



The Bible after Babel: Historical Criticism in a Postmodern Age

John J. Collins

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Biblical scholars today often sound as if they are caught in the aftermath of Babel - a clamor of voices unable to reach common agreement. Yet is this confusion necessarily a bad thing? Many postmodern critics see the recent profusion of critical approaches as a welcome opportunity for the emergence of diverse new techniques. In *The Bible after Babel* noted biblical scholar John J. Collins considers the effect of the postmodern situation on biblical, primarily Old Testament, criticism over the last three decades. Engaging and even-handed, Collins examines the quest of historical criticism to objectively establish a text's basic meaning. Accepting that the Bible may no longer provide secure "foundations" for faith, Collins still highlights its ethical challenge to be concerned for "the other" - a challenge central both to Old Testament ethics and to the teaching of Jesus.

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