



THE **Spiritual** **Meaning** OF **Scripture**



Your Greatest Opportunity.

Your Mental Wellbeing.

Your Religion and Science.

Howard B. Becker

The Spiritual Meaning of Scripture
Your Greatest Opportunity. Your Mental Wellbeing. Your Religion and Science.

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If you care to just stop for just a moment, cast off the noise of the world and look honestly, sincerely and humbly within yourself to ask the question “what’s it’s all about,” you’ll find “a still small Voice” softly answering out from within your soul.

I dedicate this book in gratefulness to being brought to where my knees bent and my neck bowed, and I listened, rather than rejecting the answers that came forth from within my own soul.

I would also like to dedicate this book to all who have, are now, and will soon be experiencing this very same miracle unfolding within them.

It is without a doubt, the Opportunity of our lifetimes!

“And Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this Place; and I knew it not.”

Genesis 28:16

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Author's Note

In the secular world, it is common for people to discuss the differences between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. Answers are sought about the intent and purpose of the law. Justice is pursued, requiring good judgment.

Making good judgments is called wisdom.

I have written *The Spiritual Meaning of Scripture* to focus on the spiritual meaning and Intent of Scripture so that it will not become ignored, glossed over or obscured by overemphasis on the letter of the Word.

This book explores the Spirit of the Word, seeking answers about the Lord's Purpose for the Creation of your soul. And as Scripture is God's Testimony to you—to all of us, there is no better way to gain understanding about the Way He Intends to fulfill that Purpose within your life.

And because you are finite and God is Infinite, you have been Gifted with the ability to become transformed into a very special person, unique, and invaluable to Him and to others, no two individuals ever being the same. Understanding how to get there from here offers you the Greatest Opportunity of your lifetime.



I am Howard Becker. Like many, I've had questions about my own spiritual journey. I have wrestled with many of the same questions that permeate today's noisy, chaotic world of conflicting beliefs and competing religious doctrines. Through exploring the spiritual meaning of the stories, examples

and lessons of the Bible, I have found good, sensible and sustainable answers to those questions, even the most difficult ones. I have found that other than being willing to approach, or re-approach Scripture with an open mind and heart, there are no prerequisites required to comprehend the meaning of these precious answers.

With all love, humility, and respect I invite you to join me in exploring these answers, for they are the most important things of all.

Together we will seek them and find them. With all my heart, I believe this journey will help deliver you to a place where you will find ever-deepening understanding about the spiritual Meaning and Purpose of the Bible for the rest of your life, as it has mine.

This book makes no demand to belong to a particular religious denomination. It contains no ulterior motive for organizational or institutional recruitment. It is simply based on spiritual Principles that are True, timeless, common, and invaluable to all of us. It informs us about what matters most in life.

Throughout, I've included verses of Scripture that relate to the subject matter of the chapter cited—all are taken from the *Authorized King James Bible*. Many Words have been capitalized to help edify their spiritual meanings. I greatly recommend that you read each chapter in chronological order, as each builds upon the preceding one.

Most likely, you will have favorite Scriptural entries. I encourage you to treat them as devotionals for everyday living. With all hope and confidence, I believe that this book will help you tremendously in your relationship with your Maker, and with all around you.

You've picked up the right book!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howard", is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF SCRIPTURE

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1

The Decline

God needs to Communicate to you

*F*ormal religious membership has been significantly declining, predominantly in the United States and Europe, and filtering to many other countries throughout the world. Legacy religious institutions are being left with legacy members, aging and dying out. Attendance within established religious communities is challenged and gasping for air and new life.

Why?

- Younger members are questioning formal religious dogmas, and not always finding answers that resonate with their common sense.
- Evangelical movements are turning to various political ideals, which are very often *religious* in name only.
- Far too many religious institutions have been riddled by sexual abuse scandals, committed and suppressed by their own leaders.
- Too many leaders in power use religion to make themselves appear righteous when they are anything but.
- Literal Biblical teachings are conflicting with the discoveries of modern science.

- Many have become disillusioned—especially younger generations—about the conflicts, inconsistencies, and hypocrisies they are finding in formal religious institutions.

