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Synopsis #5: The Metaphorical Language

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***“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.” - Proverbs 1:5-6***

Introductory comments: Many times when we invoke the term 'metaphor', especially in the study of Biblical prophecy, it is mentally, if not verbally, joined with the words *simply* or *merely*. We need to become clear that metaphor serves as a crucial bridge in interpreting a wide body of writings, sayings, and historical events that span thousands of years, numerous cultures, a half dozen language roots, numerous cataclysmic upheavals. AND---metaphors act as a transitive element between a Higher Force (YAHWEH)---the Spiritual---and the SUBJECT (humans), operating in more limited sphere of understanding.

To subordinate the term to a secondary value, i.e.-to infer that a literal rendering or understanding is the primary, or even sole, intent of the scriptures denies the power of the transmitted texts. Moreover, literal-only renderings of scriptures leave many gaps, contradictions, and misunderstandings about the express will of its Author. In fact, slavish literalism is the father of legalism, religious deception, and oppression.

Scripture can, and must, be read at the literal level first for the teaching of doctrine. This is what the apostle Paul called "milk".

Prophecy is the higher level of interpretation, it is a higher operation of the consciousness. Metaphorical concepts are part of a more developed level of consciousness and understanding through what is called: 'abstraction'. This is the "meat" of scripture.

Even the atheistic psychologist, Princeton professor **Julian Jaynes**, an acknowledged expert and pioneer in modern concepts of consciousness, in his book ***The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind***, identifies metaphor as our main instrument of understanding:

"In trying to understand a thing we are trying to find a metaphor for that thing . . . Understanding a thing is to arrive at a metaphor for a thing by substituting something more familiar to us. And the feeling of familiarity is the feeling of understanding . . . Understanding a thing is arriving at a familiarizing metaphor for it . . ."

Metaphor entails thinking of something less well known in terms of something more well known, thereby finding a "handle" on the unfamiliar. We use what we know to give us purchase, leverage on what we don't know; advances in knowledge take place through the discovery of new metaphors.

- Consciousness requires metaphors and analogy
- Metaphors and analogies map the functions of the right hemisphere into the left hemisphere and make the bicameral (*split, or two chambered*) mind obsolete.
- Consciousness is expanded by creating more and more metaphors and analogies
- Ultimately, consciousness is a metaphor-generated model of the world (or universe).

Note: these terms have been appropriated by mystics and scientists alike. The language may sound occult or "new age-y" if not restricted to scriptural understanding governed by the Mind of Christ, the Holy Spirit. Rather than reject the concepts by letting the terms stumble the believers, we need to take back the language and concepts and also discern truths which researchers in the fields of science and the mystical can corroborate through the written Word of God.

Lastly: People are at different levels in using words. The goal of the metaphorical

studies is not to empower a hierarchy of those who may be more gifted verbally, but to equip all the listeners to begin operating in metaphorical thought and study of scripture. As noted above by Dr. Jaynes: the USE of the metaphorical structure enables one to grow in understanding. -**Randy Maugans**

The Rules and Applications of Metaphor

Sue Patterson

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. *1Corinthians 13:12*

It has been almost 4 years since I began to really notice a pattern that was developing in the prophetic scriptures pertaining to metaphors. During the past almost 3 years since "The Third Day" shows began, Randy Maugans and I have notice a definitive pattern that crosses from the New Testament to the Old Testament and from Genesis to Revelation. It is through the identification of metaphors and how they are applied that has given us the understanding that we now possess.

Many of the metaphors are found in the actual words of the Bible. Many identifications stem from the actual Hebrew and Greek definitions of those words which in turn leads us to additional identifications.

There are key phrases that we have identified and continue to uncover that is delving deeper into scripture. These identifications and understanding are revealing to us who, what, when, where, and why of the Tribulation and its participants. Details of the characteristics and thought patterns of the groups involved within the Tribulation are revealed. We know what drives them to do what they will do.

Using these identifications, we then apply these to the church and we see these things forming. What is forming is what has been previously shown to us through the metaphoric language.

Through this process of making connections and learning the metaphoric identifications we noticed patterns within this language. There are specific rules and applications to the language of metaphor as there is to any language. Certain rules that you follow and are not meant to be disregarded. There are certain applications that are to be followed and not delineated from.

We are going to take a look at these rules and applications. When you learn them and you begin to go through the scripture and definitions yourself, you will also see these patterns. When we follow these rules, there is harmony and consistency. If we run into a

seemingly contradictory statement of passage, we need to examine this more deeply for there is something that was missed or misunderstood.

In all of our studies, Randy and I have been able to harmonize all scripture, some of which did not harmonize previously. The Bible becomes alive as you have never experienced it before. It is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The very words of your Bible are Jesus Christ for He is the Word. The Word is alive!

