

Divine Science School Washington, DC

Old Testament

**A metaphysical study into understanding the Mysticism
of God in all things, and the spiritual psychology of these stories**

The Old Testament reveals the growth in awareness of each of us from duality and rearranging effects to the awakening of the Christ Self.

Suggested Reading for this course:

Holy Bible King James Version

(Scofield Study Bible)

Metaphysical Bible Dictionary

(Charles Fillmore Reference Library)

The Revealing Word

(A Dictionary of Metaphysical Terms)

***Note; An asterisk denotes a definition worth looking into
via the suggested readings.**

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In The Name of Our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Compiled by

Rev. Dr. Craig Harris, Rev. Evelyn Ato, and Rev. Mary Emma Dryden

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BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 1

Introduction to the Old Testament and The Seven Days of Creation (The seven steps of infinite awareness)

Introduction to the Old Testament

This course recognizes that the Biblical text is multilayered in its meaning. The course draws somewhat upon the findings of modern scholarship, which give a historical, literary, and linguistic context to the teachings and narratives of the Old Testament. Our focus will be to understand the deep spiritual meaning of these stories using the tools of ***metaphysics** to help unfold and uncover the inner knowledge of our innate mysticism which is God Consciousness.

While there are limits to what can be covered in a basic course, it also affirms the importance of the Bible's rich imagery and symbolism. This is basic to spiritual interpretation as a treasure map of the soul, of varying states of consciousness. Certain branches of modern psychology and scholarship affirm the fact of universal symbolic images and patterns in the Bible and other literature. In fact, the Bible represents a vast range of human imagination, though its message is not limited to it.

Also, we recognize that the Bible is a Book of Life in that it reveals, through the medium of human experience, the expanding understanding of God in the consciousness of humanity. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Humanity's understanding of God grows and unfolds as the individual spiritually awakens. Thus, while we affirm without hesitation that the Bible is divinely inspired, the element of human authorship must also be considered. All statements in the Bible cannot be taken to be equally valid, enlightened, or inspired.

The Old Testament prophetic tradition has an enduring message in helping to outline the direction of spiritual growth and awakening. It truly is not enough to have only a linear understanding. As we allow ourselves to explore and evolve, we begin to see these stories as a patterned, holistic view of language and brain function. These stories evolve in Christ Mind, which can be found as early as the story of Creation and Abraham. We constantly see it making manifest throughout the Old Testament. Both Isaiah and John in many ways were very much Christ-like. As our understanding of life evolves so does our realization that we are of the same nature as divine principle.

The beginnings of Old Testament literature were in the form of story-telling, which is a highly civilized art. People expressed and transmitted ideas, information, and stories orally from generation to generation (a process still important in many cultures). This early literature included poetry, songs, and myths which sought to explain the mysteries of the universe, and legends which were partly based on fact and were in a sense primitive history.

The Bible was not all written at once. The Hebrew people, over a period of about 1000 years, gradually composed a body of religious literature. Over the centuries, and in at least three stages, the Jewish authorities selected and accepted certain parts of this literature as authoritative.

Their full canon, consisting of the 39 books of what today we call the Old Testament, did not become final until a council of rabbis met about 90 A.D.

We know that there were many compilers and editors. The collection of books known as the Bible grew out of a variety of records which achieved a unity through the action of Spirit. Emmet Fox, a prominent Divine Science author and minister, noted: "As you read the Bible, you should constantly affirm that Divine Wisdom is enlightening you. That is the way to get direct inspiration."

Most forms of literature and phases of life are found in the Bible. These literary forms include history, biography, drama, poetry, legal codes, letters, sermons, philosophy, songs, love stories, parables, allegories, and fables.

Dialects of classical Hebrew and closely related Semitic languages are especially notable for their lyrical and poetic nature. This is a fact that must be given great weight in matters of interpretation. They pulled more from the right side of their brain (artistic side). The way they expressed themselves was in part due to their not believing in idol worshipping. It was forbidden in their religious beliefs. This in part compensated in helping to give a more emotional visionary understanding to their beliefs. Also it helped to create a language that others could not understand; such as the Assyrians and the Romans.

The word "testament" originally meant covenant or agreement. In the Biblical sense, there is no recognition between God and human beings. God and God alone sets the conditions, and we either accept or reject them. To those who are obedient, God faithfully keeps His word.

