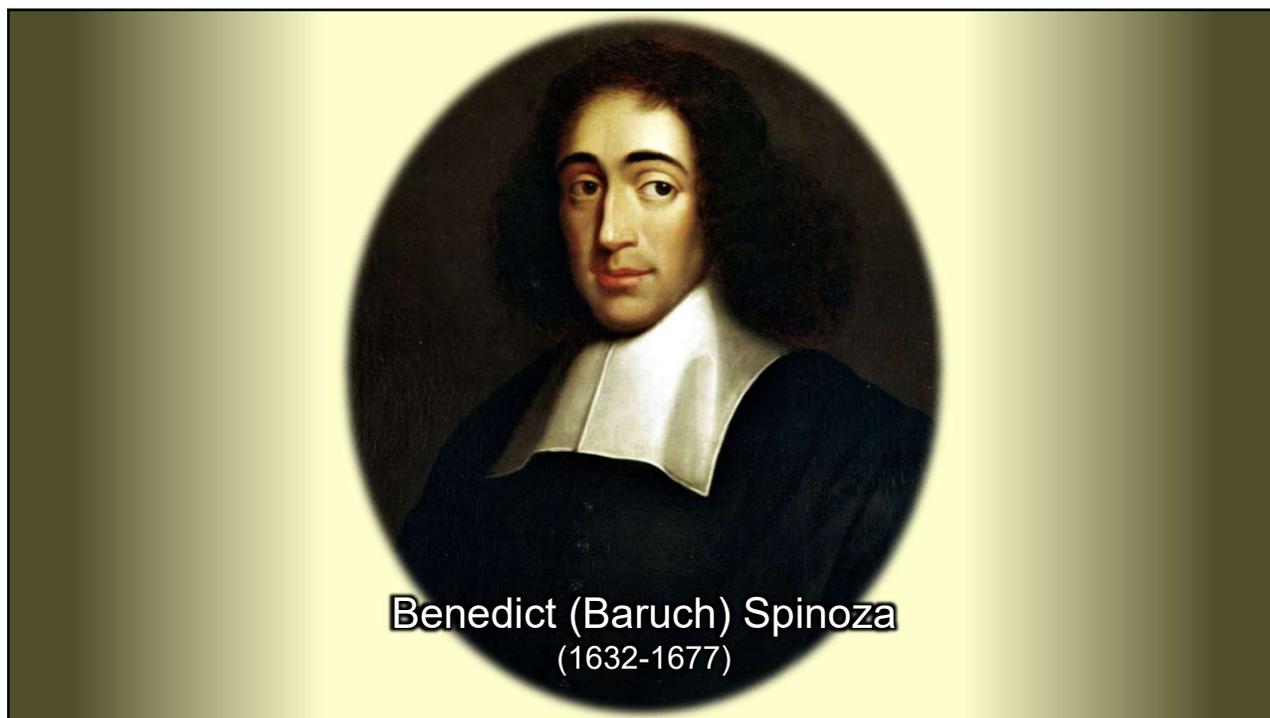


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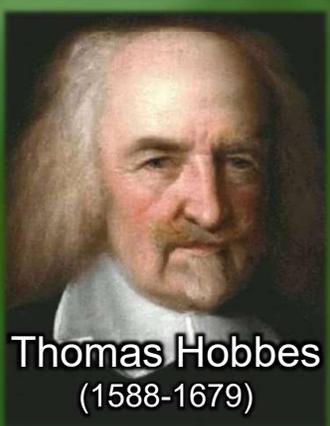
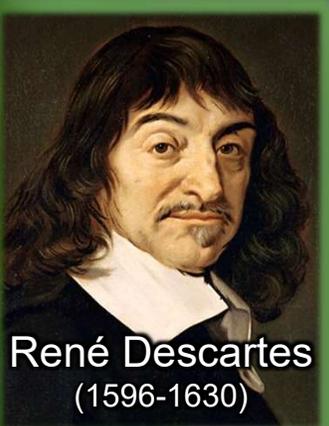
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**Spinoza Factoid**

- ✓ *Born in Amsterdam in 1632*
- ✓ *Immediate Predecessors include:*

 <p><b>Galileo</b> (1564-1642)</p>	 <p><b>Thomas Hobbes</b> (1588-1679)</p>	 <p><b>René Descartes</b> (1596-1630)</p>
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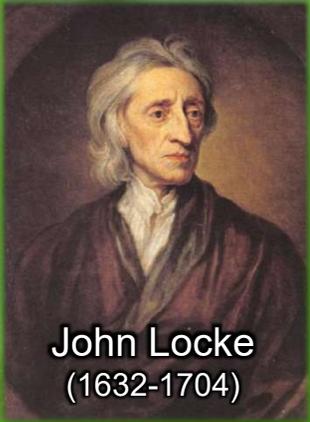
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## ∞ Spinoza Factoid ∞

