

Initial Commentary Evaluation

<http://www.bestcommentaries.com>

The *bestcommentaries.com* website may be a helpful starting point in reviewing and selecting commentaries for biblical studies. The site went through some major changes in the summer of 2011 which have decreased the breadth of its usefulness, but the primary tool (commentary ranking) is still functional, albeit slowly.

The site parses its data on commentaries in multiple ways. One can see the two top-ranked* commentaries for each book of both testaments in the Best Top Commentaries by Book tab or view a ranked listing of multiple commentaries for a specific scriptural book in the OT Books/NT Books tabs. The commentaries, along with being ranked, are classified as "Technical", "Pastoral", "Devotional" or "Special Study". When an individual book is selected on the site, simple bibliographic information is displayed along with "stores" that sell the book, "electronic" options (Accordance & Logos) for the commentary and (most helpfully) a link to the resource in Google Books. Many theological books can be previewed either partially or fully at Google Books (e.g. view one of the NICNT books online).

Obviously, the rankings and reviews are highly subjective, but in general they fit into a relatively conservative, evangelical hermeneutic and theology. This site is simply an initial tool for evaluating biblical commentaries.

* Rankings are based on reviews and ratings by biblical scholars, pastors, academic institutions, ministries and lay leaders.