

Introducing Biblical Criticism

Inerrant: free from error.

Biblical Criticism: careful study of the Bible (by scholars).

4 Types of Biblical Criticism:

1. Historical Criticism
2. Form Criticism
3. Source Criticism
4. Redaction Criticism

Scholarly work helps us understand the Bible.

HISTORICAL CRITICS study the historical context of the text.

- What was happening at the time?
- What did the author mean?
- Who was the audience?
- What was life like for them?

SOURCE CRITICS study where the authors got their material.

- What sources did the author have available?
- How did these sources influence the text?

FORM CRITICS study how the text developed and its literary genre.

- How did this story take shape?
- What genre is it?

REDACTION CRITICS study the way material is organized and edited.

- Thesis statement? Why?
- Organization. Editing.
- Why did the author arrange things this way?
- Has the text been edited?