

Hidden in Plain Sight

The Jewels of Scripture Revealed

By Deacon Michael P. Melanson, (MAPS)

Commentary

It seems that whenever I began to read any text of scripture, I would come across what I have come to call them as “hidden jewels”. These are the beautiful little gems that just pop out and reveal a whole new aspect of our loving God, in the plain sight words of Holy Scripture. I so much wanted to share what God had revealed to me to the world. So I have gathered just a few of my favorites in the following pages for your reading and studying enjoyment. It seems that every time I go back and reread a part of scripture, I find something different that brings a “WOW” expression to my lips. For this reason, I believe that the scriptures are alive and ever evolving to the reader. My intent is that maybe you can enjoy my delight in scripture reading as I have.

Table of Contents

Chapter One	The Book of Genesis	Page 3
Chapter Two	The Old Testament	Page 6
Chapter Three	The Gospel of Matthew	Page 8
Chapter Four	The Gospel of Mark	Coming soon
Chapter Five	The Gospel of Luke	Coming soon
Chapter Six	The Gospel of John	Coming soon

Chapter One The Book of Genesis

In the book of Genesis, in the first two chapters, the author writes of the creation of the universe, the creation of the world, the creation of animals and finally, the creation of human kind (Gen: 1,2). Most of us have heard these stories throughout our lives. Scientists have been debating the creation theory with evolution theory for a very long time.

But, for the purpose of this book, it is not so much what is written as it is what is not written. For example, when God creates man, he names him Adam, and gives him dominion over everything else that He has created. He places Him in an environment where everything is provided for him. He has all the necessary food, and other needs required for life. But Adam is not happy. He requires an equal partner. So God hears his request and honors it and creates a woman, whom Adam name's Eve. This story, I'm sure, is known to just about everyone in the world. God places them in a garden, called Eden, where everything is given to them. They can have anything they want, eat anything they want except the fruit of good and evil, from the tree in the center of the garden. Here is where the hidden jewel begins to show its beauty.

Adam and Eve have no needs. They have everything. God has provided them with all they want and need. There is no disease; there is no lack of anything. We must ask ourselves, then, what was God's purpose for creating them? What did God have in mind from the very beginning, with the creation of Adam and Eve, and the human race?

Ok, now you have been patient enough, so I will tell you and bring to light the hidden jewel of this part of the book of Genesis. God's intent for the creation of humanity is that

all of humanity will give glory to God for ever and will never die. Oops. I hope you didn't read this too fast. Let's reread just the last few words of what I just said...*will never die*. That's it, the jewel of life hidden right in plain sight. We, as humans, created by our loving God, were never created to die. God made us so that we would live forever with Him, in sight of Him forever. According to the Book of Genesis, this was and still is God's plan.

But wait just a minute. If God's plan is for all of humanity to live forever, how come we all must die seems to be the obvious question? The answer to this question lies in all of the following books of the bible up to and including the four Gospels. The answer becomes clear in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

It is true that God never created us to die. Death only entered into the picture when Eve ate from the forbidden tree, and disobeyed God. From this moment, sin and death became a fact of existence for the newly created human beings. God's punishment was to cast them out of the garden of plenty, and have them exist only on their own abilities.

However, it has to be noted, that this is not what the initial plan of God was from the beginning. We truly were created to live forever and it is only through the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, that we can obtain the eternal life that God has planned for all of humanity who believes. WOW! This is some great news. So in reality, when our bodies can no longer support our life on Earth, then we just transition to a different life with God, but we truly never die, because this is what God has intended from the very beginning.

Just, think, this great news has been in the scripture for a very long time and is now being revealed to anyone who knows the love, compassion, and mercy of our mighty

God. I get excited every time I read this scripture story. I can't read it enough. I'm not in a hurry to go to heaven, but I'm also not afraid of the transition. To live forever sounds really good, and to think, it is all part of God's plan from the very beginning.

Chapter Two The Old Testament

In the previous chapter, we have found the first of many hidden jewels in plain sight. Hopefully, by the time we reach the end of the bible, we will be so rich in jewels that the wealth we have gained will spill over to the rest of the world.

If I took apart every book and every chapter and every verse of all the books in the Old Testament, there would be so many hidden in plain sight jewels that it would take a long time to get through this section. So I am going to limit what I will give you and hope you will investigate on your own, a whole lot more.

One of the secrets, now revealed, to finding the hidden in plain site jewels, is to ask a lot of questions, questions like, *who, what, where, when and why*. Apply these questions to almost any verse of scripture and you just might see a hidden in plain sight jewel. Let's look at the book of Exodus for example. Now, of course, just about everyone has seen Charlton Hesston as Moses, part the Red Sea with staff in hand, and his great proclamation that splits the sea in two. Scientists have been trying to explain and theorize just how what is printed in the bible could have happened in real life. There is doubt in some societies that the story happened as it is written. And here is where the jewel begins to appear. It doesn't matter. That's right. It doesn't matter how it happened or even if it happened. Applying the question, as mentioned above, *why* it happened, the hidden jewel begins to be seen clearer. The story is very dramatic. The reason for its happening is less so dramatic. God's intent was to deliver His people out of the bondage of slavery of the Egyptians. What is slavery but sin! And what is sin but death. Sound familiar? In saving the Israelites, God is leading them back to eternal life. Remember His initial plan for humanity is to live for ever. His love of the chosen people is giving them a way to eternal

life if they but follow the laws of God, the ways of the Lord, and the truth given them on the mountain of Mount Sinai. But once again, humanity messes up and so the story continues. Moses receives the Ten Commandments, the laws of God, delivers them to the chosen people to follow, the people reject them and humanity once again continues down the road of sin to destruction instead of God's plan for eternal life. We are a stubborn group of beings, but keep reading, it truly gets better.

