



How Can You Take The Bible Literally?

"The Bible is the foundation of all literature and art. If you go through the galleries of the world, you will see that all the greatest art is inspired by the Bible." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Poetry, Paradox, Metaphor, Chiasm, Intertextuality, Repeating Words

Pshat- the plain meaning of the text

Drash- the deeper, more complex meaning of the text.

Jonah 1:1-3(NIV): "The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness(Ra, evil) has come up before me.' 3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord."

Jonah 4:1-9(NIV): "But to Jonah this seemed very wrong(Ra, evil), and he became angry(Ra, evil). 2 He prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity(Ra, evil). 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.' 4 But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry(Hara, burn with anger)?' 5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the Lord God(YHWH/Elohim, Compassion/Truth) provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort(deliver him from his, Ra, evil), and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day God(Elohim/Truth/Emet) provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God(Elohim/Truth/Emet) provided a scorching east wind(Ruah/spirit, wind, breath, brain), and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for me to die than to live.' 9 But God(Elohim/Truth/Emet) said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry(Hara, burn with anger) about the plant?' 'It is,' he said. 'And I'm so angry(Hara, burning with anger) I wish I were dead.'

No Justice = No Meaning

No Compassion = No Future

The Plant is Pure Compassion

The Worm is Pure Truth

John 1:14(NIV): "We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 8:10,11(NIV): "'Has no one condemned you?' 11 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

Embrace the Bible for what it is.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.