The great merit of Köstenberger’s and Patterson’s volume is its three-dimension account of biblical interpretation. The authors rightly focus on the history, literature, and theology of the Bible—what they call the hermeneutical triad. Call it hermeneutics in real 3-D. A three-stranded hermeneutical cord may not be easily broken, but it’s easy to learn by following this introductory textbook. Another merit is the authors’ reminder that biblical interpretation is not only about method but about virtue: a heart-felt humility before the divine text is as important as any heady procedure.
—Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Blanchard Professor of Theology, Wheaton College and Graduate School

This book on biblical interpretation combines training in exegesis with a basic knowledge of hermeneutics. It urges careful consideration of historical, literary, and theological issues. Thus, historically, it includes helpful chronological charts, and much on cultural history. Its literary focus includes canon, genre, and language. Its theological dimension includes application. Genre is crucial: thus narrative, poetry and wisdom are distinguished in the Old Testament; and parable, epistles, and apocalyptic, in the New. Why responsible interpretation requires toil and labor receives careful explanation. This book contains plenty of common sense, sanity, and love of Scripture. I commend it especially to students, teachers, and even pastors, as helping all of us to use the Bible responsibly and fruitfully.
—Anthony C. Thiselton, Professor of Christian Theology, University of Nottingham

I am filled with admiration. I learned much from this vigorous book. It is a work of great clarity that summarizes the best principles of general hermeneutics with the best principles of biblical interpretation. Professor Köstenberger’s students are lucky to have such a trenchant and learned guide—and so are the readers of this fine book.
—E. D. Hirsch Jr., Professor Emeritus of Education & Humanities, University of Virginia and Founder, Core Knowledge Foundation

There are certain topics of must-reading for serious Bible students—hermeneutics is at the top. There are certain books of must-reading for a topic—Andreas Köstenberger's work on hermeneutics is one of them. It is clear, concise, and yet deep, and manages to cover most of the needed areas. Thus it becomes an invaluable guide for the student working through the labyrinth of issues that make up the task of biblical interpretation. It will enable the reader to bridge the gap from understanding biblical portions in their original cultural context and from showing their relevance to a modern audience. I recommend it very highly.
—Grant Osborne, Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Don’t be misled by the title; this is no typical hermeneutics primer. Here, in considerable detail, covering both introductory and more advanced topics, and interacting with the most current and classic scholarship, is a one-stop-shopping resource for the entire exegetical process for the most capable seminary students, pastors and teachers. Particularly distinctive and/or helpful are the discussions of Old Testament chronology, interpreting Revelation, discourse analysis, grammatical fallacies, biblical theology and homiletical method. Warmly to be recommended.
—Craig L. Blomberg, Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary

Köstenberger’s Invitation to Biblical Interpretation is just that, a rich invitation to engage Scripture as God's Word, making appropriate use of all available tools. His triadic approach is fresh and helpfully non-reductive. This work is wide-ranging and in touch with contemporary scholarly trends while written and produced in a thoroughly accessible way for student, pastor, and professor. Highly recommended.
—Craig Barholomew, Professor of Religion and Theology, Redeemer University College

In this triad dance of history, literature, and theology, as they move across the floor of biblical interpretation, Köstenberger and Patterson excel at sorting through and clearly presenting massive
amounts of material across a wide spectrum of cognate disciplines. Written in a down-to-earth style, the book is as accessible as it is broad, as practical as it is informed on contemporary discussions of these difficult matters. From the particulars of Greek grammar and discourse analysis to helpful introductions on canon, biblical theology, and appropriate application, here one again and again finds a welcome orientation to the bread-and-butter concepts, sound practices, and tools needed for handling the biblical text responsibly and the spiritual posture for approaching it reverently. I am impressed and looking forward to putting this book in the hands of my students, who will find here a rich, expansive resource from which to draw guidance for years to come.

—George H. Guthrie, Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible, Union University

This is indeed a warm invitation to interpret the Bible responsibly, passionately, and practically. Showing readers how to explore the context, literature, and theology of the biblical books, the authors provide a guide to all phases of interpretation. The work climaxes in particularly helpful instructions on how to move from study of the text to crafting of the sermon. Novices should not be put off by the size of the volume. Although comprehensive in scope and breadth, the style of writing and the practical helps at the end of each chapter ensure that the concepts conveyed will be readily grasped even by non-professionals. If students of Scripture are seeking a single volume to which they can turn for practical assistance in interpretation, this is the book to get. Thank you, Kregel Publishers, for making their work available to us.