All of these factors are contributing greatly to the growing drift of individuals who are losing interest and disconnecting in droves. They no longer identify themselves as members of organizations that were once deemed the core of families in America and defined the American way of life.

Can you blame them?

In March 2021, Gallup reported this growing loss in its news article: *U.S. Church Membership Falls Below Majority for First Time*.

Americans' membership in houses of worship continued to decline last year, dropping below 50% for the first time in Gallup's eight-decade trend. In 2020, 47% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999.

The U.S. remains a religious nation, with more than seven in ten affiliating with some type of organized religion. And far fewer, less than half, have a formal membership with a specific house of worship. While it is possible that part of the decline seen in 2020 was temporary and related to the coronavirus pandemic, continued decline in future decades seems inevitable, given the much lower levels of religiosity and church membership among younger versus older generations of adults.

In March 2023, *The Wall Street Journal*-NORC poll reported in its article: *America Pulled Back from Values That Once Defined It*,

Among other shrinking American core values, only 39% of respondents said religion was very important to them. That was down sharply from when the *Journal* first asked the question 25 years ago in 1998, when 62% deemed religion to be very



important. Today, 31% of young respondents said religion was very important, compared to 55% of those 65 and up.

According to an article published in the *Atlantic* magazine on July 29, 2023 by Jake Meador:

Forty million Americans have stopped attending church in the past 25 years. That's something like 12 percent of the population, and it represents the largest concentrated change in church attendance in American history.

As I read these results, and many more like them, I wasn't surprised.

Although the declining trend in formal religious membership is clear, the

The letter of the Word embodies the Spirit of the Word.

sense that there is something much Greater than ourselves will never depart from the human race.

The need to connect with that inner awareness continually beckons us to seek answers about why

and how we may. Those answers have not been hidden from us, neither are they far off. They are actually much closer to our minds, hearts, and souls than we realize.

And so, the decline of formal religion is not to be compared with a decline in our need to connect with a Higher Calling. Rather, our need to make that Connection has never been greater.



As you and I explore the spiritual meaning of Scripture, it is important to realize that the letter of the Word embodies the Spirit of the Word, just as your physical body encompasses the spirit within your soul. And just as you are physically dead without your spirit living within you, so the letter of the Word is dead without the Spirit Living within it.

It is therefore vital to recognize that it is the Spirit of the Word that gives the letter of the Word its True meaning and Life ... *not the other way around*. Thinking otherwise leads to countless misunderstandings about what God is attempting to Communicate to you about His Plan and Purpose for the Creation of your life.



Within, I've included a chapter dedicated to many of the spiritual terms found throughout the Bible. Another addresses the Biblical Story of our Creation. Later chapters discuss the Principles that Govern our mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. When taken together, you will discover they provide answers that dissipate any conflict between the letter of the Word and the Spirit of the Word.

The verses of Scripture cited have all been taken from the Authorized King James Bible. I have capitalized many words to edify their spiritual meaning. All discussion is Scripture-based.



2

Introducing Timeless Principles

The Keys that unlock your innermost happiness
and genuine fulfillment in life.

*T*hroughout *The Spiritual Meaning of Scripture* you and I will explore the answers surrounding the spiritual meaning of the stories, examples, and lessons of and from the Bible.

Even the most difficult ones.

There is no demand to belong to a particular religious denomination. You will find no ulterior motive for organizational or institutional recruitment.

It is simply based on spiritual Principles that are timeless, common, and invaluable to you ... to all of us. It identifies and educates as to what matters most in life.



The human race loves to investigate the laws of physical science. The principles of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, time-space, and many other physical “laws” are studied, tested, and continually validated and revalidated worldwide. Their confirmations enhance our understanding

about the order of the physical universe, and when used with good judgment, they work together to greatly benefit our lives and the lives of those around us.

Likewise, many studies in psychology and psychiatry are conducted to enhance our understanding about what benefits our mental and emotional wellbeing. Yet, considering the importance of what supports all of these benefits, it should not be a stretch to seek understanding about the spiritual Principles that are fundamental to establishing the Goodness within them.

