

**On Hermeneutics**
*The study of the methodological principles of literary interpretation*

1. Contrary to common and often unconscious assumptions, there are a variety of interpretive methods by which individuals, churches, and denominations seek to draw meaning from (i.e., exegete) biblical texts.
2. Consider a brief sampling of interpretive methods employed by others today:

	1. **The Historical-Grammatical Interpretive Method**
		1. Seeks (first) to understand the biblical author’s background and original intent by considering historical context (i.e., date, place, audience, circumstances or occasion for the writing, etc.) as well as original language and grammar (words, phrases, syntax).
		2. Once understood, the exegete seeks (second) to discover timeless truths and principles for living which can and should inform the practice of Christian life today.
	2. **The Allegorical Interpretive Method**
	Assumes that the Bible has various levels of meaning and tends to focus on determining and proclaiming the more spiritual aspects of the text by appealing to allegory, figurative meaning or analogy.
	3. **The Bible and… Interpretive Method**
	Typical of cults that regard (as authoritative) books or documents in addition to the Bible and/or that in their eyes that supersede its authority.
	4. **The Red Letters Interpretive Method**
	The words of Jesus are held in higher esteem and superlative in authority to other words, authors, or quoted sources elsewhere throughout the Bible.
3. Mosaic adheres to the **Historical-Grammatical Interpretive** **Method**, i.e., a hermeneutic that governs our reading, observation, understanding, and explanation of the Bible and therefore the interpretation of relevant applicational and/or timeless truths in today’s context.