

87th – Bible Seeds Podcast

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Intro Music – “My Father Is So Good To Me”

[written and performed by Carl Vasta]

Hi, my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God’s Word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what’s happening to us in our daily lives.

I’ll touch on such topics as Family Prayer or Why I Believe There Is A God. I’ll talk about what was predicted that makes these the Terrible Times In The Last Days or how to Have A Daily Meaningful Relationship With God.

Today's topic: **DOES GOD HAVE A VALID CRITIC?**

My profession as a musician playing in hotels, restaurants, piano bars and many other venues for over fifty five years have illustrated many of the truths I have found in the bible.

There were many types of musicians and entertainment that used to play in local restaurants and clubs and everyone had their own style of entertaining the public. Some were classical, others focused on jazz or rock. I played mostly a variety of old standard songs all the way up to the latest popular radio and movie hits. In some places people were invited up to sing or play the piano or an instrument.

I remember playing at a restaurant in Encino, California called the Fireside Inn. It was a big place that served fabulous dinners and even had a separate Oyster Bar and regular piano bar with three shifts of

entertainment, starting at two in the afternoon and ending at 1:30 am when the restaurant closed every night.

I usually played the 5pm to 9am shift five days a week, and one day a man came up after I played a song and other people seem to like it, but he said I didn't play it the way it should be played. I told him "I was sorry he didn't like the way played it, but I was willing to learn and that he could sit down and play it the way it should be".

He said, "I don't play piano or any instrument!".

And I said, "Well, if you can't play it or sing it as well as I have or better, then I think that your criticism isn't really valid." He just gave me a blank look and walked away.

This reminded me of the story of **Job** in the bible which is one of the oldest books in the bible collection. Moses who grew up and was educated in Egypt, as a son of royalty because he was the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.

When he grew to be a young man and found out the truth of his heritage, about being born of Hebrew parents, he felt kinship with the Hebrew slaves. It was then he killed an Egyptian guard who was beating a Hebrew slave and he left Egypt under the threat of being killed by Pharaoh.

He traveled far across the desert and was taken in by a Priest who had a family and seven daughters. During this time he became a shepherd for the family and one day, happened to see a bush that looked like it was burning but not being destroyed! This was his introduction to **God, the Father and Creator of the Universe!**

He told Moses that His name was **"I AM WHO I AM"**. He sent Moses back to Egypt to bring the Hebrews out and into the "Promised Land".

When Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt and to Mount Sinai, he received the **Ten Commandments** from God. While Moses led the Hebrews for the next forty years before entering the "Promised Land", God also had an **"Egyptian educated Moses"**, write the first five books of the bible called **"The Torah."**

The book of Job is the story of a good man who suffers total disaster. He loses all of his children and property and is afflicted with a repulsive disease.

According to the bible, there was a day for the heavenly beings (**angels?**) to appear before God; and Satan was there among them. He had been roaming the earth and God said to him, "Have you seen my servant Job, there is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is?"

Talk about a guilt trip!

But Satan said, He would not worship you if you took all you gave him away and he would probably curse you to your face. So God took the challenge and said to Satan, "All right, everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself. Satan killed all his children and took away all his property, but Job blessed God for all that he had given him, but he never cursed God!

Again Satan came before God. And God said, "Did you notice my servant Job? You persuaded me to let you attack him for no reason at all, but Job is still as faithful as ever."

And Satan replied, "A man will give up everything in order to stay alive. But now suppose you hurt his body, . . . he will curse you to your face."

So the Lord said to Satan, All right he is in your power, but you are not to kill him. So Satan brought a hideous, ugly disease upon Job!

Three of his friends came to see him and tried to convince him he was suffering all this because of his sins! But Job did not understand why God allowed these cruel things to happen to him when he had been a faithful and righteous man but he still did not curse God but he boldly challenged God for an answer!

After days of useless conversation with what he thought were his friends, God finally appears and addresses Job! The first words of God to Job are different according to the bible your reading but have the same meaning. The way I hear it after reading these translations is

“Does God have a valid critic?”

“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?”

[NIV]

“Who are you to question my wisdom with your ignorant, empty words?” [Good News Bible]

“Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? I shall question you and you shall answer Me”

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! [New King James Bible]

And God speaks for the next three chapters overwhelming Job with a poetic picture of his divine power and wisdom.

*And when God had finished, Job said, **“You told me to listen while you spoke and to try to answer your questions. In the past I knew only what others had told me, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. So I am ashamed of all I said and repent in dust and ashes.”*** [**Job, Chapter 42: verses 4-6**]

Of all the many of gods that have been put forth by groups or tribes of people all over the world, there are only a few that have stood out among the rest.

If you've ever seen the famous movie "Clash Of The Titans", this is a story of the great "Greek Gods". You can see it for free online and it will give you a perception of how other nations like Egypt and Rome thought about gods. Each have many statues of gods. Some with power over the weather, some over the food crops, others over men's strength in war and women gods who have certain powers over love relationships and fertility.

The apostle Paul was in Athens, Greece - and went to a place called **Mars Hill**. It was there in **the book of Acts: Chapter 17: starting at verse 19**. ***The people brought Paul before the city council and said, “We would like to know what this new teaching is that you are talking about. Some of the things we hear you say sound strange to us, and we would like to know what they mean.” (For all the citizens of Athens and the foreigners who lived there liked to spend all their time telling and hearing the latest new thing.)***

Paul stood up in front of the city council and said, “I see that in every way you Athenians are very religious. For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, ‘To an Unknown God.’ That which you worship, then,

even though you do not know it, is what I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in man-made temples.

Nor does he need anything that we can supply by working for him, since it is he himself who gives life and breath and everything else to everyone. From one man he created all races of mankind and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us; as someone has said, 'In him we live and move and exist.'

It is as some of your poets have said, 'We too are his children.'

*Since we are God's children, we should not suppose that his nature is anything like an image of gold or silver or stone, shaped by the art and skill of man. God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them everywhere to **turn away from their evil ways**. For he has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice by means of a man he has chosen. **[Jesus]** He has given proof of this to everyone by raising that man from death!*

When they heard Paul speak about a raising from death, some of them made fun of him, but others said, "We want to hear you speak about this again."

Among the stories of creation from many religions around the world, Jesus proves that the story of creation from the Holy Bible **is valid!** He actually came and lived among mankind and by proof, of the many who

were healed and the thousands that were fed, **just by His words, bringing it to existence**, he shows the creation of the Universe, stars, planets, the Earth and all life is possible because **He is the one and only GOD!**

Back Ground Music Starts and

I would like you to know how much GOD loves you. He is ready and waiting to help you. You just need to believe that He exists and has created all things and has given **His Son Jesus, the good shepherd** to bring you back to him.

This is why I put together these pod casts, starting with **The Storyline Of The Bible**, **19 easy understandable pod casts that take you from Genesis, the first book of the bible- to Revelation, the last book of the bible.**

And beyond that, there are **The Stories And Quotes From Jesus**, **which will help you to strengthen your faith in God.** And now I have just added these **Bible Seeds**: my commentary on some of these readings.

You can find all of this and print out the **PDFs** for **Storyline Of The Bible** and **Quotes and Stories from Jesus.** You can download the MP3s, Videos, and my original music from my website: www.carlvasta.com Everything is free and there are no sign ups. Enjoy!

Ending The Program

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds at Understanding God's Word.

New podcasts are released on Sundays at 12:30PM Pacific Coast Time.
God bless you and your loved ones and remember. . .