

A collection of vintage tools is arranged on a dark, textured workbench. At the top is a long wooden level with a bubble level and the word 'DEFIANCE' visible. Below it are a square, a hammer, and a hand saw. In the center, a white rectangular box contains the text 'PREACHING TOOLS'. Below the box is a red book or folder. At the bottom are two large wooden vices, a smaller vice, a pair of pliers, and a drill bit.

# PREACHING TOOLS

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AN ANNOTATED SURVEY OF COMMENTARIES AND  
PREACHING RESOURCES FOR EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE

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*Preaching Tools: An Annotated Survey of Commentaries and Preaching Resources  
for Every Book of the Bible*

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# GENESIS

## EXEGETICAL COMMENTARIES

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Delitzsch, Franz. *A New Commentary on Genesis*. 2 vols. Edinburgh, 1888.

Delitzsch was a German Lutheran theologian and Hebraist. He founded an institution for training missionaries to the Jews. He is the author of numerous works, including his stupendous two volumes on Hebrews and an amazing book entitled *Biblical Psychology*, originally published in 1869 but reprinted by Baker in 1966. This is the translation of the 5th German edition. Wilbur Smith said it is “in some ways the greatest commentary on Genesis in any language.”

Wenham, Gordon. *Genesis*. 2 vols. WBC. Thomas Nelson, 1987.

Tremper Longman refers to Wenham as one of the finest Old Testament commentators today. If he writes on it, it is worth having. Wenham’s *Genesis* volume will repay careful study and use. David Bauer said it “represents the best of British Evangelical scholarship.”

Westermann, Claus. *Genesis 1-11*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.

Westermann’s commentary on the entire book is published in three volumes. Brevard Childs calls it “much too long winded for anyone except the specialist.” True, but it is scholarship par excellence if you want to wade in deep. Another option is to acquire the abridged volume *Genesis: A Practical Commentary*. Text & Interpretation series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Genesis 12–36*. Augsburg, 1985.

See above.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Genesis 37–50*. Augsburg, 1986.

See above.

## EXPOSITORY COMMENTARIES

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Bush, George. *Genesis: Notes Critical and Practical, on the Book of Genesis: Designed as a General Help to Biblical Reading and Instruction*. Boston: H. A. Young, 1871. 2 vols.

This is an older work that is very valuable for preaching, especially for those without knowledge of Hebrew. I recommend you also get his commentaries on Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers if you like what he does with Genesis.

**Candlish, Robert.** *Studies in Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1979.

Candlish was a Scottish pastor and theologian known of his preaching eloquence. Spurgeon said of him, he is always “devout, candid, prudent, forcible.” Don’t miss his excellent volume on 1 John as well. Brookman calls this work on Genesis “a very important classic ... a treasure house of sermon suggestions.”

**Davis, John.** *Paradise to Prison: Studies in Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.

Davis incorporates helpful sources from archaeology and ANE studies in this very readable commentary. Helpful for pastors.

**Dods, Marcus.** *The Book of Genesis*. EB. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1893.

Dods was a pastor for 25 years in Glasgow and then a professor. Excellent expository studies/sermons with good application. Still valuable to consult when preaching through Genesis. Dods wrote good volumes on Corinthians and John [2 volumes] in the EB series as well.

**Hamilton, Victor.** *Genesis*. 2 vols. NICOT, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995.

An excellent treatment. Use with Wenham and Matthews and you can’t go wrong.

**Kuruvilla, Abraham.** *Genesis: a Theological Commentary for Preachers*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2014

Kuruvilla teaches preaching at Dallas Theological Seminary and is strong on letting the text speak for itself. Preachers will find lots of help in this volume. Preachers would do well to read his *Privilege the Text: a Theological Hermeneutic for Preaching* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2013), and his *A Vision for Preaching: Understanding the Heart of Pastoral Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015).

**Leupold, H. C.** *Exposition of Genesis*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1949.

Expository in nature and easily readable. A must have for all preachers from this Lutheran preacher. Wilbur Smith said it was the most important commentary on Genesis published by an American scholar.

**Matthews, Kenneth.** *Genesis*. 2 vols. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.

One of the best all-round commentaries on Genesis by a conservative Old Testament scholar who writes with an eye for preaching the text.