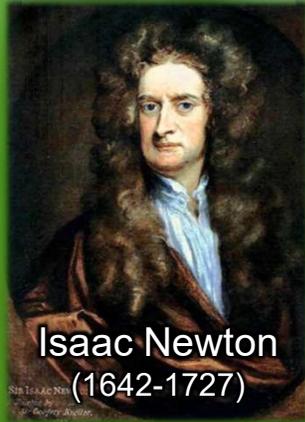
- ✓ *Born in Amsterdam in 1632*
- ✓ *Contemporaries include:*



Blaise Pascal  
(1623-1662)



John Locke  
(1632-1704)



Isaac Newton  
(1642-1727)



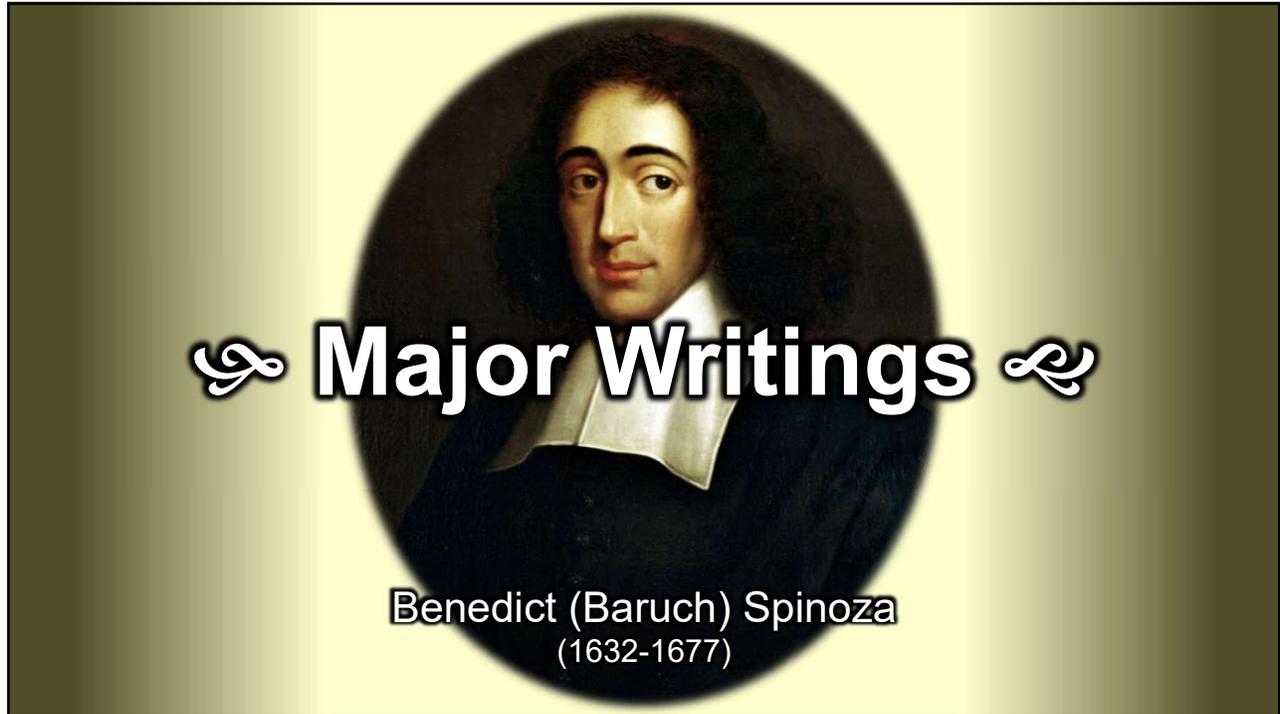
Gottfried Leibniz  
(1646-1716)

