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Melcher, Parsons, and Youngs' "The Bible and disability: A commentary. Studies in religion, theology, and disability" (book review)

Susan Casstevens
Dallas Baptist University

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Book Reviews



Melcher, S. J., Parsons, M. C., Yong, A. (Eds). (2017). *The Bible and disability: A commentary. Studies in religion, theology, and disability*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press. 510 pp. \$59.99. ISBN 9781481308533

When I started my current position as a reference librarian at Dallas Baptist University, a patron asked if I felt at a disadvantage because I did not have a divinity degree in addition to my library science degree. I found that question very intimidating, and wanted to make up for my lack of knowledge in theology as quickly as possible.

As a new college librarian in a private Christian University, I have been on a steep learning curve for the past 18 months. *The Bible and Disability (BDC)* proved to be just the type of book to help students and faculty like me increase our knowledge. In 510 pages, fourteen biblical scholars contributed to this commentary on the Bible from the perspective of disability and mental illness.

The book's description from Baylor University Press describes the content as giving "long-overdue attention to the fullness of human identity narrated in the Scriptures." The *BDC* commentary relates to a series titled, "Studies in Religion, Theology, and Disability."

The authors of each chapter in *BDC* begin with a hermeneutical approach to the assigned biblical book, highlighting not only verses that reference specific disabilities, but also addressing scripture that is relevant to disability experiences and perspectives. *BDC* integrates biblical study and disability study, to show how the Bible speaks to issues of impairment.

For a new academic librarian, this unique approach to the Bible not only increased my theological knowledge, but also provides a scholarly reference I can recommend to students and faculty who wish to form a connection in their writing and research between theological dimensions and human disability.

Reviewer

Susan Casstevens, Dallas Baptist University