

Do
You
See
Me



BECKY
BLACKMON



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DEDICATION

This book is lovingly dedicated to all the Pearl Seekers who strive to know our God.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

—Matthew 13:45–46



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PREFACE

Approximately 2,400 years ago, God uttered these poignant words to the weeping prophet Jeremiah:

*My people are foolish,
They have not known Me.
They are silly children,
And they have no understanding.
They are wise to do evil,
But to do good they have no knowledge.*

Could there be any sadder verse in the entire Bible than this one in Jeremiah 4:22 (NKJV)? Could there be any sadder words than these from the mouth of our God? Our Father, the creator of the universe, poured out His heart to Jeremiah and bemoaned the lost condition of His family, Israel. Immoral, idol-worshipping, child-sacrificing, and rebellious were God's sons and daughters—a family chosen from before the earth was formed—and yet doomed for Babylonian captivity and death.

Fast forward to the present. Jeremiah's words from God still strike sorrow in our hearts! Why? Because they can still be applied to many Christians today—God's sons and daughters—who are senseless children and fools, children who do not know their Father.

We expect this kind of behavior from the world, but not from God's people! Consider the goodness of God; consider His blessings and provisions for the entire world. On top of all this, ponder His offer of salvation and His love in sending His Son to die for every single one of us.

History repeats itself as some of God's children once again do not know God. They don't know who He is because they don't read His Word. They have no knowledge of the Father, the Savior, or the Holy Spirit because they have no desire to know. And the saddest part of all is that many Christians have no desire to obey His Word. Oh, they want to obey the gospel and be saved, but somewhere along the line many lose interest in listening to the Father and begin walking

with Satan, listening to his lies. They make the decision to serve one master—and leave the other.

Where do you stand in this, my Christian friend? What is your relationship with the Father? Do you care about His Word and try to understand it? Do you know how to do good, or not?

This book has been written to help you find God, understand His nature, and receive His love. Take your time; look up the passages; get out your maps and find the places where God's people lived. The moment has come; it is time to learn.

I implore you: Will you turn your life around? Will you get into the Word and change your life? Remember, only you can change your soul's destiny.

Someone has said, "Many will miss heaven by eighteen inches, the distance from their head to their heart. They know about Christ, but do not know Him. You can be religious but lost. You can have the Bible in your head but not have Christ in your heart."

The ancient haunting words from the Lord echo in our ears every day: "My people are fools; they do not know Me."

My prayer for you and me is this: "Please, Lord, don't let us be fools. Please let us know You."

INTRODUCTION

STOP, LOOK, AND READ AGAIN!

Have you ever been reading God's marvelous Word and suddenly stumble upon an unusual character or an extraordinary event that seems to be hidden away among the verses? Bells and whistles go off in your head—ding, ding, ding! Perhaps it is only one verse that describes an event or person, but there it lies, and the thing is you may have read through the Bible year after year and never noticed it.

So what do you do? You stop dead in your tracks. You screech to a grinding halt and back up . . . and read that verse again. And again. And again. And there it is—a single moment for you that God has been sharing with the world for several thousand years, and you have never seen it.

Personally, I love it when this happens to me. I call these events “zingers,” and every time I discover one, my heart soars! A zinger has the power to completely turn me around and stop my world. I find it frequently popping up in my brain to the extent that I want to talk about it wherever I go. And that is exactly what is happening right now.

I want to share some of these unique zingers with the world. Now you have to understand that most of these biblical people or events might take up only one verse. Sometimes the outstanding individual is unnamed. But what the true Bible student must do is pause, dig, research, and learn.

In the lessons ahead, please read each “Wading in the Water” preview to give you an idea of the chapter contents. Read the biblical verses out loud. Get out your maps and timelines. Study the locations presented. Read the commentary notes at the end of each lesson—you will even find some answers there. And, above all, ask the questions that spring up from personal pondering. It is possible that you might even identify with the main character!

Do you know what will happen after that? You will grow. Your faith will grow. You may not have all the answers in a particular

event, and that's just fine. However, you will stand amazed at what God has done, not only in your own life but also in the life of the character you have just discovered! Your realization of who God is and the infinite greatness of His power will astound you in every possible way. Oh, the lessons our Father is trying to teach you and me—if only we would open His Book.

I hope and pray that you are a daily Bible reader. If you are, you know how some books in the Bible are extra challenging, especially those from the Old Testament. These books may be filled with numbers and strategic placements of the twelve tribes along with descriptions of the tabernacle and the temple. Whatever you do, do not stop reading! Keep on. Your brain is absorbing more than you think it is! An astonishing thing happens as you read the Bible year in and year out: you begin to understand what God is saying and trying to describe to you. Your brain is assembling the information and comprehending the picture the Master Artist is drawing. On top of that, you just might find a hidden zinger—I imagine this as a tone, ding, ding, ding—in one of those difficult passages. It's like God is waiting for us to uncover His messages. But please remember one thing: All our questions are not answered. We can only wonder about the details. That's okay.

Discussions will ensue in these chapters, but *no arguing allowed!* Just try to keep an open mind and realize there are some references where we do not have the final answer. We can pray for patience and understanding and then wait.

You and I are on a treasure hunt when we open the Bible, so let's see what treasures we can find. Travel with me, my Christian family, and let's discover what the Father wants all His children to see in the fascinating women and events of only a few verses. It's time to learn!



