

SECRETS

OF

GENESIS

*Discovering the Depths
of God's Word*

Steven Benson

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Regenerated Life Publishing
www.regeneratedlife.com
orders@regeneratedlife.com

INTRODUCTION

As of the writing of this book, I have been clean from alcohol and drug abuse for sixteen years. When I finally got help for my substance abuse problem back in 1988 with the help of a Twelve Step recovery program, I had already failed twice at becoming a born-again Christian to quit my destructive behaviors. Many have had success with addiction problems by holding fast to the advice of their church congregation, but for me the answer came when I let go of all preconceived notions about God and started again from scratch in my search for deeper meaning in life.

Back in 1995, after seven or so years of being clean, the time had come to take a serious look at the God who got me where I was with two college degrees, a position as a CPA, and most importantly – laying off the drinking. This God for me was somewhat undefined since I had migrated away from seeing things as most “born again” Christians do. He was now the Higher Power I had been told about in the Twelve Step meeting rooms.

I was only able to accept the Higher Power concept of God due to a dream experience I had earlier in my life. The dream came at a time when I thought myself to be a very “on fire” soldier of the Lord who spent

lots of time saving souls. I was well-versed in the scriptures and eagerly sought opportunities to debate over the meaning of Bible verses so that I could wallow in my superior grasp of scripture meaning. I had read the Bible twice from cover to cover and I was sure that I had power to rebuke the devil based on how well I knew God and his Word.

In the dream, I was sitting in the kitchen at my mother's home. In the doorway of the kitchen there slowly began to form a dark and cloudy mini-tornado image that took on a greenish hue. As the small whirlwind continued to form, I started to form words of rebuke so that I could be safe. I knew well from my church experience that the devil can be sent away by anyone who believed in the Lord. I called out, "Get thee behind me in the name of Jesus!" It was obvious that even in my dreams I had an affection for the King James language. I repeated my rebuke. Suddenly the whirling cloud began to emanate an emerald tone of color. It became more clear and then a bright light appeared within the center of the emerald mini-tornado. Along with the small, bright light there came a voice. To my surprise, the voice was very gentle and yet very authoritative. In the very King James language I loved so dearly the voice said to me, "Why dost thou rebuke the Lord thy God?"

I was quite astonished in my dream state. I felt humbled, foolish and forgiven all at the same time. I

wanted nothing more than to know more from the beautiful voice in the small emerald storm. When I awoke soon after the image and voice faded, I was dazzled at how all that I held to be true about God was now challenged by this dream experience. My cherished intellectual definition of God and proper christian behavior was now in jeopardy. For a moment I considered that the whirling cloud was just a trick of the devil, but I could not deny that I felt ineffable peace from the voice in the whirling cloud.

As time passed, I became relieved when I considered the ramifications of this dream. After all, I had gathered lots of scriptural knowledge in my head which I only pretended to fully understand. Much of it required that I set aside my sense of reasoning as I encountered things in the Bible that seemed to make no sense. The dream showed me that all my learning brought me to a place where my conception of God needed to be revisited and deeply questioned. Though I didn't know it then, very much learning was to happen through repeated emerald cloud dreams in which I heard the voice of the eternal.

I came to realize that I could relax! The God who I thought was defined only in the Bible had shown me that I might be selling myself short by looking only there to find Him. I started examining alternate paths to truth like Zen Buddhism, East Indian religion, and Sufism. Though I was open-minded to all sources of truth,

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I could not shake my curiosity about the uniqueness of the Christian message with its figure of Christ as the redeemer of humanity. Then a second revelation incident happened on night as I was reading some of the first pages of the Bhagavad Gita, which is the one of the most highly-esteemed religious books in India.