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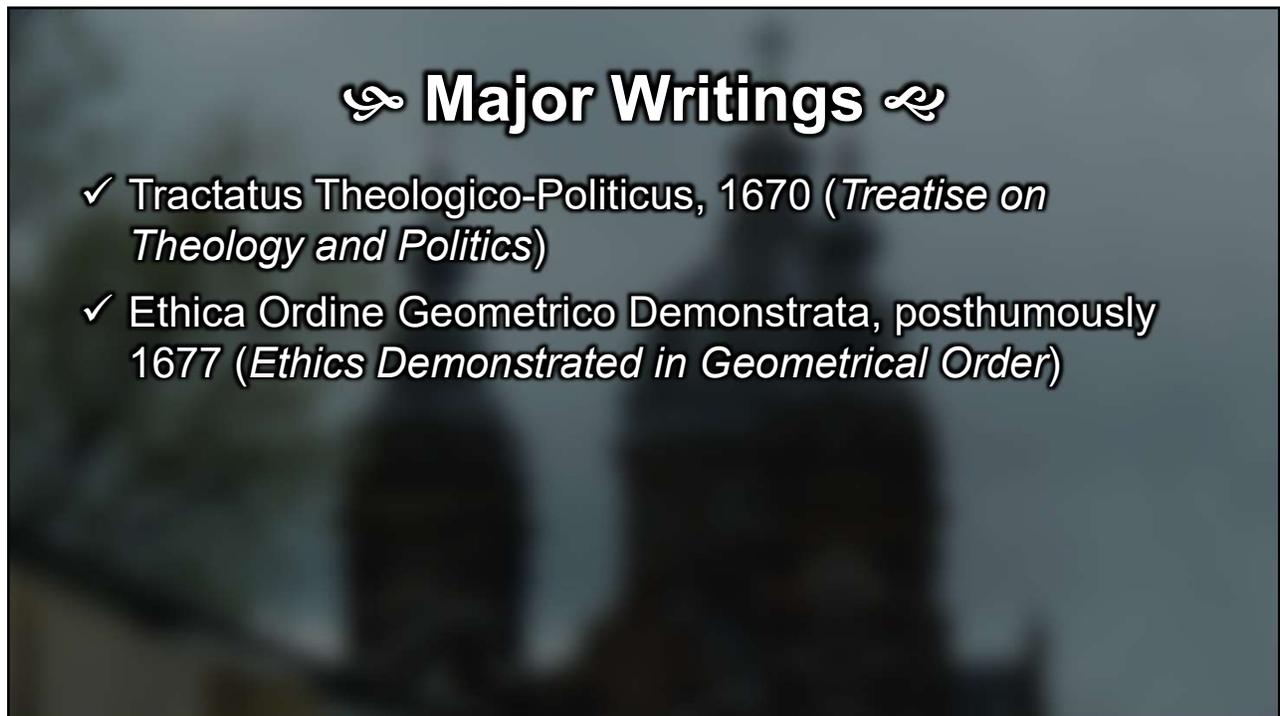
## ∞ Spinoza Factoid ∞

- ✓ *Lens grinder by trade*
- ✓ *Gifted in:*
  - ✓ *languages (Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew, Latin)*
  - ✓ *philosophy (scholasticism, the "new" Cartesianism)*
- ✓ *Condemned as a heretic by his Jewish community*

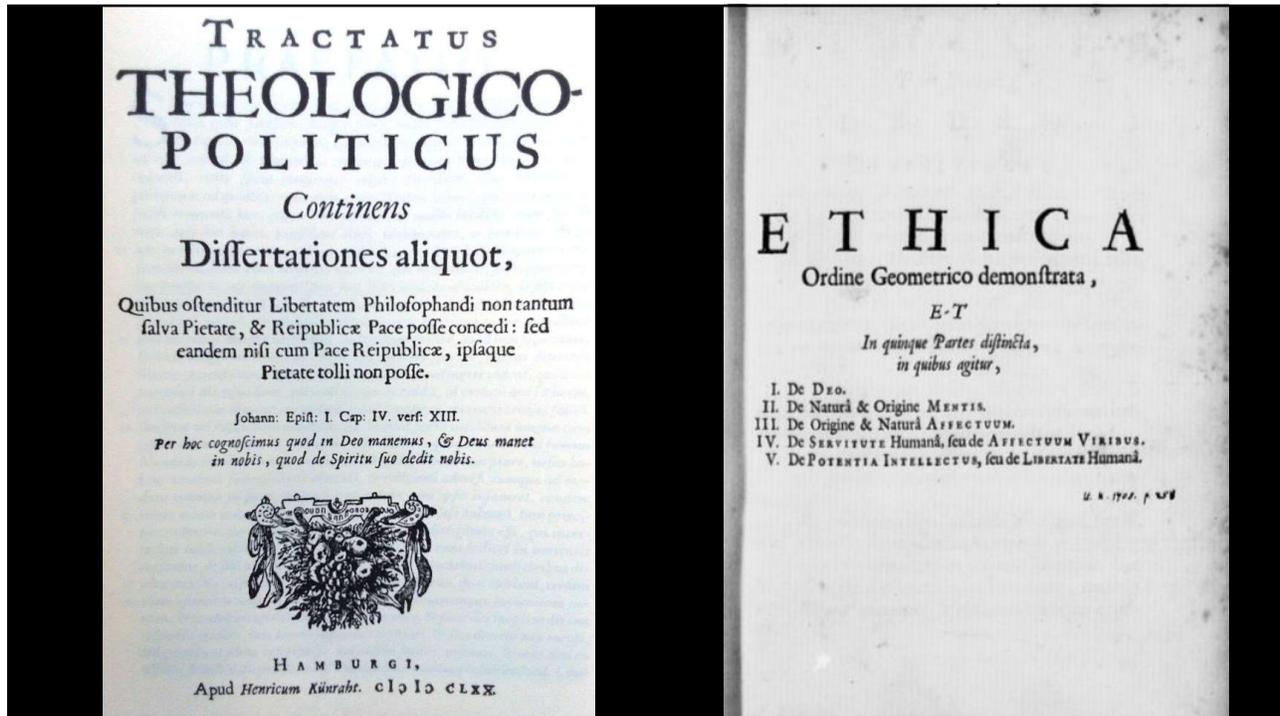
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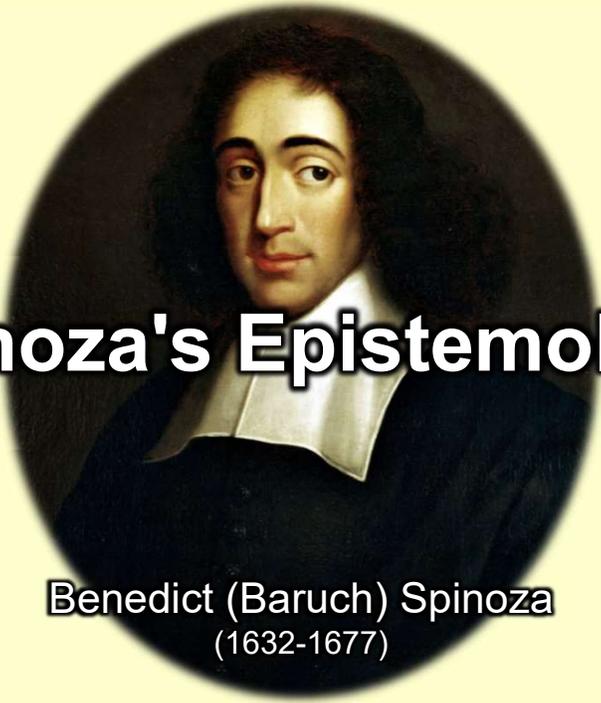


