

NARCIGESIS

By Sarah H. Leslie and Ken Silva on Jan 12, 2012



NARCIGESIS [nahr- si -jee' -sis]

[(From: *narcissus*; 1540–50; < Latin < Greek *nárkissos* plant name, traditionally connected, by virtue of plant's narcotic effects, with *nárkē* numbness, torpor; probably from a pre-Gk. Aegean word, but associated with Gk. *narke* “numbness” (see [narcotic](#)) because of the plant's sedative effect.) (From: *eisegesis*; 1890–95; < Greek *eisēgesis*, equivalent to *eis-* into + (*h*) *çge-* (stem of *hçgeîsthai* to lead) + *-sis* [-sis](#) {C19: from Greek *eis* into, in + *-egesis*, as in *exegesis*}.)]

ORIGINS:

Classical Mythology: a mythological youth (Narcissus) who fell in [love](#) with his own [image](#) reflected in a pool and wasted away from unsatisfied desire, whereupon he was transformed a plant bearing his name, commonly associated with an amaryllidaceous plant of the Eurasian genus *Narcissus*, esp *N. poeticus*, whose yellow, orange, or white flowers have a crown surrounded by spreading segments.

Classical Psychology: “Narcissists” are people completely absorbed in themselves. (See [narcissism](#).)
Inordinate fascination with oneself; excessive self-love; vanity.

noun

1. The reading of one’s own life experiences and/or that of another’s life experience, into the text of Scripture; the need to make the Bible all about themselves.
2. An interpretation of Scripture based on the interpreter’s self-authority, particularly driven by self-esteem, self-actualization, mystical experiences and/or the interpreter’s “felt needs.” (See [Sola Experientia](#))
3. A personal and/or mystical interpretation of Scripture based on the interpreter’s own ideas, biases, opinions, feelings, attitudes, beliefs, experiences, impressions, dreams, revelations, or the like, rather than based upon the plain meaning of the text.
4. The reading of one’s own doctrinal theories into Scripture (as opposed to [exegesis](#), which is a critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of biblical text), particularly as a result of personal experience. (See [Sola Experientia](#))
5. Self-centered, self-defined and self-authenticating biblical interpretation, application and counsel.
6. The reading of one’s own interpretation into Scripture based upon the egotistic belief that all things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; and that only the learned, the elect, or the leadership elite (of which the interpreter considers himself), may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them. (See [Plura Scriptura](#))
7. The egotistical drive to invent new theologies, doctrines, revelations, applications and philosophies about Scripture, often manifested in self-aggrandizement activities such as book publishing, conferences, setting up organizations and websites, money-making schemes and publicity drives.
8. *Oxymoron*: Subjective exegesis.

adjective: narcigetic, narcigetical