

# Spiritual Education and Enrichment Bible Interpretation: Hebrew Scriptures BI-605

Instructor's Name: Mark Hicks

Contact information: [mark@truthunity.net](mailto:mark@truthunity.net) (512) 923-1031

## Welcome

Welcome to the wonderful adventure of interpreting the Bible metaphysically. Open your mind and hearts to new, more useful meanings for some of the stories you already know.

## A. Course Description

An introduction to the metaphysical interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures in the Unity framework. Students will begin to understand and interpret the Hebrew Scriptures from a metaphysical viewpoint. The chief aim is that each student have the knowledge and skill to interpret scripture. They will learn to apply the teachings of the Hebrew Scriptures to their lives. Course will be lecture, discussion, and activities.

## B. Instructor Description

Instructor/facilitator puts his or her own biographical information here.

## C. Course Presentation

Students will be guided through how to interpret one sentence, then one paragraph, and then one story from the Hebrew Scriptures. In doing so students will also learn some of the commonly known interpretation of names and places.

## D. Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify and metaphysically interpret the main Hebrew Scripture characters
- Note: Metaphysically means the interpretation of things, words and events beyond what is written. It is going beyond the form and physical circumstances to the real meaning of them.
- Explain the metaphysical approach to interpretation and know how to use the process so that the student can metaphysically interpret a story on their own.
- Relate the metaphysical interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures to their spiritual journey

## E. Course Materials

Required:

- The Bible: (The New Revised Standard Version is recommended)
- Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, Unity An online version of the MBD, hyperlinked to the American Standard Version of the Bible is available at: <http://wiki.truthunity.net>
- Revealing Word, Charles Fillmore, Unity

Optional Materials:

- A journal to record your thoughts (for students' private use).

To order the books or any other material, please call Customer Service at 1-800-248-6489. To order through our Unity online bookstore, allow yourself a few weeks to receive the book. Go to <https://shop.unityworldhq.org>. To order from the oncampus Unity Bookstore call 816-524-3550 and ask for the bookstore.

## **F. Course Requirements and Assignments**

As a learner, this course will require from you:

1. Attend, participate in class activities, do the assigned homework
2. Write a 500 – 800 page paper interpreting the following stories or another of your choice:
  - The Fall of Humankind—Genesis 3
  - Cain and Abel—Genesis 4
  - Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac—Genesis 22:1-14
  - Jacob's Ladder—Genesis 28:10-22
  - Moses and the Burning Bush—Exodus 3
  - The Golden Calf—Exodus 32
  - David and Goliath—1 Samuel 17:39-52
  - The Fiery Furnace—Daniel 3

## **G. Student Evaluation**

- Grading:
  - S (Satisfactory)
  - NC (No Credit)
  - IN (Incomplete)
- Number of Course Credits: 10

## **H. Instructor's Commitment**

I will come to class prepared to engage the class in the discussion of metaphysically interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures stories and characters. I will create a safe and encouraging environment for the learner to grow and explore. I will read and comment on the paper in a timely manner.

## **I. Class by class facilitator guide.**

Class	Objective	Activity
Class 1	<p>1. Learn the overview of the class and who is in the class</p> <p>2. Learn the distinction between and the connection between the terms metaphysics and metaphysical Bible interpretation.</p> <p>3. Learn how to metaphysically interpret one sentence.</p> <p>4. Learn some of the commonly interpreted names, places and words.</p>	<p>A. Pray in</p> <p>B. Overview of syllabus/course</p> <p>C. Students introduce themselves and what they know about metaphysical bible interpretation.</p> <p>D. Make clear that metaphysical Bible interpretation is unique to each person even though we do have some resources of stories already interpreted. Introduce students to the Turner books.</p> <p>E. Help the students to understand that the interpretation is taking place entirely in their own consciousness.</p> <p>A. Introduce the two terms, metaphysics and metaphysical Bible interpretation.</p> <p>B. Lead a discussion on the two terms insuring that students understand these two related and different terms.</p> <p>A. Choose a short sentence like “Abraham went up the mountain” or “Moses went up the mountain..” Using the process outlined in the article, lead the class through the process of metaphysically interpreting the sentence. Note: If the word or proper name is not in the RW or MBD help them to come up with what the word or name might mean metaphysically. Be vigilant for the interpretation to be more of an outer interpretation. Remember, the entire story happens in consciousness!</p> <p>B. Check in with each student to discover if he/she understands the process. Help those that need help, or encourage classmates to help.</p> <p>C. Review any words, names and places that are commonly interpreted in Unity. This are frequently words that are found a lot in scripture like mountain, valley, Abraham, Moses, Jerusalem, man, men, woman, women, house etc. Encourage the students to start a list.</p> <p>D. Homework: Assign one sentence for each student to interpret between classes.</p>

