
Jeffrey Morrow, Seton Hall University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jeffrey-morrow/107/
Alan J. Hauser and Duane F. Watson, eds.

_A History of Biblical Interpretation: Volume 3, The Enlightenment through the Nineteenth Century_


Jeffrey L. Morrow
Seton Hall University

Alan Hauser’s and Duane Watson’s edited _A History of Biblical Interpretation: Volume 3, The Enlightenment through the Nineteenth Century_ is a wonderful contribution to the history of biblical interpretation and especially the early history of modern biblical scholarship. It includes broad overviews of important themes such as the Enlightenment and historical criticism, as well as of key figures from Spinoza to Wellhausen. In most cases, the essay contributions in this volume are written by leaders in their respective fields and by experts on the topics covered, who have written more thoroughly in book-length treatments elsewhere.

Alan J. Hauser and Duane F. Watson begin the volume with a massive introduction (1–72) that is an important contribution in its own right, covering such a breadth of material beyond simply what is discussed in the other essays that follow. They begin by discussing the various ways knowledge was changing during the time period covered in the volume (1–7): sources of knowledge, focus of knowledge, extent of knowledge, dissemination of knowledge, historical nature of knowledge, retrieval of classical knowledge, and “the increasingly diversified contexts for the growth and development of interpretation” (6). They proceed to discuss biblical criticism in the Enlightenment period, noting challenges with the term _Enlightenment_ itself, wherein they cover figures such as Hugo Grotius, Thomas Hobbes, Isaac La Peyrère, Spinoza, Richard Simon, Locke, John Toland, Johann