
This book is the work of members of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St Mary's University and Seminary (Baltimore), who according to the editor's introduction "bring to the task of producing an introduction to the Bible a unique sensitivity to various ways of being Christian and of reading the Bible" (pp. vii-viii). The book was developed chiefly for use as a textbook in introductory courses in biblical interpretation, and is intended as a companion volume to Michael Gorman, Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers (Hendrickson, 2001). Together the two volumes offer, for readers with little or no background knowledge of the biblical texts (including seminary students or other interested readers), a fairly complete introduction to the Bible and the history and methods of its interpretation.

Part One, "The Bible," contains essays covering topics such as geography, history, archaeology, canon, textual transmission, and translation, as well as survey essays on the writings of the Old and New Testaments and non-canonical biblical texts: "The Bible as...