—Daniel I. Block, Gunther H. Knoedler Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College

This book distills a wealth of wisdom from two seasoned scholars whose expertise spans both Testaments. Chapters are up to date without succumbing to the trendy. There is attention to both the theory and practice of interpreting Scripture, obligatory given the title. But the novel element of this volume is at least two-fold. (1) It unabashedly privileges Scripture as recording a history that produced literature which conveys theology of eternal redemptive importance. (2) It strikes a balance between these three elements in a readable and engrossing style. No book on this subject can do everything. But this one is without peer as a classroom resource supporting the triadic reading it calls for at a level that is neither brutally rudimentary nor unrealistically advanced. It will enhance the teaching of this subject and draw students into the excitement of navigating hermeneutical frontiers.

—Robert W. Yarbrough, Professor of New Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary

A major task—perhaps the major task—of hermeneutics is to clarify the meaning of texts. This work by Köstenberger and Patterson not only succeeds brilliantly in elucidating the fundamental principles and processes of biblical hermeneutics but itself is a model of how a book ought to be written. Its conception, organization, systematic development, and applications—all work together to make this the finest contribution of its kind to biblical scholarship. There is no stodginess or impenetrable “academese” here. Layman and scholar alike will find it to be a virtual treasure house of sane and sensible hermeneutical practice.

—Eugene H. Merrill, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary

Invitation to Biblical Interpretation offers a thorough, scholarly, Scripture-honoring approach to biblical hermeneutics that lays the foundations for genuine expository preaching. Under its “hermeneutical triad” of the preaching text’s historical setting, literary dimensions, and theological message, the book provides a balanced approach even as it explores most of the topics discussed in contemporary biblical hermeneutics. It is well researched and documented and clearly written and illustrated. This student-friendly book is not only an excellent text for a seminary course in biblical hermeneutics but is equally useful for independent study. I highly recommend this book for all who desire to preach and teach the Word faithfully and accurately.

—Sidney Greidanus, Professor of Preaching Emeritus, Calvin Theological Seminary
This is a well-written, clear, and thorough book on the principles of biblical interpretation for the whole Bible. It would be an excellent book for an upper-level hermeneutics course at the college level or an introductory hermeneutics course at the seminary level. Pastors will also find this a useful book to get an overview of the interpretative principles for different parts of the Bible from which they are preparing to preach. Seminary students and pastors will also benefit from the concluding chapter that applies the interpretative approach of the book to the task of preaching. The authors rightly contend that hermeneutics is to be viewed through the triadic lens of history, literature, and theology. This is not so much a theoretical approach to hermeneutics but a competent hands-on guide for interpreting the different kinds of literature that one encounters in the Bible. In this respect, each chapter helpfully concludes with a sample passage in which the principles discussed in the chapter are applied and illustrated, followed by study questions for the student and important bibliographical resources pertaining to the chapter. This is one of the best general and most thorough introductions to interpreting the English Bible that I have read. While paying attention to the details of interpretative method, it reflects a robust view of the absolute truth of Scripture.

—Gregory K. Beale, Professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology, Westminster Theological Seminary

Andreas Köstenberger and Richard Patterson, two brilliant and experienced interpreters of Holy Scripture, have produced a first-rate volume on biblical hermeneutics. Distinctive in its approach, with a focus on the “hermeneutical triad,” this monumental publication is encyclopedic in its thoroughness, masterful in its organizational design, and skillful in its pedagogical emphasis. The clear discussions in each chapter, followed by helpful and informative bibliographies, will make this book a rich resource for students, scholars, and pastors for years to come. I am truly excited about the publication of Invitation to Biblical Interpretation.

—David S. Dockery, President, Professor of Christian Thought & Tradition, Union University

I am truly impressed. This introduction to hermeneutics covers all the bases, and I mean all of them. Read this book and you will be well prepared for the task of serious interpretation.

—Tremper Longman, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College

Since the Scriptures are the Word of God, it is imperative that we interpret them accurately. Köstenberger and Patterson have provided a comprehensive work, full of wisdom and good sense, which will enable readers to be skilled interpreters of Scripture. The authors do not merely explain the rules of hermeneutics, but they also provide many helpful examples, so that the reader also learns a significant amount of biblical theology in this invaluable textbook.

