

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Week 0

When interpreting the Bible, don't try to reinterpret the clear based on the obscure. PK

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Introductions

Name

Years at Gloria Dei

Bible Knowledge Self-Rating (1 – new to Bible, 2 – beginner, 3 – average, 4 – experienced, 5 – expert)

Why Bethel?

Logistics

Weekly Class Agenda - Will start on time

7:45	9:15	6:45	Pre-Class Q & A
7:50	9:20	6:50	Sign-in, Pick up Handout and Bible Reading Slips
8:00	9:30	7:00	Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer
8:05	9:35	7:05	Past Lesson Review and Homework Review
			Research Project Presentation (<i>InDepth Bethel only</i>)
			New Lesson
9:00	10:30	9:30	Distribute Bethel Materials and Homework

During the Week - *You get out more than you put in*

Read Bethel Materials

Review class notes and handouts in light of the Bethel materials

Read assigned Bible portions - The bulk of the homework time

Will end up reading entire Bible through this course (*InDepth Bethel only*)

Use a good study Bible with notes - Concordia Self-Study or NIV Study Bible

Audio Bible will help if you are time-constrained

Complete homework, Memorize picture concepts and memory concepts

Make note of any questions

Research Projects - *InDepth Bethel only*

The person who gets the most out of any class is the instructor

Each week a question will be assigned to someone to research

That person will give a 5-minute presentation of their findings at the next class

Everyone in class will take turns

Course Outline and Schedule

Course material fees: \$ 35 for Sundays (First Year), \$ 75 for Mondays (Two Years)

Weekly email will include class handout, homework, class info and prayer requests

Class handouts and recordings will be posted at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Bethel

For Certificate of Completion: 100% of InDepth classes, 75% of Standard classes

If you miss a class, work through handout while listening to recording

Send me an email when you complete in order to get credit for the class

Persevere - You will be glad you did

Comments from past Bethel Students

Commitment Forms

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True North

Stand up and close your eyes
Who is correct?
Is there really a true north?
1 degree error

What Is Bethel?

Aimed at the adult mind
Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Provides knowledge basis of the Scriptures
Matthew 22:29

Refers to Bible, not commentary
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Provides an overview
Ephesians 3:2-6

Builds base for future in-depth study
Philippians 3:12-16

Provides retainer tools (pictures and concepts)
Matthew 13:34

Lecture oriented with discussion
Acts 17:11

Requires discipline
Hebrews 12:11

What Bethel is not

Seminar series
Survey course
In-depth analysis
Final study

Bethel Video

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Principles of Interpreting the Bible

Limitation Principle

Bible is limited on what it says, doesn't answer every question (John 20:30-31)

Religious vs. Scientific Principle

Bible is not a scientific textbook

Historical Principle

Consider in light of historical setting

Literary Principle

Recognize the literary style of a writing

Shelf Principle

Put preconceived notions on a shelf when you read the Bible

Law / Gospel Principle

Understand how they differ and how they work together

Hebrew vs. Greek Thought Principle

Recognize the difference between Eastern and Western thought

Skit - *It Sounds Greek to Me*

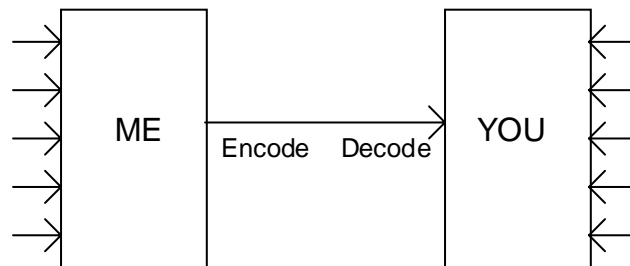
Think Hebrew

Look for the CARGO.

Don't focus on the VEHICLE.

I've never killed a chicken for my dinner...

Words are the Vehicle. Listen for the Cargo.



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Cargo of the Bible

HIS STORY

God works His Plan through and with people

Examples in Historical Events

The Exodus Event (Exodus, Joshua)

Vehicles:

Cargo:

Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13, 19)

Vehicles:

Cargo:

Examples in Peoples' Lives

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Vehicles:

Cargo:

Moses (Exodus, 2:1-3:10)

Vehicles:

Cargo:

Paul (Acts and Epistles, Acts 9:1-19)

Vehicles:

Cargo:

Think Hebrew

Look for the CARGO.

Don't focus on the VEHICLE.

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Closing Prayer

Distribute Homework

Next Week - *Creation and its Concepts*

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Hebrew vs. Greek Thought

Hebrew (Eastern)

Corporate
Concrete
All 5 Senses
Non-Systematic
Paradox
Religious Definition
Function
Allusion to Things
Numbers used as Ideas
Reality Found in History
Time is Linear
Cargo (Meaning Behind a Story)
Eye
2 Dogs Killed a Lion
Evil == Snake
Live in Time
Passive, Likes to Contemplate
Accept World as it is
Live in Peace with Nature
Freedom of Silence
Marry first, Then love
Conceal love from world
Desire to want less
Austerity
Poverty is spiritual elevation

Greek (Western)

Individual
Abstract
Mind
Systematic
Logic
Scientific Understanding
Appearance
Everything is Defined
Numbers are Quantitative
Reality Found in Eternity
Time is Cyclical
Vehicle (Details of a Story)
Ear
In Union There is Strength
Evil - 20 Definitions in Dictionary
Live in Space
Aggressive, Likes to Act
Try to Change the World
Try to Impose on Nature
Freedom of Speech
Love first, Then marry
Show love to the world
Desire to want more
Gracious living
Poverty is degradation

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES

(HERMENEUTICS)

What we bring to Scripture from our background, our education, our tradition determines to a greater degree than we like to admit what we draw from our reading. In short, our presuppositions too often get in the way.

The Bible is an eastern (Hebrew) form of religious literature and in order for us, who have a western (Greek) mindset, to properly understand the Bible we need to make a major mental shift from:

West-----to-----East
 Greek-----to-----Hebrew

When we read the Bible we need to read it in its own terms, not imposing upon it the thought forms of our scientific, technological, rational western way of thinking.

Some characteristics of:

Hebrew Thinking

Greek Thinking

Holistic (concerned with totality).	Analytical (concerned with parts)
Poetic	Scientific
Asks “Why?”	Asks “How?”
Asks “Meaning?”	Asks “Cause?”
Asks “Destiny?”	Asks “Origins?”
Feelings/intuition	Thought
Imagination	Reason
Supernatural/mystery	Natural
Theology	Technology
Describes	Defines
Concrete/picture language	Abstract
Corporate	Individual
Figurative/Symbolic	Literal
Particular/Incarnational	General
Reality	Ideal
Involved	Detached
Dynamic	Static

When you are able to Perceive: The Faith The Message The “Cargo” Of biblical expression, you are “thinking Hebrew”	When you are preoccupied and “hung-up” with: The Framework or Form The Medium The “Vehicle” of biblical expression, you probably have limited yourself to “thinking Greek”
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