret Scripture for a complex and pluralistic world. The contributors bring a rich diversity of perspectives to the task of connecting solid historical critical analysis of the Scripture with sensitivity to theological, cultural, and interpretive issues arising in our encounter with the text. The contributors represent a broad array of theological commitment—Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and others. The introductory articles and section introductions in the volume discuss the dramatic challenges that have shaped contemporary interpretation of the Old Testament and Apocrypha. Individual book articles provide an introduction and commentary on key sense units that are explored through the lenses of three critical questions: The Text in Its Ancient Context. What did the text probably mean in its original historical and cultural context? The Text in the Interpretive Tradition. How have centuries of reading and interpreting shaped our understanding of the text? The Text in Contemporary Discussion. What are the unique challenges and interpretive questions the text addresses for readers and hearers today? The result is a commentary that is comprehensive and useful for preaching, teaching, and research.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gale A. Yee is Nancy W. King Professor of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School in

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and former general editor of the Semeia Studies. She is the author of *Poor Banished Children of Eve: Woman as Evil in the Hebrew Bible* (Fortress Press, 2003) and editor of *Judges and Method* (Fortress Press, 1995, 2007) and co-editor of volumes *Genesis* (2010), *Exodus and Deuteronomy* (2012), and *Joshua and Judges* (2013) in Fortress Press's *Texts@Contexts* series. Hugh R. Page Jr. is associate professor of Hebrew Scriptures and dean of the First Year of Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He is general editor of *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspor* (Fortress Press, 2009) and author of *Israel's Poetry of Resistance: Africana Perspectives on Early Hebrew Verse* (Fortress Press, 2013). Matthew J. M. Coomber is assistant professor of biblical studies at St. Ambrose University and a director at the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. He has authored *Re-Reading the Prophets Through Corporate Globalization: A Cultural-Evolutionary Approach to Economic Injustice in the Hebrew Bible* (2010), and he is the editor of the collected work titled *Bible and Justice: Ancient Texts, Modern Challenges* (2011).

I own both old and new testament. I have referred these to all my friends.

Solid source or preliminary research into specific biblical texts. Yee's voice is an important one in biblical studies.

Great tool for my academics. Accurate description. Good delivery timing and accurate description.

I'd like to thank Fortress Press for providing a digital review copy of the commentary. I received both the Old & New Testament Commentaries close to 30 days ago and love the scholarship. I have published a review of the New Testament Commentary separately. This review will be repetitive to readers of the New Testament Commentary. The editors are: Gale A. Yee is Nancy W. King Professor of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and former general editor of the Semeia Studies. Hugh R. Page Jr. is associate professor of Hebrew Scriptures and dean of the First Year of Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Matthew J. M. Coomber is assistant professor of biblical studies at St. Ambrose University and a director at the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. Including the above mentioned editors there are total of 50 contributors in this volume. In the introduction the reader is invited to "study and seek conversation regarding the ancient text which is complex and compelling". Then continues on by saying, "As biblical scholars, we wish students of the Bible to gain a respect for the antiquity and cultural

remoteness of the biblical texts and to grapple for themselves with the variety of possible meanings...the Fortress Commentary on the Bible offers general readers an informed and accessible resource for understanding the biblical writings in their ancient contexts; for recognizing how the texts have come down to us through the meditation of different interpretive traditions; and for engaging current discussion of the Bible's sometimes perplexing, sometimes ambivalent, but always influential legacy in the contemporary world".The commentary has Topical Articles that set the stage on which interpretation takes place, naming the issues and the concerns that have shaped historical and theological scholarship down to the present. The articles also include issues that arise when two different religious communities claim the same body of writings as Scripture, though interpreting those writings quite differently.The commentary has Section Introductions articles introducing the Gospels, Acts, the letters associated with Paul, Hebrews, the General Epistles, and Revelation. The reader can expect the articles to address the literary and historical matters, as wells as theological themes, that the books in these collection hold in common.The commentary has Commentary Entries which present accessible and judicious discussion of each biblical book, with an introduction to the current thinking regarding the writing's original context and it's significance in different reading communities down to the present day. What follows next is a three-level commentary for each sense division of the book. This is the most distinctive aspect (in my opinion) of the commentary.The first level is titled "The Text in Its Ancient Context", the intent here is to convey some sense of the historical and cultural distance between the text's original context and the contemporary reader.The second level is titled "The Text in Its Interpretive Tradition", which discusses themes including Jewish and Christian tradition as well as other religious, literary and artistic traditions where the biblical text have attracted interest. This level is shaped by the conviction that does not apprehend these texts immediately or innocently, rather, even the plain meaning we may regard as self-evident which may have shaped by centuries of appropriation and argument to which we are heirs.The third and final level is titled "The Text in Contemporary Discussion" which follows the history of interpretation into the present, drawing brief attention to a range of issues. The aim here is not to deliver a single answer--"what the text means"--to the contemporary reader, but to highlight unique challenges and interpretive questions. Special attention to paid to with respect to occasions of dissonance, injurious, or even intolerable to some readers today. The goal is not to provoke a referendum on the value of the text bbut to stimulate reflection and discussion and, in this way, to empower the reader to reach their own judgements about the text.The approach of the commentary articulates a particular understanding of the work of responsible biblical interpretation. The editors and contributors seek through this

commentary to promote intelligent and mature engagement with the Bible, in religious communities and in academic classrooms alike, among pastors, theologians, and ethicists, but also especially among nonspecialists. This review covers the introductory section of this commentary. It is my opinion after only 30 days of use the additional insights I have been introduced to (and looking forward to in the future) will stay with me the rest of my life. I am and will be indebted to everyone who has made this volume possible.

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