

## *The Way (Thinking) of Israel*

### Col. 1:16

1. Israel did not philosophy. They understood obedience and disobedience. They knew what they had been told and when and where they had been told. They knew they had not been addressed by ethical abstractions but had been spoken to by the one who was his originator and sustainer.
2. They understood what is good is what Yahweh requires; what is evil is what Yahweh forbids.
3. Israel had no concept of a devil. They understood they were solely in Yahweh's hands.
4. The word think was very practical to Israel. The verb "to think" means to devise a plan; thinking eventuates activity. As a man thinks so is he.
5. Thought is related to will. Thought always brings an emotion which generates a feeling.
6. All Hebrew words most commonly used to designate the process of thinking reveal the movement of the soul in the direction of activity. Hebrew thinking was dynamic, alive, and full of movement.
7. Knowledge is not understood abstractly or theoretically but concretely, experientially. The verb "to know" means to discern or to discriminate, and also to acknowledge and hold in possession. More especially, it means to enter into interior relationship with, to have communion with. In this sense, to know good is to do it, to know one's sin is to confess and acknowledge it. It is to grasp a person or thing in its totality.
8. Truth was not abstract or objective but subjective and personal, something to be appropriated, that which is dependable, trustworthy, reliable, steadfast, and firm. To be true to a person is to be faithful to them, to be loyal to a relationship.
9. Memory was important in Israel's way of thinking. The verb "to remember" means to activate into the living present, to actualize the past in such a way as to influence present decisions and present conduct.
10. Memorial – Ex. 13:8-9. This is the law of entanglement, which is: that relationship is the defining characteristic of everything in space and time. Atomic particles and their relationship are independent of space and time and is independent of distance and requires no physical links. Everything and everyone are linked, and we all affect each other.