



READING THE BIBLE MYSTICALLY: An Introductory Workshop

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August 30, 2015, Sunday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Encore class

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 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 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 initially have a brief review of some basic Hebrew Bible background, including chronology, history, the source hypothesis, and language issues. We will follow this up with a short discussion of how Jews, Christians, and Muslims, as well as non-believers, non-affiliated, and spiritual-but-not-religious, view the Bible. Then we will spend the bulk of our time engaging the text, particularly Genesis 1, and discuss its use in constructing meaning for our lives. No previous background is necessary. Mutual respect is assumed in an atmosphere open to all spiritual, religious, and non-religious points of view.

The workshop is part of a larger series that continues in the Fall. Upcoming dates are as follows (at the same time from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, location to be announced): September 20, 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 dbl2@qx.net (with "Mystic Scholar" in the subject line). Payment may be made at the door before the workshop. Please read Genesis 1 and 2 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.