

# Welcome to **WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT**

No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.



The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.

## What is the "Bible"?


# τὰ βιβλία

from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblía* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans

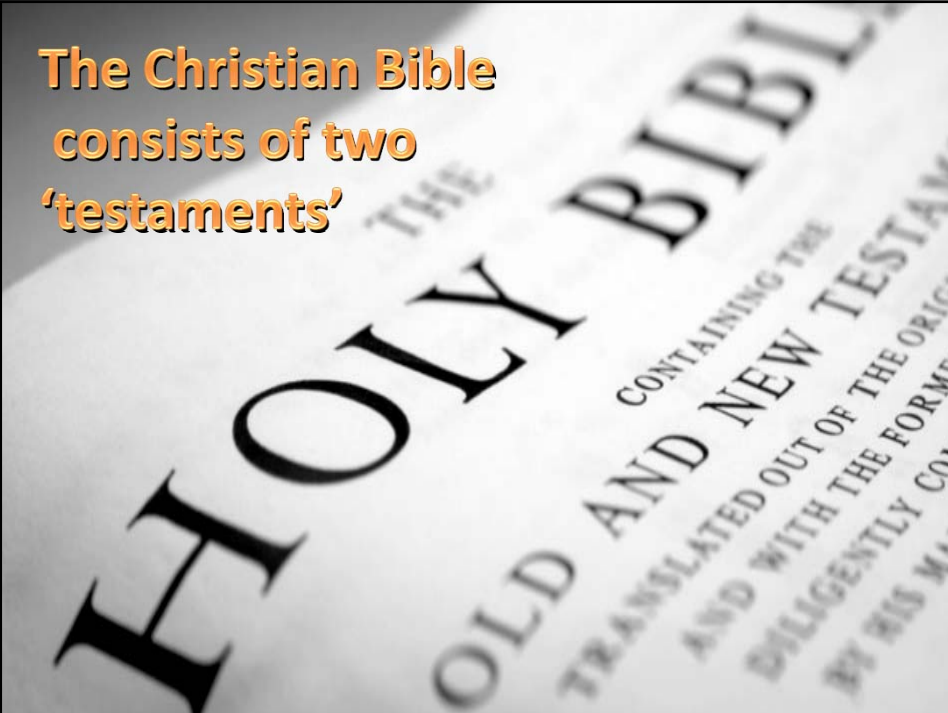


**66** books by  
**40** authors  
(shepherds, kings,  
scholars, prophets,  
fishermen,  
a priest, a soldier,  
and a cupbearer)

from  
**3** continents  
**3** writing in  
**languages**  
over nearly  
**2,000** years

## The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a  
single, unified  
message  
of  
**God's**  
**nature,**  
His **love,**  
and His **plan**  
of salvation  
for fallen  
humanity.



**The Christian Bible  
consists of two  
'testaments'**

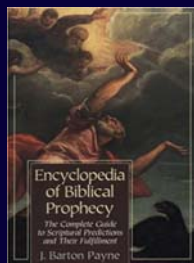
### A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the Old Testament **concealed**, the **Old Testament** is in the New Testament **revealed**.

### Some things to keep in mind

- The Bible purports to be a message from God to us. Don't expect it to be like "just any old book".
- Science can only study observable and measurable natural things. God of the Bible isn't similarly limited. The Bible is full of supernatural matters like angels, fallen angels, spirits, and miracles. The lame walk, the deaf hear, and the blind see.
- "In the beginning, God..." God of the Bible claims to be the Creator of all things.
- God is outside time. He alone can declare "...the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done." (Isaiah 46:10)  
We call this attribute "prophecy".

## A tidbit on Prophetic Fulfilment



Per Payne, 8,352 verses (**27%**) out of 31,124 in the Bible are predictive.

The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

The Old Testament is 28.5% predictive while the New Testament is 21.5% predictive.

> **80%**

of the predictions have come true; **all** except those of Christ's Second Coming and the End Times.

