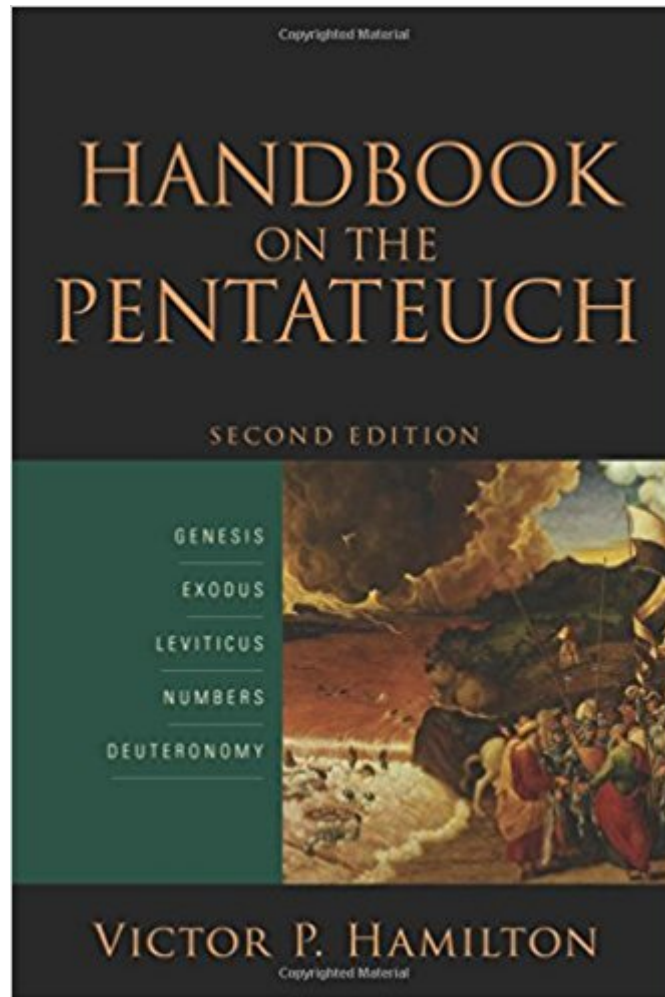


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Handbook On The Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy



Synopsis

In this introduction to the first five books of the Old Testament, Victor Hamilton moves chapter by chapter through the Pentateuch, examining the content, structure, and theology. Hamilton surveys each major thematic unit of the Pentateuch and offers useful commentary on overarching themes and connections between Old Testament texts.

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Customer Reviews

Victor Hamilton's Handbook on the Pentateuch is a very good introduction to the Pentateuch for both undergraduates and beginning seminarians who are taking an exegesis course in Old Testament. For anyone interested in Old Testament studies it is a must. The publishing life of this text has been remarkable since it first appeared in 1982. Unlike the previous reviewer, who essentially wants a commentary on the Pentateuch, the beauty of this text is that it is not that. It is a handbook introduction - a biblical theology of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. Dr. Hamilton is not writing for the academy, although academicians will find it useful. He is writing for the student and motivated layperson. Besides, Hamilton has already authored the two volume commentary on Genesis that appears in the New International Commentary on The Old Testament (NICOT) series published by Eerdmans. There, the reader will find concise exegesis in a verse-by-verse format. Handbook on The Pentateuch reflects what Dr. Hamilton has done best over the years - teach students Old Testament. Readers will find this to be an engaging text that reflects critical scholarship as well as a pastor's heart.

Handbook on the Pentateuch,: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy This makes sense - the big picture and all of its details fit. This was my feeling as I worked my way through Hamilton's book. In fact, the discovery was not only a big relief, after scanning a number of books of its type and feeling overwhelmed and lost in issues I did not understand and never knew existed, excitement fill my heart and mind. Just enough and but not too much for this novice adventurer into the Old Testament.

This book was assigned as part of the reading for an OT survey course in a M.Div program. I found Hamilton's compilation of the many positions taken on various aspects of the scriptures to be most helpful. As another reviewer pointed out, the book provides insights from a broad spectrum of Christian traditions. Nonetheless, the author tends to defend the conservative viewpoint more often than not. Ironically, one of the criticisms some level at Hamilton is his hesitance in expressing his own opinion; he is accused by some of giving every opinion but his own! I didn't find this to be case, entirely. It is true that he is concerned with giving the most popular opinions across a large swath of Biblical scholarship, but a careful reading reveals that the author's interjections tend to back up some opinions more than others. Overall, I found this book to be quite helpful for a survey course. The bibliographies at the end of each section, alone, make the book a worthwhile addition to your shelf.

I recommend this one because a) it's perfect for students and those who are desiring to deepen their (maybe shallow) understanding of the Pentateuch b) it's lays out the big picture through each of the five books c) it brings about different perspectives and opinions, therefore, leading you to wrestle through it yourself d) and it transitions into each books pretty well Along with those four lovely points, it's well written and straight forward. Great read! Not too wordy, but not shallow.

This is not a commentary on the Pentateuch, but a "handbook." Each book of the Pentateuch is broken down into sections, in which literary themes and structures are discussed. It is essentially a fantastic tool for understanding how the "components" of the Pentateuch function as part of the whole unit. Anyone who reads this will gain a much deeper understanding of the first five books of the Bible.

I was actually a student of Dr. Hamilton and his classes were great. His sermons are also some of

the best. Unfortunately, this work is not sure what it wants to be. Is it a preacher's sermon resource? Is it a scholarly work? Is it a textbook? In trying to be all these things, it has not done a great job at any of them. On the upside, Dr. Hamilton is a great Hebrew scholar, which shows throughout. Also, he familiarizes the reader with a variety of theories of the text and the historical background of the Pentateuch. Finally, he is Evangelical through and through so those Christians who are afraid of being misled by unbelieving scholars can trust where he is coming from. I'm afraid that if you are not a conservative Evangelical or if you are just looking for some serious scholarly work, you are going to be disappointed.

While some of the Pentateuch is unappealing to casual readers, this text brought it to life with hundreds of applications and fascinating connections with ancient biblical contemporaries and with New Testament references. Glad that this textbook from my DTS class is now in my personal library!

This is one of the best books I have read on the Pentateuch. It is not a commentary, but rather a readable book discussing some of the scholarly research on the Old Testament. Plenty of references and a great bibliography for each chapter.

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