The Old Testament gives the origin and history of God's covenant with Israel, as delivered to Moses and as interpreted and practiced by the Hebrews in later centuries. The books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy outline various laws and regulations of this covenant. The Book of Genesis also mentions two earlier covenants, given to Noah (9: 1-17) and Abraham (15: 1-21).

The Old Testament in its moral and ethical dimension, emphasizes the supremacy of ***righteousness**. The Hebrews deeply believed that the Lord our God is a righteous God, and righteousness is what He expects from His people. They believed that people are rewarded or punished according to this demand for righteousness and justice. An example is the Book of Job, in which Job's friends insist that he is suffering because he has sinned.

The Old Testament leads into the New Testament which interprets the life and teachings of Jesus. In Divine Science, there is only one Covenant with God which Jesus revealed through his life, teachings, and healings. It is called the Law of Expression. It states, in brief: As we think, act and feel in accordance with Omnipresence of God, and thus represent Truth in our ***consciousness**, we manifest wholeness and harmony in our individual lives. Thus it is that like produces like. God as a man is not two, but one. Here and now we are the living expression of God.

The Bible, in a deeper sense, is the story of your life and mine. In tracing the spiritual development of the Hebrew people, in considering the various individual characters, and in relating

the Bible's imagery and symbolism to ourselves, we are also tracing the development of the individual and of our own states of mind and consciousness.

The Bible is an extraordinary record of human experience, imagination and inspiration. Basic to its message is the revelation of God to humanity. The Hebrews preserved the Old Testament with the conviction that it revealed what God had done for them as His people.

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

Required Reading: Genesis 1 and 2: 1-4

The story of creation is not something God does or did: IT IS WHAT GOD IS. It teaches us that we do not pray to God but from the consciousness of God.

The authors of the Bible were essentially poets, using words symbolically and as forms; in the same way as Shakespeare. i.e. book of Arden: "tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stone."

The seven days of creation is a template, schematic, and blue print, all rolled up into one; guiding and teaching us. It provides us what we need to discover ourselves as a child of God in oneship.

The same numbers appear throughout the Bible and refer to spiritual concepts, not days on a calendar. For example;

The number seven appears in the Bible 494 times. It represents perfection for that which is finished in spiritual completion.

Twelve is the number of spiritual fulfillment. It is the spiritual realization of divine perfection. Twelve is used 161 times in the Bible.

Forty represents periods, or stages of spiritual growth in consciousness. We find this number in the story of Moses, Elijah, Noah, when Jesus went into the desert and was by his disciples forty days after his resurrection (*Additional information can be found in Jack Ensign Addington's book: The Hidden Mystery of the Bible*).

Within the Bible are secrets to the universe. It is the finest mirror of life revealing incredible insights that allow us to evolve less as mankind and more in the image and likeness of God. However that mirror effect is lost if we just refer to it as a historical and literal document.

FIRST DAY Let There Be Light.

"Light": A term as insight into ourselves, guidance, and awareness. In other words "consciousness" At first the Heaven and the earth were void but now there is light. Why? There is an inner awakening to the secrets of the universe or God's I am. His Principle of Truth is given to us. We are to use this light and not abuse it: the truth is that all is Holy Ground.

The illumination we seek is the knowledge of God within us as it is all around us. There is no separation. Light exists in many forms in the outer world. There's a spectrum of light. External light

is just electromagnetic radiation. Electromagnetic radiation encompasses X-rays, gamma rays, ultraviolet light, infrared light, radio waves, and visible light. Human eyes only see one type of light: visible light. So every type of light you observe is visible light, and yet all these other forms of light do exist.

Then there is the inner light, the spirit self-made whole in God perfection, expressing, evolving, and extrapolating in God Idea in its perfect creative expression. From the deep inner knowledge and wisdom of God Mind comes the illuminating understanding that the infinite moment is now.

We often think illumination is only for the gurus, the elite masters, or the gifted ones with spiritual insight; but it there within us all as one.

Let there be light is omnipresent. Wherever you are so is the light and that light is omniscient and omnipotent. When Jesus said I am the light of the world, He was referring to the "I AM" the Divine Light awakened into the experience of our "I am-ness". God Is I AM, God is...I am. There is no separation; everything is the consciousness of One Mind.

SECOND DAY Let There Be a Firmament

The Hebrew conception was that the earth was surmounted by a rigid vault (a strength) called the firmament, above which the waters of a heavenly ocean were spread.

The early church believed that the firmament consisted only of the sky above and that the moon, sun, and stars existed for the sole benefit of the earth.

