B. Historical-Critical Method

Evaluating modern scholarship
Reading Assignments

• Optional:
Definitions

• Key term: “historical-critical.”
• To many scholars it mean careful research.
• Antisupernaturalism affects the mainstream.
• “Historical-critical” includes antisupernaturalism.
Antisupernaturalism

• Ernst Troeltsch’s principles of historical investigation.
  – Criticism. Only probabilistic judgments.
  – Analogy. Present and past are alike.
  – Correlation. Closed continuum of causes.

History is brute fact, without miracle.

Common but erroneous.
Historicism

“Historicism” is antisupernaturalism plus recording pure objective facts.
Main Critical Tools

- Form criticism
- Source criticism
- Redaction criticism
- Text criticism
Potential of Critical Tools

- Text criticism valuable for autograph.
- All others involve legitimate questions.
- Useful for apologetics.
- Reconstruct OT/NT environment (a contribution to “introduction”).
Problems with Critical Tools

- Highly speculative.
- Skeptical because of antisupernaturalism.
- False principles of reconstruction.
- Even if they worked, so what?
Irrelevance of Sources

• The meaning of a text is what it says, not the history of its origin.
C. Situationist and Subjectivist Hermeneutics
The Road to Reaction

Enlightenment → rationalism → objectivism; “scientific” study → crushing mechanism → stifling persons

Beast motif

react!
Modern Subjectivism

irrationalism; Harlot motif

I am free (unrestrained), above law

free meaning: reader creates
free ethics: existential
free truth: relativism
free religion: whatever works

Sounds familiar.
2. Marxism

including liberation theology
Variations of Marxism

- Classic Marxism (Cuba)
- Theology of liberation
- Political correctness movement

Not yet dead.
Marxism as Compassionate and Zealous for Justice

- Looking for suffering minorities and socially and economically disadvantaged people
- Looking at ways in which the powerless are exploited by those in power
Marxism as Counterfeit

- Theology
- Sin
- Gospel
- Church
- Deliverance
- Consummation
- God

- Dialectical materialism
- Economic oppression
- Marxist call to workers
- Communist party
- Communist revolution
- Communist utopia
- Abstract laws of history; “humanity”
Marxist Biblical Interpretation

• Antithesis: “hermeneutic of suspicion” sees economic motives, not meaning.
  – Rejects opponents’ arguments a priori, because they have wrong motives.
• Common grace: impose Marxist motifs on all literature.
Marxist Epistemological Release

truths of history

blocked by ideology (corporate “sin”)

illumination of communist “gospel”

Now I can critique ideology.
Marxist Epistemological Dilemma

truths of history

universal ideology

supposed enlightenment masks new oppression

Now I can critique ideology.

So I can seize control.
Marxist Ethical Satisfaction

- Alienation
- Meaninglessness
- Disorientation from multiple views
- Guilt over privilege

- Identification with a cause
- Purpose of “salvation”
- Exhilaration in superior understanding
- Righteousness in commitment to justice – righteousness by works

Watch out!
Ethical Bankruptcy

• Ultimacy of material universe (god).
• Any ethics?
• Historical law worthy of allegiance?
  – Fight against it, as existentialists?
• Man, chance protoplasm, worthy of allegiance?
Theology of Liberation

- Finds liberation in the Bible.
- Marxism as tool for social ills.
- Biblical liberation for Marxist “sins.”
- Marxism distorts biblical teaching. (find Marxist motifs anywhere).
Political Correctness as Variation

- Analyze by gender, race, economic class.
- Restructure society to achieve righteousness.
- “Hermeneutics of suspicion.”
- Ethical self-righteousness.
3. Feminism
Feminism as Compassionate

- Concern for women's value and distinctiveness
Feminism Parallel to Correctness

- Specializes political correctness to gender.
- Analysis by classes of male and female.
- Deliverance through alteration of power.
- Appeals to compassion for the underdog.
- Evaluates texts for class motives.
Feminism as Counterfeit

- Theology
- Sin
- Gospel
- Church
- Deliverance
- Consummation
- God

- Egalitarianism
- Oppression of women
- Maleability of gender
- Egalitarians
- Remove past stereotypes
- Remove authority
- Universal freedom
- Humanity
4. Evaluation
Positive Aspects

• Identify some real sins.
• Unconscious sins and corporate sinful ideologies.
  – Sins against the weak unnoticed.
• Asks new questions: notices new aspects.
• All are in God’s image.
Negative Aspects

• Misidentifies sin.
• False way of salvation.
• Reads what is not there.
• Rebels against differences: age, personality, sex, wealth, skills, culture, giftedness, and status in authority.
Mystery of Differences

• Intellectuals deny nonrational difference.