Class 2	<p>1. Learn how to metaphysically interpret a short paragraph.</p> <p>2. Continue to add to the list of names, places and words.</p>	<p>A. Pray in</p> <p>B. Check in to determine how the students are doing. Discuss the results of the assignment. Watch for interpretations that do not stick with the entire story being within consciousness.</p> <p>A. Choose a paragraph from one of the stories listed in the recommended scripture list or a story someone in the class is interested in.</p> <p>B. Lead the class in going through the paragraph step by step. One idea is to assign each sentence to a group and let them work on their own for 15 or 20 minutes and then lead the entire class through the process using the interpretation that the groups arrived at. Remember, the entire story happens in consciousness!</p> <p>A. Review any new words, names and places that are commonly interpreted in Unity. Students add these to their list.</p> <p>Homework: Have the students interpret a short paragraph overnight.</p>
Class 3	1. Continue to become proficient in metaphysical Bible interpretation.	<p>A. Pray in</p> <p>B. Review Homework assignment. Watch for interpretations that do not stick with the entire story being within consciousness.</p> <p>C. Divide the students into groups such that there will be enough time for the group to metaphysically interpret a story and present it to the class.</p> <p>D. Assignment: Students can individually work on their stories overnight.</p>
Class 4	1. Group demonstrates ability to interpret and present the metaphysical interpretation of a story from the Bible.	<p>A. Pray in</p> <p>B. Have the students meet in their groups to discuss the work they did overnight and to prepare themselves to present their interpretation.</p> <p>C. Have the groups present. Have them read the scripture, give their version in their own words, interpretation of some key words, clunky version and final, refined version.</p> <p>D. Check to see if there are any questions or something you, the facilitator would like to refine or explore. Help the students keep on track.</p>

Class 5		A. Pray in. B. Check in to determine how students are doing. C. Continue presentations. D. Allow some time for any unresolved questions or leftovers.
---------	--	--

## J. What You Need to Know

- General information about Metaphysical Bible interpretation
  1. Who can do it?
  2. Whose interpretations are correct?
  3. When interpreting the Bible there is an “intersection” between the story and the metaphysical meanings of the words with one’s own state of consciousness.
- The Seven Step method of Bible Interpretation:
  1. Pray, Meditate, center
  2. Read the story
  3. Paraphrase the story
  4. Chart or list all of the words (especially nouns and verbs) in the story
  5. Define the words (using MBD or Revealing Words)
  6. Create clunky interpretation from definitions
  7. Create a refined version and include a bottom line statement
- Why is it helpful to paraphrase the story in your own words?
- Why is it helpful to first create a “clunky interpretation” of the story?
- Know how to interpret a Bible Story. Students will be given short phrases or sentences to interpret. If a proper name is used in the phrase or sentence, the meaning will be provided.
- The meanings of the following general words:
  1. Mountain
  2. Valley
  3. Man

4. Woman
5. Person
6. People
7. A group of people
8. A change in name
9. King
10. Pharaoh
11. General or some other leader of an army
12. Places like a country, a city, a house, a room
13. Feet
14. Wine
15. Blood
16. Bread
17. Animals
18. Birds
19. Fish
20. Plants
21. Night
22. Day
23. Stone
24. Dessert
25. Water
26. Rivers, streams
27. Land
28. Young in relation to a man or a woman or a group of people
29. Old in relation to a man or a woman or a group of people
30. Servant, hand maiden etc.
31. Numbers, particularly, one, three, five, seven, ten, eleven, twelve, forty

