

Biblical Interpretation in an Anabaptist Perspective: Joshua, Jonah, Jesus



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Overview



- Traditional Anabaptist principles of biblical interpretation
- Joshua, Jonah, & Jesus as examples for a model of interpretation
- A proposal
- Discussion questions
- Additional resources

Traditional Principles of Anabaptist Biblical Interpretation

- Bible as self-interpreting
- Christocentrism
- Different weight of the two testaments
- Importance of both Spirit & word
- Congregational hermeneutics
- Hermeneutics of obedience

Source: Stuart Murray, *Biblical Interpretation in the Anabaptist Tradition*, 2000.

Joshua, Jonah, Jesus Canon as Choir



Traditional Principles of Anabaptist Biblical Interpretation



- Bible as self-interpreting
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Proposal



- Can we add principles?
- My suggestion: we Anabaptists need to listen more closely and try harder to understand quieter voices and voices on the margins...
- ...in our canon and in our communities.

Discussion Questions



- Do you think there are some original principles of Anabaptist interpretation that are more important than others? Which ones and why?
- Are there principles that are missing from the original list? What might be good additions?
- Does your congregation make equal use of all of the original principles? Are there other principles (values) that your congregation prioritizes above others? What other values do your congregation draw on in biblical interpretation?

Resources



- Murray, Stuart. *Biblical Interpretation in the Anabaptist Tradition*. Kitchener, ON: Pandora Press, 2000.
- . *The Naked Anabaptist: The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2010.
- Swartley, Willard M., ed. *Essays on Biblical Interpretation: Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspectives*. Elkhart, IN: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1984.
- . *Slavery, Sabbath, War, and Women: Case Issues in Biblical Interpretation*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1983.