## Two different views of prophecy

### The Greek (Western) View

● Prediction ⇔ Fulfilment

#### PROPHECY (x2):

1. Zechariah 9:9. Messiah ("the King") will ride into Jerusalem on an ass.
2. Daniel 9:25: Gabriel tells Daniel that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem 173,880 days after the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem. (N.B. Calculation omitted)

#### FULFILMENT:

- A. Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem on 6 April 32 AD exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus so ordered on 14 March 445 B.C.

### The Hebrew (Eastern) View

● Pattern(s) ⇔ Repeated

#### How Joseph's life prefigures Jesus

1. Despised for his prophetic gift.
2. Betrayed by Jews into Gentile hands.
3. God turns the betrayal into salvation.
4. Betrayed by brother Judah(s) for silver.
5. Cloak taken as proof he was not in the pit.
6. Falsely accused at an unfair trial.
7. Condemned with two criminals, one who lives and one who dies.
8. Condemnation to exaltation in three days.
9. Upon exaltation, every knee bowed.
10. Upon exaltation married a Gentile bride.
11. Not recognised at first coming, at second coming Joseph's brothers wept.
12. Joseph beloved of his father.

The richness and understanding that accompanies the rediscovery of the Midrashic hermeneutic is one of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament.

## How can God prophesy?

- “I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning.” (Isaiah 46:10)
- “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Proverb 15:3)

**Per the Bible, God is eternal. He is not constrained by time. He created time.**

## A tidbit on Bible codes

- Codes are found throughout the Bible:



- Commonly used variations include:
  - **Macrocodes**, hidden in plain sight.
  - **Microcodes**, hidden behind original texts.

*"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." (Proverb 25:2)*

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. " (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

*"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light." (Luke 8:17)*

*"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." (John 15:5)*

### **Bible Macrocodes**

- Macrocodes are hidden meanings that transcend the plain meaning of a letter, word, clause or passage.
- Macrocodes can be anticipatory. They can present the structure of future events in advance, a property that makes the Bible truly unique.
- The Bible uses many types of macrocode:
  - Some reflect recurring historical patterns ("types"). Thus Jesus reveals the Brazen Serpent of Numbers 21:4-9 to be a type of his crucifixion. (John 3:14-15)
  - Some provide an underlying structure to the text. Numerology is one such form.

### A macrocode prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>	<u>English meaning</u>
אדם	Adam	Man (is)
שת	Seth	Appointed
אנוש	Enosh	Mortal
קינן	Kenon	Sorrow (but)
מהללאל	Mahalael	The Blessed God
ירד	Jared	Shall come down
חנוך	Enoch	Teaching (refer to Hebrew root)
מתושלח	Methuselah	His death shall bring
למך	Lamech	(the) Despairing
נח	Noah	Comfort, Rest

### Biblical numerology

- Until Arabic numerals were adapted from Indian numerals in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, numerals were predominantly alphabetical.
- Each letter stood for a number as well.

Aleph	Bet	Gimel	Dalet	Hey	Vav	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yud	Kaf	Lamed	Mem	Nun	Samech	Ayin	Pey	Tsaddi	Kuf	Resh	Shin	Tav
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	ר	ש	ת
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	200	300	400

- Application of values to words and phrases can result in complex numerical patterns.
- Some believe that patterns of numbers in the Bible relate to symbolic attributes.



### Microcode example 1: The number 14

- Matthew built his genealogy around the number 14.
- David is the 14<sup>th</sup> name listed, and Jesus is 14 names later, using 14 to make the connection between David and Jesus very distinctive to 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews.

## WHY?

### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE NUMBER 14?

- David's name in Hebrew (דָּוִד) (dalet+vav+dalet) has a value of 4+6+4, or 14. To the first century Jew, the number 14 made the connection between David and Jesus obvious.