In the Book of Job, we can read and see a different kind of God than we are accustomed to seeing. God plays a game with the devil and Job is the object of the game. The devil believes that he can make Job go against his love for God and turn to the devil's evil ways. God challenges Satan to prove it, but requires one simple rule during the test. The devil cannot harm Job physically, in any way.

Now, did you see the hidden jewel yet? Are your eyes open? Ok, Ok, here it is. Our God has a sense of humor. Yes of course, God has a sense of humor. This may sound strange, but after you read The Book of Job, you'll see it in plain sight. He is allowing Job to be tested, and a lot of bad things will happen to him, but God will not allow any harm to come to him what so ever. Why you ask? Because He wants Job to know that eternal life is his if he but trust in God and in His ways. This indeed is a great message in and of itself. Trusting in God is hard and can often require sacrifice on our part. But in the end, the glory of our God will always shine through for those who trust to the end God's plan for eternal life.

Chapter Three

The Gospel of Matthew

Skipping all the way out to the Gospels, we first come to the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Now that you are beginning to see some of the hidden in plain sight jewels of the bible, I would like to spend more time revealing them in the Gospels. I have always loved the Gospels as my favorite part of the sacred scriptures. The revelation of God manifested in Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, is truly remarkable.

Remembering from chapter one of this book, the hidden jewel that God's plan for humanity is that we live forever. The Gospels are the proof of this as they reveal God's plan come to fruition in Jesus Christ. Mankind, throughout the ages continued to disobey the messages of the prophets to turn from their evil ways and follow the ways of the Lord. So God, in His infinite love and mercy, becomes one of us humans in the incarnation and obedience of our Blessed Mother Mary. The Gospel of Matthew is the first book to reveal this to the world. I will only reveal a few hidden in plain sight jewels to you. Many others are waiting for your own revelation to find them. Remember, they are hidden in plain sight.

In the first chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, once you get past the genealogy of Jesus and all the Hebrew names, we come to verses 18 through 21 of chapter one. Joseph finds out that his betrothed Mary is going to have a baby, and Joseph knows the he is not the father. To protect Mary from stoning, which by Jewish law is what happens to those caught in adultery, Joseph decides to quietly divorce Mary so as to not expose her to shame. Now watch closely, here comes the hidden in plain sight jewel. In a dream that Joseph has, an angel of the Lord tells Joseph God's entire plan and that he should not

divorce Mary but rather accept her into his house as his wife. Have you seen the hidden in plain sight jewel yet? It's how God has spoken to Joseph. He didn't speak to him with lightning and thunder, or with any dramatic earthly event that Hollywood might dream up. He spoke to him in a dream. Remember that God's ways are not like our ways. God sends an angel to Joseph in a dream. Another jewel is that Joseph believed the angel and accepted God's plan even though it might have seemed to be quite unbelievable. Joseph completely trusted God and so followed His will. Now, here is the greatest hidden in plain sight jewel of this part of the story. Neither Mary nor Joseph was forced to do what God wanted. They were *asked* to follow God's plan and both responded positively to God's request. You see, God never forces His will on us. He created us with free will. Free will may be the greatest gift or the greatest curse of humanity. In either case, it is God given and the almighty never forces us to do His will. He only wants us to trust in Him, have faith in the one he sent, Jesus Christ, and follow the ways of the Holy Spirit.

Now, tell the truth. Did you see this hidden in plain sight jewel before? I tell you, the scripture is loaded with these beautiful jewels. The gospel of Saint Matthew continues on with other stories about Jesus. Here we'll find many more hidden jewels in plain sight if we but look for them.

In chapter 12 of Saint Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, "...for although you have hidden these things from the learned you have revealed them to the childlike." Now we have to be very careful when you read this. Jesus did not say we must be like a child or childish, we must be child like, that is, we must be dependent on God just as Jesus was dependent on his father. Now the hidden jewel here, if you haven't already found it, is the dependency that all humans must have in God just like that of children and their

dependency on their parents. In other words, in order to be a true follower of Jesus, we must be totally dependent on him. A child lets their parents know what their needs are. In the early years of growing, they cry when they need to be changed or are hungry. But as they grow older, they simply ask for what they want. By following what Jesus teaches us, we too have the privileged to ask God for everything. And if we simply believe and trust as a child would, be it the will of the Father, we shall receive.

So you can see that there can be many hidden in plain sight jewels in almost every sentence of the scripture if you are willing to see them in plain sight. Perhaps it is now time for you to find the many jewels that are waiting for you to discover. Do not be discouraged if you don't at first have 20 – 20 eye sight to see what is hidden in plain sight. Apply the questions mentioned previously, *who, what, where, when and why*, to everything you read in scripture, and they will be revealed to you. Happy searching, for you are about to become very wealthy in jewels of the scriptures hidden in plain sight.