





# Cultural Metaphor in Biblical Interpretation

A Presentation by Madilyn Nash





Cultural metaphors of the Ancient Near  
East can shape the way we read the  
Bible as Modern Westerners.



# What is a metaphor?



Metaphors reveal beliefs about a concept.

Metaphors are used to interpret reality.





Metaphors are culturally specific.



Pick up on repeated imagery.

Understand the cultural view of the image.

Trace the metaphor throughout the whole narrative.



# Chaotic Water

God brings order to chaos and ultimately saves His people from death.





# Garden

The human ideal is unity  
with the Divine.



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