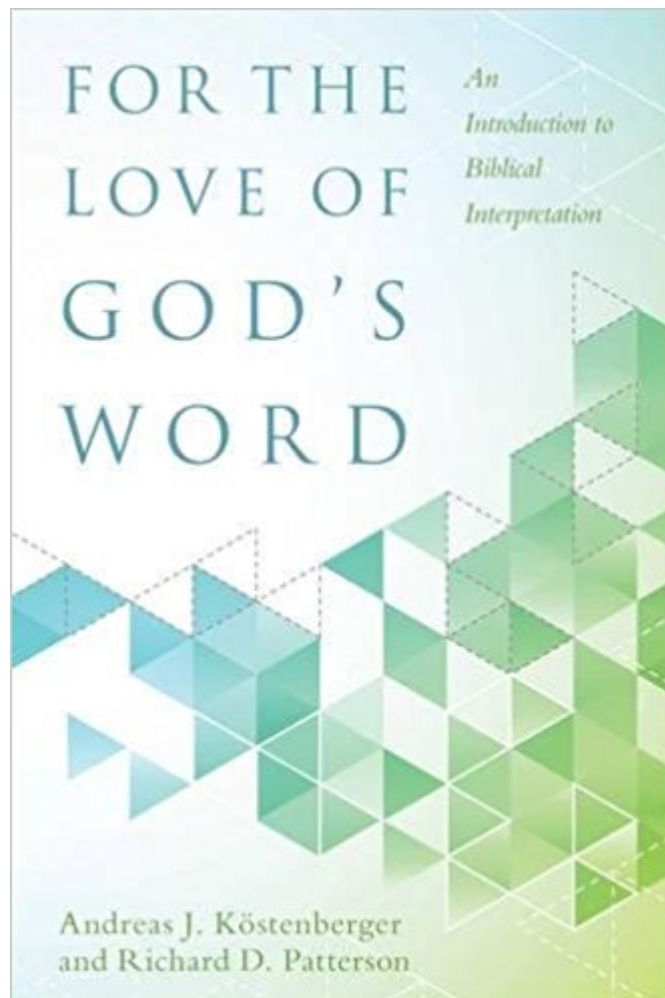




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# **For The Love Of God's Word: An Introduction To Biblical Interpretation**



## Synopsis

An introduction to a clear method of biblical interpretation For the Love of God's Word is an abridged, less technical version of Kästner and Patterson's acclaimed Invitation to Biblical Interpretation. Students, teachers, and pastors alike will find this introduction to biblical hermeneutics to be an accessible resource with both breadth and substance. Built on the premise that every passage requires careful scrutiny of its historical setting, literary dimension, and theological message, this volume teaches a simple threefold method that is applicable to every passage of Scripture regardless of genre. In addition, the book sets forth specific strategies for interpreting the various genres of Scripture, from poetry to epistle to prophecy. A final chapter is devoted to helpful Bible study resources that will equip the reader to apply Scripture to life. This book will serve as a standard text for interpreting Scripture that is both academically responsible and accessible for pastors, teachers, and college students. This volume will enable students of Scripture to grow in love for God's Word as they grow in the disciplines of study and discernment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andreas J. Kästner is founder of Biblical Foundations and senior research professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is a leading evangelical scholar, a prolific author, and editor of the Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society. Richard D. Patterson (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles) is distinguished professor emeritus at Liberty University. He has written well over 100

articles for major publishers and periodicals, including commentaries on Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah (Moody) and Joel and Kings (with Hermann Austel) for the second edition of the Expositor's Bible Commentary Series.

While you read this book, the presence of God is so real! Excellent book.

For the Love of God's Word: An Introduction to Biblical Interpretation By Andreas J. Köstenberger and Richard D. Patterson Köstenberger was academically influenced by Grant Osborne and D.A. Carson, two heavy-weights in the interpretation department; that fact alone makes one expect a quality book. But Köstenberger is a scholar of the first rank on his own merit and this book ably demonstrates that fact (I apologize for not knowing enough about the co-author Richard Patterson). Written to be used as a simple textbook on Biblical interpretation, the book contains not only the essentials, but the fundamentals on the art and science of interpretation. The book is an abridged version of their more academic Invitation to Biblical Interpretation, but if you have never read the bigger tome, you will not think anything is missing from the abridgment. The authors have carefully distilled the fundamental content and made it more accessible. This is good news for readers that do not have much time but do need to hone in their hermeneutical skills. Throughout the book there are shaded boxes with a synthesis of the chapters contents and these are very helpful. They will give you outlines of steps, definitions, arguments, procedures, etc. that you can refer back to when you are done reading the book. They will serve as an excellent refresher for years to come. They also will test you on whether you understood and learned what the authors intended for each chapter in question. The examples given throughout the book are very useful and capably illustrate the hermeneutical principles being studied. There is a useful glossary at the end of the book for the technical/academic jargon used in case one is not familiar enough with it. For my taste, the layout of Scott and Hays' Grasping God's Word is more inviting for first time students; but I would recommend the present text as a handy reference to further explore certain types of hermeneutics or if in need of exegetical examples of proper interpretation processes. 4/5 Stars Disclaimer: The book was received for free from Kregel Ministry books in exchange for an unbiased opinion.

For the Love of God's Word is an introduction to biblical hermeneutics. Andreas Köstenberger and Richard Patterson have teamed up again to help serious Bible students interpret scripture well (they previously authored Invitation to Biblical Interpretation, and this book is an abridgment of that

text). Kästner and Patterson have a three part approach to interpreting scripture, what they call 'the Hermeneutical Triad': History, Literature and Theology. This is similar to the approach of my own professors of Hermeneutics and Exegesis and does real justice to the interpretive task. Kästner and Patterson are at their most brief in part I, where they give a brief overview of Biblical history, discuss the contribution of archaeology to our understanding of Ancient Near East and Greco-Roman culture, and they give some interpretive suggestions for distinguishing which biblical customs remain normative and those which are 'limited in application.' They do all this in about twenty pages. Part II is far more substantive, occupying the largest chunk of the book. Kästner and Patterson discusses Literature, focusing on three units: canon, genre, and language. In discussing canon, they discuss the applicability of the Old Testament, the concept of covenant and the way the Old Testament testifies to Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. They go on to discuss how the various parts of the New Testament augment and supplement each other. They then move on to discussing the distinctives of each genre in scripture: historical narrative, poetry and Wisdom, prophecy, the narratives of the Gospel and Acts, parables, epistles and Apocalyptic. Finally they look at language (discourse structure and the meanings of words). Part III examines theology. Kästner's and Patterson's focus is to make sure that our theology flows from the text (rather than our theology determining our reading of the text). The resources they suggest here are from the discipline of Biblical theology, rather than the theological tradition. Their final chapter puts together a hermeneutical approach to getting an application out of the text. This is a text book intended for an introductory course in hermeneutics. However, its readable and understandable for the working pastor or any lay Bible teacher. For example, their section on interpreting biblical genres can be a reference point for preachers planning to launch into unfamiliar biblical terrain. Or at least a refresher. My criticism of the book would be constricted to what's not here (i.e. an in-depth examination of narrative technique and poetic structure, discussion of how the wider theological tradition informs our understanding of the text, discussion of what the reader brings to the text, the role of the Spirit in interpretation, etc). However this is an introductory text and does a great job directing people on how to interpret the Bible in culturally and literary sensitive and canonically aware way. As a pastor I can readily see ways their approach is helpful to me. Those that follow Kästner's and Patterson's will read the Bible well. I give this five stars. Note: I received this book from Kregel Academic in exchange for my review.

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