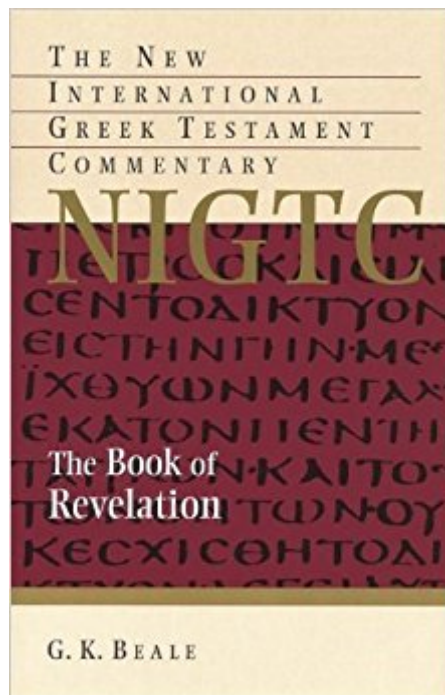




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The Book Of Revelation (The New International Greek Testament Commentary)



Synopsis

This monumental commentary on the book of Revelation, originally published in 1999, has been highly acclaimed by scholars, pastors, students, and others seriously interested in interpreting the Apocalypse for the benefit of the church. Too often Revelation is viewed as a book only about the future. As G. K. Beale shows, however, Revelation is not merely a futurology but a book about how the church should live for the glory of God throughout the ages -- including our own. Engaging important questions concerning the interpretation of Revelation in scholarship today, as well as interacting with the various viewpoints scholars hold on these issues, Beale's work makes a major contribution in the much-debated area of how the Old Testament is used in the Apocalypse. Approaching Revelation in terms of its own historical background and literary character, Beale argues convincingly that John's use of Old Testament allusions -- and the way the Jewish exegetical tradition interpreted these same allusions -- provides the key for unlocking the meaning of Revelation's many obscure metaphors. In the course of Beale's careful verse-by-verse exegesis, which also untangles the logical flow of John's thought as it develops from chapter to chapter, it becomes clear that Revelation's challenging pictures are best understood not by apparent technological and contemporary parallels in the twentieth century but by Old Testament and Jewish parallels from the distant past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

America—Beale . . . is a master not only of the biblical text but also of the secondary literature. His work will serve primarily as a reference commentary to be consulted when the reader wants a comprehensive and fair presentation of the evidence regarding a disputed point coupled with a clear line of argumentation and the author's own conclusion. . . . A reliable guide to the many literary, historical, and theological problems encountered in reading Revelation.

—Interpretation—“A strong contribution to scholarship and a valuable resource for a more general audience. . . . Beale has performed a distinctive service. His bold positions are thoroughly argued. His erudition and depth of research are admirable. And he displays strong skills in historical reconstruction and exegesis. His treatment of John's work with the Hebrew scriptures alone make his commentary worth consulting.

—Journal of Biblical Literature—“A significant contribution to our understanding of Revelation. . . . This commentary will certainly provide considerable insight into John's often perplexing vision. In particular, Beale's grasp of the Greek grammar of Revelation is outstanding. Too few scholars today have the linguistic expertise to furnish the reader with such extensive and thoughtful notes. . . . A truly important work that should be consulted as a reference by serious scholars of the Apocalypse.

—The Bible Today—“A massive and thorough commentary on Revelation. . . . Takes its place as one of several important resources for interpreting this fascinating New Testament book.

—Grant Osborne-- Trinity Evangelical Divinity Schools—“This is an incredibly learned study, a magisterial commentary on one of the most difficult books in the Bible. There has never been a deeper probing of the Old Testament allusions in the Apocalypse, nor a better presentation of the idealist interpretation. This work will be essential for all scholars and students of the book of Revelation for years to come.

—M. Eugene Boring-- Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University—“Beale has provided the academic community with an excellent contribution to the expanding library of reference works for interpreting the Apocalypse. . . . This volume will undoubtedly take its place as a standard work to be considered in responsible study of Revelation.

—Richard Bauckham-- University of St. Andrews—“This long-awaited commentary is a magnificent achievement and will be an invaluable guide and resource for all future study of Revelation. Beale's particular emphasis on interpreting the text by reference to the Old Testament Scriptures and Jewish exegetical traditions is one that the text itself invites, while the orientation to theological reflection is also very welcome in a commentary on this profoundly theological text.

