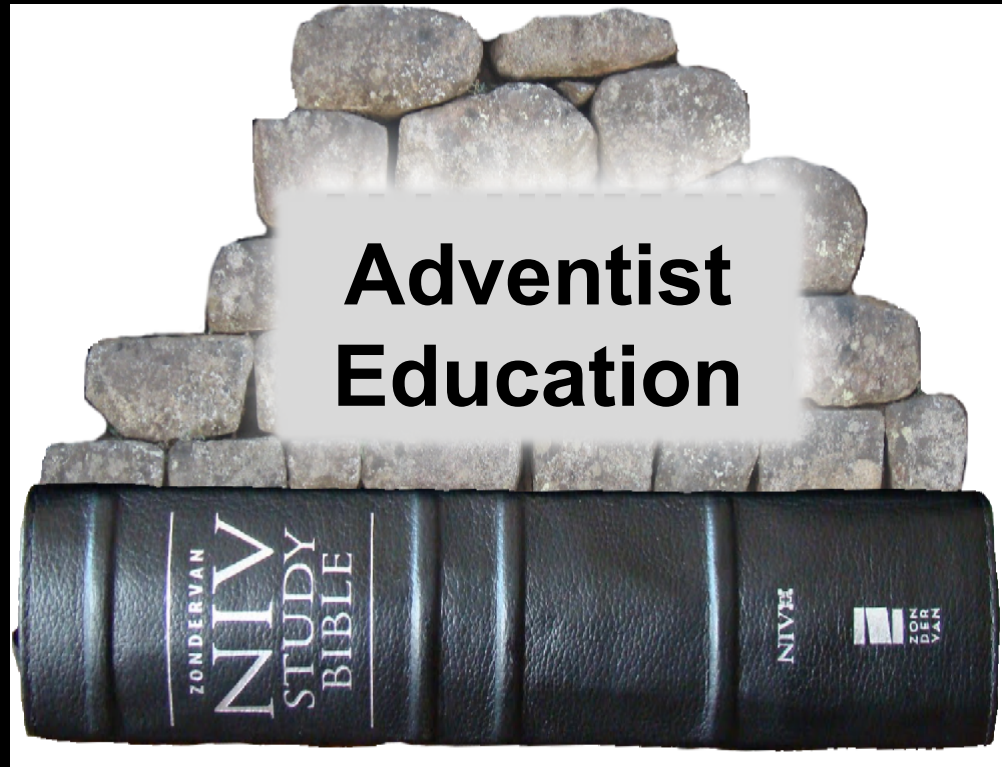


The Biblical Foundation for Adventist Education

By E. Edward Zinke
Illustrations by David Zinke
and Carol Raney
Motivation by Doug Zinke
and by Seven Grandchildren



**Adventist
Education**

***History of Method
in Biblical Studies***

Historical-Critical Biblical Interpretation

- Natural continuity from nature to world of religion
- Move within and presuppose the natural world order
 - Historical-critical method
 - Literary criticism
 - Form criticism
 - Reader Response
 - Redaction criticism
 - Tradition criticism
 - Redaction criticism
 - Etcetera

Historical-Critical Biblical Interpretation

- Accepts the norms of contemporary historical science as a means for studying Scripture
- It is a new “metaphysic” – a new way to understand the world

Old metaphysic scholasticism

- “What is rational is real”

New metaphysic

- “Only that which can be studied within the flow of history can be accepted as real”

Historical-Critical Biblical Interpretation

- The norms of history and science are employed to determine the nature of the Bible and to test all of its truth claims.
- The method pre-supposes that the Bible is not the inspired Word of God.. Or
- If the Bible is the Word of God, that will be determined by the method.

Contrary to the claims of the Bible, in general, the historical critical method and its attendant methods:

- pre-suppose that the Bible is not the inspired Word of God.
- assume that the Bible came by the will of man rather than by the will of God

As such, the Bible must be studied by the same methods as are applied to any other piece of literature.

