

Redaction Criticism

Abstract

Matt Slick, founder of the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, give details of the elements, refutations, and history of redaction criticism. This critical approach is defined as “the theory that different copyists and commentators of the early biblical writings embellished and altered the biblical texts throughout early Jewish and Christian history to make them appear more miraculous, inspirational, and legitimate...It reduces the quality of the biblical record, casts strong doubt on its inspiration, and implies that the Bible is not trustworthy as a historical document” (Slick, n.d., para. 1). Early redaction theorists are Hermann Reimarus (1700s), David Friedrich Strauss (1808-74), and Wilhelm Wrede (1859-1906). These critics wrote against Christianity, described Christianity as myth, and argued biblical texts as unreliable. Another school of thought within this critical approach is that while they believe the bible was altered, these alterations were inspired by God.

Reference

Slick, M. (n.d.). What is redaction criticism? *Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry*.

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