—Thomas R. Schreiner, James Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Invitation to Biblical Interpretation is destined to become the standard textbook for colleges and seminaries for the foreseeable future. It is simply the best work available in the field of biblical hermeneutics. It is comprehensive in its breadth and in depth at all the right places. And it is well written! I will be certain to make it my anchor text as I teach biblical hermeneutics.

—Daniel L. Akin, President, Professor of Preaching and Theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

This introduction to hermeneutics is outstanding in several ways: It takes full account of the unique divine authorship of the Bible; it is clear, readable, and doctrinally sound; it attends to the spiritual state of the interpreter; it provides detailed guidance for understanding the historical background, literary and linguistic features, and theological significance of each text; it is co-authored by an Old Testament and a New Testament professor; and it insists that right interpretation must end in application to life. It is an excellent book that will be widely used as a standard textbook for years to come.
The field of biblical interpretation and hermeneutics is vast and complicated, and those outside of the field might be forgiven for thinking that it renders any aspiration to reading, understanding, and preaching the Bible to be little more than a fool’s errand. That is why it is great, as one such amateur, to be able to recommend this new book by Andreas Köstenberger and Richard Patterson. In clear, thoughtful chapters, the authors guide the reader through the dense thickets of theory, and yet never stray from the principal task of imparting the knowledge and techniques which will make the Bible more understandable and, above all, more preachable. Everyone—from the humblest Bible reader to the most accomplished preacher—will find something here to benefit them and to unlock yet more of the riches of God’s Word for their lives and ministries. A book for both teachers and students.

—Carl Trueman, Dean, Westminster Theological Seminary

Here is the answer for the student who wants the results of sound scholarship in the field of hermeneutics without having to negotiate all the philosophical debates that have so come to dominate the subject. For the theological student (and the serious Bible reader) Köstenberger and Patterson have assembled a logically organized, comprehensive yet uncomplicated, guide to interpreting the Bible. This book not only provides an excellent basic course in Hermeneutics, but it will serve students and those who preach and teach the Bible as an invaluable and practical reference handbook.

—Graeme Goldsworthy, Visiting Lecturer in Hermeneutics, Moore College

Köstenberger and Patterson have put together a significant volume on biblical interpretation. It covers three important areas of interpretation: the historical context of God’s revelation, the literary dimensions of the text, and the theological nature of God’s communication to us. Attention to these three dimensions opens up the world of Scripture. The authors provide ample examples and encouragements to enter the world of the text. This is a book all students of the Bible will want to read in order to meet God afresh through his written Word.

—Willem A. VanGemeren, Professor of Old Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
The task of interpreting the word of the Lord is fraught with peril, and it has been since our primeval ancestors took hermeneutical direction from a demon. This book, written by two of the most significant biblical scholars in Christianity today, is a sure and steady pathfinder through the most difficult aspects of reading, interpreting, and communicating the Bible. Read this book, and prepare yourself to hear afresh the Spirit speaking in the Scriptures.

—Russell D. Moore, Dean, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

This book is yet another gift from one of my favorite biblical scholars. Can there be anything more important than learning how to correctly interpret and apply the Bible?

—Pastor Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church, The Resurgence, The Acts 29 Church Planting Network

Here is a hermeneutics textbook aimed squarely at instructing students in the essentials of how to interpret the Bible. It avoids jargon-laden, philosophical discussion on the relationship between the reader and the text, but instead gives the student an objective method for finding what a text means. Yet it is not simply a “how-to” book; it demonstrates that each biblical text must be read as a representative of the biblical world and not just as words and sentences to be analyzed. A text should be interpreted by a kind of triangulation, seeing it from its historical, literary, and theological context. This in turn allows the student to grasp that text’s historical, literary, and theological meaning. Along the way, Köstenberger and Patterson give students a complete but concise introduction to the concepts that make up the world of biblical hermeneutics.

—Duane Garrett, John R. Sampey Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

_Invitation to Biblical Interpretation_ may easily become the new standard hermeneutics textbook for seminaries and evangelical universities. Köstenberger and Patterson faithfully guide readers across the vast and diverse terrain of the biblical canon. They expertly provide readers with all the necessary historical, literary, and theological tools for the task of exegesis as part of the interpretive journey. Along the way, they point out relevant signposts and occasionally stop to dig deeply into the text with probing insights. They begin with the broad scope of the canon and brilliantly interweave matters of general and special hermeneutics while managing to present a robust hermeneutical theory. This comprehensive hermeneutics textbook rivals, and may even surpass, the well-respected works by Fee and Stuart or Duvall and Hays.

