

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



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Life

ETERNAL LIFE

Detached from this world

*Something that starts when
this world is over*



Greek

IN this world (and every)

*Life lived in harmony
with God*



hebrew

Life

COMMUNITY v. INDIVIDUAL

Focuses on INDIVIDUAL

Focuses on COMMUNITY



Greek



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Life

ERROR & SIN

Wrong belief or incorrect thinking

*Emphasizes what a person
KNOWS*



Greek

Wrong behavior

*Emphasizes what a person
DOES*



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God

EXISTENCE

*Tries to prove the existence
of God*

*Assumes the existence
of God*



Greek



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God

DESCRIPTION

Focuses on the nature of the being

What/who is this God?



Greek

Focuses on the nature of the relationship

How does this God relate?



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God

FAITH

Faith is intellectual

Creeds, doctrines, belief statements

Proof texting to support belief



Greek

Faith is relational

Experiences of and with God

No attempt to rationalize



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Truth

ULTIMATE TRUTH

Truth is rational and scientific

*Focus in Scripture is on
HOW it was done*

*Belief comes as one thinks
through validation*



Greek

Truth is religious/experiential

*Focus in Scripture is on
WHAT was done and WHO*

*Belief comes through the
experience*



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Truth

TRUTH OVER TIME

*Truth is static and
unchanging*

Truth is unfolding



Greek



hebrew

THINKING BIBLE