

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Common Bible Misunderstandings

For years I have heard people speak of biblical matters and not accurately. For example, in speaking of Sodom and Gomorrah, it has long been contended that they were the only two cities destroyed by God. In actuality, there were five cities on the plain. Four of them were destroyed (Deut. 29:23); Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim. Zoar was spared because that is where Lot sought refuge (Gen. 19:22-23).

There is a wide spread belief that it was Moses who threw down his staff and it became a serpent before Pharaoh. In actuality, it was Aaron who threw down his rod. It was Aaron's rod that swallowed the other rods (Exod. 7:10-12).

Many do not realize that the children of Israel crossed a body of water on dry land more than once. The usual discussion is the great crossing of the Red Sea (Exod. 14:22). Israel also crossed the Jordan River on dry ground (Josh. 3:17).

When the prophet Elijah faced the false prophets on Mt. Carmel, it is usually stated that he faced the prophets of Baal which is true. The prophets of Baal seem to be singled out (1 Kings 18:20ff), but in the context one will observe that it was not just the 450 prophets of Baal, but also 400 prophets of Ashera (1 Kings 18:19).

The Bible tells us that the wise men took three gifts to honor our Lord; gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt. 2:11). Since three gifts are specified the conclusion people have drawn is that there were three wise men. Scripture does not reveal the number of wise men.

The common thought at the holidays is that these wise men went to see the Christ child as he lay in a manger. Scripture reveals that they did not visit Jesus until he was in a house (Matt. 2:11). This may well have taken place after the days of purification (cf. Luke 2:22).

Some have thought it improper to refer to Jesus as God. Instead, they speak of Him as the Son of God. In actuality, He is both God the Son and the Son of God. John 1:1-3 refers to Him as God. Even the Father in Heaven refers to Jesus as God (Heb. 1:8). And yes, He is also referred to as the Son of God (John 1:34).

Brethren often speak of the Book of Revelations. There is no "s" in the title. While the book may contain more than one revelation, as a collective whole, it is the Book of Revelation.