WADING IN THE WATER



GENTILE WOMEN, JEWISH MEN

How easy is it to be married to a person from another culture? Think of the obstacles that must be overcome: language, customs, manners, etc. And often it's complicated because of religion. Most married couples experience the challenges of marital bliss—finances, raising children, and education, to name a few. In addition, often there's confusion and conflict because of a socioeconomic society where one may not be accepted. Then exclusion is experienced on many levels. Racism is nothing new.

Before you wade into this chapter, think of a few Gentile women who married Jewish men. Who comes to mind?

The Old Testament gives us accounts of Gentiles and Hebrews intermarrying. We are mindful of Ruth and Orpah, Gentile women who married Jewish men. And the New Testament mentions Eunice, a Jewess who had married a Greek. But we must remember that our God loves all His creation.

When I read the story of Ruth, I am reminded of God's love in caring for a Gentile woman from the land of Moab. Many call the story of Ruth and Boaz a love story, and it surely is. But most of all it is a remarkable story of conversion. Ruth left her father's home and native land to stay with her husband's family and ancestors and embrace their God. God had a plan for Ruth and Boaz to find one another, love one another, and establish a bloodline from which the Messiah would come. Their love story truly is remarkable.

So let's put on our thinking caps and imagine what life would have been like for a lesser-known Gentile—a beautiful princess who left her father's palace to cross the Red Sea in that cataclysmic event

of the Exodus. Here God gives us a Jewish man and an Egyptian woman who found one another during turbulent times. Surely God had a plan for this couple and for this woman who left the idols of Egypt and embraced Yahweh.

May I introduce to you, Bithia, the convert.





CHAPTER

Bithia, The Courageous Egyptian

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 4:17–18

Song: “Give Me the Bible”



Today you are going to meet a very brave woman. She is a hidden treasure that I have lately discovered in my daily Bible reading. I feel so ashamed at never seeing her before . . . but then, my God is so merciful to me. And I know He is to you. That’s just the way He is. I found her name tucked away among all the men’s names from the tribe of Judah.

First Chronicles begins with Adam. If you have a study Bible, you can perhaps find a timeline. Here God starts at the beginning of time and names the people and the events up to the time of David, the shepherd king.

Use the maps in your Bible to find Israel and Egypt. Find Jerusalem, then locate the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Get familiar with Palestine. You might prefer online maps. Here is an example: <https://thebiblesays.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/oldtestamentmap.jpg>.

Carefully read 1 Chronicles 4:17–18. Find the Jewish man named Mered in verse 17. Focus on the woman Bithia, a wife of Mered. Let’s read about her and talk about what we know or think we know.

The sons of Ezrah *were* Jether, Mered, Ephraim and Jalon. (And these are the sons of Bithia the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took) and she conceived and bore Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa. His Jewish wife bore Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah (1 Chron. 4:17–18).

Who is this woman? We see she is an Egyptian princess, a daughter of Pharaoh. But she does not have an Egyptian name, so read your notes in your Bible or research online to find out what her name means. Write the meaning here. _____

I hope questions are popping into your head right now. How did it happen that this princess traveled into the wilderness with the Israelites as they fled from the Egyptians? Remember Exodus 12:35–38 tells us of a “mixed multitude” that went with the Jews. Pause and think about it.

Let’s see the information God has given us in Exodus 12:37–38.

Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock.



TIME FOR A CLOSER LOOK

Research to find a date for the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

1. Where does all this take place?

2. Who is our main character, and where is she from?

3. How does she wind up in 1 Chronicles?

4. Who is her husband?

5. Read 1 Chronicles 4:18 and see that Mered had a _____ wife, as well as Bithia.

6. Write our character's name and give the meaning, using appropriate resource material.

7. How might the Egyptian woman and the Jewish man have met?

8. List some possible marital conflicts that Bithia and Mered might have experienced because of their different ethnic backgrounds.

9. Read Exodus 12:35–38 and tell how the Jews plundered the Egyptians. Who had told the Jews to ask the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing?



WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID

Burton Coffman: [In Exodus 2 concerning the one who drew Moses from the Nile]—We cannot identify this daughter of Pharaoh. Josephus called her Thermutis, and Eusebius called her Merris. Unger suggested that her name might have been Hatshepsut, the only woman known to have become a Pharaoh. But until ancient Egyptian history is much more than the patchwork of guesses that it is today, the certain identification is impossible.¹

Albert Barnes: Mered, it would seem, had two wives, Bithiah [Bithia], an Egyptian woman, and a Jewish wife whose name is not given. If Mered was a chief of rank, Bithiah may have been married to him with the consent of her father, for the Egyptian kings often gave their daughters in marriage to foreigners. Or she may have elected to forsake her countrymen and cleave to a Jewish husband, becoming a convert to his religion. Her name, Bithiah, “daughter of Yahweh,” is like that of a convert.²

1 Burton Coffman, *Coffman’s Commentaries on the Bible*, Exodus 2:5–6, accessed Jan. 11, 2024. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/exodus-2.html>.

2 Albert Barnes, *Barnes’ Notes on the Whole Bible*, 1 Chronicles 4:18, accessed Jan. 11, 2024. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bnb/1-chronicles-4.html>.

BOTTOM LINE

What is God trying to tell us in revealing her story? Why do you think God allows us to meet her?



PRAYER

Our Father, we praise Your name today and always. Thank You for Your marvelous Word and the wonderful accounts of Your family. We thank You for Bithia and for her love and desire to be one of Your daughters even though she had a different upbringing from the people around her. Please help us always to look for Your truth and Your guidance. Please give us the courage to see what is right, do what is right in Your sight, and stand up for You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

