

BETWEEN THE LINES™

DEEPER LOOK STUDY GUIDE

BIBLE MYSTERIES • To Believe Or Not To Believe?

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ithout question there are areas in the Bible that are difficult to explain. (If that weren't true then I guess God wouldn't be a whole lot bigger than me, right?) In our broadcast we touched on a few of them —

- The location of Eden and its talking serpent.
- The flood and the ark.
- Whatever happened to the Ark of the Covenant?
- Where was Jesus buried?

And in our weekend edition story we dealt with what is to me the greatest of all mysteries...

- How can God take little mortals and instill in them such faith that they easily surrender all of this life because they trust in the next?

Let's scan the Scripture to find a random listing of other Bible mysteries that you may be able to chew on for a while...

Bible Mysteries

- **Genesis 4** Where did Cain find someone to marry?
- **Genesis 6** How do "the sons of God" take "daughters of men"? Who are they?
- **Genesis 11** The origins of races out of one people... let alone languages.
- **Genesis 18/19** The locations and destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Genesis 21** The birth of Isaac... now that's a "joke".
- **Genesis 30** The genetics of Jacob's flock.
- **Exodus 3** A bush that will not burn.
- **Exodus 7** A rod that eats other sticks.
- **Exodus 7-12** Disasters and calamities called down by a mere man.
- **Exodus 14** A pillar of fire in the desert that drowns a whole army.
- **Exodus 15** Tree stumps sweetening bitter water.
- **Exodus 16** A nutritional substance you scrape off the ground 6 days a week?
- **Exodus 17** A spring explodes from a rock... and follows the camp? (See **I Cor. 10**)
- **Exodus 17** The tide of a battle is turned by uplifted hands?
- **Exodus 19** A burning mountain that does not burn.
- **Numbers 13** A whole clan of giants?
- **Numbers 18** The earth swallows rebels and fire consumes 250 more.
- **Numbers 18** A ravaging pestilence is topped by a little incense bowl?
- **Numbers 19** A dead branch does what a living branch cannot do.
- **Numbers 20** There's that water again.
- **Numbers 22** A talking donkey. Enough said.
- **Joshua 3** A river splits for more than a million people.
- **Joshua 6** All you have to do is march and shout and cities fall.
- **Joshua 10** Everything we understand about physics goes haywire as the sun stops.
- **Judges 5** A battle is won by earthquake, lightning, hail, and rain.
- **Judges 6** Wet fleece, dry ground... wait a minute- dry fleece, wet ground?
- **Judges 13-16** One man, this much strength?
- **I Samuel 5** A little box brings plague and curse.
- **I Kings 17/18** The prayer of a man stops the rain and brings it again.
- **I Kings 2** A fiery chariot to heaven, a coat slapping a river divides it, and salt in bitter water purifies it.
- **II Kings 4** A cruise of oil that refuses to empty and a little boy who won't stay dead.
- **II Kings 5** Dunking in a river cures leprosy.
- **II Kings 6** Floating axe heads and whole armies blinded.

• *Continued on reverse side* •

Mysteries

- II Kings 13
- II Kings 19
- II Kings 20
- Daniel 3
- Daniel 4
- Daniel 5
- Daniel 6

• Continued from the front side •

A dead man raises a dead man... That's a tough one!
The mass army is destroyed in one night.
There goes the sun again.
A fire that cannot be made hot enough to damage three men.
A seven year bout of Lycanthropy with immediate restoration to sanity.
A bloodless hand that spells doom for an empire.
Ravenous lions don't have a late night snack.

Conclusion

Is that enough? This is only sampling of the Old Testament mysteries. Beyond that we have so many incredible things in the gospel era... water to wine, lepers healed, funerals stopped, coins in fish mouths, stars that sing about baby birth, multitudes fed from a sack lunch, and the best of all-

An unmarked grave that remains empty to this day!

Why This Book Over Any Others?

I have, for myself, resolved why I choose to accept the Bible as the definitive authority of truth. Have you? As shared in our broadcast, it is neither sufficient nor intellectually honest to just say, "Because the Bible says so..." That just doesn't hold water. Please indulge me as I share the three reasons for the Bible being the fullest revelation of truth we've ever been given and the anchor of my faith.

I choose this book over any other because —

1) The scope of the Biblical authorship could not have been directed by the simple intention of man.

The text of the Bible is the work of dozens of different writers, written over a time period spanning roughly 1,600 years before Jesus until about 60 years after the crucifixion. These writers come from all levels of the strata of society and literary ability. Yet, even with this diversity, there is a common thread and theme and unity that is beyond comprehension.

2) No other book has proven itself to be so very accurate in issues of the scope of history — past, present, and future.

Archeology and the development of world events show that the Bible is a source of understanding that goes far beyond speculation. There is, within this book, the evidence of a Power that is not limited by time. Too much prophecy fulfilled and historic record confirmed shows that this cannot simply be the conjecture of man.

3) This book fulfills its most incredible claim.

No other work in history has had the impact of changing lives for the better. The Bible claims that anyone who spends time with it will find a richer, more satisfying, and fulfilling life. Millions of transformed lives give testimony to this truth. Addicts have been delivered, families restored, hardened criminals have been turned into productive members of society...

No other work has benefitted society as this.