

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Picture In Picture

Dear Friend,

Remember the old adage, “You can’t tell a book by its cover”? That couldn’t be a more true statement when it comes to the Bible. The Word of God isn’t simply black ink on white paper, easily understood by all. On the contrary, the complexity that exists within God’s Word requires a person to be born again in order to understand the depths of what is recorded.

Unlike any other book, the Bible has layer upon layer of revelation yet to be discovered. It contains foreshadowing of future events and imagery of what has taken place in us, which are blind to those who are spiritually dead. The Word of God is alive. It’s the only book that contains within itself the power to cause itself to come to pass once it is believed and faith is released. Consequently, the Bible shouldn’t be viewed like any other book. To demonstrate the depths contained in the Word of God, allow me to describe its complexity as a picture in a picture.

Have you ever seen a picture in which the artist created a main image by using the features of several individual pictures combined together to make up the larger picture? Say for example the overall picture is the profile of a man. If you look very closely at the man’s nose you discover it’s not a nose at all it is a small picture of a man sitting on a rock. A closer examination of his eyes reveal that they are not eyes at all, but actually two houses with lights inside. His ear is not really an ear it is a bonnet being worn by a young lady. His hair is actually the sky above the two houses. That is an example of a picture in a picture.

Likewise, by reading the verses in the Bible an image is formed by the words you read on the page. It is the “main image” and it is the one that is easiest to see. However, the difference between the Bible and any other book is that there are layers upon layers and pictures within pictures, many of which are yet to be discovered. I say that because the depths of the Word of God are inexhaustible.

Unique to the Word of God; as the “main image” is allowed to form inside the reader, the Holy Ghost begins to unfold the layers of revelation concealed within

that “main image”. Pictures within pictures start to emerge that are invisible to the naked eye. When that takes place, reading the Bible becomes more of an adventure, like being on a quest for buried treasure.

To start our quest we will begin by looking at a “main image” and then unveiling more and more of the hidden images contained within. I believe you are going to really enjoy this lesson. Hopefully, this will encourage you to expect the Holy Ghost to reveal to you the hidden images contained in God’s Word as you study it. We will only be able to scratch the surface of our text in this letter. For the next few months we will continue to explore more of the depths of the pictures within this picture.

The subjects of our study will be the children of Israel after their exodus from Egypt. The picture begins right at the point where these complaining, ungrateful, ex-slaves, have been doubting God’s faithfulness at every turn. They have been fussing about having no food to eat and how God delivered them from Egypt only so they could die. Instead of remembering their captors as slave drivers, they fantasized about the provision of Egypt.

Let’s pick up with God addressing their complaints by telling them about a supernatural substance which He would provide for them. Notice how specific God was in His instructions to Moses about how to collect this gift from above. (Exodus 16:4-5)

“Then said the Lord unto Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. (5) And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.’ ”

Then the miraculous supply began to manifest before their eyes each day. (Exodus 16:14-15)

“And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. (15) And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, ‘It is manna’: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, ‘This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.’ ”

Moses instructed the people that they were only to gather extra provision of manna the day before the Sabbath. Otherwise, any extra manna a person attempted to save for the next day would spoil. (Exodus 16:19-20)

“And Moses said, ‘Let no man leave of it (manna) till the morning.’ (20) Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.”

The picture we can see by simply reading the words on the page is that of a faithful God raining down bread from heaven for His people to eat. The fact that He outlined some very specific instructions for how and when to collect this supernatural provision seems to point to other objectives God had than simply feeding the people. We will eventually address the reason for that, but for now we only want to focus on the manna.

Let’s take a look beyond the ink on the page, what do we see? We see a supernatural provision from the hand of God that is seemingly inexhaustible. No need trying to save it for tomorrow, more will be there in the morning. Just trust God. So, a “spiritual” picture is beginning to emerge from within this natural picture. The “spiritual” will resemble the natural. In this case, the natural substance is manna, which is to be eaten for the nourishment of the body. The “spiritual” substance is the Word of God.

There is truly an inexhaustible supply of spiritual nourishment contained within the Word of God. Every time you open God’s Word and feast on the truth, rest assured you will never leave without being fed. Notice how important it was for Israel to have a daily supply of manna. It is no different for us today. Daily we should spend time partaking of God’s Word instead of trying to survive on yesterday’s manna. If your spirit is not being fed it is not growing, which is what Peter indicated when he said, (I Peter 2:2)

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

When I cross paths with a believer who is struggling in their walk with the Lord, one of my first questions is generally, “How much time are you spending in the Word?” I would say 9 times out of 10 their answer goes something like this, “Well, I really haven’t been spending very much time at all in the Word.” If they are dealing with a physical attack I will ask them; “What specific verses are you confessing for your healing?” Their answer is generally the same, “none.” So, they have no “spiritual” nourishment going in and consequently no “Word” is coming out. That is a bad combination.

