

"The first stage, the literal, is all about facts and linear causality. Did the Virgin Birth really happen? Does Jesus really intend me to cut off my hand or pluck out my eye if it leads me into sin? At this level, the Bible tends to be interpreted as a rule book for daily living, and there is little tolerance for ambiguity." (Cynthia Bourgeault in "Chanting the Psalm" page 50)