### Microcode example 2: HaMoyadim (Seasons)

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:" (Genesis 1:14)

- Leviticus 23 prescribes 70 holy days in a year:

52 days	7 days	1 day	1 day	1 day	7 days	1 day	70 days
Shabbat Sabbath	Pesach	Shavuot	Yom Teruah	Yom Kippur	Sukkot	Shmini Atzeret	

- The word translated "seasons" is HaMoyadim (הַמּוֹעֲדִים), which means "appointed times".
- Its ELS appears only once in Genesis, at an interval of 70, clustering precisely on the word "seasons" in 1:14, where the Hebrew calendar is established.
- Coincidence? The odds are less than 1:70,000,000.

## Greek Isopsephy (ἰσοψηφία)

Letter	Value	Name	Transliteration	Letter	Value	Name	Transliteration
Α α	1	Alpha	a	Ν ν	50	Nu	n
Β β	2	Beta	b	Ξ ξ	60	Xi	x
Γ γ	3	Gamma	g	Ο ο	70	Omicron	o
Δ δ	4	Delta	d	Π π	80	Pi	p
Ε ε	5	Epsilon	e	(Ϟ)	90	Koppa	q
(Ϝ ϝ)	6	Digamma (later Stigma)	w	Ρ ρ	100	Rho	r
Ζ ζ	7	Zeta	z	Σ σ	200	Sigma	s
Η η	8	Eta	ē	Τ τ	300	Tau	t
Θ θ	9	Theta	th	Υ υ	400	Upsilon	y
Ι ι	10	Iota	i	Φ φ	500	Phi	ph
Κ κ	20	Kappa	k	Χ χ	600	Chi	ch
Λ λ	30	Lambda	l	Ψ ψ	700	Psi	ps
Μ μ	40	Mu	m	Ω ω	800	Omega	ō
				(Ϡ)	900	Sampi	ts

NOTE: Greek letters are uppercase (left) and lowercase (right).



# CAUTION

- Real or not, Bible codes are not essential.
- Bible codes introduce no doctrine.

Christian belief is based on eyewitness testimony, fulfilled prophecy, archaeological and historical evidence, science, etc.

e.g., God validated Prophets by fulfilled prophecy.

WHAT THE  
**BIBLE**  
IS ABOUT

**BIBLE  
STUDY TOOLS**



### Online Bible Tools & Apps

Just a few of many FREE online tools

### My personal favourite – BLUE LETTER BIBLE

**Home Page**  
www.blueletterbible.org

**Scrolls down**

### My personal favourite – BLUE LETTER BIBLE

This screenshot shows the search interface of the Blue Letter Bible website. A search box contains the text "Psalm 23" and the version is set to "KJV". A yellow callout box points to the search box with the text "Type in desired verse". Another yellow callout box points to the search button with the text "Press search". A third yellow callout box points to the "KJV" dropdown menu with the text "Reset Bible version if desired". A fourth yellow callout box points to the search results area with the text "or desired passage or group of verses". The page also features a "Home Page" link and various navigation tabs like "SEARCH", "STUDY", and "DEVOTIONALS".

This screenshot shows the search results for Psalm 23 in the KJV version. The page displays a list of verses with their corresponding text. A red callout box points to the "PRINT" button in the top right corner with the text "Options appear". Another red callout box points to the "TOOLS" button next to the first verse with the text "Press TOOLS for deeper study of a verse". A third red callout box points to the text of the first verse with the text "The desired verse or verses appear for reading". The page also includes a navigation bar with "SEARCH", "STUDY", and "DEVOTIONALS" tabs, and a "KJV" version indicator.

The option for this example is "Interlinear."

Experiment with other options to see their power!

Press "Interlinear."

"Interlinear" brings up original language text (here Masoretic Hebrew) for a verse.

And provides searchable options for each word.

It breaks down each verse into by word (חֶסֶר)

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Root Form (Hebrew)	Parsing
[[A Psalm of David.]]	H4210	מִזְמוֹר <i>mizmowr</i>	
of David.]]	H1732	דָּוִד <i>David</i>	
The LORD	H3068	יְהוָה <i>Yéhvah</i>	
is my shepherd	H7462	רָעָה <i>ra'ah</i>	
I shall not want	H2637	חָסֵר <i>chace</i>	

2. to bring up a new page about the word חָסַר.