10

## ☞ Spinoza's Method ☞

- ✓ Like his predecessor Descartes, Spinoza was a Rationalist.
- ✓ Unlike his predecessor Descartes, Spinoza sought to explicitly utilize the "geometrical" method in his writing.

11



## ☞ Spinoza's Epistemology ☞

Benedict (Baruch) Spinoza  
(1632-1677)

12

# Spinoza's Epistemology

## The Nature of Truth

- ❖ *"The Rational is the Real."*
- ❖ *Reality operates according to logical necessity.*

## Three levels of Cognition

- ❖ *opinion or imagination*
- ❖ *reason*
- ❖ *intuition*

[William F. Lawhead, *The Voyage of Discovery* (Belmont: Wadsworth, 1996), 262-263]

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# Spinoza's Metaphysics

Benedict (Baruch) Spinoza  
(1632-1677)

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## Spinoza's Metaphysics

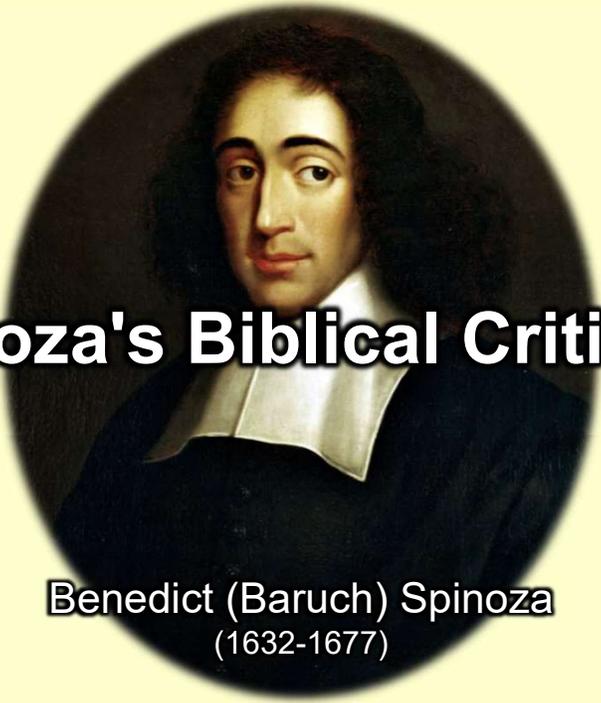
### Substance, Attribute, and God

- ❖ **Substance:** "By substance I understand what is in itself and is conceived through itself;"
- ❖ **Attribute:** "By attribute I understand what the intellect perceives of a substance, as constituting its essence;"
- ❖ **God:** "By God I understand a being absolutely infinite, i.e., a substance consisting of an infinity of attributes, of which each one expresses an eternal and infinite essence."