The book starts out with a narrative about a young prince named Arjuna who is about to go into battle against an army that is commanded by his own relatives. Arjuna is accompanied by his life-long companion and confidant named Krishna with whom he is now expressing many doubts and fears as the beginning of fighting looms near. As Krishna helps Arjuna to gird-up for the coming battle, he gradually reveals truths about himself. By the beginning of the fourth chapter, Krishna's responses to Arjuna have reached a climactic tone as he shares his true nature as God. Until this moment, Arjuna never knew that his best buddy Krishna was actually God in the form of a human being! Though I had seen the verses of the fourth chapter many times before, on this particular night, something very strange and wonderful happened to the following words of the chapter::

*Freed from attachment, fear, and anger;
Fully absorbed in Me, taking refuge in Me,
And purified by the fire of Self-knowledge,
Many have attained Me*

What happened with these words involved my affection for Bibles that contained the words of Christ in red. I enjoyed focusing on the actual words spoken by Jesus as he performed his ministry. Of course, God knew this just like he knew how I especially liked the King James language he used when he spoke to me through the emerald cloud. As my eyes entered the fourth chapter of Arjuna's discussions with Krishna, the words above slowly changed from black to red type right before my eyes! I was amazed and awestruck by the lesson here. At a time when I grappled more than ever with the apparent differences in world religions, the Lord was now showing me that he is manifested in them all! For me, this event solidified my interest in the person of Jesus Christ as God more than any doctrine about him rising from the dead.

In about the seventh year of my sobriety, I became increasingly curious about the real purpose of the first books of the Bible. I was hesitant to start reading the Word again because I wanted nothing less than to again become the self-propelled, soul-saving soldier who stuck to the literal word of scripture and questioned nothing. I would rather not be a Christian at all if it meant I had to check my brains in at the door every time I opened the Bible. I decided to take up the task armed with the conviction of the wonderful revelations I had known to this point. These were mine and I became determined that they would set the standard for

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how I would evaluate the things I learned.

I remember the day I shut myself into my room and said to God, “Lord, I know your Word is filled with knowledge that I don’t yet see. I know that you don’t want your children to blindly follow where good sense does not prevail. Please help me to learn what is locked in the meaning of these words.” I then prepared to start fully anew with the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. I opened to the first verse and committed myself to read it as if I had never before seen the words.

The first verse says, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” But something strange happened as I started to read the second verse. When I came to the part where it says that the “earth” became “without form, and void” something told me to re-read this scripture substituting the word “earth” with my name “Steven.” Now it read, “And Steven was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” How appropriate, I thought. The next verse says, “And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Hmm... What if the “face of the waters” was really talking about the face of my life which was devastated and made void from alcohol and drug abuse? I couldn’t deny the sense of personal parallel that was forming before my eyes. After all, my past drinking definitely led me to a place that was pretty formless and void and the only way I was able to stop

drinking was with the help of what the Twelve Step programs called a Higher Power that “moved upon the waters” of my life.

As I continued to read the first chapter of Genesis, I wondered deeply that maybe all of the creation story was really written to describe the re-creation and regeneration of a human life that had gone bad. If it was, then I knew that more details about my own spiritual walk were available in the activities of the Biblical creation process than I ever imagined. I prayed, waited and remained steady in my desire to know the inner meaning of God’s Word. I eventually came to a point of thinking that the Genesis narratives are actually containers with plentiful knowledge about the spiritual history of humanity and some of the universal issues that come along with the human spiritual journey.

That symbolisms, types and figurative concepts exist in Genesis may not seem foreign to anyone who has ever attended Sunday school. Everyone knows that the fall of Adam and Eve really indicates our need of salvation and that the Noatic flood shows us that God punishes the wicked and preserves the faithful. But these are lessons taught in churches based on the more generalized meanings of Bible stories. My question was whether every detail of every story has hidden within it a secret meaning that is invisible to the uninitiated. While the generalized teaching of Noah’s story focuses on the ark, I am asking about the reason it was built

with “gopher” wood as is seen at Genesis 6:14.

I now know that the common stories we have all heard from Genesis are just a covering for a deeper theme of knowledge that is meant to be understood only by a few. For the person “who has ears to hear,” the characters of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are meaningless. Though they are historical figures in the linear dimension of biblical events, they are only pointers to greater other-worldly realities for the person who has learned how to correspond them to their higher, eternal significance.