Galileo in 1632 proved that the earth rotated around the sun. He was nonetheless forced to recant his findings. With time we have come to accept his findings. We can not deny truth if we are truly seeking to know ourselves.

Science is such an important part of our evolution as well as our ***involution**. Man's discovery through science is simply expanding our awareness of God's work. The seven days of creation is the big bang. This principle exists in the tiniest seed to the largest galaxy. It is the creation of birth itself.

At first the focus was outward only. Today we know the sky is not a roof over our head but an infinite universe around us.

What caused such a radical change? Why do we need to question? It is that doubt that awakens us, motivates us, challenges us in realizing that what we know must surely be only a limited understanding of something far greater.

What makes us question is called faith. This is our firmament. It is God activity already working in us. It is that vital element we need in order to take that second step. It is as natural as breathing. When we feel a lack of faith it is only because we have allowed fear to be our faith. Worry is faith. Doubt is faith. Hopelessness is faith. It's not a lack of faith but having faith in the wrong things.

Within each of us is an infinite Divine reservoir of wisdom, love, and power. Jesus called it the Kingdom of God within you. The apostle Paul referred to it as "the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations...which is Christ in you, your hope of glory".

From the Lord's Prayer comes the understanding Thy Kingdom Come Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. The kingdom is the Allness of God, which is our divinity.

Paul proclaims that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith removes mountains of difficulty, increases one's power, and multiplies our ability.

In truth, faith is allowing something wonderful to happen.

On the second day God said Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters...and God called the firmament heaven; and the power of faith was unleashed.

THIRD DAY Let the Waters under the Heavens be gathered together and Let The Dry Land Appear

The creation is within us. It is God expressing through us in the eternal moment of now.

Quoting Paul; "Let the same mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."

The waters under the heavens are our abstract thoughts waiting to make manifest into creative substance. Until they do they will remain unstable and function in the race mind of personality, situations, conditions, and issues; falling short of God Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent. We can not spiritualize our human beliefs. We are constantly barraged in short comings and powerlessness. The murky waters continue to confuse the senses and we express from that confusion of hit and miss; often missing. We supply our thought process with the erroneous concept called luck.

The dry land is our perception of the mental images of our formed thoughts. It is our ability to see and trust what can be instead of what is. It moves from beyond our senses, awakened within the Divine Mind and coming forth.

We begin to see that we have been seeing life with dulled and discolored sight. ***However "God called the dry land earth, and the gathering together of waters called he the seas: and God saw that it was good."***

Earth is our outer consciousness of what is going on around us and expressed thoughts made manifest by our creative expression. Our awakening to the Truth that we are in the midst of God within and without, both visible and invisible, we begin to become rooted in our faith in God Consciousness. We begin the process of becoming a little less of the human senses and more of the God Mind. We do so because we are becoming more attracted to Truth in its infinite Wisdom, Grace, Peace, Love, and Mercy.

Our Seas are our human thoughts, beliefs, habits, and issues. They are our emotional high winds and raging storms; unpredictable and unreliable. These are the "waters under the heavens" from day three. It is here that we seek refuge in developing our faith in God. And God says, "That was perfect!"

It is the I Am releasing all that we are from within ourselves. When desire awakens from the silence of the Word, God through the individual then makes manifest into the visible world. This is the Divine Truth within; our true goodness in one-ship with God's Kingdom.

Where there is only water we now see land (possibility). This is our ability to align with God Consciousness as It creates anew. Thus we become masters of our destiny.

We are in charge of our thoughts and ideas and the emotions we attach to them. Our thoughts can be positive and sobering or, using the same energy, inadequate and limited. It is our choice. To be ambitious for prosperity yet feel poor; to desire healing but always feel weak and afflicted; is like trying to reach east but always traveling west. It is here we realize it is not the human will power that says "and it is so"; it is the Christ of God within that says, with authority, "and it is so!"

We begin to stop seeing these things as luck or super powers, or even miracles and coincidences, but as the natural order of God Principle at work on earth as it is in heaven. We have begun to accept that which our Father has given us so freely; the understanding that we are in the image and likeness and like begets like. It is the natural expression of life.

What image do we have of our dry land?

Once created we will vibrate with its reality, that which we have made manifest.

We limit perfection by filtering it through our own experience of reality. Let us use it in a way that we see ourselves as creative, positive and good.

In this realization let us realize that the third day of creation is the trinity of Truth (in Christ Mind). This is reality. It is law and from it comes order. To know is to express in the Word, and receive the ability to bring forth spiritually: *"And So It Is!"*

From that perspective let us say; "Let The Dry Land Appear".

