

Interpreting the Bible

Applicable Quotations

Our understanding of the Bible is that it is the greatest of all books ever written. It took inspiration to write it; it takes inspiration to read it. ("*The Book of the Law*," Temple Talks, Series Number 4, Charles Fillmore, . 85)

Then, in all of our study of the Scripture, and in all of our meeting it in the hands of others, there should be a desire on our part to get at the real essence of it. Don't let us be satisfied with the simple literal quotation. ("Bible/Bible Interpretation" - Sunday Lecture, March 29, 1914, Charles Fillmore, p.21)

The Bible has been called the history of One Man, and that man is thyself. The spiritual interpretation, then, is the application of the so try to yourself For it is not the story, as story, that is of value to the unfolding soul, but the spiritual lesson involved. Metaphysical translates everything into terms of ideas and consciousness. Therefore the spiritual idea is the essential thing to every man seeking spiritual growth. ("*A Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*," R.C. Douglass, Unity, Volume 38, No.3, March 1913, p. 208)"

"There is a Spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." This is true of you, and if you desire the interpretation of any verse, passage, or chapter of the Bible and will read it over carefully, at the same time asking for wisdom of the Lord, the spirituai meaning will be revealed to you. (Silent Unity Department Letter, November 3, 1915, Unity Archives)

It [the Bible] ... shows that the human organism is mind in action, rather than an aggregation of purely material functions. But above all, the bible explains the spiritual character of man and the laws governing his relation to god. These are symbolically set forth as states of consciousness, illustrated by parables and allegories. (*Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, pp. 73 - 73)

What we're interested in is the metaphysics of Scripture. What is the Bible saying, which is true of every human being, true of him in his inner life, regardless of whether he was a Jew, Roman, Phoenician or a 20th century American. ("*Metaphysical Bible Interpretation*" lecture series transcript, Ed Rabel, p. 5)

Fillmore's metaphysics states that everything in the Bible which is spiritual has to have a symbolic meaning that relates to ideas, states of consciousness, or activities of consciousness. (Jim Gaither, interview)

Always the entire power of words come[s] from the thought behind them. Even then their force will be great or small, according to the intensity of mental action, through realization, in the mind which thinks them. ("*Words*," R.C. Douglass, *Unity*, February 1913, p. 88)

Metaphysical Christianity has an extensive biblical heritage and fills a distinctive niche in the overall world of the Bible. Traditional Christianity sees the Bible as the Absolute Word of God. The metaphysician acknowledges the Bible as inspired writing in which universal Truths are expressed. (*Wisdom for a Lifetime*, Alden Studebaker, p. 50)

Symbols represent steps in the masonry of the soul. All scriptural symbols have to do with the spiritual progress of man. In the Bible every name stands for an idea and has a meaning that gives a clue to the symbol. (*The Revealing Word*, Charles Fillmore, pp. 189 - 190)

By the employment of many symbols the Bible describes man in his wholeness - Spirit, soul and body. The symbols used are men, places, tents, temples, and so forth. The name of every person mentioned in the Bible has a meaning representative of that person's character. (*Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, p. 72)

We find in the Scriptures constant reference, in symbols and also in direct language, to order as a fundamental law of the universe and of man. (*Jesus Christ Heals*, Charles Fillmore, p. 117)

I do not know why the Bible is written in symbolisms which mystify the casual reader and befog the literal mind. But two things I do know about its text; the book was written out of the mind of God; he who asks the mind of God to think in him will come to know what the book means ... in those who apply to it as a written message from the mind of God, the book actually thinks its own meaning. While they thus read, it is not the human mind seeking to know; it is not the human mind seeking to know; it is God's mind knowing itself. ("*Bible Self-Interpretive*," Imelda Octavia Shanklin)

Our great need is for light, which represents illumination, intelligence, wisdom. We can have no real comprehension of the Scriptures until we are aware that the Holy Spirit within us is decreeing light. ... Whenever we open the Bible we should affirm, Let there be light, and close it with the grateful acknowledgment, and there was light. (*Let There Be Light*, Elizabeth Sand Turner, p.5)