I realize now that though God’s message in the Word has been given once, that singular provision contains multiple layers of meaning, depending on the realm in which the reader exists who encounters it. The Word of God is purposely constructed in such a way that it contains fullness of meaning for a child, an uninitiated adult human being who is a believer, and finally the angels and spirits of the afterlife realms. Most Christians on earth know only of the meaning presented for the mind of the child or uninitiated adult. Very few venture into the level of meaning that is meant for disembodied spirits who are much less hindered by the dark cloud of worldly endeavors.

Let me give you an example of what I’m talking about. Do you remember the song called “*Brand-New Key*”, by the sixties singer Melanie? I used to enjoy listening to it as a teenager during the seventies. The

songs about a girl who just bought a new pair of roller skates and then met a boy who happened to have a brand-new key that was needed to adjust the skates. The words of the lyrics were:

‘I’ve got a brand-new pair of roller skates, you’ve got a brand-new key --

I think that we should get together and try them out, you see.’

Because of the song’s popularity, a short Saturday-morning TV animation was eventually spun off from it. The cartoon was loved by children. To the mind of the child, the song’s simple theme taught important lessons about sharing. But isn’t there something additional in the song for the mind of the adult? Think about it. The girl has skates that need the boy’s key. Isn’t this hinting at a sexual encounter? That’s not hard to figure out. So you see, though there is a simpler, singular level of meaning in the lyrics for the child, the adult gets to appreciate the same lyrics on two levels because of life experience and natural human development. I wouldn’t doubt that this dual-meaning embedded in the words had something to do with the song’s success.

Let me now ask you a question. As the mind develops in a child who knows this song, shouldn’t he or she eventually get curious and ask, “Why didn’t the new roller skates come with their own key?” What I’m say-

ing here is that there is an awkward component in the literal words of the song that should be challenged at some point as the mind matures.

This parallels what happens when many of us read the book of Genesis. Though this book is filled with very specific information about the salvation of human-kind, the nature of the spiritual world, and even the development of the personality of Jesus, it is all hidden within stories that were written, by Divine design, to be understood two ways. One way is for children and the uninitiated who gain only rudimentary knowledge about God and spirituality, while the other is for the few who dare to know a more transcendent spiritual experience.

Unfortunately, the Genesis stories are still accepted, for the most part, as literal truth even though they contain elements that are awkward, uncoordinated, and sometimes downright senseless. Here are some examples of difficult Genesis passages that should be challenged in the natural course of maturity in Bible reading:

- When God separated “waters from waters” in order to create the “firmament” at Genesis 1:7, what became of the waters above the firmament?
- What were the first three “evenings and mornings” in Genesis 1:1-13 if the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day at Genesis 1:19?

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- Were fowls of the heavens made from the waters (Genesis 1:20) or the ground (Genesis 2:19)?
- Why are there two accounts of man's creation in Genesis 1:26 and 2:7?
- Why is the term "Lord God" not used at all in Genesis 1, though constantly in Genesis 2?
- Did the man who was created in Genesis 1:26 disappear in Genesis 2:5?
- Why were there different trees in the "midst" of the garden in Genesis 2:9 and 3:3?
- Why was Cain protected after killing Abel (Genesis 4:15)?
- Where did Cain's wife and the populous of Enoch come from in Genesis 4:17?
- Why did God "take" Enoch in Genesis 5:24?
- Why was man's lifetime limited to one hundred and twenty years in Genesis 6:3?
- Why did God kill animals and birds in Genesis 6:7?

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- Why was Noah told to take “pairs” in Genesis 6:19, and “sevens” in Genesis 7:2?
- Why are unclean beasts allowed in the ark in Genesis 7:2?
- What are the “fountains of the deep” that were stopped along with the rain in Genesis 8:2?
- What happened to the raven that was sent out of the ark in Genesis 8:7?
- Why are “fear” and “dread” mentioned when man departs the ark in Genesis 9:2?
- Why was man’s food after the flood called the “green herb” in Genesis 9:3?
- Why did God establish a covenant with animals in Genesis 9:10?
- Why was Ham’s fourth son cursed for Ham’s transgression in Genesis 9:25?
- Why was there such harsh punishment for Ham for the act done at Genesis 9:22?
- Why is the word “burial” mentioned eleven times in

Genesis 23?

