

"Building with concrete"

[TITLE SLIDE]

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INTRODUCTION: ACKNOWLEDGE DAVID MILLAR'S WORK HERE

[PICTURE] There's concrete in the bible. In fact, the bible is full on concrete, especially the old testament.

Concrete & Abstract

[PICTURE] READING MY INTERLINEAR BIBLE

1. ACTIVITY - [28 GROUPS] match each [abstract] word with its literal [concrete] definition

- COMMON PURPOSE = One shoulder [Zechariah 3:9]
- ANGER = Flared nostrils
- FORGIVE = Lift Up [Exodus 40:13,19]
- CREATE = Fill Up
- RIGHTEOUS = Stay on the Path
- MIND = Kidneys [Jeremiah 17:10]
- GIVE THANKS, PRAISE, CONFESS = Throw, shoot, cast down
- WONDERFUL = sever, separate
- GLORY = weight or heaviness
- SPIRIT = wind
- STUBBORN = stiff-necked
- HEAVEN = sky
- ABUNDANCE = fat, fatness
- PRESENCE = face

2. HEBREW LETTERS - are all THINGS you can draw

WORDS made up of letters, each letter having its own meaning.

[SLIDE] "It is well known that [the Jewish] nation acknowledges the presence in the Word of something inward, for they speak of the concealment of Divine secrets there within every letter." (AC 10705)

"Such is the style of the Word that there is holiness in every sentence, every word, in some places even every letter." (TCR 191)

[AC 9723 [3] : "NOTHING IN THE WORD IS WORTHLESS, NOT EVEN ANY WORD, THUS NOT ANY CIRCUMSTANCE..."]

[SLIDE & CLICK THROUGH] "ALPHABET" = Alpha + Beta [in GREEK] [HEBREW: ALEPH + BETH]

[SLIDE] DIVINE SECRETS WITHIN EVERY LETTER

EXAMPLES:

- "FATHER" = Aleph [Mastery, Strength] + Beth [House]
- "MOTHER" = Aleph [Strength] + Mem [Water]
- "UNITE" = Yod [Work] + Cheth [Fence] + Daleth [Door]
- "TASTE" = Teth [Container, concealed] + Ayin [Eye] + Mem [Water]
- "LIFE" = Cheth [Fence] + Yod [Consciousness]
- "TRUTH" = Aleph [Mastery, All] + Mem [Source] + Tau [Sign, Itself]

[SLIDE] 3. HOW THE LORD COMMUNICATES WITH US

[CLICK] PARABLES: "Earthly stories with heavenly meanings"

Parable of the Lost Sheep: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'" (Luke 15:4-6 [also Matt 18])

[CLICK] CORRESPONDENCES: Concrete expressions of spiritual truths

E.G. HOLY SUPPER: "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalm 34:8)

THE WORD accommodated to our understanding:

The situation here is that the truth from God cannot be received by anyone unless it is adjusted to what he is capable of understanding, and so unless it is seen in a natural shape and form. For initially human minds can understand only earthly and worldly things, and not at all spiritual and celestial ones. If therefore spiritual and celestial things were made plainly visible they would be cast aside, as if they were worthless. This accords with the Lord's words in John,

If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how [will you believe] if I tell you heavenly things? John 3:12. (AC 8783)

The truths of the sense of the Letter of the Word are, in some cases, not naked truths, but appearances of truth, being, as it were, similitudes and comparisons taken from such things as are in nature, accommodated and adequate to the apprehension of simple people and children; but because they are correspondences, they are the receptacles and abodes of genuine truth. They are like vessels which enclose and contain, as a crystal cup holds noble wine, or a silver dish nourishing food. They are like garments which serve as clothing, like swaddling clothes for an infant, and comely robes for a maiden. (Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture, paragraph 40)

4. COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS

[SLIDE] MADE TO STICK

[CLICK] CONCRETE: When we know something, we tend to talk in JARGON and ABSTRACT TERMS. Anyone else who shares that body of knowledge understands what we say because they share our language. It is a quick and easy way to communicate. BUT if we want to communicate with someone who does not know understand language or share the same body of knowledge, we need to communicate in CONCRETE TERMS.

- "Elbow Grease"
- "DFAT" [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade]
- "TLA": Three Letter Acronym
- Nuclear warheads as ball-bearings [p. 141-143]