

HIGHER AND LOWER BIBLICAL CRITICISM

Higher criticism and lower criticism are two approaches to biblical scholarship that focus on different aspects of the text.

Higher criticism, also known as historical criticism, seeks to understand the historical context in which the biblical texts were written. It looks at the authorship, dating, sources, and historical background of the text in order to determine its original meaning and significance. Higher criticism often involves analyzing the text's literary style, language, and themes to uncover its historical and cultural context.

Lower criticism, on the other hand, focuses on the more technical aspects of the biblical text, such as the accuracy of the manuscript copies, translation issues, and textual variations. Lower criticism aims to establish the most accurate and reliable version of the text by comparing different manuscripts and versions of the text to identify any errors or discrepancies.

In summary, higher criticism looks at the broader historical and cultural context of the biblical text, while lower criticism focuses on the more technical aspects of the text itself. Both approaches are important in biblical scholarship and can complement each other in providing a comprehensive understanding of the Bible.