

**Haddon W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching: the Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*.** 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: BakerAcademic ([www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/bakeracademic](http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/bakeracademic)), 2014. Pages, 256. Cloth, \$21.99.

Robinson identifies expository preaching as “. . . the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted from a historical, grammatical, and literary study. . . .” In the chapters that follow he explains each of the major concepts in that definition, along with topics such as ways to shape a sermon and the importance of communication skills. (The incorporation of technology is never discussed.) He then includes a sample sermon, a structure for its evaluation, and an evaluation itself. The book might be called a “Handbook for Preachers,” for it addresses ways of dealing with the snags encountered in preparing a sermon (homily) as well as features that support and enhance its delivery. It also has a very useful set of student exercises for each of the chapters. Though the book is written with the beginner in mind, it is not so elementary that experienced preachers will not benefit from the riches it contains.

**Brian Simmons, trans., *The Psalms: Poetry on Fire*.** The Passion Translation. Racine, WI: BroadStreet Publishing ([www.broadstreetpublishing.com](http://www.broadstreetpublishing.com)), 2014. Pages, 301. Paper, \$19.99.

This is one of the first volumes to appear in The Passion Translation, a new version of the Bible. Simmons employs dynamic-equivalence principles in his translation of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. The goal of this project is to bring the “passion and fire of the Bible to the English reader.” Simmons does not take advantage of the latitude in translation that a dynamic-equivalence approach affords. He stays very close to the original meaning, while crafting that meaning in contemporary language and imagery. A few footnotes explain minor issues of translation. The well-known Psalm 23 begins: “The Lord is my Fierce Protector and my Pastor. I always have more than enough.” Psalm 122 says: “I was overjoyed when they said: ‘Let’s go up to the house of the Lord.’ And now at last we stand here, Inside the very gates of Jerusalem.” Those who engage in spiritual practices such as *lectio divina* will find this translation very helpful.

**Jerry L. Sumney, *The Bible: An Introduction*.** 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press ([www.fortresspress.com](http://www.fortresspress.com)), 2014. Pages, 464. Paper, \$49.00.

**Anthony LeDonne, *A Study Companion to The Bible: An Introduction*.** Minneapolis: Fortress Press ([www.fortresspress.com](http://www.fortresspress.com)), 2014. Pages, 160. Paper, \$19.00.

The first impression one gets of this book is that it is reader-friendly. What might otherwise be heavy content is broken into manageable segments under colorful headings. The attractiveness of the page does not stop there. Colorful maps, charts, and reproductions of art and photographs illustrate what is being discussed on the pages. An explanation of the origin of biblical tradition, its transmission through the ages, and its final canonical determination is treated in the first chapters. Specifics about each biblical book (Protestant canon) follow. Each chapter ends with sugges-

tions for discussion, a list of key terms that are further explained in a glossary at the end of the book, questions for review, and a short bibliography for further reading. While this is a fine introduction for some beginning students, it lacks any treatment of what Catholics consider Deutero-canonical books (Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, etc.), even as Protestant Apocrypha.

The Study Companion is a fine guide for the beginning student. It first suggests ways the textbook might be used to greatest advantage. It then identifies the important themes in each chapter, the importance of which the beginner might miss. Some background information on the material in each chapter is offered. It also includes further questions for personal reflection and some for group discussion.

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