

How Lutherans Read the Bible: The Spectrum of Interpretation

	FUNDAMENTALIST	WORD OF GOD	SECULARIST
AUTHORSHIP	God	God through human limitations	Humans
CONTENT	Historical and scientific facts	Theological truths	Myths and legends
INTERPRETATION	Literally	Historical – Metaphorical	Symbolically (at best)

Lutheran Principles for Reading the Bible

Lutheran Principle	Question to Ask
LAW AND GOSPEL	How does this verse reveal my brokenness and how does it offer me healing and hope?
WHAT SHOWS FORTH CHRIST?	How do I see Christ in this verse?
SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE	How does this verse connect to the overall biblical story?
THE PLAIN MEANING OF A TEXT	How were people expected to understand this verse in the first place?
PUBLIC INTERPRETATION	How might someone in a completely different situation interpret this verse?