

Evaluating A Teaching

DISCLAIMER: *This teaching session is designed to provide understanding for those who read or listen to spiritual teaching. In no way is it intended to be a criticism of other teachers. It is critique to exemplify how teaching should be appraised as part of discipleship within our Kingdom Community.*

Sample #1

Pulpit&Pen published an article, 'Charisma Mag Promotes Astrology (Again)'¹ by Brandon Hines on February 16, 2017. The article criticised Charisma Magazine for running the article 'What the Aquarius Constellation Teaches Us About Pentecost—and the End Times' by Ron Allen, that linked the constellation Aquarius with Pentecost and End Times They identify Ron Allen as the founder of the International Star Bible Society (a “self-proclaimed ministry dedicated to Astrology” they say), and writer of the book “The Mystery of the Blood Moons”.

Allen claims in his article:

“Aquarius is the sixth chapter of the star Bible, a picture of a man pouring out an urn of water. Aquarius comes after the constellation Capricorn (the goat) which pictures the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ. After his resurrection, Christ told his followers to wait for him in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit. Aquarius shows the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, often represented by water; that began on Pentecost in Jerusalem. This is the real Age of Aquarius.”²

The Pulpit&Pen article states that, “There is no Biblical basis for any of these claims. Not a single text of Scripture indicates that these constellations have anything to do with the events recorded in the Gospels and Acts.”

What they are missing is knowledge of the Hebrew Mazzaroth, their zodiac. Here's a graphic sample³:



The Mazzaroth can easily appear to be a Babylonian infiltration into the Jewish religion and rejected at face value. However, Cuck Missler writes: “The Hebrew Mazzaroth has nothing to do with astrology. Rather, it is a tool that uses the stars to tell a story”⁴. After all, it's the stars that tell the handiwork of God – they are part of the heavens: “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork”⁵.

On a similar line, there is widespread teaching that the Jewish feasts foretold of the Messiah⁶ and a similar teaching that Jesus fulfilled the feasts⁷. Using strict biblical adherence, however, these accepted teachings are not explicitly laid out in the Bible – i.e.

there are no scripture verses that state his fulfilment of each festival. Instead, it is an interpretation that is derived from an understanding of the feasts and of the gospel timeline. You can reject it if you like, but it makes a whole lot of sense in the light of types and shadows.

For detailed information on the Mazzaroth and the constellations in relation to their revelation of the hidden things of God there are these resources:

- Joseph A. Seiss “The Gospel in the Stars” (PDF)⁸

1 – pulpitandpen.org/2017/02/16/charisma-mag-promotes-astrology-again/

2 – www.charismamag.com/spirit/apologetics/31934-what-the-aquarius-constellation-teaches-us-about-pentecost-and-the-end-times

3 – Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=629170>

4 – Cuck Missler “Signs in the Heavens” (www.khouse.org/articles/2014/1193)

5 – Psalm 19:1

6 – e.g. www.luziusschneider.com/Papers/JewishFeasts.htm

7 – See www.gotquestions.org/Jewish-feasts.html

8 – Originally published as “The Gospel in the Stars: or, Primeval Astronomy” 1882 E. Claxton & Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
(DOWNLOAD: teachingfaith.com/files/books/the_gospel_in_the_stars.pdf)

- John P. Pratt “The Constellations Tell of Christ”⁹
- John P. Pratt “The Zodiac Testifies of Christ”¹⁰
- “Is There a Gospel in the Stars?”¹¹

CONCLUSION: Don't reject everything that's not perfectly referenced in scripture, but test everything¹² and adhere to what sits in your spirit. Not all spiritual knowledge is in the bible. The Bible couldn't hold all the knowledge there is. The truth's of God and his universe will take us a lot of our eternity to receive – there's so much of it.

Sample #2

Myles Munroe in his 'Rediscovering The Kingdom' DVD series makes many, many accurate interpretations of biblical words by looking at their meaning in their original OT and NT setting. However, on one occasion he 'slipped' and translated incorrectly by doing a double-translation.

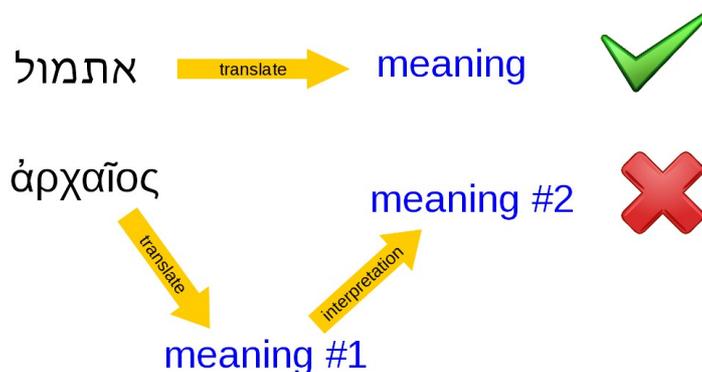
Myles conducted the following sequence for John 20:22 –

1. Translated *lambanō* (Greek) into 'receive'
2. Broke 'receive' into 're' + 'ceive'
3. Stated that 're' means 'again' and 'ceive' means 'take'

But, there is no English word 'ceive'. This is a form of erroneous translation. However, it should be noted that 'receive' comes via Old English from the Latin *re+capere* where *capere* refers to 'take'¹³. Therefore, 'receive' in it's original meaning refers to taking something back.

Myles translated *lambanō* into the modern English word, 'receive', **BUT** it has lost its original meaning (as many other English words have). You can't assign a meaning to an ancient word from the ancient meaning of a modern word that's its equivalent. This is illogical.

Let me show it in graphic form. The first attempt below is correct, but the second is a double-translation which is not correct.



