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THE BIBLE'S UNWRITTEN HISTORY

What was Noah's wife's name (Gen. 7:13)? Did Noah and his wife have any other children besides the three sons we read about in Genesis? Why do we not read about Adam and Eve's other children (Gen. 5:4)? Why are we only told of incidents happening to Moses as a baby, at age 40, and then we only know the most details about Moses' life starting at age 80? Why are we not told about Jesus' youth? Why do we not know about Jesus as a baby, or what Jesus did in Nazareth from age 12 through age 30?

Many other unanswered questions might be added to our list above, but the point is made with these few questions. Why is it that we are not told the answers to these and other similar questions? It seems that the answers to these questions might satisfy curious

minds. The only satisfactory answer I can think of, however, is that information pertaining to the above (and countless other) questions do not pertain to the subject and theme of the Bible, namely, the redemption of man! When I come across questions such as these, I am reminded of Moses' words, "*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law*" (Deut. 29:29).

When we read the Scriptures, we must be impressed with the fact that God condensed some 4000+ years of history into a mere 66 books! Several of these books have only one chapter, and the longest of the books can be read in 3 hours (on average). Thirty-three books can be read in an

hour or less (on average). Is this not amazing? When we read and study the Scriptures, we see that the writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:20-21), had a specific theme or purpose in mind. These people wrote about those things which pertained to man's salvation, and how God went about to bring His plan of salvation into reality through Christ (Gal. 4:4).

When we understand this fact, we can understand why God has chosen to leave various facts out of the Bible record. Put simply, it is because such things as who Noah's wife was, the particulars of Adam and Eve's other children, Moses' life history before age 80, etc., do not pertain to His purpose for writing this Book!

The next time folks try to "stump" us, asking why are possums not mentioned in the Bible, or asking why it is that we are not told about each of the Patriarch's children, or any of a myriad of other curiosities, remember this article and let folks know that the Bible is not intended to be the "unabridged history of the world"! The Bible is a true book (Jn. 17:17) whose purpose or theme is to reveal God's plan

for salvation.

Then, tell them what God's plan of salvation is (Mk. 16:15-16; II Tim. 2:2, 3:16-17)! We have been given "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (II Pet. 1:3). Therefore, let us be active in using the Bible for its intended purpose. Let us show folks God's plan for salvation, and lead them to Christ before it is too late (II Cor. 6:2). – Jarrod Jacobs

In Mark 3:31-35, we read where Jesus' family wished to speak with Him. When the multitude made those wishes known (v. 32), Jesus responded by saying, "*Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother*" (Mk. 3:33-35).

Jesus was not denying that Mary was His physical mother, or that He had brothers and sisters (Matt. 13:55-56). He was simply making the point that those who do His will also constitute His family. For the moment, He was involved in teaching and

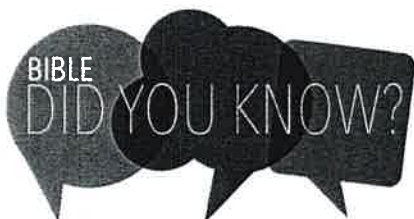
preaching and did not wish to stop. His physical family took a “back-seat” to the spreading of the gospel and trying to save the lost. He taught this in Matthew 10:35-37 and demonstrated it on this occasion!

The question we have to answer is: “Would Christ consider us a part of His family?” There is an answer to this question, and the answer is found in the text! Those who do the will of God are considered a part of Christ’s family! Are you obedient to the Lord? If not, repent today and render obedience to the Lord so that you can be in His family (Heb. 5:9, 11:6). – Jarrod Jacobs

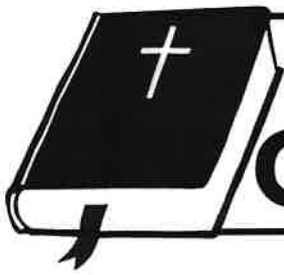
I am sure most folks are familiar with the above illustration, where “God” is put in the top circle, and both spouses names are placed in the circles at the bottom. The point is then made: “Notice how the lines are narrower at the top. The closer we grow to God, the closer we grow to one another.” This is a true statement, but let me also challenge parents to notice that if both parents are in one of the circles at the bottom, and your children are in the other, the same point can be made.

Are we as parents encouraging our children to grow closer to God (Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:3-5)? Do we make sure they know that their first responsibility is to love and please God, even before us (Matt. 6:33, 10:37, 22:37-38)?

Parents, let us learn from the example of Abraham (Gen. 18:19). Shame on those parents who leave children with the impression that they are due more respect than God or must be obeyed before God! – Jarrod Jacobs



“He cuts off his own feet and drinks violence who sends a message by the hand of a fool. Like the legs which are useless to the lame, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. Like one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool. Like a thorn which falls into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.” Prov. 26:6-9



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Encouragement Challenge

Hebrews 3:12-13 *"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."* Sin has a deceitful nature about it. It is not only full of deceit in the way it entices us to commit it, but it wounds us with a deceitful way we see ourselves and how God sees us after we commit it. When we allow that deceit to take full effect on us it leads us into the darkness of discouragement. We can help each other overcome that tendency by seeking to be an encouragement to each other. Let's set a goal to offer words of encouragement to our brethren this month that we may all fight the deceitfulness of sin with strength and courage.

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

Galatians 6:1-10

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load. The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."