



## **New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors**

*Gordon D. Fee*

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Building on the belief that the task of exegesis is to understand the divine-human intention locked within the biblical text, Gordon Fee provides a lucid step-by-step analysis of exegetical procedures that has made *New Testament Exegesis* a standard textbook for nearly two decades. Now more than ever, with an updated, newly integrated bibliography and an appendix directly addressing reader-response criticism, this essential, classic guide will assist students, scholars, and clergy in coming to grips with the New Testament.

## **New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors Details**

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Author : Gordon D. Fee

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# From Reader Review New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors for online ebook

## Ian Hammond says

Helpful to me mainly because it is the only book that I have read like it. I'd really like to check out other works like this one. I found the big picture portion of the book hard to follow and the zoomed in a little confusing. Nevertheless, this may be a problem with the reader and not the writer in this case.

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## Jordan Lange says

This book is very enlightening and teaches the reader many techniques for exegeting scripture. I liked New Testament Exegesis much more than Old Testament Exegesis, partially because I enjoy Gordon Fee's writing style. It was much less dry than the first installment of this series and just as beneficial.

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## Jeff says

*New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* by Gordon D. Fee

What is exegesis as defined by Fee?

"The term exegesis is used in this book in a consciously limited sense to refer to the historical investigation into the meaning of the biblical text. The presupposition lying behind this task is that the biblical books had 'authors' and 'readers,' and that the authors intended their readers to understand what they wrote (see, e.g., 1 Cor. 5:9-11; 1 John 2:1; see the Appendix). Exegesis therefore answers the question, What did the biblical author mean? It has to do both with *what* he said (the content itself) and *why* he said it at any given point (the literary context)--as much as that might be discovered, given our distance in time, language, and culture. Furthermore, exegesis is primarily concerned with intentionality: What did the author *intend* his original readers to understand?"

This book is for those very serious about exegesis. It's very broad, but accessible for any student, pastor or anyone serious about studying the Bible.

Although the book was originally written 20 years ago, it has stood the test of time and has been revised in both the 2nd and current 3rd edition to keep it very up to date.

Is it necessary to know Greek to utilize the book?

This is addressed in the Preface to the first edition but also in the Introduction to the 3rd edition:

"A final word to those who use only the English Bible. First, you need to take heart that you can learn to do exegesis as well as anyone else. Knowing Greek gives one obvious advantages in several matters of detail. But the person without Greek who is willing to do a bit of extra work can enter into the full joys of this discipline. You must take seriously the need to learn the Greek alphabet; that will give you direct access to

most of the better tools, especially when it comes to the study of words."

For those who *do* know Greek the book goes in-depth into using Greek as part of exegesis.

By taking a look at the Amazon link you can "Search inside this book" and start with the Table of Contents to get a good overview of what's covered.

Fee mentions a wide array of resources for research related to each step. Bibliographic material is mentioned within each chapter in addition to a whole chapter devoted to the material, based on category.

One could easily spend over \$2000 on these books which may be a little overwhelming for some. For those without an extensive library of their own, the help of a public library or even at the minimum—the internet, a couple of good study Bibles and a couple of in-depth commentaries covering the passage you will be exegeting—one could get by and do most of the things outlined in the book.

Also overwhelming is the sheer number of steps required in the first chapter, many of which are explained in the second chapter. This is geared to a student who will be writing a paper on a passage of Scripture. The third chapter abbreviates the steps for pastors who have approximately ten hours a week to prepare a sermon.

I thought it would be helpful if the steps in chapter three were directly correlated to the steps in the first two chapters.

It's important for everyone to carefully read the whole book. For English only readers, reading the portions related to Greek are still valuable. For students, the chapter for pastors is important for remembering application, prayer and reflection so that it doesn't become only an academic exercise. Pastors will want to be very familiar with the first two chapters so they can tailor the steps to their needs with Fee's guidance as outlined in the third chapter.

The Appendix, new to the third edition, explains what Reader-Response Criticism is, how popular this has become and how dangerous it is. I see it everywhere and this is not a good thing.

Personal notes:

As noted in the review, the number of steps involved can be overwhelming for a neophyte exegetor. As I was first reading the book I was wondering when the steps would finally come to an end. But once I got through all the steps and read the abbreviated portion for pastors, I could see how I can make it all work. I'm not using the pastor's chapter as a way to do less work. (I would rather spend more time exegeting and not have to try to write a sermon. Now that's hard work.) I went through the whole book and wrote down the steps that I can do—not knowing much Greek—along with page numbers and topics so that I can go through it one step at a time. Baby steps.

