



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1648 ~ The Demand for a Miracle.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

The daughter of a famous preacher was once asked if those who had died in the explosions of the World Trade Centre in New York City on that fateful day of 11 September 2001, but had not confessed Christ as their Saviour, would go to heaven.

She said that many people wanted to visit her famous father at his home. They would drive up the long drive and come to the gate. They made contact and asked to be let in. They invariably said that they'd read his books, seen him on TV, written letters to him and now they wanted to come to his house.

But the famous preacher would ask these people to leave as he didn't know them. They weren't a member of his family and didn't made any prior arrangements to visit him. Yet when the daughter drove up to the gate and contacted her father, the gate was immediately thrown open so she could enter inside. Why? Because she was her father's child.

As heaven is God's house, He has the right to decide who enters in and who stays out. He says He will welcome anyone inside His home if they've to be born again into His family through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son.

This promise gives us a wonderful hope that when the right time comes – whether it be by death coming as a thief in the night, as it did for those in the World Trade Centre towers, or as an angel of mercy after one has suffered a long illness – we can be assured that by the end of the journey, we'll step right into our Father's house and into His presence. We'll be welcomed there because we are our Father's children.

Today's Bible Adventure is about believing in Jesus as God's Son and the unbelief that the chief priests and the Pharisees had towards Jesus. The drama begins with Jesus' return from the region of Tyre and Sidon through the region of Decapolis, to the Sea of Galilee, as listed in the last section of Mark Chapter 7.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Jesus and His disciples had travelled to the region of Tyre and Sidon outside of Israel to get some rest from the crowds. But Jesus could not hide from people in need. A woman of Syria had a daughter possessed by an evil spirit. She begged Jesus to heal her daughter. But Jesus didn't respond to the woman straight away, as He said His primary ministry was to the Jewish people and not the Gentiles (or non-Jews). But the woman showed such great faith by trusting in Jesus that He did heal her child after all.

From the time of Moses, Jewish people were taught not to marry into other groups belonging to the surrounding nations. The distinctiveness was to stop the Israelite people being enticed away to worship other gods and so forget their own Creator God. After the people in Samaria had intermarried with other nationalities, the Jews considered themselves superior to the Samaritans and all other races. This exclusiveness had turned into great pride and prejudice.

Jesus had compassion on the people of Decapolis, even though they weren't Jewish, and he healed their sick people. He taught them about God for three days and the people there accepted Him. He didn't want to send them away hungry. With seven loaves and a few small fish, Jesus fed about 4,000 people. Afterwards, they gathered up seven large baskets of leftover pieces.

Much later than this, after the Lord Jesus had gone back to heaven and the Holy Spirit had been given to believers in Jesus, the Apostle Peter had to learn that Jesus had reconciled Jewish believers with all other people who also believe in Jesus. Then there was no longer a distinction between Jew and Gentile in Christ, as all believers in Jesus were united together by the Holy Spirit.

After the crowds of people were sent home, Jesus and His disciples left immediately to go to Magdala, on the north-west coast of the Lake of Galilee. There the Pharisees came to Jesus to argue with Him and to test Him.

The scribes and Pharisees plotted against Jesus and kept trying to find a way to destroy Him, in Matthew, Chapter 12 and Mark, Chapter 8. The rulers listened to His every word trying to find fault so they could bring charges against Him. When Jesus told the listeners that by their words they would be justified and by their words they would be condemned, a group of scribes and Pharisees then asked Jesus for a sign to show His power to be able to say such things.

In the Old Testament, prophets often gave a long-term prediction as well as a short-term one that usually came to pass within a couple of years. The Jewish rulers had seen many miracles done by Jesus for the good of people and not as a display of His power over nature and illness. But this time, the rulers were looking for something like a magic trick or a show of Jesus' supernatural abilities. They were demanding Him to perform for them when they required it.

But Jesus never did such things. Instead, He called the rulers a generation that was morally unfaithful to God, saying that it was their unbelief that demanded a sign. Signs from God were granted to those who desired the sign to confirm their faith, as with Abraham and Gideon, but denied to those who demanded a sign to excuse or justify their unbelief.

Jesus said the only sign that He would give to confirm He really was the Messiah would be as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish, so would Jesus be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The rulers never forgot this prediction. Once Jesus had died on a cross and His body placed in a tomb, the rulers went to Pilate asking to have the tomb sealed and a guard set to watch over it to ensure that his body didn't disappear.

