

EXCERPT – Strange Tales and Shadowy Beings from Beyond the Bible – Vol. 2

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.

Six short stories are included, 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. These 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 following stories are centered around the later life of Saint Peter – tales you won't find in the Bible, but based on historical writings.

The Lost Family of Clement

Following the separation and presumed death of his family, a brilliant young man sets out to follow Peter as he ministers in Judea, but miraculously is reunited with his mother, father, and brothers in a remarkable series of events that solidifies his faith.

The Strange Case of Petronilla

A young girl is saved from a demon possession, but despite her disability, her faith is tested daily for the rest of her life.

Eubula's Gold

A naive rich woman is tricked by Simon the Sorcerer into giving up her gold and jewels. Peter foils the plot but Simon escapes to plague him another day.

A City Called Habitation

The Apostles meet Jesus on a strange island and have a foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven. A dignified conception of holy truth, in story form but presented beneath a modest veil of allegory.

Baptism in the Sea

Peter converts the captain of the ship taking him from Judea to Rome by immersion over the side – and sustains the faith of the port's innkeeper.

The Talking Dog and Statue of Caesar

Peter confronts Simon the Sorcerer by using miracles of God to overcome the magic tricks of Simon.

Miracles at the House of Marcellus

Miracles cause Marcellus to return to the faith after he had renounced it to follow Simon the Sorcerer.

Simon's Spectacular Flight Over Rome

The extraordinary battles between the Apostle Peter, the Roman Emperor Nero, and the heretical sorcerer Simon Magus – THE MAN WHO COULD FLY! How it all played out.

The Last Days

The last week in the life of Saint Peter: Persecution in Rome, Peter's Vision at the Gate, The Initiation of Clement, The Sermon of the Church as a Great Ship, and Peter's Last Words and Prayers.