



READING THE BIBLE MYSTICALLY: Fall Series

Dr. Laurence H. Kant, Historian of Religion (Ph.D., Yale University, 1993)

October 11, Sunday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Inaugural 2015 Fall Series Class

New Location: 131 Jesselin Drive, Lexington, KY 40503



Everyone comes to the Bible with different perspectives. Lay people appeal to tradition, practice, belief, social justice, evangelism, literal interpretation, and opposition or apathy to religion. Scholars interpret the Bible from their own angles: history, literature, sources, language, theology, and archaeology. No one perspective, however, can encompass and fully explain biblical texts.

For me, a mystical approach to biblical interpretation entails the discovery and creation of profound meaning in the text. Integrative in nature, it uses a variety of perspectives to understand the contexts and multiple (often ambiguous and sometimes conflicting) meanings of passages. We start from the ground up, beginning with small details (word-by-word and even letter-by-letter) as we move through sentences and stories toward apparently hidden and esoteric readings. Usually what we regard as secret or mystical lies in open sight, but seeing it demands close attention and far-reaching awareness of all sorts.

We will spend the bulk of our time this session engaging the text, particularly Genesis 3, and discussing its use in constructing meaning for our lives. We will explore the story of creation, human origins, the quest for knowledge and wisdom, the consequences of disobedience and deception, frailty and strength, gender symbolism, and the banishment from Eden. No previous background is necessary. Mutual respect is assumed in an atmosphere open to all spiritual, religious, and non-religious points of view.

Upcoming dates in the Fall Series are as follows (at the same time from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons): October 11, November 8, and December 13.

The cost of the workshop is \$35.00 per person (cash, or check made out to "Mystic Scholar, LLC"), Reserve a place by emailing Dr. Kant at dblck2@qx.net (with "Mystic Scholar" in the subject line). Payment may be made at the door before the workshop. Please read Genesis 1-3 beforehand. For further information on the presenter, see the attached CV and bio.

*The photo in the middle of the page is of a Hebrew folio of Genesis 1 in the Leningrad Codex (the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible), c. 1010 CE, originally from Cairo, Egypt, now in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.