

# 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](http://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

# Bethel Bible Series

## Orientation

Page 2

### 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

# Bethel Bible Series

## Orientation

Page 3

### 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*

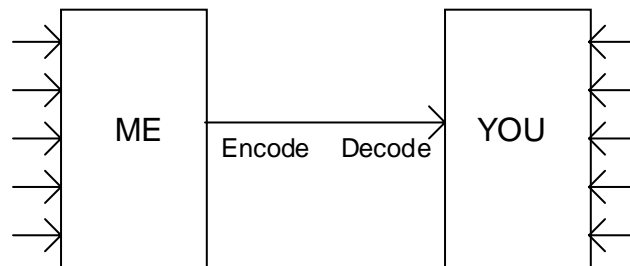
### Think Hebrew

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.



# Bethel Bible Series

## Orientation

Page 4

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.

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Closing Prayer

Distribute Homework

Next Week - *Creation and its Concepts*

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## Orientation

Page 5

### 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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