

## **Subject: Metaphysical Bibles**

### **Rev. Scott Awbrey**

I pray that you had a great Labor Day holiday. I'm wondering if you can point me in a direction or two. In my studies and in my Sunday talks, I find that I am more and more drawn to teaching from scripture. I make use of Unity's Metaphysical Bible Interpretation, and I'd like to have other Bible material to draw from. Are you aware of other metaphysical Bible references? Which Bible do you think is most aligned with metaphysical, mystical presentations?

I'd love to find more resources on this. Love to take any Biblical scripture and then turn to a commentary or interpretation of it that is in line with our spiritual approach. Any suggestions?

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### **Rev. Diane Borcyckowski**

Rev. Scott Awbrey is in the process of affiliating with UCRS and is not yet on the listserve. However, he has a request that I think some of you may have resources for. Would you be so kind as to give his email below your consideration and email the entire listserve and I will forward your messages. I've already advised him of a couple of books that offer great interpretations for parables. FYI - "Secrets of the Parables" by Culver Wold and "Learn to Live" by Erwin Seale. Also, I'll put whatever you share on the On-line Resource Library. Thanks for your help.

### **Alice Bandy**

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My favorite is Joel Goldsmith Intepretation of Scriptures.

### **Don**

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The resource I told him about is Charles Fillmore's "Mysteries of Genesis".

### **Larry Barber**

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In addition to what has been mentioned, I like: Ervin Seale's "Ten Words That Will Change Your Life" (Ten Commandments); Jack Addington's "Hidden Mystery of the Bible"; Emmet Fox's "Power Through Constructive Thinking" and "Alter Your Life"

(commentaries on various Bible stories; scholar Stephen Mitchell's "The Gospel According to Jesus"; and Jungian analyst John Sanford's "Mystical Christianity."

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Ernest Holmes, "The Bible in the Light of Religious Science". Written in 1929, not easily found. First Church Oakland, and Vallejo have "copies" available in their bookstores.

**Frances Lorenz**

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My new favorite Bible scholar is Bruce Chilton, professor at Bard College. He is an Aramaic scholar and has a Bible translation soon to be released, but a book that really causes you to understand Jesus in a whole new way is Rabbi Jesus.

Chilton, who is a practicing Episcopal priest, believes there is evidence that Jesus taught the Kabbalah to his disciples, that Revelations was actually a mystical meditation text for disciples, and has reconstructed the Merkebah meditation or chariot meditation. His take on the food and drinking ministry of Jesus is that communion as the church practices it, was not intended by Jesus who in essence was saying to the disciples, "Isn't this celebration of God with me more real than the Passover meals going on in the corrupt temples?"

New archeological evidence now establishes a Bethlehem within 15 miles of Nazareth which makes Joseph's paternity more plausible, and the whole issue of Jesus' unproven paternity which made him a member of the ridiculed manzer class adds support to why he supported the underdog. All of this and more Chilton reveals and documents brilliantly.

New finds of Aramaic Bible translations on the border between Iraq and Turkey would be worth getting copies of since Jesus spoke in Aramaic. The new finds are so exciting.

I love the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, translated from Coptic texts (Inner Traditions) with commentary by Jean-Ives Leloup who also has a commentary on the Gospel of Thomas.

And anything written by Marcus Borg, a Jesus scholar and Episcopal priest in Portland, Oregon, is really good reading including, Rediscovering Jesus for the First Time.

Another fabulous book is The Genesis Meditations by Neil Douglas-Klotz which can be used in your worship services.

As for metaphysical Bible in addition to those already mentioned, I've always enjoyed the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary by Filmore, The Mysteries of John by Charles Filmore, Elizabeth Sand Turner, Be Ye Transformed, Bible Interpretations Acts through Revelation; Your Hope of Glory; and Let There Be Light, all Unity publications.

### **Peggy Price**

This is one of my most favorite topics! I teach a class I created called "Jesus and the Science of Mind" and include reading in many of the books already mentioned.

Another excellent book by John Sanford, who is a Jungian analyst as well as Episcopal priest, is *The Kingdom Within* which looks at the inner meaning of Jesus' sayings from the Jungian point of view. That was the book that actually began my search which led me to Religious Science!

For additional background information as well as a point of view which supports metaphysics and Science of Mind, read the books of Bishop Spong - *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, and *A New Christianity for a New World* are two of my favorites. George Lamsa's reference books - *Gospel Light* and *Old Testament Light* are good for understanding the Aramaic meanings of words as well as giving cultural and religious background to many of the passages found in the Bible. My two personal favorite Bibles are the Lamsa Bible and the NIV Study Bible.

As I write this, I must pay homage to Rev. Phil Quirk, who taught many of us in the school of ministry at Huntington Beach -- he ignited a love of the Bible in so many of us -- and I am forever grateful. Wherever you are, dear Phil, thank you!

