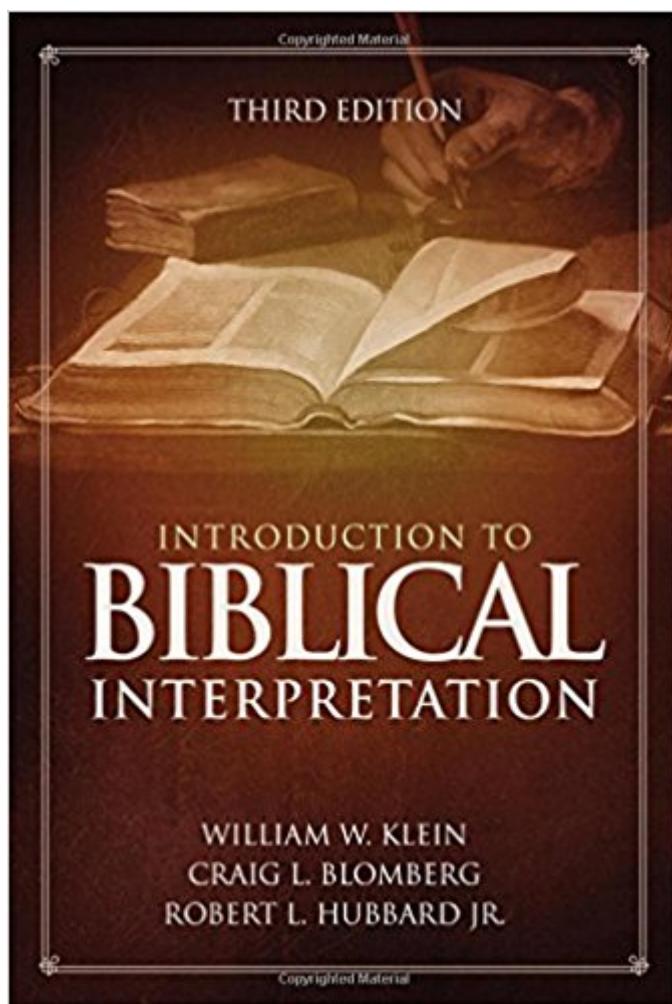


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# Introduction To Biblical Interpretation: Third Edition



## **Synopsis**

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, now in its third edition, is a bestselling hermeneutics textbook that sets forth concise, logical, and practical guidelines for discovering the truth in Godâ™s Word. With updates and revisions throughout that keep pace with current scholarship, this book offers students the best and most up-to-date information needed to interpret Scripture. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*: Defines and describes hermeneutics, the science of biblical interpretation. Suggests effective methods to understand the meaning of the biblical text. Surveys the literary, cultural, social, and historical issues that impact any text. Evaluates both traditional and modern approaches to Bible interpretation. Examines the readerâ™s role as an interpreter of the text and helps identify what the reader brings to the text that could distort its message. Tackles the problem of how to apply the Bible in valid and significant ways today. Provides an extensive and revised annotated list of books that readers will find helpful in the practice of biblical interpretation. Used in college and seminary classrooms around the world, this textbook is a trusted and valuable tool for students and other readers who desire to understand and apply the Bible.Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The appearance of the third edition of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (much more than a mere introduction!) stands as testimony to the bookâ™s lasting influence and significance. The authors engage ongoing scholarship in biblical studies as they provide readers necessary principles and guidelines that impact the discipline of hermeneutics. Importantly, they also point readers to the fact

that we must not be content merely to master the biblical text; rather, we must strive to let it master us. The book will greatly benefit those willing to invest the time to wrestle with its insights. -- Bryan E. Beyer, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Columbia International University

Long a foundational resource for the study of the Scriptures, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* now appears in a third edition. With updated discussions, footnotes, and bibliographies this work constructively engages developments in areas treated in previous editions and interacts with more recent approaches that bring fresh questions to the text. Deeply committed to the Bible as holy writ, the authors present guidelines for its careful study and application to life. Detailed yet practical, this valuable tool proves its worth for a new audience. -- M. Daniel Carroll R., Blanchard Chair of Old Testament, Wheaton College

With this new edition, Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard demonstrate the excellence of their previous editions while bringing their discussion up to date in light of contemporary hermeneutical theory. Clearly defending the appropriateness of author-centered interpretation, they provide students with a comprehensive set of tools for understanding the Bible in its ancient context and also the means for contextualizing its message today. Written with clarity and an awareness of the needs of students, this will remain an essential work for many years to come. It deserves to have pride of place in courses on hermeneutics, but ought also to be on the shelves of those who faithfully seek to interpret the Bible in a range of settings today. -- David G. Firth, Old Testament Tutor and Academic Dean, Trinity College, Bristol

