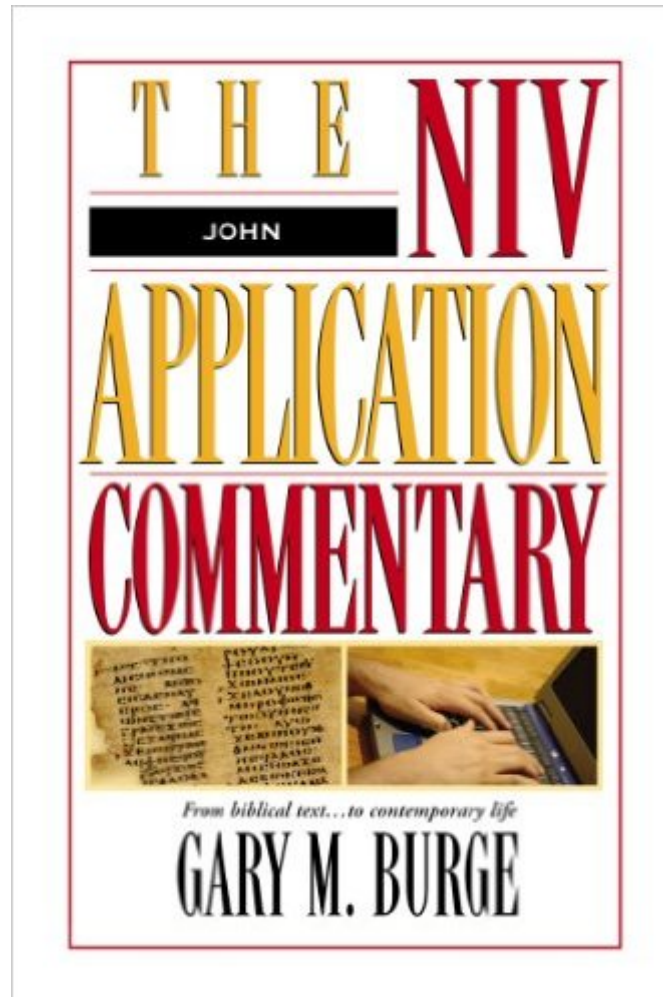


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John: The NIV Application Commentary



Synopsis

Most Bible commentaries take us on a one-way trip from our world to the world of the Bible. But they leave us there, assuming that we can somehow make the return journey on our own. In other words, they focus on the original meaning of the passage but don't discuss its contemporary application. The information they offer is valuable but the job is only half done! The NIV Application Commentary Series helps us with both halves of the interpretive task. This new and unique series shows readers how to bring an ancient message into a modern context. It explains not only what the Bible meant but also how it can speak powerfully today.

Book Information

Series: The NIV Application Commentary

Hardcover: 624 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (September 26, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310497507

ISBN-13: 978-0310497509

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this commentary after being very pleased with Burge's commentary on the Letter of John from the same commentary series. I was looking for a commentary that laid out the issues and ideas of mainstream theological thought about John's Gospel without getting bogged down in either the details of the Greek or the complexity of academic discourse. In short, I was looking for a commentary I could use to get a "lay of the land" in terms of modern scholarly interpretation before plunging into the more detail oriented commentaries found in the Word and NICGT series.

Additionally, in Burge's other commentary I found a willingness to consider some of the issues and currents coming from the emerging movement and how they might be addressed Scripturally. I found that this commentary not only met my needs but exceeded my expectations. While I have a great

fondness in my heart for Bruce's commentary on John, I have found myself reaching first for Burge's work when preparing to lead a group of college students in a study centered around examining answers to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" I have found that Burge fairly and insightfully includes the work of others (Bruce, Morris, Beasley-Murray, etc.) in his comments, notes and bibliography even when it is clear that he doesn't agree with their conclusions. Unlike other reviewers, I have found Burge's comments on the contemporary significance of the Gospel insightful and relevant for the types of conversations our group seems to have. Finally, I have really appreciated Burge's willingness to allow both the mystery and sacramental perspectives of traditions within Christianity to be considered even if his own faith tradition may not accept these from a theological perspective.

The NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC for the remainder of this review) is a unique commentary that seeks to give the reader both the meaning of a passage of Scripture in its original context and a practical application for today's life. The NIVAC on John begins with an introduction chapter that discusses the authorship of the book, date and origin, the theology of the book, and the literary layout of the book. The introductions to most commentaries prove to be useful because they give much more information than a typical study bible would, but it is still short enough to be read through in one sitting. The next section is a one page diagram on the structure of the Gospel of John. I found this diagram to be very clean and neatly organized providing the reader with a quick "fly over" of what the order of the Gospel will look like. All of this is introductory material and includes a bibliography as well. The Text and Commentary section of this book will divide each passage of Scripture into three sections: Original Meaning - This is the section where the author will explain the meaning of the text in its original context. The author spends a great deal of time explaining the historical and cultural context of the passage. This is significant and essential in helping the reader understand the author's intent. Throughout this commentary the author does a great job of presenting the reader with a wealth of information without getting bogged down in language or deep academic debate. There are commentaries for that, but this is not one of them. While it isn't a more scholarly commentary it is both strong intellectually and yet very accessible to a lay person.

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