CONCLUSION: Be careful how speakers and writers translate ancient words. We already know that the English bibles have many mistranslations because translators selected words that fitted their own theology, but even those trying to right these errors can make their own mistakes.

Sample #3

In a podcast, Alan E. Kirschner of Eschatos Ministries critiqued Jimmy DeYoung's claim that the traditional Jewish wedding imagery supports the pre-tribulation rapture.¹⁴

9 – Published as "The Constellations Tell of Christ," by *Meridian Magazine* (15 June 2005). ©2005 by John P. Pratt. All rights Reserved.

NOTE: The *Meridian Magazine* is published by the Mormons

10 – www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/meridian/2005/zodiac.html

11 – www.setterfield.org/stargospel.html

12 – 1 Thessalonians 5:21

13 – Google definition

14 – “Does Jewish Wedding Imagery Support Pretribulationism? – Ep. 79” (12-2-2017)

(www.alankurschner.com/2017/02/12/does-jewish-wedding-imagery-support-pretribulationism-ep-79)

The issue at point here is that DeYoung used Jewish wedding traditions to justify a spiritual matter with no biblical basis for it. (NB: The content of the podcast is irrelevant to what I am endeavouring to do with this teaching.)

It is true that Jesus used NT life situations to exemplify the Kingdom message so the locals could get a grasp of it. He used wheat planters, potters, vineyard workers, weddings, etc. His analogy in the bridegroom and the virgins¹⁵ parable selected specific traditions in the wedding sequence to demonstrate a spiritual point. This is perfectly permissible.

What would have been wrong for Jesus to say would be: “Your wedding traditions were set in place by Father God to show you how the messiah and his Bride would join together in The End of Days when he returns to set up his Kingdom on Earth”. This is in effect what DeYoung was doing by using the Jewish wedding traditions to justify his end-time stance. It would require a statement to that effect in scripture for it to have any veracity.

CONCLUSION: Be careful of those who draw fact out of allegory when there is no scriptural basis for it. What they say will probably sound good to the mind and to the religious bent of a person, but that is not the determining factor for truth.

Sample #4

This example is an exemplar of how to read/listen/watch teaching. Everything the person says needs to be weighed against the genuine truths that you know. Religious beliefs and theological errors that you have don't count if you're wanting to learn truth.

Below is a critique the first 9 minutes of John Kingsley Alley's teaching audio file, “Defeating the Power of Accusation”¹⁶. The details are in the table below. Check it out.

0:41	Start here
2:12	The church doesn't guard against deception as it is still systemic and in a number of forms of deception.
2:22	Yes. We put up with grumblings, accusations, criticism and negativity.
3:07	How does Satan accuse us to our face day and night?
3:14	“Life and death are in the power of the tongue”: What does this really mean? In proverbs, it's the king speaking about what he has learnt as a ruler. The say-so of a king, judge, etc., determines if a person is executed or exonerated. The true or false statements of a witness will determine the fate of a person who is accused. There is no spiritual intent here.
3:30	Note: Satan accuses us before God, not to ourselves.
4:43	Is this a future event where he makes war against the saints? i.e. during the Last Days?
5:03	What actually is the “word of our testimony”? I've heard a number of different teachings on this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our verbal testimony of Jesus' gift for humanity • Our good testimony displayed by our godly life • The spiritual testimony of the Spirit of Christ in us • OTHERS?????
6:38	Yes. Our words as his 'imagers' are powerful. Every human's is to a certain extent.
7:18	We need to agree with Jesus. He's wanting us to align with him in all things. It's part of partnering with Heaven and our apprenticeship as sons.
7:32	“2 or 3 witnesses” ¹⁷ is about verifying the truth. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Paul is wanting to come three times to Corinth to challenge the truth of what they believe. It's not a '3-times lucky' sort of thing.

15 – Matthew 25:1-13

16 – www.peace.org.au/sites/default/files/defeating-the-power-of-accusation.mp3

17 – Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:16; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

7:51	Intercession is not the be-all and end-all. Agreement & alignment are 2 of the most powerful way Father's will is done on Earth.
8:18	There's no biblical basis that accusation will “snuff out” what you're called to do unless it's dealt with. Spiritually speaking it should be dealt with, but you can't deal with every bit of accusation as it could take up all your daylight hours.
9:05	<u>Truth</u> is established by 2 or 3 witnesses. There's <u>no power</u> in 2 or 3 witnesses, but there is power in agreement. This is using the scriptures incorrectly.

NOTE: I have only identified points needing correction, not the accurate things he said.

When I originally listened to this 1-hour session I only got 4 minutes of important teaching. That 4-minute segment was concise and only worthy of use as an audio-visual to teach others. It was of no value to myself.

Why so minuscule? **There was no impartation from the whole session due to it's religious content and basis.** That doesn't mean it was useless for someone else who needs knowledge – 'head knowledge'.

The Keys

The keys to handling ALL spiritual communication are these:

- Listen with your spirit and accept what is deposited there

This is called 'spiritual impartation' from the Holy Spirit and is the mode that spiritual believers (i.e. Kingdom sons) should be taught.

- Ignore teachers that don't speak to your spirit

These teachers don't provide spiritual food which Jesus told us will nourish our spirit¹⁸. Kingdom focus is essential, so don't waste your time on what doesn't provide *rhema* to feed your spirit.

Head knowledge is fine, but it can be erroneous. Once a believer knows the 'voice' of the Spirit there can be no doubt that what is deposited is not error. Error comes from not knowing the Spirit's communication perfectly and confusing 'hearing' in the mind with 'hearing' in the spirit. They are distinctly different, but only experience can separate them.

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(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

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