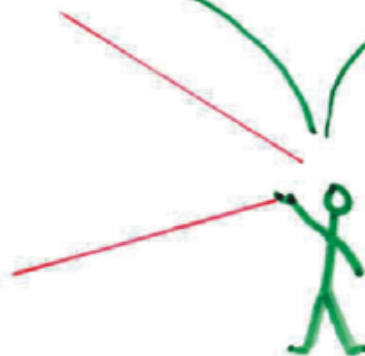
THIS IS LABELED
"GOD"



I OBSERVE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES
OF CRITICISM, ANALOGY, AND
CORRELATION.



BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND GOD, HAVE
WE? WE HAVE A PRIORI DENIED HIM
THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT ACTION
IN HUMAN AFFAIRS.



SOURCE CRITICISM:

Attempts to discover
the sources of a
passage of Scripture

Source criticism “assumed that the production of Scripture was conditioned historically not only by the fact that it had combined documents with a prior history of their own, but also that wider movements in human life had influenced their contents.”

--Tucker, *Form Criticism*, p. iv.

J



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Scripture sources are discovered by:

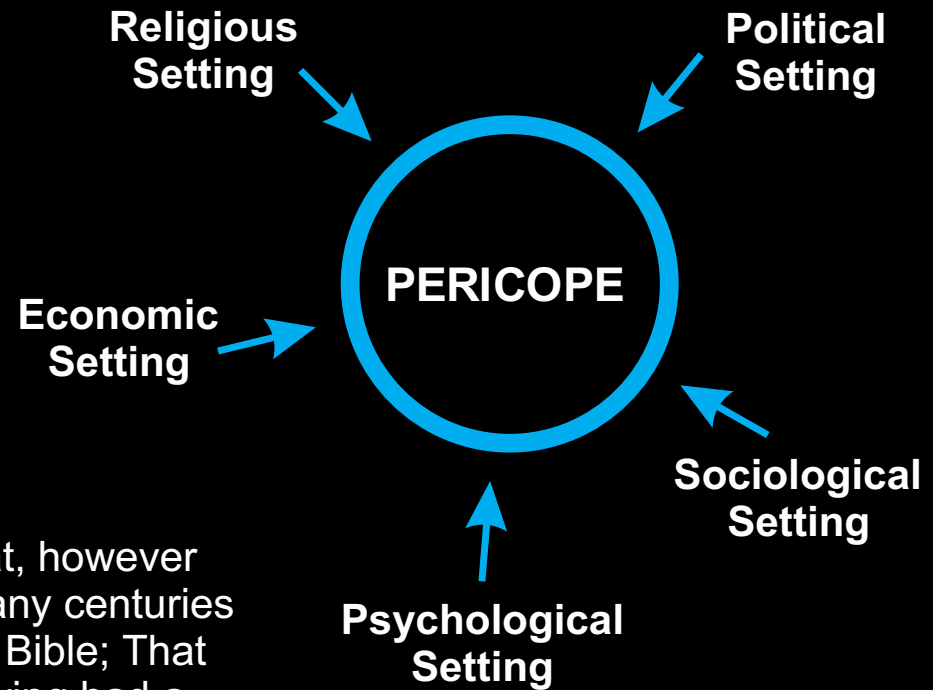
- Changes in literary style
- Shift in vocabulary and phrasing
- Breaks in continuity
- Types of connectors
- Changes in theological viewpoint
- Duplications
- Logical, thematic, chronological and factual inconsistencies

FORM CRITICISM:

Attempts to discover the literary style and structure of a unit of literature as it relates to the sociological setting out of which it arose

“Form criticism presupposes that, however unwittingly, all Israelites over many centuries contributed to the making of the Bible; That it was simply a result of their having had a communal existence as Israelites.”

--Tucker, *Form Criticism*, p. vi.