- Why is the word “camels” used eighteen times in Genesis 24?
- Why were four wells dug in Genesis 26:18–22?
- What was meant by the three kinds of eunuchs in Matthew 19:12?
- Why did the patriarchs in Genesis feign their wives as sisters three times? (Genesis 12:13-19; 20:1-18, and 26:6-13)
- What are the “Sons of the East” in Genesis 29:1?
(1 Kings 4:30; Jeremiah 49:28; Isaiah 11:13 and 14; Ezekiel 25:3 and 4; Judah 6:3)
- Why are “three flocks of sheep” mentioned in Genesis 29:2 and 3?
- Why did Jacob cry after kissing Rachel in Genesis 29:11?
- Is Jacob Laban’s nephew (Genesis 28:2) or his brother (Genesis 29:15)?
- Why did Laban trick Jacob with Leah in Genesis

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29:25?

- Why did Jacob want all Laban's "speckled and spotted" animals (Genesis 30:32)?
- Why all the "stealing" in Genesis 31:19, 20, 26, 27, 30, 32, and 39?
- Why were Jacob and Israel often used in the same verse?(Genesis 42:4 and 5; 46:1, 2, 5, 27, 29, and 30; 47:27–29; 48:2 and 3; 49:1, 2, 7, and 24)
- What do "carcasses" and "eagles" have to do with the last judgment (Matthew 24:28)? (Luke 17:37)
- Why is Genesis filled with events of trickery and deception among brothers?(Cain kills Abel in Genesis 4:8; Jacob tricks Esau out of his birthright in Genesis 25:26 and 31; Jacob then tricks Esau out of his blessing in Genesis 27:35; the red birthright ribbon is given to Perez rather than Zerah in Genesis 38:28 and 29; Jacob purposely crosses his hands to bless Joseph's son Ephraim with the right hand instead of Manessah in Genesis 48:17)
- Why is Jacob's bed so important at Genesis 47:31, 48:2, and 49:33?

If we were to compare the reading of Genesis to eating a meal we could say that these difficulties, which we will explore in this book, are swallowed whole by many Bible readers. It's as if we were biting into an orange without peeling it and then claiming that we alone can accurately describe how it tastes! In this book, I help people peel the orange so that they can experience the fruit more fully. Those who learn to do this will be able to see for themselves that the path to self-realization as well as the very design of heaven, are already etched into every human soul. I believe that the deeper levels of reality present in the books of the Old Testament are very likely a key source of Jesus' parables which were presented to encourage human consciousness to move beyond the literal interpretation meant for children and the uninitiated. As we mature in our human experience, our understanding of God's Word is also supposed to deepen. With each passing day of our material lives we get closer to entering the spiritual realm and God has provided a plenteous source of knowledge about that realm by embedding it into the same book that jostled our imagination in childhood. In this way, we are given what we need to grow into a fuller understanding of our true heavenly position as spirit beings of the Most High. The Word of God is inspired, and it is time for those who have ears to hear to acknowledge just how the Word, through its inner meanings, can and does bind together heaven and earth.

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I will caution you that what you read here will not be very popular among exclusivist Christians. By exclusivist, I mean those Christians in congregations who are certain that they have exclusive access to the doctrines and guidelines of salvation. Everyone who acknowledges a relationship with God is not necessarily ready to make the adjustment required in order to see themselves as a participant in the stories of Genesis rather than a reader of them. For me this adjustment was quite painless since I had considered beforehand that God is much bigger and limitless than he was made out to be by my Sunday school teachers.

The core purpose of my work here is to initiate readers into a transcendent level of scriptural understanding that opens the human mind to perceive, in the present, the nature of angelic life and the design of the spiritual world. Jesus did the same thing. Through the use of parables, he introduced the human mind of his time to higher realities that were hidden beneath trivial language and words. He aimed to stretch the limits of our mental boundaries so that we could inquire into the wonderful goodness and truth laid out in the Word of God for both the time/space-based and eternal realms of the creation.