

INTRODUCTION

This book is a collection of short stories that stir the imagination – unconventional, audacious, and evocative – stories that explore the miracle and mystery of the human psyche – stories of thoughts, feelings, and deeds – from the depths of imagination. Together, they represent speculative history, supernatural drama, and spiritual allegory that provide a fresh perspective on understanding our relationship with the universe, with each other, and with God.

Nine short stories are included, three from each category, written in an entertaining style for the average person – sometimes stretching historical and theological customs – drama, adventure, and inspiration all rolled into one. It is not just fantasy or pure fiction. As such, it provides a fresh perspective on understanding the greater spiritual message – filling in gaps where people can stumble or fall. Most stories have a Christian perspective, although there is no denominational focus.

But beware, this is not run-of-the-mill Bible thumping! Be prepared to expand your mind!

The setting for these stories ranges from the ancient Near East to conceptual manifestations of heaven, hell, and alternate realities. Some of the protagonists are well-known, some little-known, and some unknown. The common thread is that they are all involved in the great mystery of life and death.

These are stories that you've probably never heard before, but they are not total figments of the author's imagination. They are loosely based

on historical records found in religious, but not strictly Biblical sources – stories from the apocrypha and pseudepigrapha that did not make it into the Biblical canon. They are derived from rough English translations and then adapted for modern readers in modern parlance. Every story has a “take-away” that fosters reflection, analysis, and further study – either alone or in a group setting. Insights that are gleaned from these stories can benefit both the individual and the greater community.

Stories from ‘beyond the Bible’ can be intoxicating – wanting to always know more secrets and untold truths. Craving to know “what really happened at ...” and “the rest of the story is ...” are powerful human desires. Whether religious or secular, the craving still exists. The purpose of this book is to address those cravings and instill a greater sense of wonder into the human mystery – especially as it relates to God and our ultimate reality.

Note that this is not a self-help book on improving relationships, overcoming suffering, or finding peace with God. There is no shortage of those type books to be found on the shelves. Rather, this book is much more than that – delving into deeper mysteries where greater insights may be found. Each story brings with it more than just inspiration – it brings wonder, hope, wisdom, reverence, and contentment – all brought into greater focus – making for a more fulfilling personal existence in harmony with God.

There are many religious books (scholarly and practical), inspirational books, religious fiction, and self-help books. But there are very few collections of Bible stories that are “outside the box” – that deal with unknown characters and strange events – that touch the imagination and the soul in unconventional ways. So, the potential is huge for a wide crossover of personal appetites – people from many different affinity groups can read it and experience the wonder.

The stories in this book are broken down into three genres, with a taste of each story provided below:

Supernatural Tales:

The Way of the Watchers

Angels from Heaven descend to the earth and incarnate in human bodies – but their interaction with the children of God brings corruption, immorality, and wicked blood-drinking giants who work destruction on the earth.

The Goddesses of the River

Adam and Eve meet beautiful creatures who emerge naked from the water – and teach them the secrets of sex and procreation.

Open Now the Gates

The events of the Saturday after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ – His descent into hell, rescue of the righteous, and condemning of the wicked.

Speculative History:

The Death of Cain

Seth tells the story to his son Enoch of how Cain was killed in a similar manner as his brother Abel.

The Flight of Simon the Sorcerer

The extraordinary battles between the Apostle Peter, the Emperor of Rome, and the heretical sorcerer Simon Magus – THE MAN WHO COULD FLY!

Young Melchizedek

The story of how the body of Adam was moved from the Cave of Treasures near the Garden of Eden, to the hill of Golgotha outside Jerusalem – starring 448-year-old Shem, son of Noah, 15-year-old Melchizedek, designated high priest of God, the embalmed body of Adam, and an angel of God.

Spiritual Allegory:

At the Beginning

An allegorical poem that covers the mysteries behind the creation of the universe, the earth, the angels, and new creatures called human beings.

The Satanic Influence

With the setting in the devil's executive boardroom, the CEO reveals his devious strategy for deceiving the present-day human being in order to turn him away from God.

Mysteries of the Mustard Seed

A frank discussion between a farmer who owns a barn full of different seeds intended for planting, and a single melancholy mustard seed.

PART 1

Supernatural Tales

THE WAY OF THE WATCHERS

At that time the Nephilim appeared on earth – Genesis 6:4

The Year is approximately 4954 BC.

The Place is on the Holy Mountain, near the Cave of Treasures.

One evening, as they are relaxing after the day's work, Eve says to Seth, "Listen now, my son, and I will relate to you something important that I heard and saw many years after your father and I had been driven out of the Garden in the land of Eden.

"One day when we were at prayer, there came to me the Archangel Michael, a messenger of God, on a magnificent chariot that rode the wind like a bird. He proceeded to show me a great prophetic vision of what will happen in the years to come. I have never told you this before, my son, because I didn't think you were ready. But now I think the time is right. The prophecy may be close to fulfillment."

And so, Eve begins to relate the vision that had been shown to her many years earlier:

ANGELIC 'WATCHERS' DESCEND TO EARTH

"In future times, in the days of your descendant Jared,¹ 200 angels from heaven will descend onto the earth. They will be sent by God to instruct all of your descendants in the ways of earthly things – to teach them practical skills like the use of root cuttings, the mining and use of metals, the building and construction with wood, the understanding of the impacts of clouds and sky (the weather) and recognizing the signs of the sun and courses of the moon (the solar and lunar cycles) for help with horticulture and agriculture, the diagnosis and healing of afflictions and diseases, and the ability to read and write. They are meant to be cultural exemplars – bringers of 'civilization' to our people. You see, the children of Cain, being prolific as they are, have already started to learn these things by tedious everyday trial and error. But they are already using the new knowledge for corrupt, immoral, and evil intentions. In contrast, our people are to learn these things such that they will be decent, honest, moral, and upright in the eyes of God.

But before continuing, let me go back in time to set the stage:"

¹. Jared is about 139 years old in the vision related by Eve.