

Otwell, John H., I Will Be Your God (Abingdon Press:Nashville) 1967

p. 20 (cont'd) There are many questions about which there is disagreement. There are others about which we simply do not have enough information with which to reach a conclusion. Nevertheless, the results thus far are exciting and useful. But remember, biblical critics do not have all the answers.

There are several individual tasks that a biblical critic performs. First, he tries to determine whether or not the ^el_λtters and words in the biblical text are correct. This is called textual criticism. Next, he tries to answer the questions we asked earlier here: who was the author, to whom did he speak (or write), why did he speak (or write), when, what kind of literature did he use, precisely what did he say? This is called higher criticism. The tasks of those engaged in higher criticism, in their turn, are grouped into a series of methods which have various names. We will call them literary criticism (a shortened form of grammatico-literary criticism), historical criticism, patternism (sometimes called studies in comparative religions), and form criticism. "Criticism" here means careful, methodical study. It does not imply that one is being negative.

Style

p. 21-22 Style includes words a person uses over and over again (often the repeated choice of one ^{p. 22} word where any one of several might have served), the order of words, the grammatical constructions, and the phrases which appear repeatedly. One person might say "Oh no!" when he was dismayed, another when he was amused. This would be a stylistic trait. Literary criticism has been tested repeatedly in the study of modern literature and has been found to work.

((Then follow examples taken from Amos and Isaiah with the conclusion:
"If you agree that Amos 4.10-12 was not by the same author who produced Amos 4.13, and if you agree that Amos 4.13; 5.8-9; and 9:5-6 have the same author; are you willing to assert now that the style in these five verses is closer to the style of Isaiah 40.21-23 than it is to the style of Amos 4.10-12? If we are in agreement, you have been using literary criticism! "pp. 23-24. These are hardly examples from "modern literature"))