—Alan S. Bandy, Rowena R. Strickland Assistant Professor of New Testament, Oklahoma Baptist University

The authors have provided a treasure trove of information, methods, procedures, and insights that will benefit anyone who wants to read the Bible seriously and delve deeply into its riches. Fully equipped with examples and cautions, the book will guide readers judiciously under the careful tutelage that Köstenberger and Patterson bring to the task of interpretation informed by their long years of experience.

—John H. Walton, Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College

Hermeneutics is without a doubt a difficult course to teach. Köstenberger and Patterson have made that task a little easier now with their impressive textbook on the subject. Their clear, objective method for interpreting the Bible is built around the “hermeneutical triad,” studying Scripture in terms of its historical setting, literary and linguistic features, and theological message. User friendly and example rich, _Invitation to Biblical Interpretation_ will help theological students to become better interpreters of the Bible. A fine work!

—Terry L. Wilder, Professor of New Testament, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
This volume is well conceived and well written. It presents introductory and advanced concepts in a systematic way that makes it suitable for college or seminary use. Its authors are trustworthy veteran scholars and master teachers. I recommend it highly to teachers, students, pastors, and lay teachers.
—Paul House, Professor of Divinity and Old Testament, Beeson Divinity School

In Invitation to Biblical Interpretation, Andreas Köstenberger and Richard Patterson condense their many years of teaching Hermeneutics into an engaging and faithful interpretive guide. Much thought has gone into designing a textbook with maximum utility for the classroom. I highly commend this fine new book.
—Robert L. Plummer, Associate Professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Invitation to Biblical Interpretation is a welcome addition for those who seek to move beyond the hermeneutical “basics” to even more serious consideration of the biblical text. Its emphasis on the “hermeneutical triad” of history, literature, and theology results in a comprehensive approach to biblical interpretation that leaves few, if any, stones unturned. It provides ample bibliography and guides students in developing their own personal biblical and theological libraries. Finally, Köstenberger and Patterson insist the exegete move beyond interpretation to application and proclamation—a good reminder that hermeneutics should never become an end in itself, but a tool to life change.
—Bryan Beyer, Professor of Old Testament, Columbia International University

Between the covers of this book you'll find impressive coverage of primary and secondary sources related to the interpretation of the Bible, competent engagement with topics relevant to the hermeneutical task, and a student-friendly package made easy for teachers to deploy. This faithful exploration of the hermeneutical triad of history, literature, and theology deserves wide reading and heavy use.
—Jim Hamilton, Associate Professor of New Testament, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Hermeneutics textbooks can sometimes occlude rather than reveal the meaning of the Bible. Invitation to Biblical Interpretation brilliantly illumines the Scriptures by rightly paying attention to their historical, literary and theological horizons. It is insightful, lucidly written, and thorough. I am certain this resource will become a standard text for many universities, seminaries, and theological colleges.
—Heath Thomas, Assistant Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary/Fellow in Old Testament Studies, The Paideia Centre for Public Theology

Greek and Hebrew are invaluable tools for exegesis. However, without a consistent, informed, balanced approach to interpreting Scripture, their use can become a pretext for eisegesis instead of exegesis. The text then becomes whatever the reader wants it to mean and the biblical languages can be sorely abused. Köstenberger and Patterson have crafted an extraordinary volume that takes scholarly concepts from advanced hermeneutics books and simplifies them for the striving seminary student (and even the undergraduate student) to understand. They delineate difficult concepts in tangible ways for sound and effective exegesis. This book should get widespread use in classes among seminary and undergraduate biblical interpretation courses. I highly recommend it.
—David A. Croteau, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Liberty University

Köstenberger and Patterson have provided us a well-rounded and sound hermeneutical method, clearly explaining the historical, literary, and theological dimensions. It is evident that this volume is the result of years of in-depth and careful study. Students and pastors alike will gain a wealth of knowledge and insight from this book. Köstenberger and Patterson have given us an invitation to study the Bible and we would do well to accept their offer.
—Benjamin L. Merkle, Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wedding clarity with grace, precision with pastoral sensitivity, Köstenberger and Patterson have provided us with an introduction to biblical interpretation that is firm in conviction without being strident in tone. The hermeneutical triad of history, text, and theology, presented in a way that moves from the big picture (canon) to the specifics (words) and thus assumes from the start a coherent, unified, and divinely governed narrative, will achieve its goal—producing workers who need not be ashamed but rightly handle the word of truth.

—Dane Ortlund, Senior Editor, Crossway Books