

This thinksheet is 4th in a series on biblical interpretation, the others being 412, 402, and 662.* Without filling in all the space (!), I'm suggesting the four levels of hermeneutic that have been exploited and explored in relation to the Bible and only somewhat less in relation to the other scriptures of the world's great religions....My metaphor is any Hawaiian island, as I've shallow-and-deep dived and snorkeled the various levels of these extinct volcanoes, only the topmost being visible about the ocean. * Alc. 27 + 227.

JEWISH CHRISTIAN

early post-Jamnia "rabbis"----->Jerome, 1st non-Jewish Christian to master Hebrew--followed by Reuchlin, the two Buxtorfs, Carpoz, Luther, Campbell
Saadya Gaon, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Rashi, David Kimhi, Moses Maimonides (on whom influence of Christian biblical criticism)
Level 1: the simple meaning, obvious and literal, on the surface
PESHAT [literary-historical-critical methods] ("When the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense.")
"Midrash" means, as the 1st word for biblical interpretation, (1) "seeking" and then (2) "the results of seeking," i.e. tradition of biblical interpretation [=the force of "M..." added to the verb "to seek"].

SENSES: plain

Philo and some other of the Jews of Alexandria, Egypt: "the allegorical method," first developed by the Stoics
DERASH inferential or deduced
Level 2: Origen pictured level 1 as body, levels 2 and 3 as soul (moral), and level 3 as spirit....infld. Ambrose, infld. Augustine.
I associate this verb meaning "to seek" with the Eng. vbs. "to drive" and "to derive"--both in sound and in meaning....When Midrash is from narrative, it's M. Hagadah; when from law, M. Halacha.

derived

Maimonides
Level 3: hint, clue, inkling, blick, flash--leading to philosophical/theological speculations/meditations/contemplations
[Everywhere, but especially here, consider that REMEZ all language is meta-phor (lit., "carry over," Lat. "trans-port"), ana-logy (lit., "speak again")--a bridge of intelligible sound between two realities.]

projected

Cabala, Zohar
Level 4: secret, arcane, abstruse, mystical openings of light and energy, affirmation and praise and hope

intuited