

“The literal gradually gives way to the second phase, called the *Christological*. At this point, we begin to see all the stories and images in the Bible as pointing directly to the Christ mystery. Jerusalem, for example, is no longer just an earthly city; it is preeminently a symbol for the church, “the bridegroom of Christ.” The Old Testament image of suffering servant and Son of man are seen as direct foreshadows of Christ, and Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac in the book of Genesis is a prefiguring of Jesus on the cross.

While this process may seem forced—and if you’re not a Christian, even offensive—the how of it is actually quite interesting. We are having linear causality behind and beginning to see analogically in terms of coincidences, symbols, and resonances—in other words, through the eyes of poetry. Around the center point of Christ, we learn how to tap into the more subtle image-forming and symbolic capacities of an awakening heart.” (Cynthia Bourgeault in “Chanting the Psalm” page 51)