He Promises to bring all things Good into fruition within your life.

Rather, gaining understanding about these Principles should be your highest priority in life, for as you apply them in the Way the Lord has Shown that you must, He Promises to bring all things Good into fruition within your life. Throughout the Bible, He invites you to learn about these Sacred Principles, and then confirm their validity for yourself.

“Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?”

Isaiah 40:21



He continually Calls upon you to learn about them, teaching you that you can easily understand them and prove them for yourself if you honestly, sincerely, and humbly open your mind and heart, and try.

“I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye Me in vain: I the Lord speak Righteousness, I declare things that are Right.”

Isaiah 45:19



Gaining spiritual understanding about the Lord's Testimony to you is life-altering. It Enlightens your sense of Reason while Inspiring you to develop into the person that you are capable of becoming.

In the Old Testament, the Truth of that understanding is described as an eternal Light placed over the altar of our lives, Exodus 27:20-21 and Isaiah 60:19-20. In the New Testament, John 1:4 and Revelation 22:5 designate that Truth as the *Light of men*.

Receiving the Truth of that understanding will Give meaning and Purpose to everything you think, feel, and do in life. And so, for your Good and for the Good of all, the Lord asks you to learn from Him and then trust Him, relying on what He has been teaching all of us since the beginning of human existence. In Psalms 118:23, He Promises that what He will develop within you as you abide by that understanding will be nothing less than Marvelous in your eyes.

“Give ye ear, and hear My Voice; hearken, and hear My Speech.”

Isaiah 28:23

Throughout the Bible, the Lord uses physical things to teach you about spiritual things. By doing so, He employs the things you have become familiar with since your earliest childhood to teach you about the things that affect your mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. In this manner He uses the letter of the Word to Communicate with you about the Spirit of His Word.

This is His Speech. It is the Way He Gives you understanding about why and how you must live your life, and it is the language spoken throughout the Heavens.

“If I have told you about earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall you believe if I tell you about Heavenly things?”

John 3:12

”



The very first Words in the Bible are “In the Beginning.” These Words describe a spiritual awakening within your mind and heart about the Truth of Love. They describe the time when spiritual Reality begins to dawn within you about what leads to innermost happiness and genuine fulfillment in life. From this Glorious Beginning, the Lord begins to divide the darkness from the Light within your soul.

The Word “Water” describes genuine spiritual knowledge about Divine Truth.

Within the first book and chapter of Genesis, the stage is set.

“In the Beginning God Created the Heaven and the earth.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the Waters.

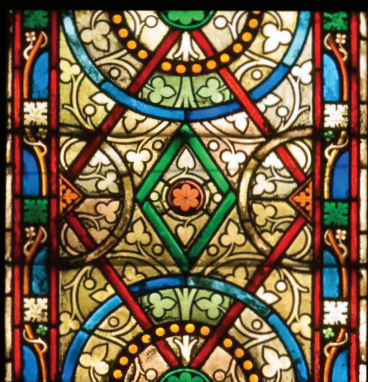
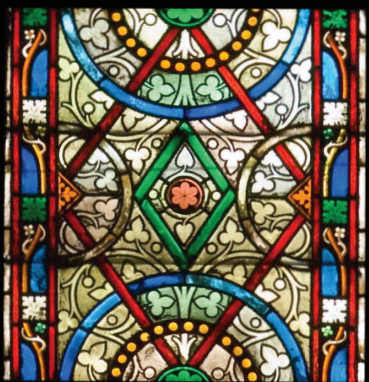
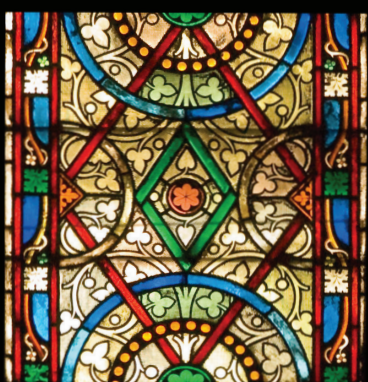
“And God said, Let there be Light: and there was Light.”