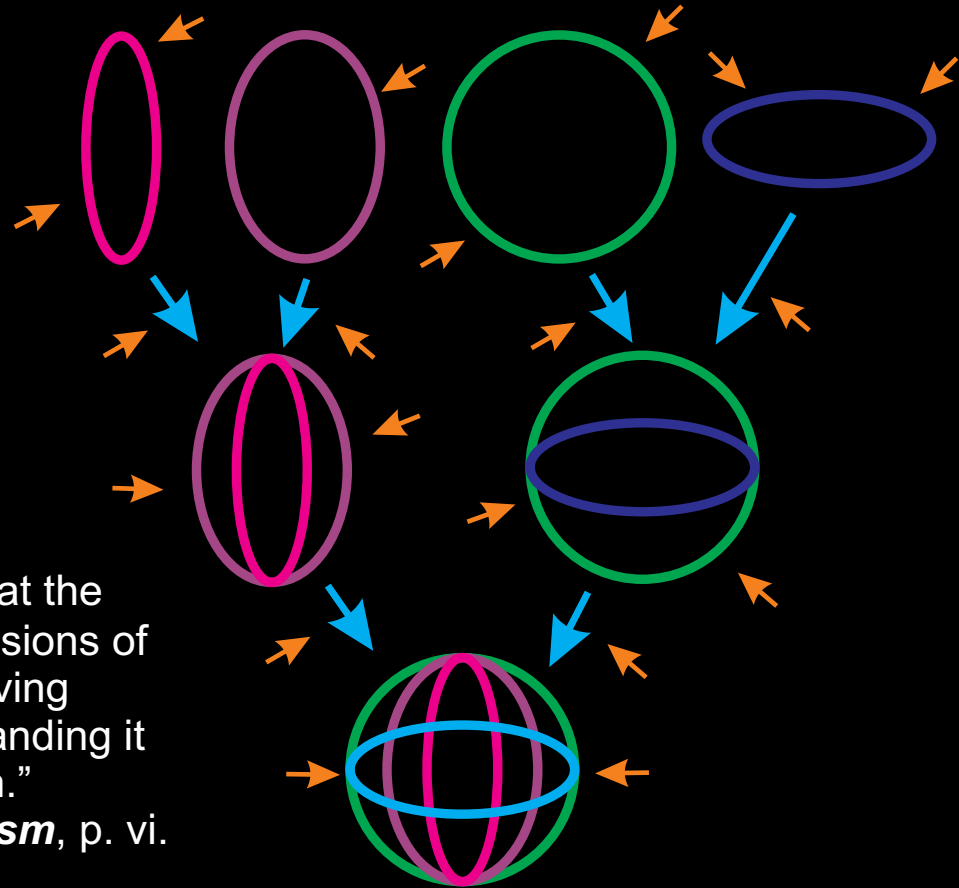


TRADITION CRITICISM:

Attempts to trace the process by which a piece of literature moved from stage to stage until it reached its final form

“Tradition criticism assumes that the whole community, in all expressions of its existence, participated in giving shape to the tradition and in handing it on, generation after generation.”