[*Ethics*, Pt. I, iii, iv, vi, trans. R. H. M. Elwes *The Chief Works of Benedict de Spinoza* (New York: Dover, 1955), 45]

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism



Benedict (Baruch) Spinoza  
(1632-1677)

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Historical-Critical Method of Biblical Studies:** a method of analysis of the biblical text that is generally characterized by an assumption of naturalism
- ❖ This method has given rise to what is often referred to as Biblical Criticism.
- ❖ It is to be contrasted with the Historical/Grammatical Method.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Historical-Grammatical Method of Biblical Studies:** a method of analysis of the biblical text used by more theologically conservative scholars.
- ❖ The abiding assumption is that the text of the Bible should be understood in its historical context according to the normal rules of grammar, allowing for the possibility of the supernatural.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Historical-Grammatical Method of Biblical Studies:** a method of analysis of the biblical text used by more theologically conservative scholars.
- ❖ Thus, when the text speaks of an event such as Jesus walking on the water, this method avoids trying to "explain away" the event as myth or legend simply because it is miraculous.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Biblical criticism or Higher Criticism:** a method utilizing the Historical-Critical Method with its assumptions of naturalism of studying the origins and backgrounds of the books of the Bible
- ❖ Because of the anti-supernatural assumptions of its method (regardless of the personal views of the biblical critic himself), biblical criticism invariably came to radical conclusions about the authors of various books of the Bible.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ For example, because the latter half of the book of Isaiah mentions a figure (Cyrus) who did not live until about 200 years after Isaiah, the biblical critics concluded that this section of the book of Isaiah must have been written later by a different author than Isaiah.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ But this conclusion follows only if it is not possible that Isaiah could have known the future.
- ❖ Since the biblical critics assumed that it was impossible for a person to know the future (because of their anti-supernatural or naturalistic assumptions) then it was not possible in their estimation for Isaiah to have written the second part of the book of Isaiah.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ One should note that the question of whether miracles are possible is a philosophical question (and not a literary question) regarding whether God exists or not.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Liberalism (or theological liberalism)**: In the context of theological studies, liberalism is generally characterized by a naturalistic approach to religion in terms of which the supernatural is either downplayed or denied.
- ❖ The assumption of naturalism generally leads to a denial of the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the deity of Christ, and the reality of miracles.

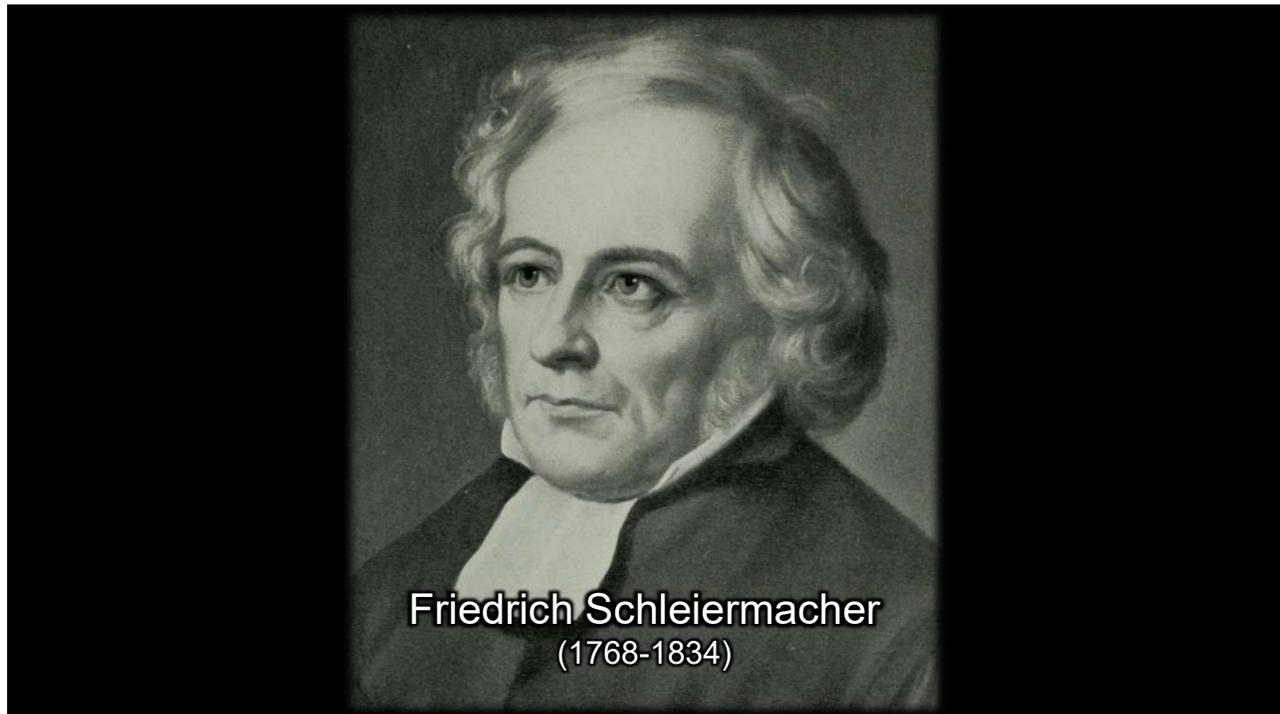
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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Liberalism (or theological liberalism)**: In the context of theological studies, liberalism is generally characterized by a naturalistic approach to religion in terms of which the supernatural is either downplayed or denied.
- ❖ The first major professional Protestant liberal theologian was Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834).