Genesis 1:1–3

The Word: *Water* describes genuine spiritual knowledge about Divine Truth.

The Words: *And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the Waters* illustrate the Lord internally Inspiring you with spiritual knowledge about Divine Truth. When willfully applied to the Way you live your life, that knowledge acts as an internal cleansing, dissipating falsities and evils of all sorts from preventing you from recognizing what matters most in life. When acknowledged and accepted, that spiritual understanding moves everything within you for the Better.

And so, throughout the Bible the Lord describes spiritual knowledge about Divine Truth as Life-Giving. He Offers it to you freely in Order to prepare you to spiritually grow and prosper in all that you think, feel, and do.



Spiritually, nothing Good will continue to grow and prosper within you without willfully applying that knowledge to the Way you live your life.

The Words: *And God said, Let there be Light: and there was Light* reveal that Holy understanding dawning within your life.

“O send out Thy Light and Thy Truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy Holy Hill, and to Thy Tabernacles.

“Then will I go unto the Altar of God, unto God my exceeding Joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise Thee, O God my God.”

Psalms 43:3-4



Throughout the Bible, the Lord describes you as a “temple” and as a “church.” He describes you in this manner because you have the spiritual potential to eternally host the Joy and Goodness of His Love within your mind and heart. Everywhere He teaches about the Way you, all of us, must live our lives in Order to receive, retain, and forever share in those incomparable Blessings. Using that understanding to make good judgments about why and how you must is spiritual Wisdom.

“Doth not Wisdom cry? And understanding put forth Her Voice?

“She standeth in the top of High Places, by the Way in the Places of the Paths.

“She crieth at the Gates, at the entry of the City, at the coming in at the Doors.”

Proverbs 8:1-3

Everywhere the Lord teaches about your need to heed His Call. He Beckons you, and me, to turn away from the pride of self-intelligence and to turn toward Him for knowledge about the Way we must live our lives. Through that understanding He Guides you to take steps, to enter through Gates and to open the Doors which will allow the Truth and Goodness of His Love for you to come to Rest in Peace and Goodwill within your soul.

With each story, lesson, and example recorded in the Bible, He Reasons with you about why and how you must. All the while He asks you to abide by the Principles that He is asking you to keep foremost during your entire spiritual journey in this world. Those are the Principles of His Righteousness, and they are embedded within the Commandments He has Given to all of us. To you. And so, He asks you to “Post” those Sacred Principles upon the “gates” of your mind and heart, teaching you that these are the Standards that He has established to protect you from mental, emotional, and spiritual harm as He develops your full potential into becoming a “Place” for His Abode.

“And thou shalt write them upon the door Posts of thine house, and upon thine gates.

“That your Days may be multiplied, and the Days of your children, in the Land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to Give them, as the Days of Heaven upon the earth.”

Deuteronomy 11:20–21



The spiritual potential of your mind and heart is described throughout the Bible as a “land.” It is that potential that the Lord Wills to prepare into becoming a fertile ground. Through that preparation He seeds your mind

and heart with spiritual understanding so that the Goodness of His Love for you may take root, grow, and prosper within your soul. As you work with Him to tend that growth, He Promises to deliver you into “the Land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to Give them, as the Days of Heaven upon the earth.”

“Now He that planteth and He that watereth are One: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

1 Corinthians 3:8-9



In themselves, spiritual curiosity, religious affiliations, and mere confessions of the mouth are ineffectual in unlocking the full spiritual potential of your soul. The Lord teaches you that your full spiritual potential can only be unlocked as you wholeheartedly apply what He is Showing you to be True and Right to each and every aspect of your life. And so everywhere in Scripture He beseeches you to remove any stumbling blocks that would have you think otherwise. He Promises that as you do so, He will Gift you with Thoughts and Affections that are much Higher and much more Perfect than anything you could have ever conceived on your own.

“Go through, go through the Gates; prepare ye the Way of the people; cast up, cast up the Highway, gather out the stones; lift up a Standard for the people.”

