THINKING BIBLE

Rich images and stories fill the pages of our Bible, but they come from a time and culture very different from our own. The writers of the Bible are Hebrew (eastern) and they are writing to eastern audiences.
THINKING BIBLE

Most Christians in our culture are Greek (western), who think about the world in a much different way than the people of the Bible. As a result, much of the Bible is lost on our culture and lost even more as we try to explain it through a western lens. If we learn to “think Hebrew,” the Text will begin to come alive.
Way of Thinking

WORDS

Express truth using words, ideas, definitions

Prefer prose, outlines, lists, bullet points

Greek

Express truth using word-pictures and stories.

Prefer poetry, imagery, symbolism

hebrew
Way of Thinking

NUMBERS

See numbers primarily as QUANTITY

See numbers primarily as QUALITY or SYMBOL

Greek

hebrew
Life
ETERNAL LIFE

Detached from this world
Something that starts when this world is over

IN this world (and every)
Life lived in harmony with God

Greek
hebrew
Life

COMMUNITY v. INDIVIDUAL

Focuses on INDIVIDUAL

Focuses on COMMUNITY

Greek

hebrew
Life
ERROR & SIN

Wrong belief or incorrect thinking
Emphasizes what a person KNOWS

Wrong behavior
Emphasizes what a person DOES

Greek

hebrew
God
EXISTENCE

Tries to prove the existence of God

Assumes the existence of God

Greek

hebrew
God

DESCRIPTION

Focuses on the nature of the being

What/who is this God?

Focuses on the nature of the relationship

How does this God relate?

Greek  hebrew
Faith is intellectual
Creeds, doctrines, belief statements
Prooftexting to support belief

Faith is relational
Experiences of and with God
No attempt to rationalize
Truth

ULTIMATE TRUTH

Truth is rational and scientific
Focus in Scripture is on HOW it was done
Belief comes as one thinks through validation

Truth is religious/experiential
Focus in Scripture is on WHAT was done and WHO
Belief comes through the experience
Truth

TRUTH OVER TIME

Truth is static and unchanging

Greek

Truth is unfolding

hebrew
THINKING BIBLE