

New Bifocals with the Same Bible | Skyler Womack

Western vs Eastern Mindset

Western	Eastern
Expresses truth with words, ideas, definitions	Expresses truth using word pictures and stories
Prefers prose, outlines, lists, bullet points	Prefers poetry, imagery, and symbolism
Sees numbers as quantity	Sees numbers as a quality or symbol
Focuses on individual	Focuses on community
Error is wrong belief/incorrect thinking	Error is wrong behavior
Tries to prove the existence of God	Assumes the existence of God
Faith is intellectual – use creeds, doctrines, belief statements	Faith is relational – no attempt to rationalize faith/experiences with God
Truth is rational/scientific	Truth is experiential/religions
Belief comes as one thinks through validation	Belief comes through experience
Truth is static and unchanging	Truth is unfolding

Passage: Genesis 1 & 2:1-2

- Rhetorical (Pre-Read) Questions.
 - What is weird?
 - What things do you see repeated and how might that be significant?
 - How does this passage change after reading it through a more Eastern lens (i.e. not having to make all the details work out, not taking every number at face value, storytelling framework)?
- Genesis 1 | Break Down

Taking this list, the 7 days of creation – lets assess what is happening each day (exactly as it appears in the Bible).

How much creating did God actually do?

What about the story is strange?

What does this tell us about the nature and character of God?

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

Day 7:

- Rhetorical (Post-Read) Questions:
 - How do you perceive the creation story being different now – with Eastern “bifocals”?
 - What does the passage tell you about God?
 - What does the passage tell you about us?

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