

Biblical Hermeneutics

Nazarene Theological Seminary

BIB 550 Study Guide #1

Guide for Klein, pp, 3-62.

Know Klein's material on:

“Why Hermeneutics?” and “The Role of the Interpreter”.

The three expressions of meaning as summarized by the expression “Text, Author, and Audience”.

The various “distances” under challenges of Biblical Interpretation.

The Divine Factor – the Goal of Hermeneutics.

The three points in the conclusion to chapter 1.

The three main forms of Jewish interpretation: Rabbinic Judaism, Hellenistic Judaism, Qumran.

Know the following terms: *halakah*, *haggadah*, Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara, Philo, *peshet*.

Three approaches for the apostolic period.

Know typology, allegory, midrashic, and traditional interpretation from the Apostolic Fathers.

Know the primary people and approaches of the Alexandrian and Antiochian Schools.

Be able to identify the key contributions of Augustine and Jerome.

Be able to identify the three approaches to biblical interpretation in the Middle Ages.

Know the four senses of meaning.

Identify the role of Aquinas in biblical interpretation.

Know the two major figures who led the hermeneutical revolution of the 16th century and the major features of their approaches.

Know the Catholic and Protestant response to the Reformation.

Know the key features and persons in the movements of pietism and rationalism.

Know Klein's definition of the historical-critical method.

Know the main thrust of the work of F.C. Baur, Julius Wellhausen, and Von Harnack.

Know the main thrust and key person(s) of the history of religions approach and form criticism.

Be able to describe the work of Barth, Bultmann, and neo-orthodoxy.

Know the five emphases of the biblical Theology movement.

Know the main thrust and key person(s) of redaction criticism, the "new quest for the historical Jesus," the new hermeneutic, and canon criticism.

Guide for Davis/Hays, pp, 69-142.

What does the title of this book convey?

Know the main Enlightenment critiques of classic Patristic exegesis (Daley).

Be able to explain the statement that “modern historical criticism is *methodologically* atheistic.” (Daley)

Know the “two horizons” that affect biblical interpretation. (Daley)

Know the six basic assumptions of ancient Christian exegesis. (Daley)

Be able to explain the Patristic “rule of faith” (*regula fidei*) and the “rule of piety” (*regula pietatis*). (Daley)

Be able to explain a “hermeneutic of piety.” (Daley)

Know the dangers of “destructive literalism” in biblical interpretations addressed by both Origin and the concerns of post-modernism. (Daley)

How can a “lifestyle preference” affect how we read and understand Scripture? (Howell)

Be able to explain an “embodied reading” of Scripture, as illustrated in St. Francis’ interpretation of Scripture. (Howell)

Be able to explain what Howell means by a “hermeneutical gap” and how it might affect how we read Scripture today. (Howell)

Be able to explain the observation that “all our reading [of Scripture] is impoverished.” (Howell)

Know the characteristics of foundationalism and the difficulties it raises for contemporary biblical interpretation. (Johnson)

Know the main thrust of the work of J. Derrida. (Johnson)

Know Johnson’s threefold movement within postmodern thought that he thinks can provide a fresh way of understanding Scripture. (Johnson)

Be able to summarize the main features of deconstructionism and the critique of modernity out of which it arises. (Johnson)

Know “metanarratives” and why they are held in suspicion by postmodern thought. (Johnson)

Know McSpadden’s five “strategies and suggestions” for preaching the biblical story. (McSpadden)

Be able to explain how McSpadden understands the role of “imagination” in biblical study and preaching. (McSpadden)

What role may our own resistance or discomfort with a specific biblical text play in understanding it? (McSpadden)

Know McSpadden’s understanding of the difference between tolerance and humility and how this might affect how we deal with Scripture. (McSpadden)