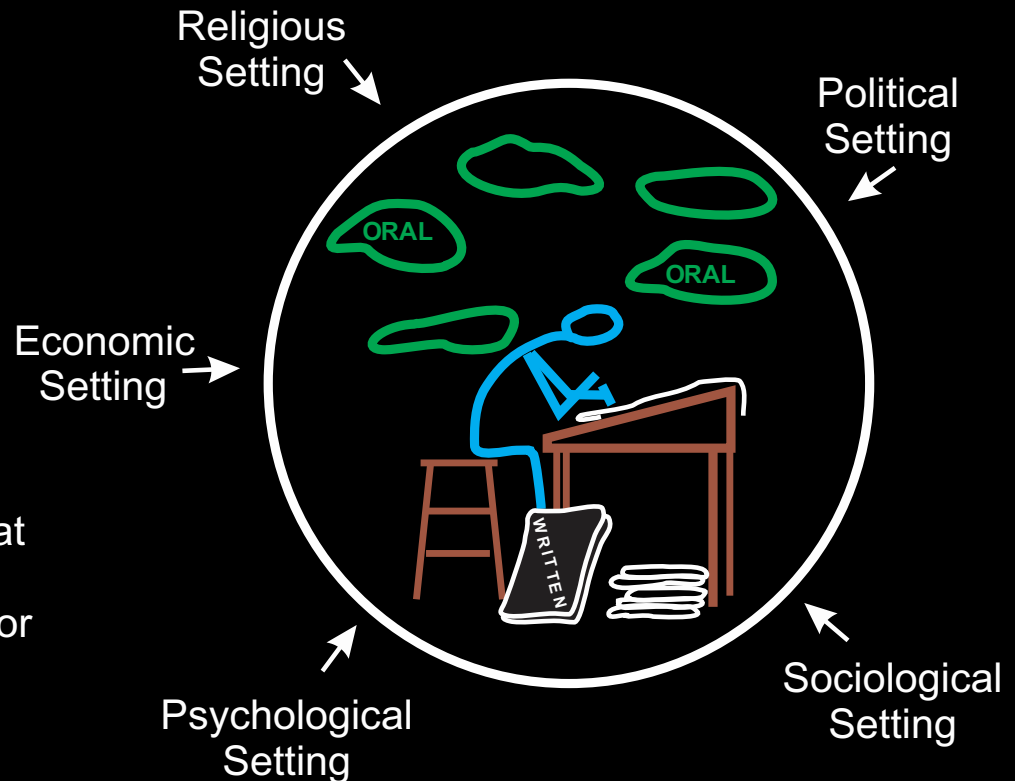
--Tucker, *Form Criticism*, p. vi.



REDACTION CRITICISM:

Attempts to discover the purpose and theme of the collector, editor and author of the materials as they have come to us in their final form

Redaction Criticism assumes that the final collector(s) of the document was himself an author working within and conditioned by a specific socio-political-economic-religious life setting.



White on Higher Criticism

“The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths.

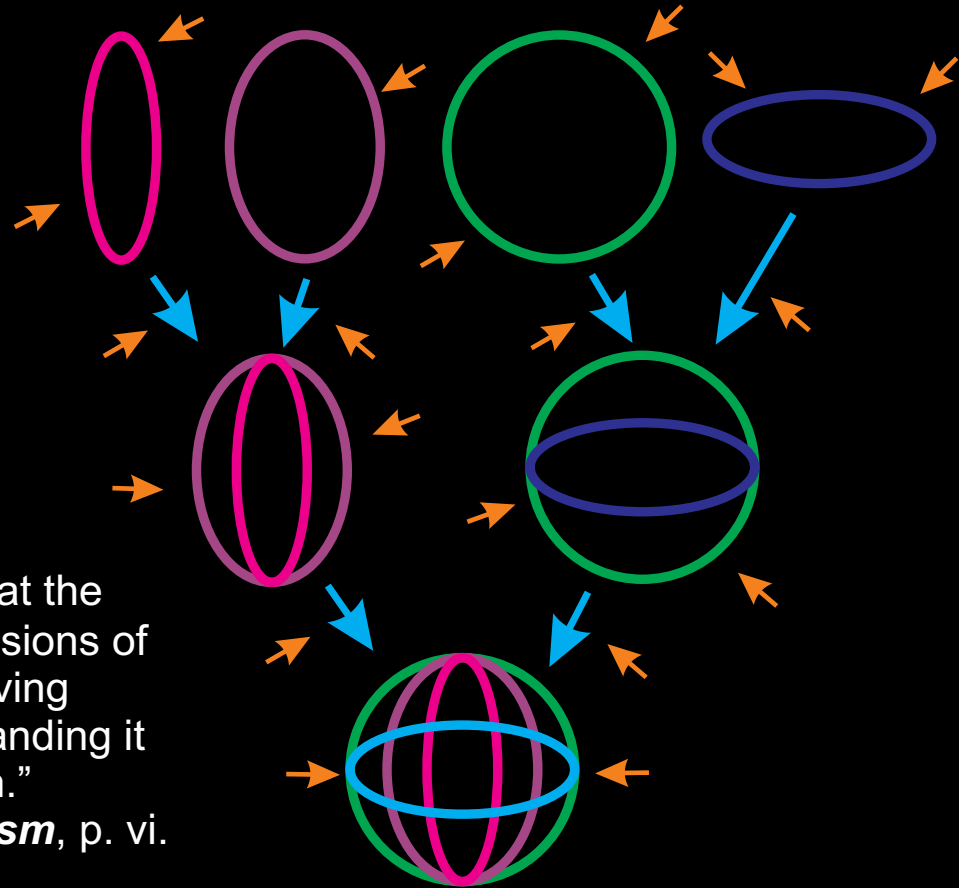
To many the Bible is as a lamp without oil, because they have turned their minds into channels of **speculative belief** that bring misunderstanding and confusion. The work of **higher criticism**, in **dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing**, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation. It is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives." {AA 474.1}