Isaiah 62:1





Each stage of your spiritual progression in life is described as a “Day” in the Bible. Each successful progression is depicted as a “night” turning into “morning.” As you continue to abide by what the Lord is teaching you to be True and Right, those progressions will multiply and propagate within you with newly conceived thoughts and affections received from the Lord’s Thoughts and Affections.

The Words in Deuteronomy 11:21, *That your Days may be multiplied, and the Days of your children* illuminate that propagation. In this manner your mind and heart become spiritually born again, formed, and made into an image to His Truth and as a likeness to the Goodness of His Love for you.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.”

John 3:3

“If ye keep My Commandments, ye shall abide in My Love; even as I have kept My Father’s Commandments and abide in His Love.”

John 15:10

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Revelation 2:29



In my *Author’s Note*, I shared that I was born to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother. And although my mother converted to Judaism when I was three, she instilled a great affection and respect for the Christian faith within our family.

Being brought up in a Reformed Jewish house of worship, I studied the Hebrew language as it applied to the Old Testament and was Bar Mitzvahed at age thirteen. Sabbath services and weekend religious study classes were attended regularly at our local Jewish Temple until I was fifteen, when I graduated with confirmation in that religious education. And although I had come to feel a deep bond with God during that time, I drifted away from religious thought and practice shortly thereafter.

I was a true master of them all.

During my late teens and early twenties, I was fully occupied with my educational goals, earning a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a Master’s degree in business administration, after which I began full-time employment. I gave no further reverence or consideration to religious thought or practice, period.

What took their place could best be described as an immersion in self-centered thoughts, selfish desires, and their corresponding egotistical behaviors. Everything was about me, worldly success, and the *pleasures of life*. I was a true master of them all.

In my mid-twenties I experienced circumstances that stopped me in my tracks. Those circumstances brought me to a startling and very humbling recognition that there was something much deeper to life than anything I had previously been willing to acknowledge. That realization led me to seek sensible answers about what that “something” was, and about what it implied for the way I was living my life.

My quest began for those answers. I started by examining and reexamining various philosophies and religions, both ancient and current. I visited many religious houses of worship, attending their various services and speaking with their leaders and teachers, asking them countless questions about their core beliefs and religious doctrines. In many ways their answers were beneficial, but perplexing in many other ways.

According to a February 2021 report from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, there are currently more than 200 differing Christian denominations in the US alone, and a staggering 45,000 globally. Each has both subtle and not-so-subtle differences in belief and doctrine.

Wikipedia reveals that there are several Jewish religious movements also known as denominations. Each has significant differences in belief and doctrine. Most perplexing of all is that each of these many Christian and Jewish denominations claim to be exclusively correct.

I was confused with what seemed like a tug-of-war within and between the many Christian and Jewish denominations I encountered. I was left wanting. And I recognized that same “wanting” was being experienced by countless others.

As I reflected upon these many competing religious factions, certain Principles became apparent that united all the best of them into One. I came to recognize these as the age-old Principles of Righteousness expounded in the Bible, from beginning to end. I realized that they formed the foundation for all the Truth and Goodness existing and perpetuating within the human race.

I began to comprehend that these Sacred Principles override any differences between us, you and I included, and are indispensable for our individual and collective mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. I began to understand that these Principles are the Keys to unlocking our innermost happiness and genuine fulfillment in life.

As I continued in my everyday working career, I began teaching business classes. During those classes, I attempted to incorporate the Principles I had come to recognize as the most important

of all into what I was teaching. They became the core of each class. I taught graduate courses in entrepreneurship,

management, and business ethics in the MBA program for 20 years at California Lutheran University. Although I was surrounded by the Lutheran environment, I never became a formal member of the Lutheran church.

He will Gift you with Thoughts
and Affections which are much
Higher than your own.

Rather than joining any specific religious denomination, I have tried to keep my focus centered upon the Principles that unite us all together in understanding the most important things of all.

It is now time for me to share the spiritual meaning and implications of those invaluable Principles with you.

Going Forward, you will discover the Our Creation Story, Commandments 1 through 10, and The Launch Pad.

The Spiritual Meaning of Scripture contains 475 pages exploring the Wonderful Way the Lord fulfills His Purpose for the Creation of your soul.