Jesus showed us that He used metaphors within His parables; namely the parable of the sower and the field. A metaphor is "implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another."^[1] Put simply, a metaphor is placing an object or person in the place of another.

A phrase that most are familiar with is the phrase "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." In the literal understanding this is telling us that when the tree drops an apple, it doesn't go very far. Using the understanding the each of these objects are actually a metaphor. The apple is referring to a son or daughter of a parent. The tree is a metaphor for the parent. The term "doesn't fall far from" is a metaphor for "he or she is just like." This phrase interpreted using the metaphoric symbols and the meaning is telling us "He (the son) is just like his dad" or "she is just like her mom."

The Bible is just like this. When you understand the metaphors located within scripture, the Bible reads entirely differently than you have ever read it before. This study is to help you to understand, recognize and identify when a metaphor is being used and how to interpret it. If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you will see this.

You may be a bit slow at first and may not grasp it immediately, but that's okay. You will be learning a new language at the same time you are dispelling myths that you have been taught probably all of your life in the church. Learning this language is a process, some catch on quickly, some it takes awhile. If you were learning a new language, say Spanish, would you expect yourself to be speaking it fluently in a couple of days? No. You may have a few words or phrases and be able to count, but you would not speak it fluently. That takes time, effort, and a willingness to learn. Study, study, and more study. Once you have the basics, though, you will see how this flows. It is truly amazing.

First we must understand that the metaphoric identifications are applied to the 4 groups that go through the Tribulation; the 144,000, the Multitude, the Serpents, and the Scorpions.^[2] All of these groups are located within the church, either the True church of

God, the ecclesia, where the 144,000 are and where the Multitude eventually arrive, or the apostate church.

Rules and Applications

1. A metaphor may have a rigid identification that is unique to that particular identification.

A rigid identification is an identification that is unique to that particular metaphor. It cannot be applied to any of the other groups, only to that particular one. Some examples include the bear, the leopard, the Overcomers, the wheat.

Application

The metaphor of the bear is unique to the Serpents. The bear cannot be a metaphor for the Multitude, the Scorpions, or the 144,000. It is a unique identification that is applied only to the Serpents. In the same way, the leopard is unique to the Scorpions. The leopard cannot be the Serpents, the Multitude, or the 144,000.

The same applies to the Overcomers. They are the Multitude. The Scorpions and the Serpents are not even counted as one of the Overcomers. The 144,000 are not the Overcomers, for they are sealed and not under the judgement of God. The wheat is a metaphor for the Multitude. It only applies to the Multitude. There are other metaphoric words used for the Serpents and Scorpions, but wheat is not one of them. Remember the sower and the field.

He sowed the wheat into the field. Tares grew up among them. At no time does the wheat become tares or the tares become wheat. They are separate and distinct metaphors identifying a particular group within this parable.

When you see a bear, leopard, wheat, or an Overcomer, you will know that you are looking at a Serpent, Scorpion, or the Multitude respectfully. This is what is called the application of the rule. You apply this rule to the scripture and the identifications harmonize throughout the Bible. There are many of these rigid metaphoric identifications. [\[3\]](#)

2. A metaphoric identification can have either one group identified within the metaphor or there may be a combination of the groups within that metaphor.

There are many metaphoric identifications that can have all three groups; the Serpents, the Scorpions, and the Multitude within them either spoken about as a group or spoken about individually. An example would be the creatures of the sea, or trees.

Application

The creatures of the sea are found in the 2nd trumpet.

And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. *Revelation 8:9*

This verse is speaking about a third part of the creatures in the sea dying. This shows us the creatures in the sea are divided into thirds. Just as Babylon, Egypt, and Assyria are divided into thirds.[\[4\]](#) One third dies. This third that dies has life. The only ones within the sea that have life are the Multitude that rise from the dead at the 7th trumpet. The other 2/3 are the Serpents and Scorpions that are cut off and die in Zechariah 13:8.

The creatures of the sea have within that metaphoric identification all three; the Serpents, the Scorpions, and the Multitude. 1/3 of the creatures have life, the other 2/3 do not have life. Follow this same pattern for the 1/3 of the ships that are destroyed. The 1/3 of the ships that are destroyed tells us that there are 2/3 of the ships are not destroyed. This is because the other 2/3 of the ships are the Serpents and the Scorpions that destroy the other 1/3 of the ships, they being the Multitude.

The same pattern applies to the trees. In the 1st trumpet, 1/3 of the trees are burnt up. This would be the 1/3 of the Multitude that is burnt up or destroyed leaving the other 2/3 of the trees untouched. The metaphor identification of trees are The Serpents, the Scorpions, and the Multitude.

Other metaphors that contain all three within them are Babylon, Egypt, Assyria, grass and many more.[\[5\]](#)