

# *Contents*

Introduction: The purpose and method of this book	7
1 The Bible and its interpretation: Principles and definitions	14
<b>Part 1: Before historical criticism</b>	<b>45</b>
2 The beginnings of biblical interpretation	47
3 Patristic interpretation	77
4 Medieval interpretation	129
5 The Renaissance and Reformation	165
<b>Part 2: The historical-critical method</b>	<b>221</b>
6 The beginning of the historical-critical method	225
<b>The nineteenth century (1800–1918)</b>	<b>270</b>
7 The Old Testament from De Wette to Wellhausen	275
8 The New Testament from Schleiermacher to Schweitzer	321
<b>The mid-twentieth century (1918–75)</b>	<b>376</b>
9 Old Testament criticism after Wellhausen	380
10 New Testament criticism after Schweitzer	422

<b>Part 3: The contemporary scene</b>	461
11 Academic trends in interpretation	467
12 Social trends in interpretation	507
13 Evangelical trends in interpretation	539
Conclusion	584
General bibliography	589
Index of names	593
Index of subjects	603
Index of Scripture passages	605