Retaining the best of the previous two editions, this classic textbook is updated with new material relevant to the interpretive issues of our day. No other work has surpassed the comprehensive study of biblical interpretation Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard have produced. Tested by time, this new edition deserves a place in the library of every serious student of the Bible. -- Karen H. Jobes, Gerald F. Hawthorne Professor Emerita of New Testament Greek and Exegesis, Wheaton College and Graduate

Long one of the most thorough, comprehensive, and practical textbooks for biblical interpretation, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* has now been expanded and further improved. -- Craig S. Keener, F. M. and Ada Thompson Professor of Biblical Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary

I have often used Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard's excellent *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* as a textbook since it originally appeared over twenty years ago. This readable and profound book covers all the important topics of interpretation with great skill. I am very excited about the publication of the third edition that takes into account recent scholarship. I recommend it to all who want to deepen their ability to read Scripture well. -- Tremper Longman III, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College

Earlier editions of this title have served a generation of students well, and this third substantially revised and updated

edition continues to provide not only a reliable entry point to the art and science of biblical interpretation but also a competent introduction to the contemporary currents in the field of hermeneutics. As a product of three experienced teachers and able interpreters of the ancient texts, it deserves a place on the shelf of serious students of the Bible. -- David W. Pao, Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity SchoolA third edition of a tried and true book on hermeneutics by wise and veteran scholars is to be warmly welcomed. The new edition considers the latest issues on hermeneutics, and at the same time the authors expertly explain what students need to understand to interpret the Scriptures. -- Tom Schreiner, The Southern Baptist Theological SeminaryFor over twenty years Introduction to Biblical Interpretation has set the standard for evangelical hermeneutics textbooks. It is remarkably comprehensive, clear, accurate, and balanced. This third edition is most welcome. -- Mark L. Strauss, Professor of New Testament, Bethel Seminary San DiegoThe first two editions of this book have become the standard textbook on biblical interpretation among evangelical circles, and this new edition should be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of any student of the Bible. It is the fruit of a model cooperation over several decades by the same authors who specialize in three different areas: doctrine, the NT, and the OT. The revision is thorough and comprehensive and covers current postmodern questions such as reader-response criticism, narrative criticism, and deconstruction. -- David Toshio Tsumura, Professor of Old Testament, Japan Bible Seminary

William W. Klein (PhD, Aberdeen) is professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary. He is author of *The New Chosen People: A Corporate View of Election* and a commentary on Ephesians in the *Expositorâ™s Bible Commentary: Revised Edition* and serves as both editor and co-author of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*with Craig Blomberg and Robert Hubbard. Bill and his wife have two daughters and reside in Littleton, Colorado. Â XCraig L. Blomberg (PhD, Aberdeen) is distinguished professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of numerous books and more than 130 articles in journals or multi-author works. A recurring topic of interest in his writings is the historical reliability of the Scriptures. Craig and his wife Fran have two daughters and reside in Centennial, Colorado. Â Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. (PhD, Claremont Graduate School) is emeritus professor of biblical literature at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. He is author of several books, including *The Book of Ruth: New International Commentary on the Old Testament* and *Joshua* in the *NIV Application Commentary* series and co-author of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* with William Klein and Craig Blomberg. He and his wife Pam reside in Denver, CO.

This work is thoroughly revealing to the complexities of importance of understanding proper interpretation of Scripture. It opens the mind to developing an understanding of the history and culture of the time period.

We have children studying at Christian colleges teaching liberal theology. We studied this textbook as a family this summer and had wonderful discussions together. It gave them a good understanding of the history of biblical interpretation, and how deviations have entered in from various places, often affected by the cultural influences of the time. It gives a good foundation that allows one to understand where the current teaching comes from. Although we did not get through the whole book, it is now a resource for us for the future.

The book is good.

Easy read! Very informative!

