

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpretation. It is concerned with the presuppositions that one takes to understand the Bible. Each historic period operates with a different set of presuppositions that cause them to interpret the Bible in completely different ways.

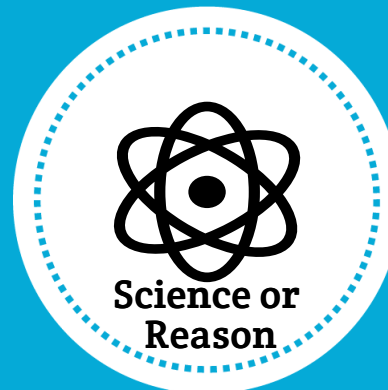


Premodernity

HERMENEUTIC OF TRUST. The Bible is inerrant, authoritative and sufficient. The Bible has two authors, one is divine and the others are human.

Man is understood in terms of the community. The community is a legitimate source of authority. So creeds and traditions are important.

The **HISTORICAL - GRAMMATICAL** method is the first level of interpretation. Allegory is the second level of interpretation.



Modernity

HERMENEUTIC OF DOUBT- the Bible has only human authors. There is no place for God or the supernatural.

Man is only an individual. There is no place for creeds, or traditions. Since the Bible was written by men, it is interpreted the same way as any other book.

The **HISTORICAL - CRITICAL** method of interpretation is the preferred approach. Science is the key to interpretation.



Postmodernity

HERMENEUTIC OF SUSPICION- the author does not matter. All that matters is the reader.

Man is part of a community that makes its own truth, meaning, or morality. There is no place for creeds or traditions.

SOCIO- CRITICAL METHODS of interpretation are the preferred approach to interpretation. Meaning is relative to the community. Science has no value.