TRADITION CRITICISM:

Attempts to trace the process by which a piece of literature moved from stage to stage until it reached its final form

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Critical Thinking

History: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Francis Bacon, Descartes, Darwin, etc.

Human Judgment is foundational

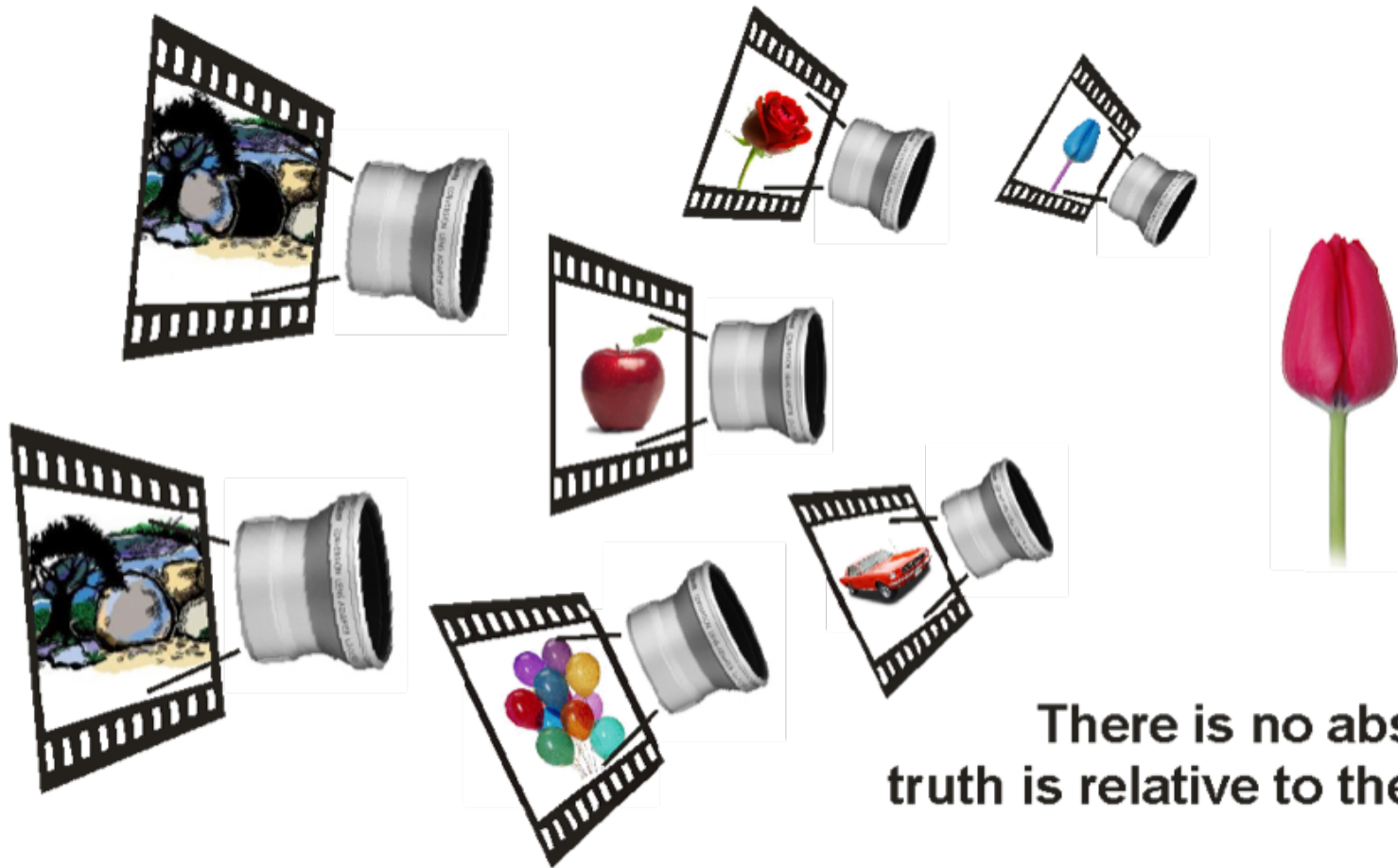
Autonomy of the human learner – self guided self