FOURTH DAY Let There Be two Great Lights

Two Great Lights is the continuation of creation. The two great lights symbolize the awakening of understanding which is the sun, and the will which is the moon.

To be receptive to our imagination is to be in the consciousness of light, it is there in the open mindedness that the inner knowledge will come; and then the will or motivation to go forward.

The will here however is not human will alone- but God's will as one expressing through us and as us individually and indivisibly.

St Augustine wisely observed "Our heart is ever restless until it finds repose in God." In an answer to how does one do that? St. Augustine also noted "God is a circle whose center is everywhere and circumference is nowhere."

As we learn to work and live in the awareness of God expressing as us, we begin to open ourselves up more to the internal sun and become more conscious of its spiritual flow.

As the creative process unfolds the dry land appears, a direction, an idea, a project. And as the moon reflects the light of the sun, so the will must reflect the energy that is only of God Mind. When the will acts on its own it becomes emotional, willful, and stubborn; closing doors to one's own happy destiny. It is functioning in an erroneous state of error thought and denial.

This story of creation brings to us the correct way of prayer simply realizing, "God's will not mine be done", or even simpler and to the point "God's will be done!"

Let Go, Let God!

So when the will becomes willingness to “Let There Be”... then we are in our rightful place, just as the moon reflects the sun, we become centered in the creative expression of the Divine flow from the Two Great Lights of which there is no separation. As the given day is 24 hours; in and of it there is light and darkness; or like a breath, it consists of inhaling and exhaling. All is one.

FIFTH DAY Let the Waters Swarm with Living Creatures

In the Beginning God created the idea of the earth. Divine Ideas create thoughts; spiritual thoughts create things. *Selah. Stop and take time to contemplate this statement.*

On the fifth day creation represents the process evolving.

- Waters refers to the unexpressed capabilities in our mind- our great innate potential. Every mental proposition has an above and a below. Above the firmament are the unexpressed capabilities (waters) of the conscious mind resting in faith in Divine Mind. Below the firmament are the unexpressed capacities (waters) of the subconscious mind.
- Living Creatures are the dynamic thoughts in the mind.
- Swarming indicates the supportive activity of mind; the ongoing continuum of thoughts and ideas.
- Waters can also be a metaphor for vital energy.

In the world of physics everything is spiritual energy moving at different frequencies.

It is the nature of the mind for an idea to attract swarms of supportive and expansive thoughts. Often in the midst of this natural process we become overwhelmed just as things are taking shape; just as we are beginning to understand how to achieve our goals, our heads race and things appear to have run amok.

This is why the practice of prayer and meditation is so important to us and why you have already taken the courses Fundamentals, Spiritual Psychology, and Meditation before the study of Old Testament.

It is so vitally important to have faith and patience with the swarm of thoughts. To let them take place, to have faith that guidance is a continuum which unfolds to those who believe and that the appearance of chaos is only the swarm unfolding into organized thoughts; into a group or the ***soul** of our consciousness.

One of our biggest dilemma then lies in wondering which swarm of ideas is right for us. The unfoldment of discrimination and good judgment is the mechanism behind this, but it is in trusting this process. If you trust you will know, and you will know that you know. Often our intuition is lost to the race mind, but as we return and simply lift our eyes back into the heavens and return to the Father's House, we will have that innate intuitiveness that will uncover and direct us. From the abstract there is now the perfection of spiritual completion.

DAY SIX Let Us make man in Our Own Image

Two important words in this statement: Us and Our. First we have the Trinity of God Self. God the Father –Mother-Parent, God the Son, God the Spirit. All are of the One.

So on the sixth day “God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them...this is the Oneness of the universe.

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let him have dominion. We have been given the ability to use all that is within, to shape and form from the spark of involution to make manifest into the evolution of life.

In Genesis 1 it clearly states, “God created man in His image, Likeness...but then in Genesis 2 it states “there was no man to till the soil!”

First there is the invisible creative thought, the involution of creative Idea, the swarm of collected idea, then there is evolution; that which makes visible into the outer.

In His Likeness we are co-creating as one with God. There is no separation ever. Only in our illusions do we conger up such disharmony and error thought. Our pain and suffering, our fears and worries stem from depending solely on our self-will. To believe we are disconnected from something we are not ever disconnected from, creates a severe dysfunction in our daily living.