25



Friedrich Schleiermacher  
(1768-1834)

26

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ Though Schleiermacher himself affirmed the existence of God (and, hence, the reality of the supernatural) he nevertheless denied the reality of any propositional or cognitive supernatural revelation from God and denied any supernatural origins or aspect to the Bible.

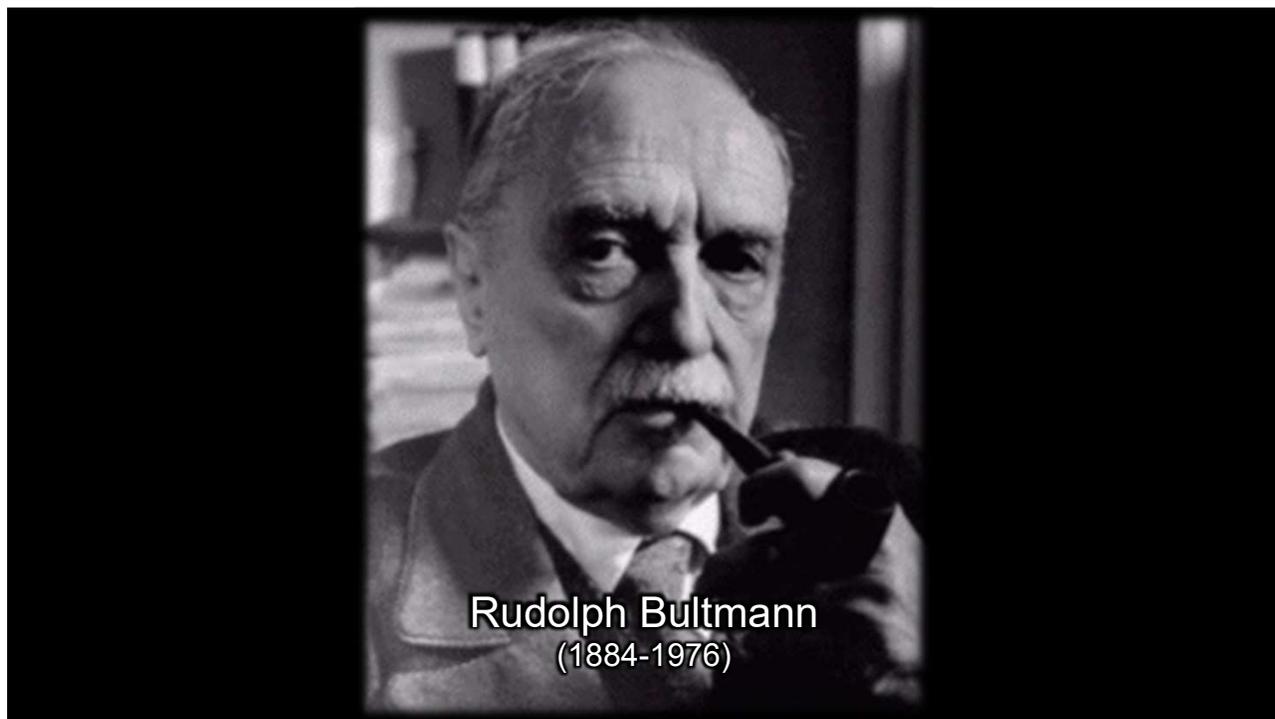
27

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ The German theologian Rudolph Bultmann is largely responsible for the increase of liberalism in Christian studies in the 20th Century.

28



Rudolph Bultmann  
(1884-1976)

29

## ❧ Spinoza's Biblical Criticism ❧

### Terms

- ❖ Bultmann believed that the Bible was written within a context of a primitive, if not superstitious, culture (containing what he called myths) and thus must be demythologized for the modern reader.

30

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ To de-mythologize means to strip the Bible of all of its supernatural or miraculous elements, including the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In some contexts, the term 'liberal' is used generically (if somewhat inaccurately) for any theological thinking that falls outside of evangelicalism.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ **Neo-Orthodoxy**: meaning, new orthodoxy, a label attached to a body of theology that began to rise to prominence from the late 19th into the early 20th centuries in an attempt to counter-act the detrimental effects of liberalism (or theological liberalism) in Christianity.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ Both neo-orthodoxy and liberalism stand in contrast (though in different ways) to evangelicalism.
- ❖ The increasing use of the historical-critical method of biblical studies among scholars led to a move away from theological conservatism.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ This move by employing the historical-critical method led in some circles to the rise of theological liberalism.
- ❖ Neo-orthodoxy came about to stave off this theological liberalism while granting the legitimacy of the historical-critical method.
- ❖ It sought to marry much of orthodoxy with such a method.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ Early manifestations of neo-orthodoxy can be seen in Baptist thinkers such as:
  - Crawford H. Toy (1836-1919)
  - John Clifford (1836-1923)
  - William Newton Clarke (1841-1912).

35

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ These stood in stark contrast to the evangelical thinking of other Baptists such as:
  - Basil **Manly**, Jr. (1825-1892)
  - John **Broad**us (1827-1894)
  - James Petigru Boyce (1827-1888)
  - B. H. Carroll (1843-1914).