- The meanings of the following proper nouns
  1. Adam
  2. Eve
  3. Garden of Eden
  4. Moses
  5. Abraham
  6. Joseph
  7. Lot
  8. Esau
  9. Jacob
  10. Israel
  11. Jacob
  12. Elijah
  13. Judah
  14. Egypt
  15. Bethel
  16. Jerusalem
  17. Horeb (Mt. Horeb)
  18. Canaan
  
- Other important concepts to know in Metaphysical Bible Interpretation:
  1. Charles Fillmore said that the Bible is the story of humankind's generation, degeneration, and regeneration.
  2. The characters and places in the Scripture represent different phases of humankind's unfoldment.
  3. Metaphysically, the Bible records what happens when we are in different states of consciousness.
  4. Animals, fish, birds, and inanimate objects in the Bible represent thoughts and ideas.
  5. Israelites represent people who are looking toward God.

6. Adam's wife, Eve, signifies the mother of all living, feeling nature, and the mother principle of God in action.
7. The story of Cain and Abel, interpreted metaphysically, is a story of conflict between the physical and spiritual aspects of human nature.
8. Abraham represents the awakening of faith.
9. Moses represents the development in consciousness of the law of being.
10. King David represents Love.
11. King Solomon represents the unification of love and wisdom.
12. Jehovah of the Hebrew Scriptures is equivalent to the Christ in the New
13. Testament.
14. Unity considers "I AM" to be the name of God in humankind.
15. Charles Fillmore said that when we are thinking and acting exclusively in our
16. personality we are wearing a mask that conceals the real, spiritual I AM.

# Interpreting the Bible Metaphysically

By Rev. Paul Hasselbeck, Dean, Spiritual Education and Enrichment, Unity Village

When faced with a change or challenge, many people use the technique of closing their eyes and randomly opening the Bible, pointing to a scripture, and then reading it to find some guidance. Much comfort can be found in simply relating to the story as it is; other times it might not make any sense at all.

Knowing how to metaphysically interpret a scripture can add more depth to scripture that is already literally understood and perhaps give meaning to those scriptures that, on the surface, do not make sense. There is an extra bonus too! If a person can metaphysically interpret a scripture, then other books, movies and even songs can be metaphysically interpreted. The possibilities are endless.

Take, for example, the African-American spiritual, "Go Down Moses." That song, based on Exodus 5:1 is rich in meaning, which might not be fully appreciated initially. Here are some of the words:

*Go Down Moses  
Go down Moses  
Way down in Egypt land  
Tell 'ole pharaoh to  
Let my people go!*

*When Israel was in Egypt land...  
Let my people go!*

A person randomly selecting these words by the "open-and-pick" method might not get anything useful from the literal understanding of the words. However, a metaphysical interpretation of these words results in a goldmine of meaning.

One method of Metaphysical Bible Interpretation uses a straightforward seven-step process:

1. Center into the awareness of Oneness (meditation or prayer) putting God first; this puts Christ Nature first.
2. Read the passage.
3. Paraphrase using your own words, if necessary, to create a simple framework and flow to the text. At this point all the minute details are not necessary. These may be added later to fill out the interpretation.
4. Place the nouns and pronouns and the action words into a metaphysical interpretation table (see example).
5. Look up the meanings of the words and put them in the table. A useful tool for the names of places and people is the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, written by Charles Fillmore. Another tool from the Charles

Fillmore Reference Library Series, The Revealing Word, gives meanings for more common words such as mountain, river, house, for example. These meanings are a starting point much like the meanings one can find for aspects of dreams. Other meanings of the words might occur to as you go along.

6. Read and/or write down a “clunky” version of the interpretation by simply reading down the interpretation column. Reading the words aloud can be helpful at this point.
7. Refine the interpretation.

In the example of the song, “Go Down Moses,” it really was not necessary to paraphrase the passage as it is pretty simple just as it is. However, a bit more had to be added because some of the information is implied; for example, someone is speaking to Moses. And, who are “my people” in the phrase? Also, since we are familiar with the story, we know that the people are being held captive in Egypt by the Pharaoh.