There are few books that have had a more lasting influence on biblical interpretation than *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* by William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard Jr. This volume has been used in colleges and seminaries across the world as a trusted guide and authoritative introduction to the field of biblical hermeneutics for over two decades. This newly revised and updated third edition of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* offers an up-to-date discussion on various developments in the field (and even related fields) of biblical hermeneutics and biblical scholarship, as well as refined and polished the previous work. As the authors note in the preface, “what we veteran Bible teachers write here builds on more than one hundred years of combined teaching and study. We believe our refinements in this volume reflect our more mature (and we hope more adequate and correct) thinking about this critical task.” (p. 27). For most readers, these updates will be approached as a welcomed addition to an already astonishing work, while others may be seen as less than appealing. That said, the overall impression of the volume boasts a clear and consistent presence of fine-tuning towards an appropriate and needed end. Those acquainted with the previous editions will be met by the same overall layout and familiar organization as before. The book is divided into five major sections appropriately aligned to bring the reader from point A to point B: (1) the task of interpretation, (2) the interpreter and the goal, (3) understanding literature, (4) understanding Bible genres, and (5) the fruits of interpretation. Each

section is subdivided into various chapters on a number of related or sub-related topics. The chapters and sections hang together as a cumulative case that builds from page to page but also function well as standalone items for future reference. The highlights of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* will depend upon the readers own personal conviction. The book overall is extremely helpful, well-organized, and both easy to use and read. Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard demonstrate an exceptional level of skill at navigating difficult hermeneutical issues or tasks with ease and clarity. Moreover, the comprehensiveness of the volume brings a level of clearness to nearly every aspect of biblical interpretation, from the history of interpretation to the application of the task itself. That said, among other things, some readers may find the authors treatment of interpretation by “advocacy groups” (such as liberation hermeneutics, cultural hermeneutics, feminist hermeneutics, and LGBT hermeneutics; p. 144-163) unsettling or demonstrative of compromise, particularly for those coming to the book with a clear, unhealthy attachment to conservatism. As a conservative myself, I found the treatment to be very helpful and informative, and, in fact, appropriately sensitive to the approaches of these various groups. There will be some readers who may jump to polemical conclusions regarding the revisions, but to do so, in my opinion, is simply unwarranted. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* by William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard Jr. is a work of unparalleled quality in the arena of introductory literature on the field of biblical hermeneutics. As stated above, it is used in colleges and seminaries across the world as a trusted and authoritative primer, and this third edition only makes its usefulness more relevant and refined. Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard have evaluated every corner of the intersections that the beginning (and even intermediate) student would need to know, and have provided a clear and persuasive presentation on how to read the Bible and read it properly. This is a book that deserves placement on the shelf of every serious student of the Bible. So, be sure to make room if you haven’t already.

I don’t understand what the authors were thinking as they wrote some of the sections regarding the new progressive hermeneutical approaches to Scripture in today’s modern era. First, they start off giving an overview of the 4 areas of new progressive hermeneutics that have corrupted scripture with their own eisegesis to push a particular ideology (Liberation, Feminist, Cultural, and LGBT). The overviews themselves are not very thorough and seem hastily put together. They then confirm how it goes against their own orthodoxy that they’ve put forth in their book and agree that the Bible is clear on homosexuality being a sin in any circumstance (they link Gagnon in the footnotes who supports their claim but I didn’t see Loader or any of the other liberal scholars who also affirm that

the Bible is against homosexuality and debunk Bailey's, Boswell's, and Scroggs's claims - see here "barbwire.com/2014/04/29/liberal-scholars-homosexuality/"). But then it quickly unravels and they start to wax polemic on how the reader could learn something from these aberrant perspectives. With quotes like "liberation and feminist hermeneutics emerge out of suffering of a kind and scale that most Americans, particularly white males, have never experienced or even observed first hand" and "white men and women alike in the privileged West should try to read with great empathy", it's hard to take them seriously as it seems lifted straight off of Tumblr. They conclude the section by encouraging Christians to "take the time to listen to divergent readings of Scripture from our Christian brothers and sisters around the globe, and particularly from women, various kinds of minorities, and the poor" as a sort of hermeneutics based on affirmative action and western guilt rather than any sort of objective and distant methodology. This is followed by telling the reader to examine the footnotes for recommended readings so that we might "expand our horizons of biblical understanding considerably". This of course includes the book "A Feminist Companion to Reading the Bible by Athalya Brenner, Carole Fontaine" and is exactly what you expect it to be. A book filled with rants about smashing the biblical patriarchy, insane persecution complexes, and eschewing ancient voices of interpretation for their "own" modern voice. The authors quest to be overly sensitive and inclusive in their message leaves the reader in limbo and makes one question if they were actually serious about their previous convictions that these progressive ideologies are corrupting and should be avoided. It's in my opinion that they concede too much in their quest to be political correct and end up actually advocating for the very thing they speak against, hermeneutical pluralism.

Outstanding!

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