Another blogger bought this book for me which was on my Amazon Wish List. As one with a small library and small budget, I can't say how much this is appreciated.

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**Book Cover Design:** Really cool

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[Amazon.com](#)

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### **Becca says**

I used this book in undergrad as a basis for a research paper in my 2nd year (koine) Greek class, and it was an excellent resource.

This book is great for anyone learning how to do New Testament exegesis, whether for a paper or for 'real life', though it has a more scholarly bent in my memory. It shows students how powerful the tool of translation can be in exegesis. Very straightforward. I would recommend this book and Osborne's *The Hermeneutical Spiral* (as classics, anyway—there might be better resources out there now).

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### **Jack Hayne says**

Wish I had read this years ago, and I think it will be a great resource.

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### **Zack says**

A fairly helpful how-to manual for aspects of exegetical work. His bibliographical recommendations seem to be reprinted two or three times throughout...probably because this volume isn't intended to be read from cover to cover. The discussion of textual issues is given too much time from the preacher's perspective. This is more useful as an academic guidebook.

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### **William Rodriguez says**

Muy práctico y accesible para todos los ministros y estudiantes de la Biblia. Ha sido mi compañero fiel en mis horas de preparación de sermones y conferencias y, últimamente, en mis clases de Maestría en Divinidad.

Very practical and accessible to all ministers and seminary students. It has been my partner during preparation time for sermons and conferences as well as for the Master in Divinity classes

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### **Greg says**

This is a nice concise book that covers the process of doing an exegesis of a New Testament pericope. Like the companion volume on the Old Testament by Stuart, the book begins with reconstructing the text all the way through translation and historical and theological context. It finishes with a guide on preparing a sermon to apply a 1st Century text to modern day. It has a slightly more concise recommended reading section than

Stuart's book, which is welcome.

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### **Trevor says**

This book is exactly what you would expect. A Handbook for Students and Pastors. It reads like a detailed outline and does an excellent job acquainting the reader with the top tools necessary for working through the different steps of exegetical inquiry. I was impressed with the portion on BDAG and learned that I have not been using BDAG to its fullest potential since acquiring it. I very much appreciated the abridged Sermon Preparation chapter which Fee includes. The only thing that would make this better would be nice if Fee or another NT scholar would update the bibliographic information in the book.

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### **Jacob Aitken says**

It would have been better if it had been more of a manual. Even better still, it would have been more useful had it actually walked the student through the mechanics of doing an actual exegesis paper.

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### **Vesselin says**

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### **Matthew says**

The book is an excellent tool for understanding the process of mining the original text. I do want to be careful not to criticize the book for something it is not, but it provides a 'guide to sermon exegesis' which spends about three pages on bridging from the ancient horizon the modern one. Much more attention is needed in what is the most significant part of hermeneutics, spanning the ancient horizon to the modern one. The 'sermon guide' is woefully inadequate in that regard.

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### **Steven Long says**

Fee brings a clear and concise method of exegesis for the pastor & student alike. It's chock full of examples in both Greek and English, making it easy to follow if you're rusty on your Greek. His section on determining the original text is especially helpful for students who are beginning to understand textual criticism and wish to get their feet wet.

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### **Lindsey says**

Fee clearly means for you to work through the process of exegesis while following along in the book (thus, "handbook") and his process chart is very helpful for doing this especially in showing similarities/differences between genre. The best part of this book, though, is that he offers Greek and English "tracks." So for someone like me who cannot study in the original Greek, he gives alternate steps to "compensate" and further resources to help you overcome not having a grasp of the original Greek. He acknowledges weaknesses in not being able to study in Greek, but does not think this is a "deal-breaker." His explanation of "sentence flow" for structural analysis is good and better than some of the "phrasing" explanations I've read/heard. He does assume a pretty decent grasp of grammar in order to do this. He has extensive recommendations for further reading in each of the individual steps. All-in-all an excellent resource.

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### **Justin Magdellini says**

Very helpful. I recommend reading it straight through and then keeping it nearby for frequent referencing and using it along with all your other exegetical tools. However, Fee notes: "As you become increasingly familiar with the steps and methods, you may arrive at a point where you can dispense with reference to the guide itself. That is the goal of this primer--that it should get you started, not that it should always be used."  
pg.134.

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