Press Strong's number

Blue Letter Bible interface showing the search results for Strong's H2637. The word is identified as חָסַר (chacer) with a Strong's number of H2637 circled in red. A callout box points to this number with the text "2. to bring up a new page about the word חָסַר." and "Press Strong's number".

How many times?

Where it's used.

How it's used.

What חָסַר means?

Lexicon :: Strong's H2637 - chacer

Strong's Definitions [?]

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon [?]

Word / Phrase / Strong's Search

Concordance Results Using KJV

« Previous Strong's H2636      Next Strong's H2638 »

Transliteration: chacer, Pronunciation: khá-sár (Key)

Part of Speech: verb, Root Word (Etymology): A primitive root.

Strong's Definitions [?]: חָסַר chāçär, khaw-sare'; a primitive root; to lack; by implication, to fail, want, lessen—be abated, bereave, decrease, (cause to) fail, (have) lack, make lower, want.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon [?]: חָסַר fut. יִחְסַר plur. יִחְסְרוּ ["4 TO DIMINISH, TO CUT SHORT"]—(1) TO BE DEVOID OF anything, TO LACK, TO BE WITHOUT, followed by an acc. (like verbs of plenty and want), Deu. 2:7; 8:9; Ps. 34:11; Pro. 31:11. Gen. 18:28, אָגַל יִחְסְרוּן הַמַּיִם הַנְּדָקִים, and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. H2637

Click Here for the Rest of the Entry

Word / Phrase / Strong's Search: « Previous Strong's H2636      Next Strong's H2638 »

Concordance Results Using KJV: Strong's Number H2637 matches the Hebrew חָסַר (chacer), which occurs 21 times in 21 verses in the Hebrew concordance of the KJV. Click here to view results using the NASB Hebrew concordance. Click here to view results using the HCSB Hebrew concordance.

Tools: Gen 8:3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. H2637

Tools: Gen 8:5 And the waters decreased H2637 continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

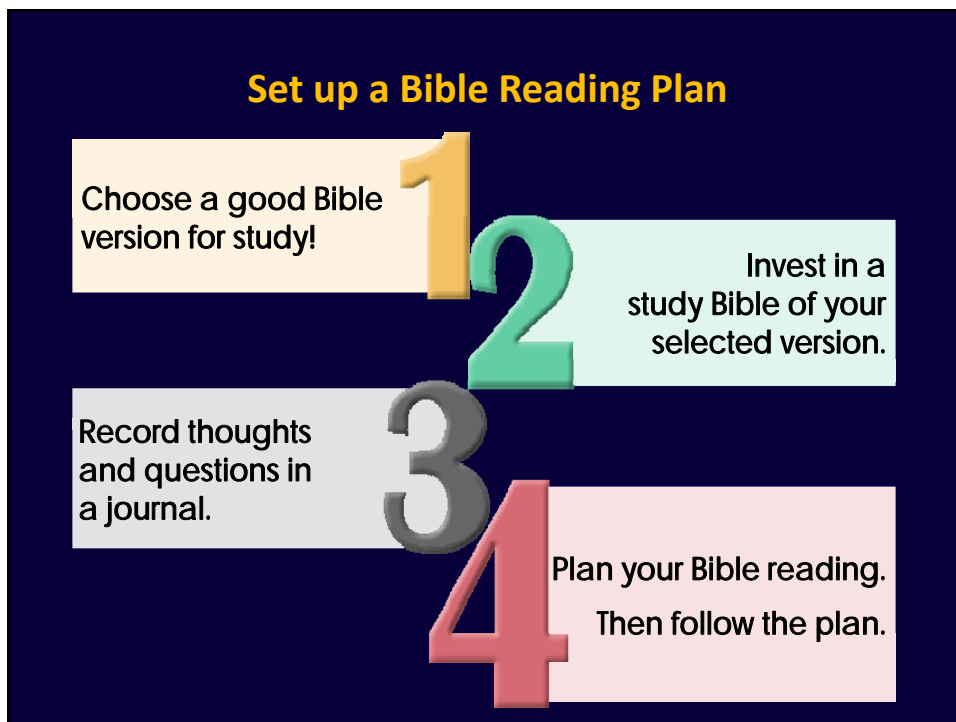
How many times? (points to "Total: 21x")

