If you're tired of reading William Barclay for the umpteenth time, and Tom Wright doesn't quite speak on your wavelength, then this series of commentaries may be just the thing for you. Scholarship and devotion are here, lots to ponder and chew upon, and just enough for a day's reading to get you interested but not discourage you with endless detail or mystify you with obscure Greek or Hebrew terms. It would, however, be a disciplined person who restricted themselves to just the day's reading, taking around three months to complete each book.

These two volumes, together with others on Isaiah and Daniel, bring to completion The People's Bible Commentary Series in 32 volumes covering all the books of the Old and New Testaments. Each day a short reading of typically 5 to 15 verses is given two sides of comment and reflection. The authors are recognised Biblical scholars from around the world - Gerald West, for example, is a South African professor from the University of Natal. The comments do not shy away from critical issues, but are aimed at a non-academic audience, with an underlying reverence for the scriptures that you would expect from the publishers BRF. Each day's reading ends with a short prayer or reflection.

The price is very reasonable, and there are even vouchers printed at the back so that for every four volumes you buy you can send off for one extra volume free. Even the covers are tastefully designed and would make an aesthetic contribution to any bookshelf. For the thinking man or woman in the pew: altogether, a highly recommended series.

Nicholas Alan SSF