Ross, Allen. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1997.

This volume is a must for preaching Genesis. More than a commentary, it is really a series of expository sermons, outlined according to the structure of the text, and followed by a brief bibliography on each passage. I would never preach through Genesis without this volume. In fact, I recommend owning every volume by Ross if you plan to do expositional preaching on any book in the Old Testament about which he has written.

Waltke, Bruce. *Genesis: a Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARIES

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Pink, Arthur. *Gleanings in Genesis*. Chicago: Moody, 1972.

Pink is heavily Calvinistic and is prone to find typology under every bush in the Old Testament. Nevertheless, this is a helpful work for preachers who will find lots of practical preaching help.

Thomas, W. H. Griffith. *Genesis: a Devotional Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1946.

Originally published in three volumes. Principal of Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, Thomas' volume is one of the better devotional works on Genesis.

Strachan, James. *Hebrew Ideals in Genesis*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. revised, 1906.

Warren Wiersbe said, "One of my favorite books, ... every preacher ought to have in his library. ... One of the most valuable studies of Genesis to appear in this century. It has enriched my life and ministry."

## SPECIAL STUDIES

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Bonar, Horatius. *Thoughts on Genesis* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1979 reprint [1875]).

Bonar was one of the popular Scottish preachers during the 19th century whose prolific pen produced many devotional works on the Bible along with hymns. He writes from the heart. I try to read Bonar if he has written on the subject.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ in Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

From the pen of the Professor Emeritus in Homiletics at Calvin Theological Seminary, this work helps you stay on the straight and narrow hermeneutically as you preach Christ from Genesis. A very helpful volume.

Kirk, Thomas. *The Life of Joseph*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1985 reprint.

Detail, insight, and homiletical help abounds,” says David Brookman.

Strahan, James. *Hebrew Ideals in Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1982 reprint [1902-05].

Lots of preaching help in this book. Strahan covers Genesis 11-50. Try this from his comments on Genesis 20: “There are no surprises of sin in holy lives . . . Abraham erred whenever he began to ask himself the question ‘What is now the safe and expedient course for me? . . . What will make for my present advantage?’ He never erred when he asked himself ‘What is God’s will?’

Taylor, William. *Joseph the Prime Minister*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961.

Taylor was an excellent expositor and devotional writer. See also his *Moses: The Law-Giver*, published in the same year by Baker.

## SERMONS

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John Chrysostom preached 75 sermons on Genesis.

Fuller, Andrew. *Expository Discourses on the Book of Genesis Interspersed with Practical Reflections*. In *The Complete Works of the Rev. Andrew Fuller*. Vol. 3. Harrisonburg, VA: Sprinkle Publications, 1988.

Fuller was one of the great pastor-theologians of Baptist history. Here are 58 sermons on Genesis preached at Kettering before 1805. Brevard Childs said he personally found Fuller’s Genesis sermons to be close to the text.



Every effective preacher needs tools to craft faithful, text-driven sermons. However, since pastors have limited time each week and there are thousands of potential preaching resources, knowing the best commentaries and books to help in sermon preparation can be a daunting task.

In *Preaching Tools*, David Allen draws from the well of more than 40 years of experience in the pulpit, both as a pastor and preaching professor, to provide the top commentaries and resources for every book of the Bible. Resources are categorized for quick reference, and Allen's annotations provide insight into the books' strengths, weaknesses, and backgrounds.

*“What I’ve tried to do in this book is provide an annotated bibliography for preachers of helpful resources, mostly commentaries, for every book of the Bible, in English. Most of the books listed in this bibliography I own in my personal library. These are the works that I have found to be the most helpful in sermon preparation.” – David Allen*



David Allen serves as dean of the School of Preaching, distinguished professor of preaching, George W. Truett Chair of Ministry, and director of the Center for Expository Preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has led or been a part of more than 400 revivals, Bible conferences, and lecture series, including study tours in the Philippines, Israel, Oxford, and Germany. He is the author of *1–3 John: Fellowship in God’s Family* in Crossway’s Preaching the Word series and *Hebrews* in the New American Commentary series. He is also co-editor of *Text-Driven Preaching: God’s Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*.

