



# History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader

By William Yarchin



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What questions do interpreters ask of Scripture and how have those questions changed over time? History of Biblical Interpretation starts at 150 B.C.E. and moves to the present in exploring the major developments and principal approaches to interpreting the Bible. Thirtyfour chapters survey the most significant methods and provide introductions to the prominent people who exemplify them. Each chapter also presents an original document that demonstrates this person's interpretational approach and includes a reference bibliography for further reading. Whether used as a textbook or in individual study, this excellent introduction to the history of biblical interpretation will open new doors for students of the Bible, theology, and church history.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Highly recommended for larger collections and essential for seminary and theological collections. -- *Library Journal*

#### From the Inside Flap

"Yarchin's *History of Biblical Interpretation* provides students, scholars, and interested lay readers with a sorely needed collection of writings devoted to the interpretation of biblical literature from Greco-Roman times through the present. Unlike other works, this volume does not simply discuss the history of biblical interpretation. Instead, Yarchin presents the reader with a virtual cornucopia of examples from the extraordinarily rich history of biblical interpretation in both the Jewish and Christian traditions. The volume includes examples from the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, Justin Martyr, Augustine, the early Syrian Church, the Jerusalem Talmud, Saadiah Gaon, John Calvin, Moses Mendelssohn, Hermann Gunkel, Brevard Childs, Jon Levenson, Phyllis Trible, and many more. Yarchin's volume will become an indispensable textbook and resource for all concerned with the interpretation of the Bible."

—Marvin A. Sweeney, Professor of Hebrew Bible, Claremont School of Theology

"The essays Yarchin has selected for the book are well chosen to represent the numerous diverse strategies for reading the Bible beginning with the second century BCE through the present day. His introduction to the book, a history of Biblical interpretation in Jewish and Christian contexts, and his helpful introductions to each essay in the volume are written in clear and concise prose at a level for the general reader. Where the language of a given essay may be technical or otherwise unclear, Yarchin clarifies with notes and parenthetical explanations. He neither advocates one method over another nor critiques methods as to strengths and weaknesses. His introductions to the essays are geared to facilitate a reader's understanding of the strategy in its historical context, and his bibliography with each essay guides the reader to additional information on the method. The book is a wonderful resource for the classroom and provides a literary laboratory for student discussion of method and strategy in reading the Bible. Having representative essays of the major turning points in the history of biblical interpretation assembled in a one-volume reader should also facilitate the discussion of methods in the guild by making materials, particularly the older essays, easily accessible. Some of the essays are here translated into English for the first time. Yarchin is a reliable and unbiased guide through the rather complex and argumentative history of biblical interpretation. An exceptional book! It will remain a valuable resource for years to come."

—Charles W. Hedrick, Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, Southwest Missouri State University

#### From the Back Cover

"This book is a wonderful resource for the classroom and provides a literary laboratory for student discussion of method and strategy in reading the Bible. Having representative essays of the major turning points in the history of biblical interpretation assembled in a one-volume reader should also facilitate the discussion of methods in the guild by making materials, particularly the older essays, easily accessible. Some of the essays are here translated into English for the first time. Yarchin is a reliable and unbiased guide through the rather complex and argumentative history of biblical interpretation. An exceptional book! It will remain a valuable resource for years to come."--**Charles W. Hedrick**, Missouri State University

"Yarchin's concern to demonstrate a plurality of approaches, to make the readings accessible, and to situate each reading within its historical and cultural context has resulted in a textbook that should have wide appeal to advanced college students, seminarians, and beginning graduate students. May it remain in print for a very

long time."--*Review of Biblical Literature*

"As biblical scholarship moves from a modern to a postmodern context, increasing attention is being paid to a range of hermeneutical issues. Yarchin's contribution to the present transition is well timed, lucid, and even practical. . . . The reader is literally drawn into the 'story' of interpretation in a way few textbooks can match."--*Catholic Biblical Quarterly*

"This is a useful reader. It gathers together numerous significant texts on biblical interpretation into a handy compendium of some of the most important movements in biblical interpretation in the last 2,000 years. . . . [It] is likely to become a standard textbook for all who are interested in the history of biblical interpretation."--*Journal for the Study of the New Testament*

"This is a very valuable reader, providing lengthy and representative passages from writers on biblical interpretation from the earliest times. . . . The selection is judicious and helpful. Yarchin provides excellent introductions and notes to the selections, studiously avoiding any evaluative comments and concentrating on helping the reader to understand the necessary background. There is also an excellent general introduction. Altogether an admirable book, which should be useful in courses on interpretation."--*Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*

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### **From reader reviews:**

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#### **Thomas Brim:**

The reserve untitled History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader is the guide that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to anyone. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, hence the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

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