### **Rev Petra**

Beside those listed - I love Holmes - *Words that Heal Today*, and Troward's *Bible Mystery*, *Bible Meaning*. I love Fox "Sermon on the Mount" and Spong "Saving the Bible from Fundamentalism." In addition, anything by Rocco Errico is always amazing - he's got an "Aramaic Lord's Prayer" pamphlet, as well as books on each of the Gospels, and at least 3 other books that are great.

### **Rev. Mary Murray Shelton**

*Bible Mystery* and *Bible Meaning* by Thomas Troward, *New Testament Commentary*, *Gospel Light*, and *Old Testament Light* all by George Lamsa, *The Sermon on the Mount* by Emmet Fox and *The Hidden Mystery of the Bible* by Jack Addington.

As to the Bible question Scott asked, I have a collection of Bibles, so when I'm using a passage I often compare the translations. I most often use the Lamsa version (this is the man Rocco Errico learned from), but sometimes if I want a more poetic sound to what I'm reading I use one of the others. The Lamsa is, I think, the most accurate translation, not necessarily the most mystical.

### **Nirvana R. Gayle**

There's also a book entitled "Unlocking the Cryptic Parables" by an author whose name escapes me right now and the "Metaphysical Bible Dictionary" published by Unity is a must, but I'm sure he already has that one.

### **Roger Juline**

In addition to the ones I have seen named in e-mails already, I also like "Jesus' Parables: Finding Our God Within" by Robert Winterhalter with George W. Fisk, published by Paulist Press, copyright 1993. Also, the Marcus Borg books: "Meeting Jesus For the First Time" and "Reading the Bible for the First Time" are useful for much of recent Bible scholarship. A classic from years back is "Let There Be Light" by Elizabeth Sand Turner, published by Unity. This last should not be confused with Rocco Errico's "Let There Be Light" and ". . . And There Was Light" which are good for general metaphysical principles.

I would also recommend any of the Jesus' Seminar books; e.g., "The Five Gospels" and "The Acts of Jesus." Both have excellent notes and ideas about the Gospel accounts.

As far as Bible translations are concerned, I know that most of New Thought favors Lamsa but personally I prefer the Oxford Annotated version or one of the recent translations such as the New International Version. They contain excellent footnotes and pretty accurate translations. Lamsa is good but you need to have his commentaries along side while you are reading his version and most of them are out of print. One might be able to find them in old bookstores.

There are lots of other good works that help with metaphysical interpretations but the above is a good start.

### **Ruth Wilkerson**

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One of the best books, at least for an introduction and ongoing usefulness for metaphysical interpretation of Biblical terms is Dr. Jack Addington's "The Hidden Mystery of the Bible". It has a super glossary of terms!!! Also, Troward's "Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning" is a great help.

Addington's book may be out of print, but check out Alibris.com, because they deal in books that are "op".

### **Rev. Linda Ketchum**

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Here is a book list I use when I teach metaphysical parable. Some of it is not metaphysical sources but is some good sources of information. It also gives some traditional websites that you might find interesting to check out. Just some ideas.

Book List  
Metaphysical Parable Interpretation

Required Books:

Learn to Live, The Meaning of the Parables, Ervin Seale  
Devorss Publications

Bible, any translation

INTERNET SITES:

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) (great source for dictionaries and Bible references)

[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com) (click on Bible Study Tools on left side) This site have several commentaries including John Wesley and Scofield.

Both of these sites are more fundamentalist and are not metaphysical sites but they do provide some historical information that is very helpful in understanding how someone 2000 years ago would have understood the parables.

[www.jesusseminar.com](http://www.jesusseminar.com) This site explains the purpose of the Jesus Seminar

Used Book Websites:

[www.half.com](http://www.half.com) (used book source)

[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) (used and rare book source good for out of print books)

Suggested Books:

Science of Mind, Ernest Holmes  
G.P. Putnam's Sons

Concordance to the Science of Mind, Stewart and Lowe  
Science of Mind Communications

The Other Bible, Edited by Willis Barnstone  
Harper San Francisco

The Gospel of Mark, William Barclay  
As well as the Gospel of Matthew and Luke (2 volumes each) also by Barclay  
Westminster John Knox Press

Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, Charles Fillmore  
Unity Books

The Revealing Word, A Dictionary of Metaphysical Terms., Charles Fillmore  
Unity Books

Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism, John Shelby Spong  
Harper San Francisco

The Five Gospels, What Did Jesus Really Say?, Robert W. Funk, Roy W. Hoover, and  
the Jesus Seminar (There are other books by Funk and the Jesus Seminar that are  
very interesting)  
Harper San Francisco

New Gospel Parallels Robert W. Funk  
Polebridge Press (1990)

Secrets of the Parables, How to Use Them to Reach Life Goals, Culver Wold  
The Quest for Vision Publications

Dictionary of all Scriptures and Myths, G. A. Gaskell  
Gramercy Books

Idioms in the Bible Explained and A Key to the Original Gospels, George M. Lamsa  
Harper San Francisco

Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning, Thomas Troward  
DeVorss Publications

Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture, Joel Goldsmith  
DeVorss Publications

Wisdom for a Lifetime, How to get the Bible off the shelf and into your hands, Alden  
Studebaker  
Unity Books