In Matthew, Chapter 28, some of the guards who saw an angel roll back the stone door of the tomb where Jesus' body had been, rushed back to tell the chief priests everything that had happened. It is no surprise that even though the sign Jesus had predicted was fulfilled, the chief priests never gave up their unbelief that Jesus was God' Son. The rulers then bribed the guardsmen to tell lies about what had really happened.

Some people think that Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, just before the Passover feast day. Then the day after the Passover day was a preparation day for the Sabbath day. They try to do this to make the time line of Jesus being in the grave exactly 72 literal hours. When Jesus was speaking about Jonah, only in one Gospel were "three days and three nights" recorded. So what really was the sign of Jonah?

God miraculously kept Jonah alive in the belly of a great fish before directing it to cast him out alive onto the shore. This 'resurrection' of Jonah compelled Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh. His telling of his experience convinced them to repent from their sins. Jesus' resurrection revealed His Messiahship and this has led many to believe in Jesus too.

In John, Chapter 2 when Jesus cleared out the Temple courtyard of greedy merchants and animals, the Jews asked Him then for a sign of His authority to do such things. Jesus replied to them: “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” In this statement Jesus made His Resurrection the unmistakable sign of His Messiahship.

For the vast majority of Jewish people, unbelief in both God and the Lord Jesus Christ has carried through every generation to the present time. When Nebuchadnezzar took most of the Jewish population of Jerusalem and Judea to Babylon in 586 BC, they expected to be there for 70 years while the land rested, as Moses had instructed the people to rest the land every seventh year. Two thousand and six hundred years ago, the prophet Ezekiel in Chapter 4 of his book, was told by the Lord that the Jews would be punished for 430 years and lose their homeland because they had turned away from God.

Babylon was conquered by Cyrus in 539 BC and Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to their homeland.

When it came time to return, only a small number went back to the land God had promised them. The 70 years finished when the second temple known as Zerubbabel’s Temple was dedicated in 516BC.

As most of the exiles chose to stay in pagan Babylon and not return to the Holy Land, the remaining 360 years of punishment were multiplied by seven, as listed in Leviticus, Chapter 26. It says that if the people did not repent while being punished, the punishment would be multiplied by 7. And, by staying in pagan Babylon, most exiles were refusing to repent.

Foreign control of the land of Israel formally ceased on 14 May 1948, and Israel immediately declared its independence. Modern Israel was literally born in a single day and once again, was a sovereign nation for the first time in 2,900 years. In Ezekiel, Chapter 37, the prophet said that God would one day bring the people of Israel back to the land of Israel as a united nation. And God kept His promise even though many Jewish people have not wholeheartedly come back to worship Him.

In the 1800s, a movement called Zionism began to encourage Jews worldwide to move to Israel, which at that time was called Palestine. In Jeremiah, Chapter 31, the prophet said that God would one day gather the Jews back to Israel and He would watch over them like a shepherd. Within hours of its declaration of independence, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries, desiring to replace the Jewish state with an Arab one. These countries are much larger than Israel. But tiny Israel prevailed in that war and was able to capture additional land, increasing the land size of Israel by 50%. Israel also went on to prevail in the two other major wars that followed.

When the remaining years of punishment were converted from lunar years to solar years, the number is 2,484 which is the number between 516 BC and 1968. In June 1967 the Jews captured eastern Jerusalem. At long last after 2,000 years all of Jerusalem was back in Jewish control.

Even today, some of the Jewish people are back in their land but still live in unbelief. The prophet Jeremiah in Chapter 30 speaks of Jacob's future time of trouble: "A terrible day is coming; no other day can compare with it – a time of distress for my people, but they will survive."

Will Christians have their part of suffering in that day of distress too? Romans, Chapter 5, verses 8 and 9 says: “God has shown us how much he loves us – it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! By his blood (and sacrificial death) we are now put right with God; how much more, then, will we be saved by him from God’s anger!”

Those who love Jesus Christ and are committed to Him by faith will be called out of this world before the time of Jacob’s trouble. Will you be ready for Jesus when He calls? Jesus said in Matthew, Chapter 25, Verse 13: “Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man (that’s Jesus) is coming.” May we all be ready and waiting for our beloved Saviour to return!

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
