

I. Group Discussion

1. Introduce yourself to your group. Are you part of Beaver Creek Nazarene? If so, how long have you been a part of the Church? If not, what brought you here?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your Bible knowledge?
3. What's the strangest thing you've come across in the Bible?
4. What do you hope to gain from this class?

II. Introduction: What's a Symbolic Universe?

III. Making Meaning

Draw a picture of the Government

Draw a picture of Family.

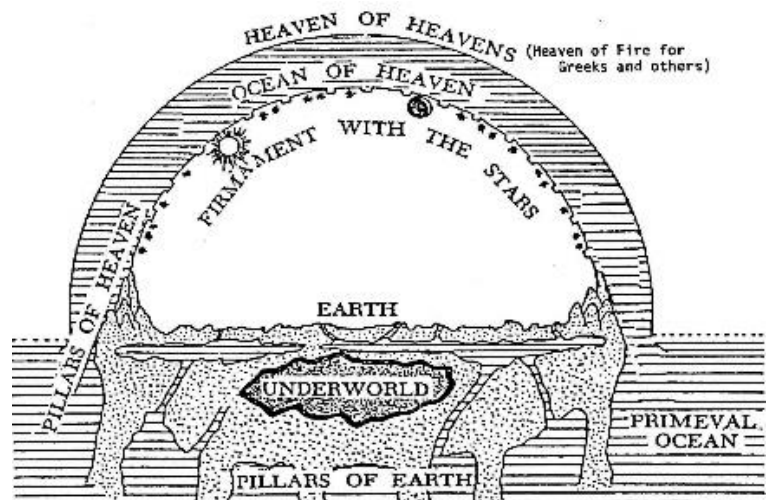
What Does This Mean?

The Golden Arches

“The Eagle has landed.”

A Cross

IV. The Symbolic World of the Bible



Jonah 2:2-6

"I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and Lord, you heard me! You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea. The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.

Then I said, 'O Lord, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.'

I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head. I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever. But you, O Lord my God, snatched me from the jaws of death!

Philippians 2:9-11

"God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. "

Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)

When the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

How would we talk about Jesus' "ascension" today? What images and metaphors would we use?

Course Schedule:

January 8 – Week 1: Our Symbolic Universe

January 13 – Week 2: The Sea, Space and Mid-Life Crisis

January 22 – Week 3: The Temple and the House

January 29 – Week 4: Gods, Idols and the Fame Monster

February 5 – Week 5: Communion with Katniss

February 12 – Week 6: Free at Last

February 19 – Week 7: God Gets Political

February 26 – Week 8: Losing My Religion

March 5 – BREAK FOR ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

March 12 – Week 9: Deliver Us

March 19 – Week 10: Living Water Wrap Up

Contact JR.

Phone: 937.409.5371

Email: jrforasteros@bcnaz.net

Podcast: <http://jrforasteros.com/portfolio-posts/big-idea/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jrforasteros

Twitter: @jrforasteros