Universality – applies to all disciplines

Foundation for belief

Foundation for moral decision making

POSTMODERNISM



**There is no absolute truth,
truth is relative to the individual.**

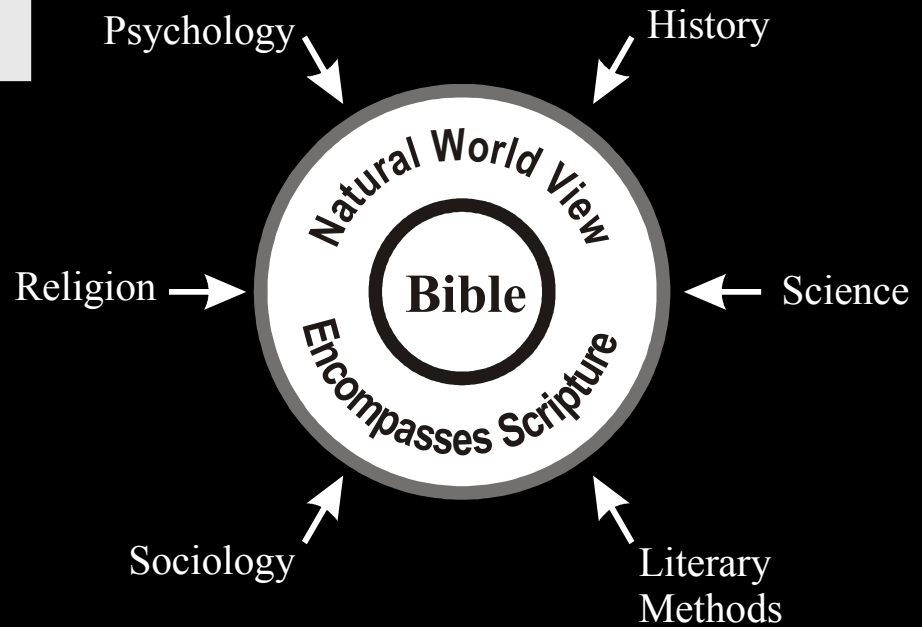
**There are many valid world
views and many valid
interpretations of scripture.**

Reader Response Criticism

- With a new philosophical system, there comes a new method of interpretation.
- Reader response theory harmonizes with post modern thinking.
- The meaning of a text is determined by the reader. There can be as many meanings as there are readers.

