

GOD'S WAY OF TEACHING

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Pr 25:2: *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.* The words 'thing' and 'matter' are translated from the same Hebrew word, *dabar*, Strong's 1697. The equivalent Greek word, is *logos* ⁽³⁰⁵⁶⁾. Not only do these words carry the meaning of a 'word', but also the idea of a collection of words, i.e. saying, concept, and precept. How and what has God concealed that we are to search out? **Mt 13:10-11:** *10. And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speak thou unto them in parables? 11. He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries ⁽³⁴⁶⁶⁾ of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.* Things about the kingdom of heaven are mysteries, hidden or secret things. And these things are revealed by the parables, allegories and stories of history (cf Gal 4:22-24). Was Jesus being exclusive when he said to others, it was not given? In a parallel to this incident, others besides the disciples ask the meaning of the parable, and Jesus told them the same thing (Mk 4:10-11). When the context is read, we realize anyone asking for the meaning are said to have 'ears to hear'. The condition to advancing in God's knowledge is always to obey what you hear (Mt 7:24). And the Gospel of the Kingdom is similar to learning mathematics. You must begin with a foundation and build upon it.

This study addresses small drops of water, or, symbols. With the understanding of a collection of symbols, one can begin to discern parables, stories, etc. Consider water as an example: **Jn 4:10:** In the dialogue with the woman at the well, Jesus stated, *...if thou knew the gift of God, and who it is.. speaking with you, ...thou would have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.* Exactly what did Jesus mean by LIVING WATER? **Jer 17:13:** *O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.* Yahweh is the source of living water. A fountain or well can refer to a holy or unholy person, a source of words, cf 2 Pet 2:17. Symbolically, we drink out of a well for salvation, Isa 12:3.

Jn 7:37-39: *37 And in the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any one doth thirst, let him come unto me and drink; 38 he who is believing in me, according as the Writing said, Rivers out of his belly shall flow of living water; 39 and this he said of the Spirit, which those believing in him were about to receive; for not yet was the Holy Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.* (Young's Bible). Living water is a symbol for the holy Spirit. Did you notice that when we go to Jesus, he will give us to drink, and living water will flow out of our bellies (thoughts from the mind)? The Father is the source of living water, who gives to the Son, who gives to the prophet, who gives to the church (Rev 1:1).

Pr 18:4: *The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.* Water = words; Man's words are 'deep water' and God's words are 'living water'. A river or brook would be a stream of thought, as a lake or the sea would be a collection of thoughts, or a way of thinking. **Deut 32:1-2:** *1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew,...* God likens rain and dew to His doctrine & speech, which is composed of a collection of words. **Isa 55:10-11:** *10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:..* Rain and snow, which water the earth, represent God's word. Other forms of water are frost, hail, vapor, etc. I believe the various forms are used because they give different shades of meaning in scripture. **Eze 34:18:** *It seems a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?* God's people (sheep) have 'drunk of the deep waters'. i.e. They listened to, and obeyed men's words (Pr 18:4). The feet represent the direction of your heart, or thinking, and the application of truth in your life. (Like, 'walk in the light').

Isaiah 57:20: *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. A sea of troubled waters, stirred up by the wind (spirit), indicates the way of thinking of the wicked. The sea represents the Gentiles, or the worldly, Isa 60:5: Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because, the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*

Rev 17:1, 15: *1. And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters... 15. And he saith unto me, The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. It appears from verse 15 that water = people. However, verse one is key to understanding verse 15, which applies to a type of people that the woman controls. The word 'many', describing waters, also can be translated 'great'. (See Rev 19:6 - "great" & "many" are translated from the same Greek word). The great waters of the earth are the seas. The sea is a figure of 'worldly people'. Therefore, the woman controls the people who have worldly thinking, but not God's people.*

Symbols can represent holy or unholy, something external and literal, or internal and spiritual. The whole Bible is like a river. In the book of Revelation is a collection of symbols. In order to understand the book, you go back up the river and search out the symbol. When once enough symbols are understood, then the particular topic begins to come into focus. **Rev 9:10:** *And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. The locusts are like scorpions which have stings in their tails. Eze 2:6: And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. The Lord told Ezekiel in symbolic language, that the house of Israel is like scorpions, a rebellious people. Isa 9:15: The ancient and honorable, he is the head; and the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. A tail is a symbol of a prophet that teaches lies. There are many more symbols in the 5th & 6th trumpets. However, you can begin to get the idea that there is an army of messengers teaching a false message. Does this not apply today?*

The Bible is the mind of God written in men's words. The study of it should be approached with reverence and prayer. Every person can obtain enough knowledge for salvation. **1 Jn 2:20, 27:** *20. But ye have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One, and ye know all things..... 27. But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but, as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. We can know what we need for our salvation through the Spirit of Christ. While we learn from others, only God can confirm the truth in our hearts. (Cf 2 Tim 2:7).*

Psalm 1:1-3: *Blessed is the man that walks **not** (does not follow the thinking of) in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. 2. But his delight is in the law (instruction) of the LORD; and in his law (written word) doth he meditate day and night. 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of (living) water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither (for lack of water); and, whatsoever he does shall prosper.*

May the anointing of the Holy Spirit rest upon you as you study God's word. Amen.