<b>Noun, Pronoun, Place, Action</b>	<b>Metaphysical Definitions</b>	<b>Reading down the column on the left</b>
[God] (implied)	God Nature Christ Nature Christ Consciousness	Christ Consciousness tells, directs
[said] (implied)	Tells, directs, informs	
Go down		Go down Denial Draw forth Draw out
Moses	The “thou shalt not” side of the Law (denial) Draw forth Draw out	
Way down in		Way down in Material/sense consciousness
Egypt land	Material consciousness (a state of mind based on the belief in the reality of materiality, or things as they appear) Sense consciousness (a mental state that believes in and acts through the senses)	
Tell		Tell long-term ruling thought of material/sense consciousness
‘ole pharaoh	Ruler, executive faculty Long-term ruling thought (of Egypt–material/sense	

	consciousness)	
to let	To release	To let, to release, Christ ideas, Spiritual thoughts, true ideas about Being Go.
my people [the people of Israel]	Christ Ideas Spiritual thoughts The thoughts of reality or the true ideas about Being that have to be brought out in every part of man's consciousness.	
go.		

Employing a graph in which key words from scripture are listed (left column) and then given a metaphysical definition (middle column), one can understand these passages with new insight (right column).

To get the “clunky” version, simply read the far right column out loud from top to bottom. Next, try to make some sense of it from your own level of consciousness and understanding. And, this is important: This story—all the characters, places and action—is taking place within your own consciousness! This is the exciting part because you are creating the meaning for yourself that makes the most sense for you. In a way, there is an intersection between the literal words, their meanings, and your state of consciousness. There are metaphysical interpretations of many stories that Unity has published. And, there is not a single right interpretation. The only requirement is that you keep to the story line and its components.

Indirectly, this song based on scripture tells us that spiritual thoughts can be held captive by our material/sense consciousness. This happens simply by what we focus on and give our attention. When the song is metaphysically interpreted it can now be understood as a method of how to release Spiritual thoughts that have become entrapped by material/sense consciousness. In a refined version it can mean something like this:

Use Christ Consciousness to direct the use of denials deep into material/sense consciousness to root out, deny giving power to, an old “ruling” belief that has been holding spiritual thoughts (or true thoughts of Being) captive.

Let’s look at another very familiar example from Matthew 18:20 from The New Interpreter’s Study Bible, 2003: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Many of us have taken much comfort from this scripture that instructs us to gather together in the name of Jesus and, when we do, he will be there.” Even more meaning and helpful instruction can be gleaned from this scripture when it is metaphysically interpreted. Again, this one really does not need to be paraphrased and like the one from the Hebrew Scriptures, we have to add information. We have to add two or three what—people. And, who is speaking “in my name” and “I” referring to? Jesus Christ.

<b>Noun, Pronoun, Place, Action</b>	<b>Metaphysical Definitions</b>	<b>Reading down the column on the left</b>
---	---------------------------------	--

Whenever	Whenever	Whenever two or more thoughts are gathered in Christ Nature
Two or three [people]	Two or three thoughts	
Are gathered in	Are gathered in	
My name	After Jesus Christ nature	
There shall	There will	There will Christ Nature Be
I	Jesus Christ	
Be	Be	

Again, read the right-hand column out loud from top to bottom. Then make some sense out of it to create a refined version. It might be something like this:

Whenever two or three Christ-like thoughts come together, Christ Nature is there.

We could refine it even more since we know that Christ Nature is always present; it is just that we have put our attention elsewhere. So, we could say,

Whenever two or three Christ-like thoughts come together, Christ Nature comes into my awareness.

This is very useful information! This is a method of getting out of negative thinking, error thinking, and sense consciousness. The moment we are aware, all we have to do is string together two or three Christ-like thoughts (affirmations) to shift awareness from negative thinking to the awareness of Christ Nature.

Metaphysical Bible interpretation is an effective tool to learn about our own states of consciousness and how to apply Spiritual Truths and Laws in order to rise to a higher state of consciousness. In these two examples it is easy to discern how denials and affirmations can be used to raise to a higher level of consciousness.