

1. **Mystical:**

- Mystical is not unknowable but hidden below the surface of the text's plain meaning.
- Through a process of initiation and learning, God reveals the more profound meaning through what initially seemed hidden.
- Paul repeatedly uses the Greek word for the mystical nature of God's kingdom, Christ, and the Good News –
  - Six times in Ephesians – see, for example, **Ephesians 3:1-9**.
  - Four times in Colossians.

2. **Hebrew Alphabet, Language, and Culture:**

- The Rabbis believed the Hebrew alphabet and language were created by God and contained His divine spark.
- Each letter and word contained a deeper meaning than what was presented at the surface, and they searched for the most negligible differences or connections.
- Jesus does the same with Hebrew words – see our lesson on the Greatest Commandment from Matthew 22:36-40 (see the link in the footnotes).<sup>1</sup>
- Hebrew words are based on a verb root.
  - Hebrew language and culture are action-oriented.
  - They are more concerned with function than what something looks like.
- Nouns are derived from the verb root and are generally connected to the root verb.

3. **Hebrew word for Wilderness – מדבר**

- See our lesson on this Hebrew word – link below in footnotes.<sup>2</sup>

דבר	<i>Dabar</i> (verb)	- to speak, declare, converse, command
דבר	<i>Dabar</i> (noun)	- word, speech, thing
דבר	<i>Dober</i> (noun)	- pasture
דב'ר	<i>Debir</i> (noun)	- Oracle
מדבר	<i>Midbar</i> (noun)	- wilderness, desert

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Study – The Greatest Commandment – Matt. 22:36-40 - [https://youtu.be/tgql4\\_1Qwko](https://youtu.be/tgql4_1Qwko)

<sup>2</sup> Hebrew Word: *Midbar* - <https://youtu.be/uBM2thUKwJE>

#### 4. בשר "to bring Good News"

Verb	בָּשַׂר	<i>Basar</i>	- to bring good news
Noun	בִּשְׂרָה	<i>Besorah</i>	- good news (the message)
Noun	בְּשָׂרָה	<i>Basar</i>	- flesh, body, skin, kin

#### 5. Connection between Good News and Flesh -

- In English, these two words do not seem related, but in Hebrew, they share the same three-letter root.
- How is the "Good News" of God's kingdom delivered to the world? In person (flesh).
- Romans 10:14 – Paul says, "How will they hear the Good News unless someone preaches to them?"
- We are called to be conveyers of the Good News in the flesh, person to person.

#### 6. Jesus, the Good News, and the Flesh -

- **John 1:14** – "The Word became *flesh*"
- Jesus is the "Son of Man" –the "image of the invisible God" who inaugurates the Kingdom of God by showing up in the flesh.
- The incarnation is God in the flesh bringing the Good News to the world.
- **Isaiah 40:9** -
  - The Good News of God's return to Jerusalem.
  - "Behold" – LOOK! Here is your God – in the flesh.
- Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem is the presence of God in the flesh!