

**STUDENT HANDOUT**

**SHEFFEY BIBLE COLLEGE**

Course: Hermeneutics 101  
Chapter 11 Student Handout

**LEVELS OF MEANING**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHAT YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM TODAY’S LECTURE**

- Understand whether the Bible has multiple levels of meaning
  - Define spiritualizing and identify its dangers
  - Distinguish literary meaning from false “spiritual” meaning
  - Define allegory and understand its proper use
  - Define typology and how it differs from allegory
  - Learn to interpret Scripture based on authorial intent and context
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**I. INTRODUCTION: LEVELS OF MEANING**

The key question: Does Scripture have deeper hidden meanings?

Key Principle:  
The Bible has one true meaning rooted in authorial intent

Luke 15:10 (KJV)  
“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

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**II. THE DANGER OF SPIRITUALIZING**

Spiritualizing invents meanings not intended by the author.

Key Principle:

Spiritualizing replaces God’s meaning with human imagination

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### **III. LITERARY MEANING VS FALSE SPIRITUAL MEANING**

Literary meaning is the correct approach.

Key Principle:

True spiritual meaning is found in the literary meaning

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### **IV. ALLEGORY**

Allegory is a literary device using extended symbolism.

Key Principle:

Allegory must be identified by the text—not imposed

Mark 10:9 (KJV)

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

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## **V. THE DANGER OF ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION**

Improper allegory leads to false meanings.

Key Principle:

Do not force symbolic meaning into non-symbolic texts

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## **VI. TYPOLOGY**

Typology is a real historical pattern pointing to Christ.

Key Principle:

Typology must be grounded in Scripture—not imagination

Matthew 27:46 (KJV)

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

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## **VII. LIMITS OF TYPOLOGY**

Not every detail points to Christ.

Key Principle:

Do not force Christ into every passage

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## VIII. ONE MEANING OF SCRIPTURE

Scripture does not have multiple hidden meanings.

Key Principle:

There is one meaning rooted in historical and literary context

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## CLOSING SUMMARY

The Bible contains one true meaning grounded in its historical and literary context. Attempts to spiritualize or allegorize beyond that meaning often lead to confusion and error. Faithful interpretation seeks the meaning intended by the author, while recognizing legitimate typology as revealed in Scripture.

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## THINGS TO KNOW (EXAM ANCHORS)

- The Bible has one meaning
- Spiritualizing defined
- Spiritualizing is dangerous
- Literary meaning defined
- Allegory defined
- Allegory is a literary device
- Allegorical interpretation can be dangerous
- Typology defined
- Typology must be confirmed by Scripture
- Psalm 22 as typology example
- Not every detail is symbolic

- Context determines meaning
  - Avoid imaginative interpretation
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## **ASSIGNMENT**

Read Chapter 12 in *Grasping God's Word* in preparation for the next lecture.