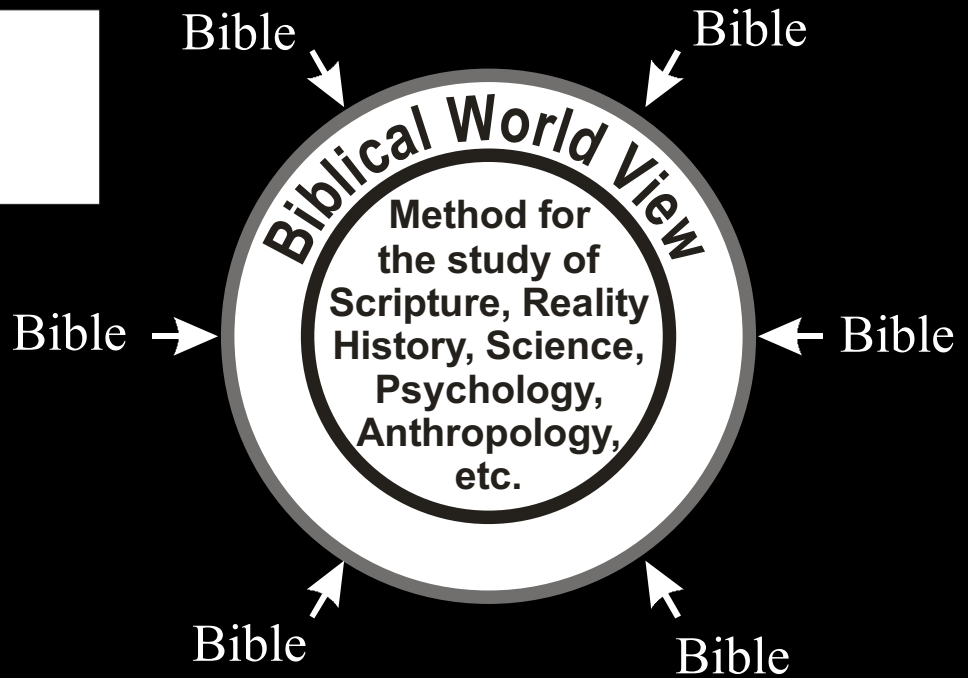
Bible Critical Studies

The Natural World Order
Provides the Context for
the Study of Scripture



**Bible Studies Arising
Out of Scripture**

Scripture Reveals
the Nature of Reality
Within Which Human
Disciplines may be
Properly Carried Out



Summary of Biblical-Critical Methods

- Historical criteria are used to verify reports of divine activity
- The Bible is studied like any other book
- External authority is considered normative instead of the Bible

- Truth is something apart from the Bible
- Tool of historical and literary study determine what in scripture is of value and contains truth

Comparing Methods of Interpretation

	Philosophy	Method
Origen	Neo-Platonism	Allegorical Method
Aquinas	Aristotelianism	Aristotelian Epistemology
Reformation	Sola Scripture	Bible Own Interpreter
Historical Criticism	Enlightenment	Epistemological Autonomy
Reader Response	Post-Modernism	Meaning Individualized



**Historical
Criticism**

**Philosophical
Theology**



**Bible Re-interpreted
On The Sand Alone**

- Those who intend to hold to a method which arises out of Scripture cannot safely apply the methods of contemporary biblical criticism, for in so doing they would place Scripture itself under external criteria.

- Even if the conclusion of a scientific, historical, or philosophical argument were to affirm the authority of Scripture, the authority of Scripture would nonetheless rest upon the prior authority of the grounding principle.

Summary of Theological Systems

- Basic continuity from the natural to the religious
- It is possible to start with the natural world in the process of doing theology
- Predetermined notion of the nature of God based upon contemporary world views

Results of the Era of Enlightenment

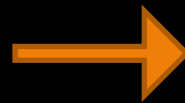
- Knowledge of the natural world is not to be determined by special revelation
- Knowledge of the natural world is discovered by naturalistic methods

Sola Scriptura

- Takes seriously the self-claim of Scripture to be the authoritative word of God
- Starts with Scripture as the foundation for theology

What does Scripture have to say about its own nature and the principles by which it is to be interpreted?

- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable . . .2 Tim 2:16.
- Scripture did not come by the will of man, but by holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Pet 1:21



Nature of Scripture
Principles for
Interpretation
Biblical World View