God

under authority

in authority

Arbitrary! Oppressive! Unjust!
Appeal for Relief

Everyone is guilty about sex and money.
Everyone has been sinned against.
Sin is deep, painful, and complex.
Promise simple relief:
   “Let us solve your problem.”

Tempting.
Particular False Solutions

- Strong husbands dominate
- Weak abdicate leadership.
- Strong wives push "rights"
- Weak just conform.

Breaking Chauvinism and Egalitarianism in the Family

- God is Husband to Israel
  - Hosea

- Christ is Husband to church
  - Eph. 5:23, 32

- Husband is head in love
  - Eph. 5:22-33

marriage expresses love, not domineering or identity of roles
Breaking Chauvinism and Egalitarianism in the Church

- God is Father to the Son
- God is Father to saints
- Church is family of God
- Family has fathers (elders)

1 Tim. 3:15

God-centered salvation.

Family expresses love, not identity of roles.

1 Tim. 2:11-15; 3:1-7
5. Postmodern Contextualism
Features of Contextualism

- Humans dependent on language and culture
- Inaccessible transcendent truth
- Solution to cultural conflicts by banishing dogmatism
Positive Desires in Contextualism

• No snap judgments about others.
• No forced conformity for other individuals or cultures.
• Desire for freedom for differences.
• Relief from oppressive power.
Epistemology:
Frame's Square for God's Word

authoritative (meaning, control)
clear (presence)
inaccessible
reader-controlled

# Postmodern Contextualism as Counterfeit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theology</th>
<th>Prison of finiteness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sin</td>
<td>Dogmatism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gospel</td>
<td>Tolerance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Postmodern gnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliverance</td>
<td>Dogma demoted to opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consummation</td>
<td>Universal peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>Humanity</td>
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</table>
Evaluation

Positive Notices:
- Finiteness
- Sin
- Corporate aspect
- Diversity in individuals and cultures

Negative Notices:
- God absent
- Sin excused as finiteness
- Individual free to create his own morality
- Clarity labeled dogmatism
- Authority labeled oppression
Central Challenge

modernism
- universal rationalism (one)
- human sameness
- oppression from reason

postmodern
- reason within local culture (many)
- human differences
- freedom to recreate man

Christian
- divine reason (one and many)
- same and different in the body
- freedom under God
D. Dispensationalism

Is a dispensationalist approach correct? How may we learn from it? How do we talk to those holding this approach?
Reading on Dispensationalism

• Required:
  – Poythress, *Understanding Dispensationalists*
  – Ryrie, *Dispensationalism* chap. 5

• Optional:
  – Allis, *Prophecy and the Church*, chap. 2 (16-54) (dispensational hermeneutics)
  – Fairbairn, *Interpretation of Prophecy*
  – note Blaising and Bock on progressive dispensationalism
E. Typology
Reading Assignment on Typology

• Required:
  – Clowney, *Preaching and Biblical Theology* 98-112
1. Bibliography of Typology

2. Definitions of Key Terms
Analogy

- Robertson: “similarity of circumstances.”
- “likeness of persons, events, places, etc.”
- A recurrent principle in redemptive history.
- Does not require NT fulfillment.
- Illustrations:
  - Compare Gen. 50:20 to Acts 2:23
  - Heb. 11
Symbolism

- Robertson: “A material representation of redemptive truth.”
- “An earthly representation of divine truth.”
- Has meaning at the time.
- Illustration: manna symbolizes God’s daily care.
Robertson: “a prophetical embodiment of redemptive truth anticipating the history and consummation of God’s purposes”

“A symbol pointing to a fulfillment”

Illustration: the tabernacle

Truth fulfilled
The Tabernacle as a Type

Truth fulfilled
God dwells with us through Christ

Truth
God dwells with his people

Symbol
Tabernacle as tent dwelling

Truth
God dwells with his people

Symbol
Tabernacle as tent dwelling

Truth
God dwells with his people

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Symbol
Tabernacle as tent dwelling
Terms in Typology

symbol = “type”

Truth fulfilled = “antitype”

= typical relation

study of the whole = typology
Prophecy

• Robertson: “verbal or enacted prediction”
• … in connection with contemporary preaching
  – OT prophets were divine messengers
  – but in popular thinking, “prophet” connotes prediction
Allegorization

- Robertson: “Accidental, incidental, or artificial relationships”
- “Finding extra symbolic meaning through accidental, incidental, or artificial relationships”

Illustration: frankincense, gold, and myrrh standing for the Trinity

Where did he get that?
Allegory

- “A fictional narrative with correspondences between two spheres”
- Illustration: Judges 9:8-15; Luke 15:3-7
- Do not confuse with “allegorization.” Allegorization treats all as allegory.
Evaluation

