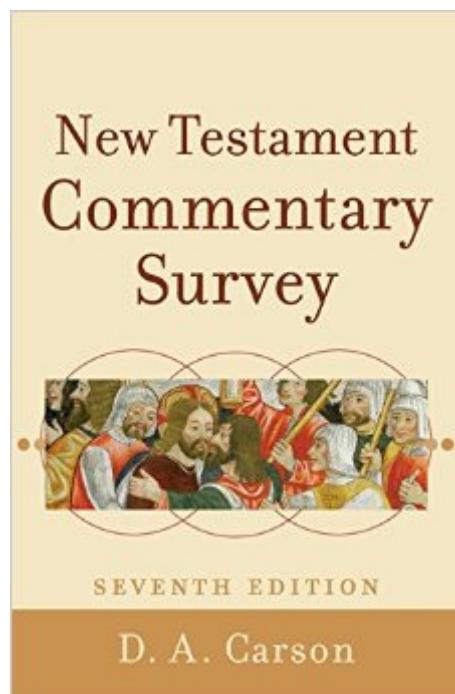


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# New Testament Commentary Survey



## **Synopsis**

A respected New Testament scholar provides students and pastors with expert guidance on choosing a commentary for any book of the New Testament.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I originally bought the 5th edition of this commentary survey (also written by Carson) for a class in my undergraduate days, and immediately found it to be a useful tool in my academic career. I felt it was necessary to update to the 7th edition this year in order to hear Carson's thoughts on some of the more recently published commentaries that I was considering using for my weekly preaching. The purpose of this book is to help the reader sift through the enormous number of commentaries out there. Carson accomplishes this by introducing you to different commentary series quite exhaustively, ranging from more scholarly and academic works to more devotional works. Carson makes brief suggestions along the way as to the strengths and weaknesses of each series. Carson, as one might expect, definitely leans toward more scholarly commentaries as being helpful, and in several places implicitly criticizes the "poorly trained" pastor (his words). As a bonus, Carson also gives his thoughts on some other resources on the New Testament, including NT Theologies and Introductions. The section that I use most often makes up the bulk of Carson's material. I tend to preach through an entire book over the course of several months. Therefore, when I am preparing to begin a new book (most recently James), I consult Carson to see what

different commentaries of James offer. I also frequently find Carson's recommendations to be helpful without feeling "judged" if I use a commentary he doesn't recommend. Further, although unabashedly evangelical, Carson still recommends many non-evangelical commentaries. He does frequently note and categorize individual commentaries as conservative, liberal and critical, which is helpful to a point.

I'm looking to go to seminary in the future and bought this book as a guide to the many works (especially commentaries) written on the New Testament. I have to say that I'm not disappointed. Carson sifts through many works and gives his recommendations, often with very helpful insights in his evaluations. In researching, and when I have some money to spend, I have frequently consulted this book and have not been disappointed when selecting books in light of Carson's recommendations. I have to take one star off though for a couple of reasons. First, I wish there was more structure. The book has clear headings as to what is being reviewed (i.e. specific books in the New Testament), but the sections are written in prose. One has to hunt through paragraphs to find different works and his evaluations, and sometimes the sections seem to run on without a clear organization. I guess what I'm saying is that maybe this work would have been better written like a thorough annotated bibliography, maybe ordered from highest recommendations to lowest, or categorized into scholarly, layman, devotional, theological, etc. On this note, I highly recommend "Commentaries for Biblical Expositors" by Dr. Jim Rossrup; it has more structure, but it only covers commentaries (Old & New Testament), and it is now a decade old. Secondly, Carson's comments are usually thorough or insightful, but occasionally sparse and biased (either from his background as a scholar, or as a conservative evangelical). I don't disagree with his conservative evangelical background, but I have found that sometimes he overlooks and gives negative reviews on works that the layman, student, or pastor may find very helpful and understandable (e.g.

Have you ever looked at the host of commentaries available on a particular book of the NT and wished you could ask a first-rate NT scholar what he thought about each of them? Most of us will never have that kind of direct access, but Carson's New Testament Commentary Survey comes pretty close. D. A. Carson is without question one of the most prolific and respected NT scholars of our day. His commentaries on Matthew and John are some of the best available and his forthcoming commentary on Revelation is highly anticipated. His work as the editor of the Pillar New Testament Commentary series and the New Studies in Biblical Theology series have been of great service to the church. His books are too numerous to list and his influence tremendous (think

Gospel Coalition). So if you could get his opinion on virtually any NT commentary in print (and many out of print), wouldn't that be worth your time? There are other commentary guides out there of course, but what makes this one unique among those I have seen is that it is written in a more narrative style. Rather than providing an annotated list, Carson writes in a more narrative style that makes it a pleasure to read (in fact, if you are a nerd like me you could read it more or less straight through). For each book (or group of books like 2 Peter and Jude) he usually mentions the top few commentaries in the first couple paragraphs, often noting how much Greek is necessary to use them, and then lists a plethora of other commentaries that are available. These are often evaluated based on whether they will be of any additional help to a pastor who already has one or two of the best commentaries on that book so that preachers don't waste money on commentaries that largely repeat the same points made by others.

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