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ The term 'neo-orthodoxy' did not come into use until the 20th Century.
- ❖ It reached its most mature development in the thinking of the Swiss theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968).

37



Karl Barth  
(1886-1968)

38

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ The significance of neo-orthodoxy for the evangelical is its view of the nature of Scripture.
- ❖ Neo-orthodoxy drove a wedge between what it maintained was the actual Word of God and the mere "record" of God's acting.

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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ In neo-orthodox theology, the actual Word of God consists of God's acting in the affairs of mankind and/or an individual's "encounter" with God so acting.
- ❖ In other words, for neo-orthodoxy, the Word of God is the religious experience or "encounter" that one has when that one reads the Bible.

40

## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

- ❖ Neo-orthodoxy denies that the Bible is itself the Word of God, maintaining instead that the Bible is only the "record" of these acts of God in history.
- ❖ Sometimes this was described as the Bible "containing" the Word of God.

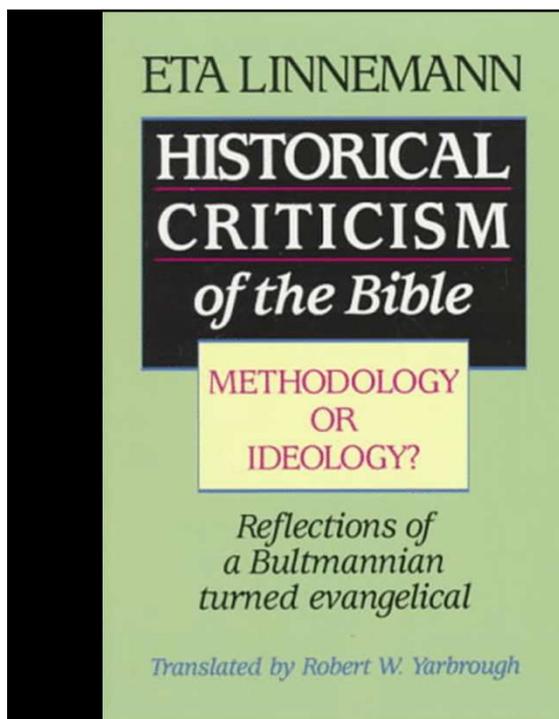
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## Spinoza's Biblical Criticism

### Terms

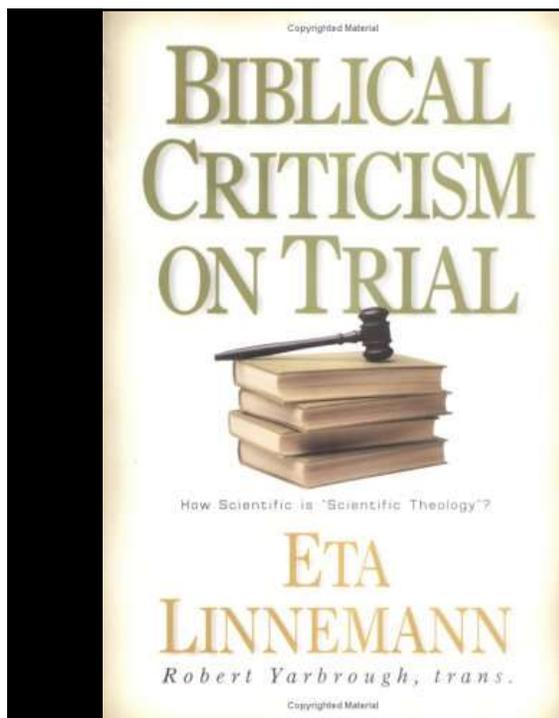
- ❖ This enabled neo-orthodoxy to allow for errors in the record, i.e., in the Bible, without seemingly impugning the integrity of God.

