Biblical Research Information- Exegesis Sources

Doing research requires the use of expert sources that give substance and authority to a paper. “Sources” are works written by scholars credentialed in the field of study. There is a minimum number of sources required for your exegesis paper (consult your syllabus). Your paper can include other sources as well, but the minimum number must come from scholars and must relate directly to the material under study. The better your sources are, the better your paper will be.

What does not count as a scholarly source: The Bible itself does not count as a source, since that is actually the subject of the paper. Concordances and other books that merely list information about the Bible likewise do not count, because they are simply reporting what is contained in the Bible. Books that survey the Bible, such as the textbooks used in the courses “Understanding the Old Testament” and “Understanding the New Testament,” are inadequate sources because they do not go into the depth needed for exegesis. The same is the case for books referred to as Bible companions, idiot’s guide, and any other such books that deal mostly with what the Bible contains.

The following are examples of sources that you may use when writing an exegesis. Note that this is NOT a complete list of resources available.

Suggested Physical Resources in Our Library:

Print Commentary Sets and Series:

Baker Commentary on the Old Testament
Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible
Cambridge Bible Commentary
The Daily Study Bible (Craigie and Barclay)
Eerdmans Critical Commentary
Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC)
International Critical Commentary
Interpretation
Interpreter’s Bible Commentary (IB)
New International Commentary on the Old Testament
New International Commentary on the New Testament
New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary
Tyndale Old & New Testament Commentaries
The Wesleyan Bible Commentary
Word Biblical Commentary
Other Print Sources:

Anchor Bible Dictionary
Ancient Christian Doctrine
Dictionary of Historical Theology (The)
Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (The)
New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology (The)
Vine's Expository Dictionary
Word Meanings in the New Testament

Sources to Avoid

The following are examples of books that are not to be used because their primary purpose is to do something besides explain the literal meaning of the text. Note that this is not a complete list.

Biblical Illustrator
Pulpit Commentary
Speaker's Bible
The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary
The Sermon Bible
Halley's Bible Handbook
Matthew Henry's Commentary
An Exposition of the Whole Bible

And other homiletical references like these which are designed for use in sermon construction, for example, the "Exposition" section located in the third section of pages of the IB. All Study Bibles are likewise inadequate to use as sources in college level study.