

MODELS OF CHRISTIAN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
The Bible was not only inspired by God, but dictated by God.	The Bible was inspired by God, but written by humans.	The Bible may have been inspired by God but was largely influenced by humans and human perspectives.	The Bible was written entirely by humans and does not automatically reflect God.
The Bible has authority because it is God's words.	The Bible has authority because it is the word of God.	The Bible has authority because we grant it authority.	The Bible has no more authority than any other sacred text.
The Bible is inerrant (without error) in all its teachings.	The Bible is inerrant in doctrine but not necessarily in history or science.	The Bible contains errors in history, science, and sometimes theology.	The Bible is not to be taken as fact but as opinion so errors are irrelevant.
The Bible should be read and followed literally.	The Bible should be read and followed literally where appropriate, but culture should also be considered.	The Bible should not be read and followed literally. Their culture and ours should be taken into consideration.	The Bible should be followed only as it makes logical sense and is consistent with other sacred texts.
The Bible is a rule-book.	The Bible is both rule-book and guide-book.	The Bible is a guide-book.	The Bible can guide us, rightly or wrongly.
All of the Bible is relevant to our lives today.	Most of the Bible is relevant to our lives today.	Some of the Bible is relevant to our lives today, but care must be used in determining which parts.	Only the major themes of the Bible are relevant to our lives today.
There is only one right interpretation and those who are wrong are, regrettably, condemned.	There is only one right interpretation, but disagreement does not necessarily result in condemnation.	There can be many interpretations. Community helps evaluate validity.	Interpretation is solely up to the individual.