42



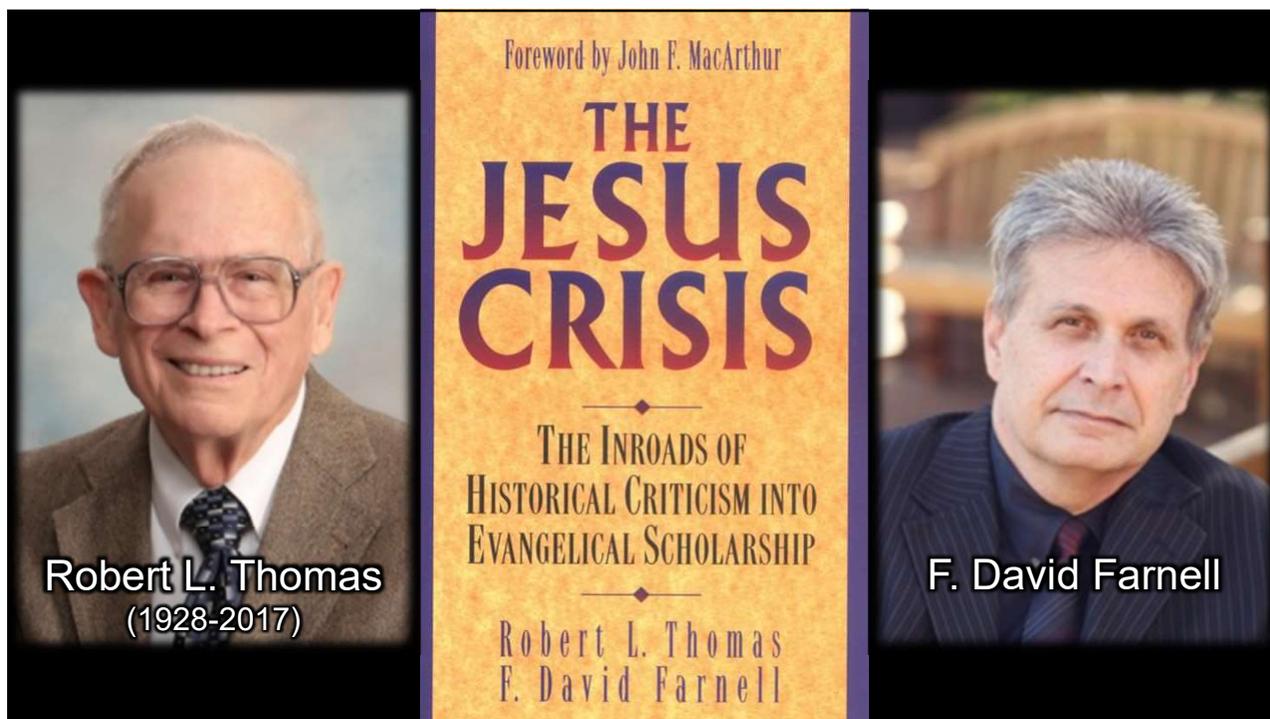
Eta Linnemann  
(1926-2009)

43

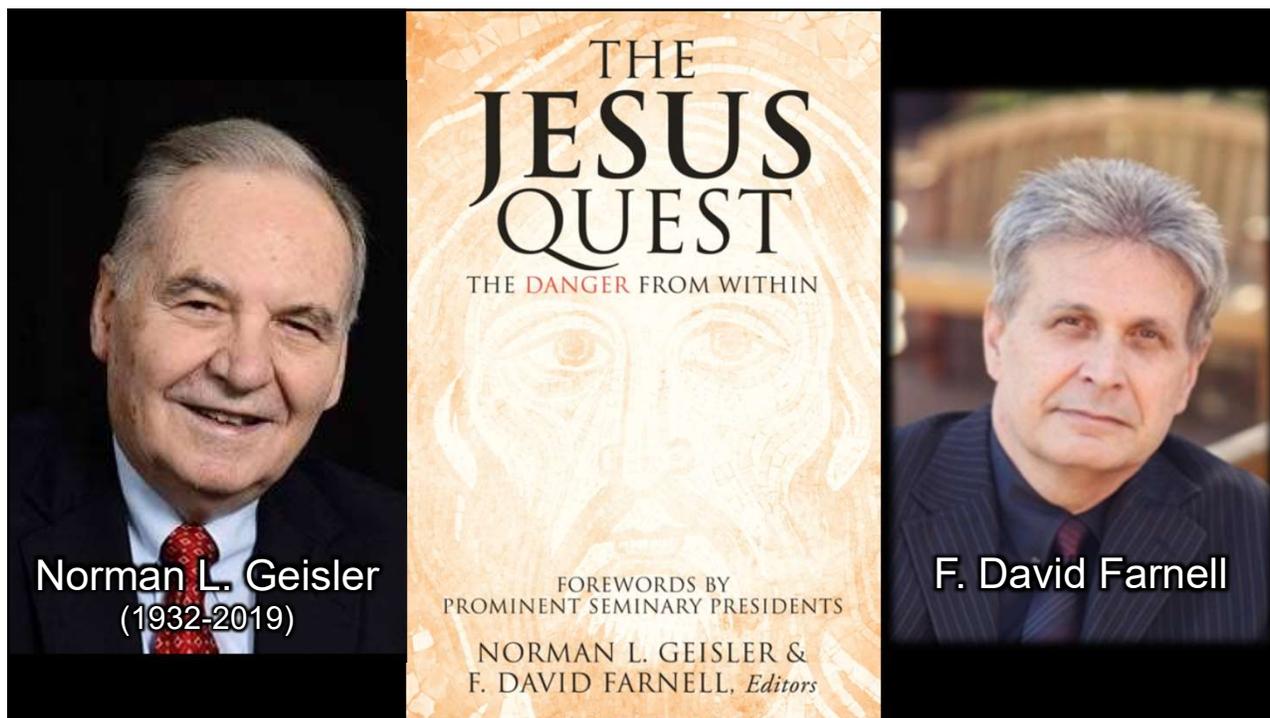


Eta Linnemann  
(1926-2009)

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