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ON VERBAL SYMBOLISM IN THE BIBLE

(BASED ON ENGLISH AND GEORGIAN MATERIALS)

The paper deals with the problem of verbal symbolism in the Bible.

Gestures are usually accompanied by words. The spoken and written word in religion was not thought of primarily as symbolic but rather as a form of rational communication of thought.

Linguistic symbolism however has always had a certain tendency toward rational transparency and logical coherence, and thus, words, objects and pictures, in their origin as symbols, are very closely related.

The trait of sensory (visual, auditory, etc.) perception of objects, pictures then appear in the language as a designator of the perceptive "picture". It often acquires a different meaning, becomes a metaphor. Linguistic symbolism is generally metaphorical. The Bible, as is well known, abounds of such metaphors.

It is interesting to note that when these metaphors are translated in the languages of the same Christian viewpoints they take somewhat different forms. This is revealed when English and Georgian texts of the Bible are compared.