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Robinson and Batten's "Models for Biblical Preaching: Expository Sermons from the Old Testament" (Book Review)

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Reviewed by Rusty Tryon, Head, Collection Management, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

In Models for Biblical Preaching, Robinson and Batten, both of whom serve as professors of preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, provide a logical and practical supplement to Haddon’s Biblical Preaching, a standard preaching textbook now in its third edition. In providing a collection of exemplary modern sermons preached from the Old Testament, the editors intend to address a perceived notion that the Old Testament is largely neglected in the pulpit today because of the difficulties and misconceptions associated with that portion of Scripture. Haddon attempts to ameliorate this situation in part by suggesting the Old Testament be reconsidered and referred to as the “First Testament,” thereby making it more palatable and relevant to modern Christians, a proposal which seems rather unnecessary. The book’s eleven sermons present actual expository sermons, with the exception of one topical sermon, preached to various audiences and which typify the homiletic principles espoused by Robinson. Perhaps more beneficial than the sermons themselves are the interviews which follow each. In these interviews, the preachers describe their own sermon preparation process, provide advice to new and seasoned preachers alike, and offer tips for effectively incorporating specific sermon elements, such as illustrations. The sample sermons, coupled with the pragmatic interview material, make the text a welcome addition to a pastor’s library and any academic library serving student preachers.


Reviewed by Hannah Bitner, Librarian, Calvary Bible College and Calvary Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO

A former atheist recounts her journey from skeptic to believer. She demonstrates how God uniquely brings each of His children to himself. For Holly Ordway, God used her rich imagination to lay the foundation for her faith in Christ long before she was willing to acknowledge His existence or her need of Him.

Ordway reflects on her childhood and acknowledges a longing to identify herself in the imaginings of authors like Anne McCaffrey and Gene Roddenberry. But the