

IV. Broader Aspects of the Higher Criticism--(Archer 7-12)

Before we dive into this rather unedifying and sometimes technical stuff, I will take a few minutes, tell you why it is important you be familiar with it, and try to pump up the morale for the next few lessons. I will also try to show what the attractiveness in it is and why, in some ways, the conservative position is less appealing. But remember, the teacher is a strong conservative and believes that when anything is answered correctly there is no need to revise that answer or inventively seek for another. Well, in spite of these negative notes we will try to enjoy it and, as in most cases, we will all find out one day that it was good for us to see the picture and to understand the foibles and frailties of the academic world.

A. Higher Criticism

1. Remember our definition
2. Observe the word "destructive" that is often used.
3. And remember that error is usually an accumulation of many ideas and may take on many different forms in propagation.

B. How About a Walk in the Halls of History?
(just to keep our orientation)

1. Cycles in thinking:

- superstition
- reformation
- refinement
- challenge

While these are not absolute they are sufficiently accurate to allow us to understand this critical phase in the life of the church.

2. The Age of Reason and the Enlightenment

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- a. Empirical philosophy
- b. Challenges to "faith"
- c. Literary Analysis (source criticism)

Homer--Shakespeare--Bible