The original sin is a belief in separation from God; that God is out there somewhere. This is duality and to start at the essence of creation believing in the error thought of duality will only make manifest throughout our entire creative expression and thought process.

God is Omnipresent so He can't be just here or just there when He is everywhere, everything...The All of Allness.

In the Trinity- God the Son, again we see only the One. Many traditional Christians believe Christ as the “only begotten son” and the rest of us are miserable sinners dependent for salvation on accepting the only begotten.

Jesus of Nazareth son of Joseph and Mary discovered the divine dimension within Himself which we call the Christ. He made it clear that this is within us all: Christ Consciousness. We read in the Bible “Christ within you, your hope of glory”.

Christ is the Divine realty that Jesus knew within; the Son-ship of God expressing through us all. It is the “everything” that is of God as man.

Jesus knew this and gave us this key to unlock within us when he said,
“Love God with all your heart, body, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself”.

So what about the phrase “only begotten son”? The eternal is forever begetting the only begotten son. There is only one pattern or prototype for man, and that is the Christ, and that Christ is incarnated in each of us.

In Genesis the outer living Man has been claiming land, the seas, and now claiming parts of the air.

Today I claim my true right that I and The Father are one and I am of His cosmic universe; as we all are. His eternal abundance is within us all. We are the complete equal; never more, never less.

This does not take away the depth from which Jesus lived in the Christ; Christ is because God is. Whatever depth we live in the Christ, it is still the same Christ that was of Jesus.

Again, we can live in man's illusions and beget in family traditions, cultural habits, current fads, the value of one's time, but there is only God, His Truth and the Sonship of God which we call Christ.

There is no separation, there is no duality. The universe is whole. We need not lessen ourselves with man's illusions of short comings or his colorful rhetoric of fairy tales and limited fruits of copycat advice; the universe is whole.

That is where we can go. We can go to the source itself, right to the fountainhead of our soul and to know the most beautiful Truth of Truth; we are of God in His Likeness, nothing less than that. Anything less than that is a false misleading journey of errors contributing only to veil upon veil upon veil covering Truth, disrupting our natural state of well-being.

We are in the Likeness of God; not, God is in the likeness of us!

Seek ye first The Kingdom of God before asking. It is then in the knowing that what you ask you will receive. Know you are of the abundance of God's Glory because we are in the image of God.

The Seven Days of Creation is the First Revelation. All that we need to know has already been given freely to us...and it is good. Christ is already whole, perfect, and complete before the seventh day.

DAY SEVEN God saw everything He had made and it was Good. And on the seventh day God rested... Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God did not rest because He was tired; God rested because He was finished with His creation and in order to give us a model to follow, a maprest is part of His blessing. In this state of consciousness just let it be.

We are each on a lifelong quest for Truth; a pathway that we travel requiring practice, discipline, and persistence. This does not happen overnight; it is an ongoing process of letting and resting. It is to become more mindful to be conscious of daily Sabbaths or creative intermissions. We are to have spot checks during the day to reflect, contemplate and pray, more so than to show up on Sunday for an hour and then on Monday to put one's religion on a back burner for the next six days. This latter is not the model God created for us. Instead, daily practice frees us from the illusion of self will and returns us to the freedom of God's Will. One Mind, One Word, One Creative Thought, The I am of I AM.

God saw everything He made and it was Good.

In Summary:

Let there be light to see

The firmament which is our solid strength called faith

The dry land which is our creating abilities; where there was only water, now there is land

The two lights: understanding and will, our will as one with God's Will

Let the waters swarm with living creatures: our unexpressed capabilities of creative thoughts coming together in dynamic and creative thought

Let Us make man in our own image: we are in the Likeness of our Creator and have His inherent abilities right at hand in our daily living

God saw all He had made and said it was good and God rested: All is as it should be. We need only to be aware of this Truth which we can find in prayer, meditation and fellowship as His children.

The Life of God sustains all.

The Light of God illumines all.

The Love of God encircles all.

The Power of God makes safe our way.

The Joy of God lifts us into constant contact with infinite Spirit.

We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Assignment

1. Why may the Bible be called a Book of Life?
2. How many books make up the Old Testament?
3. The Hebrew people, gradually composed a body of religious literature now called the Old Testament. A thousand years undertaking, the Old Testament's present compilation of books remains pertinent today. How do the books in the Old Testament play an important part in our personal unfoldment today?
4. Write in not less than 300 words how the seven days of creation can relate to you in your daily life.