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John Barton is Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture, University of Oxford.

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(ed. 1991); *The Bible* (with Robert Barnes, 1991); and *Origins of Narrative: the Romantic Appropriation of the Bible* (1996). Most recently he wrote the preface to the new World's Classics Bible (1997).

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Perspective (with Robert B. Coote, 1987); *The Just King: Monarchical Judicial Authority in Ancient Israel* (1979) and a number of articles on Israelite and Palestinian history in specialist journals.

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FRANCES YOUNG is Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham. Her research interests are in early Christian theology and biblical interpretation, and in contemporary spirituality and pastoral questions. Her recent publications include *The Theology of the Pastoral Letters* (1994); *Dare We Speak of God in Public?* (1994); and *Biblical Exegesis and the Formation of Christian Culture* (1997).

Glossary

- Achaemenids** the dynasty that ruled in Persia from 553 to 330 BC, ending with the conquest of Persia by Alexander the Great
- aggadah** Jewish teaching on non-legal matters (sometimes **haggadah**)
- allegory** a text in which the meaning is presented symbolically
- androcentric** male-centred
- angelophany** the appearance on earth of an angelic being
- anglophone** English-speaking
- apocalypticism** movement of thought concerned with the revelation of heavenly secrets, often in coded form: the secrets frequently concern the end of the present age
- aspect** in grammar, the way the action of a verb is internally organized, as opposed to tense, which concerns the time of its occurrence. Thus 'I go' and 'I went' are differences of tense, but 'I go', 'I am going' and 'I do go' are differences of aspect.
- canonical criticism** a style of biblical interpretation which seeks to respect the canonical status of the text, usually through a synchronic interpretation
- Christology** theories about the nature of Christ
- composite** of a text, composed from several discrete sources
- cosmology** theory about the origin and nature of the universe
- cultural relativism** the belief that there are no absolute values or truths valid across all cultures
- deconstruction** an attempt to show how texts 'subvert' themselves by undermining their own presuppositions (see chapter 4)
- diachronic** concerned with historical change; thus a diachronic study of a text is interested in the stages by which the text came into being, as contrasted with a **synchronic** concern
- dissonance theory** a sociological theory about the reaction of societies whose hopes and expectations are not fulfilled
- docetism** theory that Christ was not really human but only appeared so
- Enlightenment** intellectual movement of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries characterized by belief in reason
- eschatology** theories about the end of the world or of the present age, or more generally about the purposive course of history
- exegesis** interpretation, esp. through exact philological study
- fictive** fictitious
- fundamentalism** the belief that everything in the Bible is true, usually allied to an evangelical system of doctrine
- genetic** concerned with origins
- halakhah** Jewish teaching on matters of conduct (adj. **halakhic**)
- hermeneutical circle** the fact that the parts of a text can only be understood in the light of the whole, yet the whole can only be understood through the parts
- hermeneutics** the science or art of interpretation, formulating general rules about

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the meaning of texts; sometimes as a **hermeneutic**, a particular interpretative technique

Hexateuch the Pentateuch plus Joshua

historical-critical method, historical criticism the attempt to analyse texts in their historical context (see chapter 1)

holistic reading a reading which seeks to interpret biblical texts exactly as they stand – as finished wholes – rather than seeing them as made up of pre-existing components

intertextuality the mutual relationship among texts within a given corpus of literature

koinonia fellowship

liberation theology system of thought and action which asserts that God is on the side of the powerless

mantic connected with prophecy

Massoretic text the standard text of the Hebrew Bible established by the **Massoretes** in the seventh and eighth centuries AD

midrash Jewish commentary on Scripture

modernism (1) synonym of **modernity**; (2) esp. in Catholic thought, attempt to apply an Enlightenment appeal to reason to faith and dogma

modernity movement of thought in aesthetics marked by belief in rationality, order and progress

narratology the study and theory of narrative texts

natural theology branch of theology concerned with what can be known of God without divine revelation

New Historicism a style of historiography which attends to the bias in our sources, especially where this tends against the interests of oppressed groups (see chapter 4)

parallelism primary technique of Hebrew verse, whereby the meaning of a line is repeated by using synonyms: 'he who dwells under the defence of the Most High / abides under the shadow of the Almighty' (Psalm 91:1)

Pentateuch the five books of Moses – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

peshet commentary on Scripture concerned with fulfilment of the text at the present day; esp. found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament

poetics study of literary techniques as forming a system

polysemous having many meanings

postmodernism originally an architectural term, postmodernism denotes a movement of thought which suspects all large-scale explanatory schemes and delights in parody and pastiche (see chapter 4)

poststructuralism movement which extended and also criticized structuralism by showing that the meaning of texts is indeterminate

pseudepigraphic, pseudonymous of texts, attributed to someone other than their true author

Glossary xv

- Q** a hypothetical document thought to have been drawn on by Matthew and Luke, and accounting for resemblances between them
- reader-response criticism** style of literary criticism that stresses the role of the reader in not only perceiving but contributing to the meaning of a text
- reception** what texts have been taken to mean
- redaction** editing; **redaction criticism** study of the way biblical books were edited
- Second Temple period** the time after the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem in c. 530 BC; often used of the later part of this period, from 300 BC or so
- Seleucids** dynasty founded by Seleucus Nicator, one of Alexander the Great's generals, which ruled over Syria-Palestine from 311 to 65 BC
- sophia** wisdom
- speech-act theory** linguistic theory concerned with the use of speech to perform actions, e.g. naming, blessing, promising
- structural linguistics** the **synchronic** study of language as a structure of interrelated parts, as opposed to historical linguistics
- structuralism** linguistic, literary or cultural analysis that finds meaning in the way a text or a culture is ordered, and in the contrasts between its parts
- synchronic** concerned with the state of something at a given moment; thus a synchronic study of a text is interested in the interrelation of the parts with each other in its present form, as contrasted with a **diachronic** concern
- synecdoche** figure of speech in which a part represents the whole
- Synoptic Gospels** Matthew, Mark and Luke
- Synoptic Problem** the question how the interrelationships among the Synoptic Gospels are to be explained
- Talmud** massive compilation of Jewish teaching published in fifth century AD and existing in two editions, Babylonian and Palestinian
- Tenakh** Jewish acronym for Scripture: the Law, the Prophets and the Writings (Torah, Nebiim, Ketubim); also **Tanak**, **Tanakh**
- Tetrateuch** the first four books of the **Pentateuch**
- The Twelve** the twelve 'Minor Prophets' (a title common in Judaism)
- theophany** an appearance of God on earth
- Torah** the Jewish Law or teaching, conceived of as contained in the Pentateuch and in oral traditions deriving from it
- tradition history** attempt to discover the way in which various historical traditions developed in the telling
- typology** drawing parallels between people or events in different periods, e.g. Jesus and Moses
- womanism** movement of thought among non-white women corresponding to white feminism