

Further Examples and Illustrations

1. Supernaturalistic
 - a. A young couple may be seeking God's will concerning their present employment in a mountainous area in the United States and their desire to go overseas for missionary service in an island nation. In the Bible reading, they discover the injunction, "You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough" (Deu 2:3 ESV). Subsequently, they discover another biblical prophecy, "The isles shall wait for his law" (Isa 42:4 KJV). What could be clearer direction from God? It doesn't matter that the message they received has nothing in common with the message the author intended to communicate.
2. Naturalistic
 - a. The crossing of the Red Sea was actually the crossing of the Reed Sea, a shallow swampland, through which the fleeing Israelites could walk. Also the prophecies of Daniel were not written by Daniel, but by someone else after the events had taken place. And Christ did not feed 5000 people; rather, using the generosity of the lad with the lunch, He inspired the others to share their own lunches generously.
3. Postmodern
 - a. "You cannot escape your location in history, culture, class, and gender, so there is no 'right' or 'true' interpretation, no objective, neutral, value-free reading of Scripture."
 - b. "There is no 'true,' only 'true-for-me.'"
 - c. "There is objective reality, but don't try to prove it, just invite people to experience Jesus, who is the Truth."
4. Dogmatic
 - a. In the middle of the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent established the dogmatic approach as the official hermeneutical presupposition of the Roman Catholic Church. The Council stated that both the Scripture *and* the church were infallible, effectively making the church's dogma the controlling factor in interpretation.
 - b. Martin Luther had a low view of book of James. Luther's basic system was found in Romans 1:17 (For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."), Since the book of James departed from that norm, as Luther understood it, it was to him a "right stray epistle."
 - c. Some five-point-Calvinists might choose to interpret John 3:16 to mean, "For God so loved the *elect*." In the same line of thinking, some may insist on eliminating repentance as a prerequisite for God's acceptance or the Lord's Prayer as suitable for Christian lips.