## the process of coming to know the Bible: some factors at work

broad cultural norms

Reader
gender
age
nationality
race/ethnicity
education family
history personal
experience
personality traits/style
commitments/beliefs

Church teachings

Reader
gender
community/family styles

## some reading methods

literal/fundamentalist: the "right answer"
opinion: each person's own "answer"
contextual: entering the text and its worlds
and being entered by the text in our world

translation
history of interpretation
Temple/synagogue/church/home traditions

other cultures (e.g.Caananite, Babylonian, Persian Greek)

## **Bible**

editing of each book
collecting of books
'New Testament" and "Old Testament'
Hebrew/Israelite cultures Christian
cultures

other religious viewpoints (e.g., various "pagan" systems, gnosticism)