

## #67, Kaballah, Kaballah

By Alvin Petty, retired area minister

Abraham ibn Ezra (1089-1164), one of the great Jewish poets and philosophers of Spain, also served as another forerunner of the modern historical criticism approach to the Bible, which gave priority to the literal sense of scripture. Legend and myth, which are part of the framework of the Bible, are important for teaching spiritual values, but they must not be confused with fact.

Ezra found discrepancies in the Biblical writing: The second half of Isaiah could not have been written by Isaiah because the events in it occurred long after Isaiah was dead.

This was a correct assumption. He felt that Moses did not write all of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible). And actually Moses did not write any of it, as tradition claims he did. Ezra pointed out that Moses never entered the promised land, but in Deuteronomy, his final, lengthy address was delivered across the Jordan River in the promised land. Someone in Israel wrote it long after Moses lived.

But the rationalistic approach of Ezra and others to the Bible inspired a mystical backlash in Spain and Provence, which eventually became quite influential. Nahmanides (1194-1290) felt this approach did not do justice to the Bible. In his commentary on the Pentateuch, he strongly upheld the rational, plain literal sense of Scripture. But he stated that he had found a numinous, Spirit-given, significance in the scripture that transcended the literal sense. This numinous significance was not connected to the historical context of the Scripture.

A small group of mystics in Castillo took this much further. They were finding a deeper level in the text that introduced them to the inner life of God. This was an esoteric discipline they called Kabbalah, which meant, inherited tradition, because it was handed down from teacher to pupil. These early Kabbalists held in common a great interest in philosophy until they decided on interpretative method that they probably picked up from their Christian neighbors, who, in their monasteries, often read the Bible to develop their own devotional content without regard to their historical context.

They also borrowed from gnostic thinking, which encouraged all their people to seek their own vision experiences and receive their own revelations. Kabbalists often focused on the words of scripture until they had a vision that gave them

## HGG To Hold Annual Meeting Saturday

The Hart Golden Group will hold its annual meeting on Saturday at the HGG building, beginning at 6 p.m.

Election of officers and board members will be held. Annual dues are \$20 a person or \$40 a couple. They will be due at the meeting.

Stew and cornbread will be served. Members attending are asked to bring one Bingo prize.

guidance and intuitive knowledge of God. A watered down version of Kabbalah has gained followers in America in recent years. Some Hollywood people have touted its value.

Directly experiencing God is mysticism. All of us need to be mystical and learn to hear God's voice to us through listening in quietness and trusting confidence to God speak to us through our inner voice. But some Kabbalists certainly went to extremes in seeking to find hidden mystical power behind the words of scripture. Yet, they were not insane and gained significant intellectual influence in Western Europe. This is because many deeply religious people hunger for personal mystical experience of God. This hunger is basically a good thing. Christ was a Spirit mystic deeply in touch with the World of Spirit all around him. Many of Christianity's greatest teachers and leaders have been mystics. If you really believe God hears and answers your prayers and guides you, you are something of a mystic.

Some writers today point to how modern physics points to mystical themes and ideas. For example, science is increasingly discovering the interconnectedness of the universe, even at the quantum physics level. Interconnectedness with God, the created world and all other peoples is a major theme of Christian mysticism.



Courtney Shofner designs clothes for infants and toddler girls from a business she launched in 2010. It now has clothing in stores in 14 states.

## Courtney's Shofner Clothing Line A Part Of Golden Globes

*'When you have a dream, reach for it and go beyond it'*

With this dream close to her heart and her passion, this is how Klassy Kouture was born. Courtney Shofner of the Sparenberg community, near Lamesa, and a graduate of Klondike High School and Texas Tech University, had a dream to start an infant and toddler girl clothing line.

While on vacation in Colorado in 2010, the name of her business, Klassy Kouture, and the design came to her. The design, the TuTushie – a tutu on the tush – began to come alive. (The design name is trademarked and the TuTushie is patented.)

The TuTushie is a one-piece outfit with embellishments on the front and a soft tutu sewn on the back. Using her photographer skills, Courtney designs the outfit and has employees who do the sewing and heat-pressing of the embellishments to the garments.

The Klassy Kouture line is in the Dallas and Atlanta Markets. and can be seen in stores in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama and Florida.

The most exciting news that has happened to Klassy Kouture is that the TuTushie was selected to be in celebrity gift bags at the Golden Globes Awards, held January 12. In August, Courtney received an email from the CEO of Secret Room

T  
o  
u  
c  
h  
  
o  
f  
  
K  
l  
a  
s  
s

Periodicals postage paid at Hart, Texas 79043. Publication No. 025-016.

Mailing address to which undeliverable copies or change of address notices are to be sent to:

The Pulse  
P.O. Box 350  
Hart, Texas 79043

Failure of the subscriber to notify change of address will result in corresponding loss of subscription time.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Hart Beat will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Publisher.

**Neoma Williams**  
**Publisher-Editor**

Phone: 806/938-2640

Fax: 806/938-2216

Cell: 647-7419

email:

hbeat@amaonline.com

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space permits. Letters should be personally written and signed. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters will be edited for length and libelous content. Letters endorsing candidates are considered advertising.



## Weather

Neoma Williams  
U.S. Weather Observer

	Hi	Lo	Pr
Thursday	47	13	
Friday	59	12	
Saturday	60	19	
Sunday	63	19	
Monday	70	23	
Tuesday	55	20	
Wednesday	52	15	

January moisture.....	0.00
2014 moisture.....	0.00
2013 moisture.....	0.63