

ESSENTIAL READING FOR ISSUES IN INTERPRETATION

Philosophical Issues:

Black, David & Dockery, David (eds). *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. (This volume is particularly helpful with higher criticism and modern hermeneutical developments).

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method*. New York: Seabury, 1975. (Argues philosophically that the reader brings himself to the text and rather than understanding the author, s/he fuses their "horizon" with his or her own.)

Osborne, Grant R. *Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity, 1991. (This is a weighty work showing the interplay between the text, author and interpreter in the process of interpretation).

Thistleton, Anthony. *The Two Horizons: New Testament Hermeneutics and Philosophical Description*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1980.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in This Text*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998. (A very powerful analysis of the challenge of Deconstruction. His response is a theology of hermeneutics based upon the person of God).

Historical Issues:

Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation Past and Present*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1996. (Extremely thorough coverage of the history of interpretation. Especially helpful with names and bibliography).

Farrar, F. W. *History of Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker (reprint), 1886. (Probably the classic on the history of Bible interpretation. Very thorough, filled with great tidbits of information).

Grant, Robert M., and Tracy, David. *A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984. (Quite readable history of interpretation).

Lubac, Henri. *Medieval Exegesis*, 2 vols. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1959. (This two-volume set examines one of the most difficult and sparse periods of biblical interpretation).

McKim, Donald (ed). *Historical Handbook of Major Bible Interpreters*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1998. (This is a fabulous brief summary of the major players in hermeneutics historically).

Neill, Stephen and Tom Wright, *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*. Oxford: Oxford, 1988. (This is a survey of the major voices in modern biblical interpretation).

Silva, Moises. *Has the Church Misread the Bible? (The history of interpretation in the light of current Issues)* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987. (Clear demonstration of the contemporary importance of hermeneutics; somewhat dated now).

Yarchin, William (ed). *History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader*. Peabody, MA: Hendrikson, 2004. (This reader is a treasury of original source material from major historical interpreters).

Sociological Issues:

Bailey, Randall (ed). *Yet with a Steady Beat: Contemporary U. S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003. (Bailey's collection of essays demonstrates the hermeneutical methods and practical uses of Scripture among African Americans).

González, Justo. *Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. (This little volume introduces the reader to the primary issues undergirding Hispanic hermeneutics).

Goss, Robert E. and Mona West (eds.). *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2000. (This is a radically pro-gay perspective on the Bible).

Khiok-khng, Yeo. *What Has Jerusalem to do with Beijing?* Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998. (This volume offers one perspective on the hermeneutical methods and concerns of Asia).

Levison, John R. and Priscilla Pope-Levison (eds.), *Return to Babel: Global Perspectives on the Bible*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999. (Five OT and five NT texts are examined by a Latin American, African, and Asian biblical scholar. The differences are marked).

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth (ed.). *Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Introduction*. New York: Crossroad, 1993. (This collection of essays is a fair introduction to feminist perspectives on biblical interpretation).

Sugirtharajah, R. S. (ed.). *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. London: SPCK, 1991. (This collection of essays highlights the issues and concerns voiced by the majority Christians who live outside the western world and elite academy).

Webb, William. *Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001. (He argues that if slavery and inequality of women were cultural issues approved by the bible but later dismissed by the church, so too might homosexuality be).

Yamauchi, Edwin M. Africa and the Bible. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. (This is a helpful description of the cultural template used by Africans to interpret the Bible).