In Paul’s letter to the church at Rome he said this. (Romans 10:17)

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Notice, Paul did not say that “faith” comes by having heard; he said it comes by hearing. **Hearing is a present tense action.** The idea that a person confessed some scriptures consistently a few years ago and it is going to sustain them now is presumptuous. All too often a verse is repeated out of habit instead of actually opening up the Bible and reading the words. Something happens inside when we look at those words and read them out loud and make a positive confession over ourselves using those verses. It seems to me like a deposit is made in my spirit when I take the time to digest the Word.

If people would simply take the time to read their Bibles and pray in tongues, so many of their questions would be answered. The question I hear asked so often by believers is more of a crying out for guidance from the Lord. I wonder to myself, what exactly they are expecting God to do. Particularly when the Word of God already tells them the guidance will come predominantly from the Word itself, the Word they haven’t had time to read. Instead, they just keep crying out for guidance. It’s like running around in a circle expecting the scenery to change. Look at these verses. (Psalms 119:105)

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

(Psalms 119:133)

“Order my steps in thy Word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”

Certainly a person will have times when the Holy Ghost drops something specific inside them to do. But, how about the rest of the time? Thank God for His Word and thank God for the Holy Ghost who has been sent to guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)

“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall he speak: and He will show you things to come.”

Two chapters earlier the Holy Ghost is called the Spirit of truth. (John 14:16-17)

“And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world

cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.”

Just to make sure we knew who He was talking about, Jesus expressly tells us who the Comforter is. (John 14:26)

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

The Holy Ghost is the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth and He will guide us into all truth. How will He do this? Let's say you are faced with making some kind of a decision and suddenly a verse of scripture seems to float up from deep within and it seems to grab your attention. This happens to me often. I have come to recognize that this is the Holy Ghost using the Word of God that has been sown inside me to guide me.

Where it says, “He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you”, only works if we have taken the time to put the Word of God inside of us. Some people want all kinds of directions and instructions from the Holy Ghost and all the while they are neglecting the simple instruction of “desiring the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby.”

I have found that so long as I continue to feed myself on the Word of God and pray in tongues, I am not wondering what I am supposed to do next. He seems to have everything He needs to get me to where I am supposed to be and doing what I am supposed to be doing.

Desire the Word. Cultivate a hunger for more of the Word. Don't fall into that trap of believing you have heard the Word and find yourself in the middle of a battle trying to live on Word you heard. Hear the Word as it is coming out of your mouth. Speak the Word over yourself, your family your job and anything else connected to you. The choice is yours. I would rather keep myself fed with God's Word as opposed to having to play catch up because I'm surrounded on all sides by disaster and can't seem to remember a verse to confess.

The children of Israel dined on the manna from heaven every day for 40 years. Some might say, “Oh, I can't imagine eating manna for 40 years. How boring.” Think about it, knowing that the very substance you are putting in your mouth each day came from one source and one source alone, God. Isn't that the same source of the Word of God? The Word of God isn't merely words on a page. It

originated on the inside of God. So, God's intent with the manna was at least two fold. First, to feed Israel. Second, to demonstrate to us our need to feed on God's Word daily. Do you see a picture forming within the other?

The picture of the Word being our "spiritual" manna is the image just beyond the words on the page. There are volumes here yet to be discovered. In the upcoming months we are going to continue to explore what other pictures exist beyond the black ink on the white paper. What we will find is that one picture is part of another picture, which is part of another picture, all of which begins with the words we read on the pages of our Bible.

Our Father has so much more for us than our natural minds can ever comprehend. The beginning point is the "spiritual" manna. It must be a part of our daily life. That's the picture within the picture. Don't look at the Word of God as being mundane, like Israel began to look at the manna. God's supernatural provision became something they loathed. Don't ever forget where God's Word originated, on the inside of God Himself. Be encouraged that your answer is inside God's Word and the Holy Ghost has been sent to teach it to you and to guide you into all truth. God has equipped you with all you need to succeed. So, be the child of God the Word says you are to be.

~ Grace be with you

Mark Jenkins