The real search of all people is to find God. They may think they are looking for other things, but will eventually admit that it was God they sought, especially after they have once felt his presence in their souls. This being true, our whole aim should be to make the place where we meet God so pure that we shall never mistake his voice ... This place we know is in the mind – the inmost recess of the soul – the kingdom of heaven within you. ("*Forgive Us Our Debts*," Temple Talks, Series Number 3, Charles Fillmore, p. 42)

As we learn to take the steps in consciousness that Jesus taught, we discover that we are walking a better way, learning Truth, living happier and more useful lives. We are accepting the challenge proffered by Paul, "be renewed in the spirit of your minds." And

imperceptibly, perhaps, yet very surely, we are actually putting on the "new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24). (*Your Hope of Glory*, Elizabeth Sand Turner, p. 15)

The Bible is a spiritual book. We arrive at a greater understanding and enhance our interest in the different characters of Jacob and Esau when we look upon them not only as individuals but as representatives of the race as a whole. (*Teach Us to Pray*, Cora and Charles Fillmore, p. 140)

To know that every word and sentence of Scripture veils a spiritual Truth is the first step in unraveling the gospel. Spiritual truths cannot be expressed in language that will carry correct concepts to the mind. (*The Essential Charles Fillmore*, Charles Fillmore p. 197)

The fact is that the entire theme of the Bible is man and his various states of mind, represented as persons, tents, tabernacles, temples. (*Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*, Charles Fillmore, p. 80)

A great deal is said in the Bible about man's body. In fact, the bible is a mystical record of the various bodies in which the souls of men have lived. Bodies show the different states of mind of those who inhabit them, ranging all the way from the Adam embodiment and environment up to the Christ body and its freedom from environment. It is fair to say that the Bible is the allegorical record of man under many aliases, in many bodies. (*Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*, Charles Fillmore, p. 116)

The Bible is a very wonderful book; as man develops in spiritual understanding it reveals itself to him, and he sees why it has been revered and called holy by the people. (*Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, p. 73)

... above all, the bible explains the spiritual character of man and the laws governing his relation to God. These are symbolically set forth as states of consciousness, illustrated by parables and allegories. (*Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, p. 73 - 74)

The Bible contains more high mysticism than all other books. (*Jesus Christ Heals*, Charles Fillmore, p. 139)

The Bible is replete with situations where men and women seemed beyond any material help, but through faith and prayer they triumphed right in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. (*Jesus Christ Heals*, Charles Fillmore, p. 74)

As man is a threefold being, spirit, soul, and body, so the Bible is a trinity in unity. It is body as a book of history; soul as a teacher of morals; and spirit as a teacher of the mysteries of being. (*Mysteries of Genesis*, Charles Fillmore, p. 10)

The Bible is the history of man. In its sixty-six books it describes in allegory, prophecy, epistle, parable, and poem, man's generation, degeneration, and regeneration. It has been preserved and prized beyond all other books because it teaches man how to develop the highest principle of his being, the spirit. (*Mysteries of Genesis*, Charles Fillmore, p. 10)

The bible is a textbook of absolute Truth; but its teaching are veiled in symbol and understood only by the illumined. (*Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*, Charles Fillmore, p. 162)

We find the great bible characters fitting into the pattern of our own consciousness, where they represent ideas. This makes the bible a div book of Life rather than merely the history of a people. (*Prosperity*, Charles Fillmore, p. 70)

The Bible records a long line of prophets, mystics, and dreamers, who for thousands of years communicated the word of the Holy Spirit to the people. (*Talks on Truth*, Charles Fillmore, p. 136)

... from Genesis to Revelation the Bible is filled with incidents bearing testimony to the direct and personal interest of the Holy Spirit in the affairs of men. (*Talks on Truth*, Charles Fillmore, p. 137)

The whole Bible tells of man's experience in striving for the mastery. (*Teach Us fo Pray*, Cora and Charles Fillmore, p. 56)

It is a divine "book of life" rather than merely a history of people, and it bears "witness unto the word" of God (Acts 14:3) (*The Revealing Word*, Charles Fillmore, p. 23)