Where it's used. (points to "Outline of Biblical Usage")

How it's used. (points to "Outline of Biblical Usage")

What חָסַר means? (points to "Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon")





### Observation – what to look for

Terms, not just words

Structure

Emphasis

Repetition

Relationship of ideas

Comparisons & contrasts

Literary form

Atmosphere

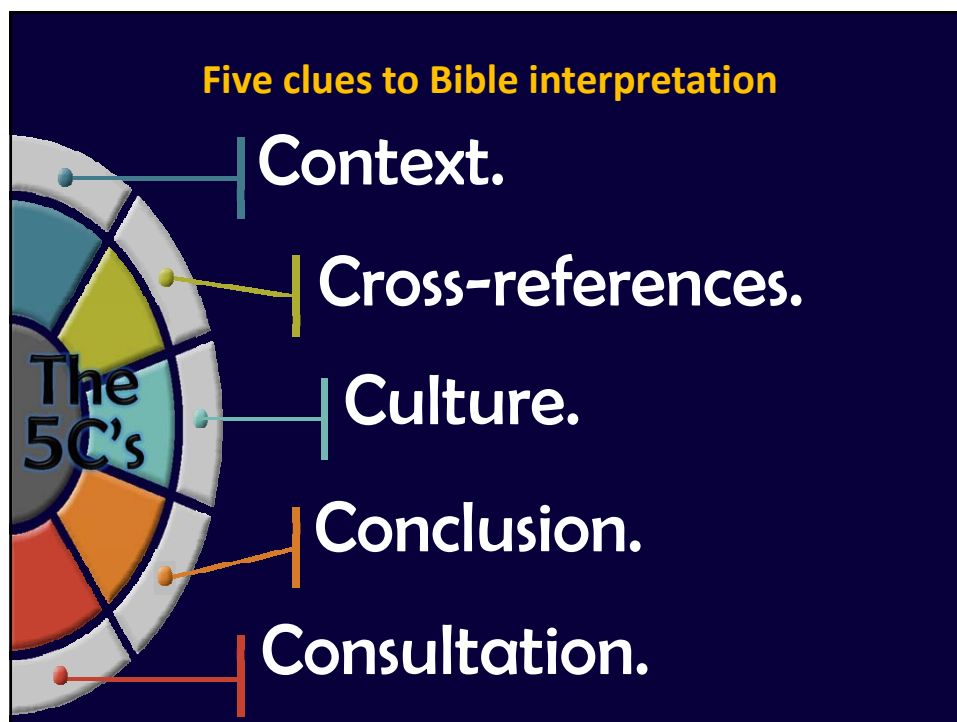
### Now answer these questions

Who?

What?

Where?

When?



**WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT**

**READ  
GENESIS 6:1-9**

One of the most puzzling passages in the Bible

### What does Genesis 6:1-9 *actually* say?

There are a number of interpretations of this difficult passage: the plain text reading (which touches on supernatural stuff and unpalatable ideas in our relativistic world) and several alternatives that people have come up with. Three common ones are:

- the historical view (that sees this as real history), where “sons of God” are fallen angels who marry human women and breed giants.
- the allegorical view (“sons of God” is an allegory for the pure line of Seth marrying impure “daughters of men” from Cain’s line).
- A second allegorical view where “sons of God” are corrupt tyrant rulers and “daughters of men” are common women.

With this in mind and disregarding your own feelings about supernatural beings like angels, etc., as well as what, if anything, you may have learned in the past about Genesis 6:1-9, **what does the plain text of Genesis 6:1-9 actually say?**

Which, if any, of the three views **does the text support:**

1. The Angels (cosmologically mixed races) view,
2. The Sethite (religiously mixed races) view, or
3. The sociologically mixed races view?

