AWAKENING THE SPIRIT
Bible Study Series
Session 02
February 12, 2020

BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS
Today’s Discussion Goals:
God (4th word in the Bible)
Epistemology
- science of how we know things
- basis of approaching truth
- awareness of presumptions
Divisions in Scripture
- Major Narrative Phase Lines
Presumptions of Modern Scientific Approach:
- Big bang happened
- - give them this one “miracle” and they claim to be able to explain the rest.
- Perceptions are real
- Enough consistency in reality to understand it
- - explain it (mathematically)
Presumptions of Christianity:
- God exists
- We don’t know much about God (or at least can’t know everything about God)
- Bible Comes from God
- Bible is true
- God cannot lie (Titus 1:2, Rom. 3:4. Heb. 6:18)
- true in an absolute sense?
- true as in useful
- what is the resolution of the truth presented
- stands test of time as a metanarrative for other literary works
- is it literally true?
- is it abstractly true?
- is it mythologically true (not false, but inexhaustible in its wisdom - perennial)
Attributes of God:
- Immutability – unchangeable
- Omniscience – all knowing
- Omnipotence – all powerful
- Omnipresence - everywhere

Abstract Ideas that Functionally Possess some Attributes of God:
- Future
- ‘Law’ of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7)
- Hierarchy of values
- - Top Value would be where ‘God’ resides
Questions Concerning the Bible:
- Is it true?
- What does it mean?
  - Interpretation
  - Hermeneutics

Biblical Interpretation:
- Observation
- Interpretation (meaning)
- Application

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Biblical Interpretation:
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Eisegesis (not good)
- presumptive meaning
- paradigmatic meaning
- meaning brought to the text
from a pre-formed system of thought

Exegesis (good)
- meaning is drawn from the text
only, with nothing presumed
Understanding (or rather the sense of it) is Contagious

“Unread Library Effect”
What is the PROCESS of that interpretation?

Conclusion-based affiliation
Paradigm

Paradigm’s Three Functions
- Respond to Reality (scripture/culture)
- Conservation of self
- Dissonance resolution (delusion if ideologically possessed)

Meme Complex

Memetics
- Meme complex = collection of ideas
- has a central meme
- protection memes
- propagation memes
- persistence/endurance memes

World View

Ideological Possession
- when a paradigm or meme-complex possesses a person, using them as an avatar of itself, or an NPC for its script
- simulated thinking
- avoid at all costs

Reality Tunnel