• Distinctions are useful in appreciating diversity.
• But boundaries are fuzzy.
• Categories can be stretched into perspectives.
3. Principles for Interpreting Types
An Example: Sacrifices

- substitute for sin
- animal sacrifice
- fulfillment
- typology
- application

Christ is the final substitute for sin

you receive the benefit of Christ
Clowney’s Triangle of Typology

1. Symbolism
2. Fulfillment
3. Application

Symbols receive the benefit of Truth in the fulfillment of typology.
Avoiding the False Routes

- truth
- fulfillment
- symbol
- symbolism
- typology
- allegorization
- moralism
- avoid short-cutting Christ
- you receive the benefit of Truth
- final Truth

Avoid short-cutting Christ to attain moralism and typology, leading to allegorization and symbolization, which prevent you from fulfilling the truth that you receive.
Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

- What did it symbolize then?

Attend to context.
Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?

God gives food

Attend to context.
Step 2: Go Forward in History

• What does it anticipate?

truth

history of revelation

2

final, fulfilled
Truth in Christ

God's plan develops.
Illustration of Step 2 (Fulfill)

- What does it anticipate?

God gives food, history of revelation, Christ is the final Spiritual food, God's plan develops.
Step 3: Apply to Us

• How do we benefit?
Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

- How do we benefit?

Written for us!

Christ is the final spiritual food

you eat Christ
An Exercise:
Lights in the Lampstand

Ex. 25:37
Step 4: How Does Fulfillment Illumine the Earlier Stages?

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.

symbol

final, fulfilled Truth in Christ

Put it all together.
Illustration of Step 4 (More)

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.

Christ is the final spiritual food

Food and sacrifice and priest in one!

Put it all together.
Step 5: Deepen the Earlier Stage

• More significance in the original?

God knew.
Illustration of Step 5 (Deepen)

- More significance in the original?

God gives food daily, from heaven, sufficient manna

God knew.
Step 6: Trace Beginning and End

- Trace from creation to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Illustration of Step 6 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Step 7: Distinctiveness

- Note distinctiveness of each epoch.
Illustration of Step 7 (Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.

Bread for nation in wilderness/world

dissimilarities
Limits of Typology

- No new doctrine or predictions.
- Because:
  - Christ is not hidden but revealed! (We are not gnostics.)
  - Shadow is less full than fulfillment.
  - One needs context to control analogy.
4. Multifaceted Imagery
Tabernacle as Multifaceted:

- Heaven
- Eschatological hope built in
- Christ
- Church
- Individual’s body
- Israelite tents
- Eden
- Rich
David and Goliath as Multifaceted

- Divine warrior in heaven
- Eschatological hope built in

Adam as representative
- Seed of woman
- Exodus

Israelite soldiers

Christ
- Church
- Individual

Eph. 6:10-20
- Consummation victory
  Isa. 27:1; 51:9-11
Daniel and Lions (Daniel 6)

- Babylon as lion kingdom
- Jews in captivity
- Lions on earth
- Adam as representative ruler
- Seed of woman
- Exodus
- Eschatological hope built in
- Christ
- Church
- Individual
- Significance
- Consummation
- Victory
Maxims on Typology

• 1-1 correspondences miss multifaceted relations.
• Note the superiority of the antitype.
• NT in relation to OT, not NT instead of OT.
• A sermon is not a lecture.
5. Principles for Interpreting Analogies
An Example: Calling on God

principle of calling on God

people of Enosh
Gen. 4:26

generalize

Christ calling on God

analogy

you call on God in Christ

fulfillment

application
Common Principle

1. generalize
2. fulfillment
3. application

particular instance

analogy

fulfillment in Christ

you act in Christ
Step 1: What Was the Principle?

- What common principle did it express then?

Attend to context.
Illustration of Step 1 (Principle)

- What common principle did it express then?

  seek
  vengeance
  or not

Lamech's vengeance
Gen. 4:24

Attend to context.
Step 2: Go Forward to Fulfillment

• What does it anticipate in Christ?

common principle

Christ's fulfillment

God's plan develops.

God's plan develops.

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God's plan develops.
Illustration of Step 2: Fulfillment

- What does it anticipate in Christ?

  seek vengeance or not

  Phil 2:8; 1Pet 2:23

  Christ leaves vengeance to God

  God's plan develops.
Step 3: Apply to Us

• How do we benefit?

Written for us!

3 application

fulfillment in Christ

you act in Christ
Illustration of Step 3: Apply

- How do we benefit?

Rom 12:19

Written for us!

Christ leaves vengeance to God

you leave vengeance to God