**This exercise highlights the hermeneutic (theory of interpretation) problem that complicates Bible study for most people.**

### Genesis 6:1-4

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

<sup>2</sup>That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

<sup>3</sup>And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

<sup>4</sup>There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים

sons of God = *Bene HaElohim* = direct creations of God (e.g., Adam, angels)  
OT (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7); NT (Lk 20:36); Book of Enoch; Septuagint (LXX).

בְּנוֹת־הָאָדָם

daughters of men = *Benoth Adam* = “daughters of Adam.”

הַנְּפִלִים *Nephilim*: “the fallen ones; a bully or tyrant.”

נָפַל *naphal*: “to fall, be cast down to fall away, desert.”

הַגִּבּוֹרִים *HaGibborim*: “the mighty ones.”

אֲנָשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם *'enowsh shem*: Men of renown

אָנוּשׁ *'enowsh*: properly, a mortal (thus differing from *adam*), wicked

## Genesis 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup>And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>6</sup>And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

<sup>8</sup>But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

רַע *ra'*: wickedness = bad, evil, malignant, unkind (vicious), wicked (ethically)

נָחַם *nacham*: repented = sigh breathe strongly), to be sorry, rue, suffer grief

מָחָה *machah*: destroy = to blot out, obliterate

חֵן *chen*: grace = favour, grace, acceptance

## Genesis 6:9

“<sup>9</sup>These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

תָּמִים *tamiym*: perfect = without blemish, sound, healthful, without spot, unimpaired.

דּוֹר *dowr*: generation = period or age, those living during a period, a race of men.

**Ask, "How does this apply to me?"**

Now **apply** what you've learned.  
**Doing** is the essence of Bible study.

**For those wanting a bit more**

The Hebrew approach to hermeneutics (the theories of interpretation) views four levels of interpretation:

**Peshat**  
the literal, direct meaning

**Remez**,  
an allegorical significance; a hint of something deeper

**Derash**,  
the homiletical, or practical application

**Sod**,  
the mystical or hidden meaning

Rabbis teach the acronym **PaRDeS** (pardes, which means "garden" or "paradise" to remember them.





**1 Peshat.** "plain" ("simple") or the direct, literal meaning.

**2 Remez.** "hints" or the deep (allegoric) meaning beyond just the literal sense.

**3 Derash.** From Hebrew *darash*: "inquire" ("seek"). The comparative (*midrashic*) meaning, as given through similar occurrences.

**4 SOD.** "secret" ("mystery") or the mystical **KABBALAH** meaning.

### PaRDeS example: Proverbs 30:1

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

<p>אגור Agur</p>	<p>Agur ("to collect") is the author of this Proverb. Solomon (aka Koheleth ("preacher", "assembler")) collected wise ("dark") sayings.</p>	1
<p>בן־יָקֵחַ Son of Jakeh</p>	<p>Jakeh ("carefully religious," "obedient," or "pious") was the father of Agur (Solomon), and would thus be David.</p>	2
<p>הַמְּשָׁא נְאֻם הַגִּבֹּר The man spake</p>	<p>"Even the prophecy the man spake": the Hebrew is <i>ha massa</i> (the burden) <i>ne'um</i> (oracle or prophecy) <i>ha-gebber</i> (the mighty)</p>	3
<p>יְתִיאֵל Ithiel</p>	<p>Ithiel, "God comes, arrives, is with me;" is equivalent to Immanuel, "God with us," a name of Jesus.</p>	4
<p>אֻכַּל Ucal</p>	<p>Ucal seems to be a verb, <i>ukhal</i>, which means "to be consumed."</p>	5

### PaRDeS example: *Sod* in Proverbs 30:1

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:  
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

Substituting names and words from our simplistic translation, we see a possible Messianic allusion:

*The words gathered of the wise son of the pious father,  
the burden of the mighty prophecy, that El (God) arrives  
to be consumed.*

This has several levels of deeper meaning:

- It can refer to the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross.
- It can refer to Jesus' Bread of Life discourse in John 6:51.

Can you think of any other possibilities?