

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#904- NEW LIGHT: Stories You Thought You Knew

I Wonder If You Knew? Many stories of the Bible have some exceedingly interesting interplay going on just beneath the surface. When you get a bit deeper into the history, culture, or language these windows open up.

Between the Lines is dedicated to bringing you a more accurate Biblical understanding of these issues than you usually get anywhere else. So, let's just use one book, Genesis, to give you a bunch of one-liners that will enrich you. These can trigger new understandings in more stories that you thought you knew in one book alone. (Imagine how many there are in 66 books?)

- Genesis 1: God organized chaos to bring cosmos in creation.
- Genesis 3: God challenges us to question the origin of some of our thinking.
- Genesis 5-7: Methuselah died the year the flood came... his name prophesied that!
- Genesis 15: Hebrews chapter 6 affirms that this oath was taken upon God's existence.
- Genesis 16: Hagar was Egyptian, an important feature in chapter 15's prophecy.
- Genesis 19: These "cousins" of Abraham's seed become tormentors.
- Genesis 20: And you thought Abraham had learned this lesson before!
- Genesis 21: The name meant "laughter". God's got an interesting sense of humor.
- Genesis 22: Why the wood on Isaac's back? Why not a donkey? Why a ram?
- Genesis 23: The negotiation means he's not "beholdin'" to anyone.
- Genesis 24: Upon what basis did she trust to fulfill this lineage?
- Genesis 25: Did you notice that one of the later sons was Midian?
- Genesis 25: Does God need man to manipulate circumstances for His will?
- Genesis 27: How would the provident God accomplish this without the deception?
- Genesis 28: A plain, uncut stone makes a resting place and also creates a monument to mark the foundation of a ladder reaching to earth. I'd compare that to Exodus 21.
- Genesis 29: He honestly didn't know it was the wrong woman? C'mon.
- Genesis 30: Whatsoever you sow, you reap.
- Genesis 31: This is no gentle benediction at Mizpeh... it's a condemnation!
- Genesis 32: Did the angel come dressed for wrestling? What caused it?
- Genesis 34: Why did this act not disallow the Levites from priesthood? Numbers 25.
- Genesis 35: Edomites became a thorn in Israel's flesh for a long, long time.
- Genesis 37: Who's the villain in this story? Plenty of blame to go around.
- Genesis 38: A desperate woman becomes a progenitor of Messiah.
- Genesis 39: Potiphar's wife wasn't breaking any of her own moral code here.
- Genesis 41: He actually predicted the monsoons of the Indian Ocean with a 14-year accuracy that would make the National Weather Service blush.
- Genesis 42: Egypt becomes, again, the site of attractive refuge... look out!
- Genesis 43: Judah's guarantee is accepted but Reuben's (chapter 42) wasn't. Compare that to Genesis 49 and things make a lot more sense.
- Genesis 47: The pharaoh who granted Goshen to Israel was not Egyptian. That comes back to haunt the Hebrews after the war for independence decades later. (This explains Exodus 1's, "a pharaoh who knew not Joseph".)
- Genesis 48: If you understand this act you can clarify a lot about the history of all of the tribes of Israel.
- Genesis 49: Compare this prophecy to the history of the tribes... and Heaven's gates.
- Genesis 50: Two long funeral processions (one delayed by more than 300 years!) and an incredible statement of God's overwhelming providence.

In Conclusion: Wow! It, apparently, is worth the digging. Isn't it?

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**Parallel Gospels:** Surprisingly, there really aren't very many episodes that are reported in all four of the gospel records. Here, to the best of my ability, is an exhaustive listing of all of them...

- **Jesus feeds 5,000:** Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6.
- **Judas plots to betray the Lord:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 12.
- **The Triumphal procession:** Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12.
- **Judas is unmasked:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13.
- **The Lord warns the disciples:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13.
- **The Gethsemane struggle:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 18.
- **The Sanhedrin trial:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 18.
- **First trial before Pilate:** Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18.
- **Second trial before Pilate:** Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18-19.
- **The crucifixion:** Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19.
- **The Lord is buried:** Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19.
- **The resurrection:** Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20.

**In Conclusion:** That's it. No nativity, baptism, raising of the dead, or anything. These are the only stories that are told in all four. Surprised?

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Lessons in Tumah: During our broadcast we dealt with the issues of ritual "uncleanness" of the woman in Mark 5. We promised we'd give a few insights into the terms and levels of Tumah:

Kashrut- The laws of cleanliness. *Tumah*- That which is condemned as unclean.

Kosher- That which is fit, acceptable. *Kashering*- The process of renewing to kosher.

Taharah- Perpetually unclean... not capable of being made kosher.

In Conclusion: So, what are we to learn from these terms? There are three levels of Tumah- Things which are forever unclean, things which are only temporarily unclean, and things which can be cleansed by acts of cleansing.

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**Heaven From Another Perspective:** Christians find themselves quite shaped by the New Testament. What would you think of Heaven without it? Let's touch base with some Jewish thinkers to see what they say about Paradise...

- People who are just, whatever their nation, will be rewarded in the world to come.  
- Talmud *Sanhedrin* 105a
- When a person appears before God's Judgment Throne, the first question asked is not "Have you believed in God?" or "Have you prayed and observed ritual?" but "Have you dealt honorably with your fellow human beings?" - Talmud *Shabbat* 31a
- The world is like a corridor leading to the world to come. Prepare yourself for the corridor, so that you may enter inner chamber.                      - *Ethics of the Fathers* 4:21
- Better is one hour of repentance and good work in this world than all of life in the world to come.                      - *Ethics of the Fathers* 4:22
- When a person departs this world, neither silver, gold, nor precious stones will accompany that person- only Torah and good deeds.                      - *Ethics of the Fathers* 6:9
- The world is like an inn, the world to come, like home.  
- Talmud *Moed Katan* 9b

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