

Great Lines

There are so many hidden gems in the Bible. They are as spectacular as Famous lines Moby Dick or the Tale of two cities. The Bible starts off by saying epically “In the Beginning.” Now to some, these are just words. Yet, for avid readers these words hang on walls for eternity. A book reader loves great lines. What makes them great lines? Usually, these words are the hinge that holds the whole story. I have read books that just get lost in the story. Where are they really going with it? Are the characters impactful? Yet, great lines tend to direct you to what is to come or where we have been. The Bible likes to do two things. One is that it places great lines in the beginning. Secondly, there are verses all over the place that have impacted millions throughout the centuries.

I love “In the beginning” that opens Genesis 1. Right from the start we have God declaring that He made it all. I would even go further that God is telling us the He has a plan and that all is in motion because of Him. John 1 recognizes Genesis by saying the same words “In the Beginning.” All the gospels open with a declaration that Jesus is God. Why? It is to continue the plan that began in Genesis. Good narrative has great lines and great intent. One of the staples of the Bible is that it is consistent. The story is always first and foremost. The great lines are like icing on the cake.

There are; however, other great lines in the Bible. They could be called hidden lines. John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the only way to God. Yet, back on John 3:16 we get one of the greatest lines ever, telling us why John 14:6 is true. Much of the Bible should be read in context. The interconnected state of the Bible makes its great lines even brighter. Deuteronomy 6:4 is probably the most quoted line in Bible history. Why? It is because many nations have many idols

and many Gods. Yet, this little nation claims one God. The people that serve this one God love Him. Are devoted to Him. They choose Him. Epic verses placed for epic reasons.

What Does God have to say? Since this is Gods word, I will let him speak in Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* This is God. *I created it! It is my word! This is my creation and it cannot be unseen!* Yet, Gods plan is hidden in the text. You must read Gods word to know. Genesis 50:20 says *“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”* How about Judges 21:25 *“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”* The Bible is all about God working and how we try hard to walk away. Yet, God does not walk away.

Numbers is a difficult book to read. Yet, the tale of the talking donkey in Numbers 22 is rich. Romans 8 just might be the best chapter in the entire Bible. 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 is a small story hidden in-between genealogy. The apostle Paul appears and disappears in the book of Acts. Yet, He might be the second most influential person besides Jesus. In-fact Jesus is written about, yet the gospels are telling a story with (many) main characters. Again, Gods word is displaying His relationship between humans and Himself. Just as He did in the garden of Eden.

Let us look at the greatness of David. He is considered a great king. Now Gods word says “hold on a minute.” David had sin. He murders and commits adultery. David was not a great father. Yet, His relationship with God is somehow solid. 1 Samuel 13:14 prophecies that God will raise up a man after Gods own heart. In Acts 13:22 Paul says David was that man. Plus, we have David’s heart displayed in the Psalms. Again, we read that God raised up s great man. Will he respond to God?

How about Moses. God gives us a hidden child that is raised up to be leader of a nation. Yet, Moses kills a man and is barred from entering the promised land. Exodus 2:14 *“The man asked, “Who made you our ruler and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”* These are epic words. Then we have the Bible telling us that Jesus was a hidden child in Egypt. That he would save men. As Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. Jesus is the promised land. We are saved in Christ Jesus. The Bible is not just a big old book. It is well written with amazing intent and content.

There are so many hidden gems. Ephesians 5:18 talks about choosing the Spirit over wine. John 9:25 has a blind man reporting about Jesus *“He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”* I could go on and on. The Bible has so many great hidden verses. For those who say the Bible is too big to read, it is a shame. There are hidden lines all over the Bible. The problem is that you must read the Bible to find them. I will leave you with this gem because it depicts the humor found in the Bible too. Let us go back to John 9:26-27 *“Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”*