—J. P. M. Sweet-- Cambridge University—“Beale has an unrivaled knowledge of Revelation and its Jewish background. His work will be invaluable both to scholars and students who want a thorough treatment of the textual and critical problems and to

pastors and laypeople who want to know what Revelation meant -- and means -- in its own terms. —•

Dr. Gregory K. Beale is Professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

This commentary is overwhelming in its depth and scope. Dr. Beale not only has a tremendous knowledge of the literature surrounding Revelation but is able to generate a cohesive convincing amillennial reading supported by the extra-canonical literature as well as close contextual reading of Scripture. It soundly complements his Theology of the NT. It is one of the finest commentaries I have ever read and I believe I am able to begin to grasp this difficult book for the first time.

A very stimulating book. The depth and revelation unfolding in this book is quite remarkable. I haven't completed it yet but so far the insights etc are very thought provoking. A good read even for those not overly familiar with the Greek language. I would certainly recommend it for thinking believers in Jesus the Messiah.

Beale has written one of the most expansive commentaries that leaves very little in the Book of Revelation unexplored. The Introduction itself is worth the price of the book. The book is 1157 pages long and has very few if any weaknesses in the conclusions that are reached. The major strength of the book is that Beale allows the Old Testament to be interpreted by the writer of Revelation without assuming that John is using it as a proof text. Beale explores the Old Testament context to get at what John was doing and seeing and when this is done it makes interpretation much easier, with not so much guess work. Beale is a futurist, but by no means in the dispensational sense. In being a futurist, he recognizes that some things like the resurrection are future, but that much of the rest is both past (preterist) and ongoing throughout history. I think that a "prolepticist" might describe him better than simply futurist. He does come down on the side of "a-millennialism", but supports his conclusions well. Richard Bauckham recommended this book to me and said it is "reliable." I would say that is true and may be somewhat of an understatement. This work is exhaustive and it has many Greek discussions and a little Hebrew, but Beale does translate all Greek words and sentences immediately after the Greek sentence is laid out. There are some complicated text critical discussions, but this type of thing is always after the main discussion so that it is not mixed in, interrupting the flow of thought. If I could change one thing in the book it

would be that Beale or the editors of this commentary series would have provided as translation that introduced each section. I do recommend this book for everyone who has been exposed to a theological education. It would be a difficult work to cut your teeth on if you are just getting into Biblical studies, but for those who have some training this book is great.

This is one of the best commentaries on Revelation written by a notable evangelical scholar. As other reviewers have noted, Dr. Beale writes from an Amillennial perspective. I own many commentaries on Revelation and this is one of the very best, incorporating all of the latest studies. One of the richest and most helpful aspects of this commentary is Beale's in depth analysis of Revelation, tracing the words and passages back to the O.T. prophecies/ O.T. Scriptural context and Jewish religious/ cultural background. The reader receives a much greater appreciation for the continuity of prophecy and apocalyptic, from the O.T. to the N.T. Dr. Beale does a marvelous job of discussing all the pertinent issues, leaving no stone unturned; he interacts well with different perspectives (e.g. premillennial, amillennial) and displays a deep understanding of the most recent research on Revelation in scholarly circles. This has been one of the most helpful commentaries in my study of the book of Revelation, even though I hold to the premillennial viewpoint rather than the amillennial viewpoint. Highly recommended!!

Dr. Beale is extremely detailed! Although not knowing know any Greek I still made my way through and learned much about the Apocalypse.

An excellent commentary! I am in the process of translating Revelation and working on the case syntax. Someone recommended this commentary as an aid in Greek. It does not cover each Greek word, sometimes not at all or perhaps one or two Greek words. He also covers some textual critical issues in verses. With the solecisms in Revelation, he explores to an extent John's use of grammar where the Apostle demonstrates he knows what is grammatically correct and then discusses why John may have chosen to write it the way he did. Beale does excellent work in this area. He does good work discussing Old Testament allusions. In The International Critical Commentary series I have R.H. Charles' and now Beale's in The New International Greek Commentary. I like them both, obviously Charles' is older, but they are similar and good. Each has its strengths. Beale does good work with literary issues and at times he has wonderful theological insights. If someone is in need of a commentary for sermon or Bible study preparation, this might be more of a supplement than the primary source.

Excellent

This is not a book that you read in a month. This is a study companion on the highest possible level. A source of research that will satisfy any level of reader, certainly also pastors. I am amazed with the wealth of detail and strongly recommend it to anybody that wants to take the living journey of understanding Revelation, to the extent possible....

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