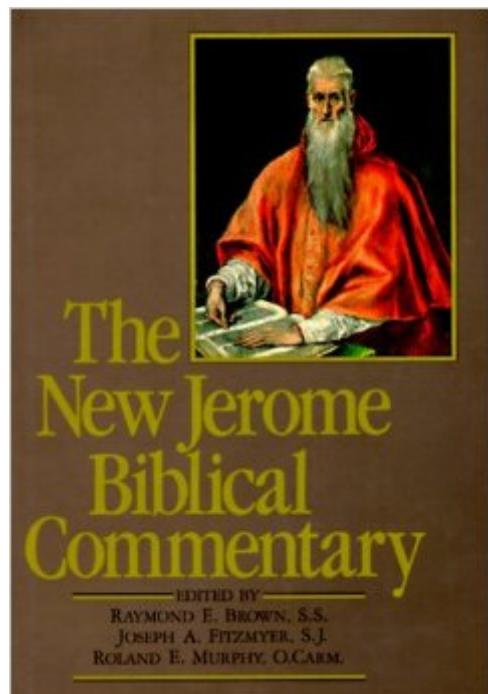


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The New Jerome Biblical Commentary



Synopsis

This contemporary verse by verse commentary examines the scientific, literary, and historical content of the Scriptures " reflecting the exegetical variation found within the community of scholars. Features current theories on dating, historical reconstruction, and archaeological information. Provides contemporary perspectives on hermeneutics, theological depths relating to the biblical word, and themes in the Old Testament. Includes articles on Jesus, the Early Church, Gnosticism, and the subapostolic church.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In many scholarly circles, this commentary is considered the finest example of Catholic biblical scholarship. Admittedly my opinion means little, but I humbly have to disagree. Before I begin allow me to say that several people I respect HIGHLY endorse this commentary. I do not understand why. First, allow me to address what strengths the commentary has. 1) The finest historical/critical scholarship in the modern Catholic Church is presented. 2) The commentary is well organized and easily used. 3) The commentary is well edited and lean. This commentary covers the entire bible, including the apocrypha, and is available in one volume for a reasonable price. 4) The commentary can be of help when trying to deal with a difficult passage of scripture. These four strengths however do not, to my mind, make up for the book's myriad weaknesses. A few of the most egregious problems with the commentary follow: 1) The commentary focuses solely on the insights of the historical critical method. The method can and does provide valuable insights. However, it can be

problematic in that it takes skepticism as its starting point. Its conclusions therefore can be biased against faith. One example is the dating of texts that include prophecy. The historical critical scholar will postdate the text to after the prophecy had been fulfilled. The assumption is against the idea that a prophet from God could have warned about the future BEFORE the event occurred.2) Historical critical method, by definition, can only address the literal sense of scripture. (Who wrote the text, when was it written, what is the author's agenda, what does he or she want tell us etc. etc.

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