

# The Bible: Great and Strange

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Hosea 8:12

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I have written for him the great things  
of My law, but they were considered a  
strange thing.

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# We Need to Know The Bible

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- Its Author
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# Hosea 8:12

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## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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# We Need to Know The Bible

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- Its Author
  - Its Importance
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# Hosea 8:12

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I have written for him **the great things of My law**, but they were considered a strange thing.

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# The Importance of The Bible

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- It is true – Heb. 6:17-18
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# Hebrews 6:17-18 ESV

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So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

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# The Importance of The Bible

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- ❑ It is true – Heb. 6:17-18
  - ❑ It is indestructible – 1 Pet. 1:23
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# 1 Peter 1:23 ESV

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since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

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# The Importance of The Bible

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- ❑ It is true – Heb. 6:17-18
  - ❑ It is indestructible – 1 Pet. 1:23
  - ❑ It is vital – Matt. 4:4
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# Matthew 4:4 ESV

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But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

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# The Bible

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THIS BOOK contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. ...

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# The Bible

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It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good is its design and the glory of God its end. ...

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# The Bible

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...It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

— *Anonymous*

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# We Need to Know The Bible

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- Its Author
  - Its Importance
  - Its Contents
-

# Hosea 8:12

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I have written for him the great things of My law, but **they were considered a strange thing.**

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# The Bible: A Strange Thing

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- Some have never read it
  - Some listen more to what is said about the Bible than to the Bible itself
  - Some have stopped reading it
  - Some read the Bible in ways that hinder familiarity
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# Biblical Illiteracy in our Society

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- ❑ Only half of adults interviewed nationwide could name any of the four Gospels of the New Testament.
  - ❑ Just 37% of those interviewed could name all four Gospels.
  - ❑ Only 42% of adults were able to name as many as five of the Ten Commandments correctly.
  - ❑ Seven in ten (70%) were able to name the town where Jesus was born, but just 42% could identify him as the person who delivered the Sermon on the Mount.
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# Biblical Illiteracy in our Society

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- ❑ 38% of Americans believe the entire Bible was written several decades after Jesus' death and resurrection
- ❑ 12% of adults believe that Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.
- ❑ 49% believe that the Bible teaches that money is the root of all evil.
- ❑ 75% believe that the Bible teaches that God helps those who help themselves.

SOURCE: Americans and the Bible:  
Bible Ownership, Reading, Study and Knowledge in the United States  
by Michael J. Vlach

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# Effects of Bible Illiteracy

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□ Error – Matt. 22:29

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# Matthew 22:29 ESV

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But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

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# Effects of Bible Illiteracy

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- ❑ Error – Matt. 22:29
  - ❑ Deception – 2 Th. 2:9-12
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## 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 ESV

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9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

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# Effects of Bible Illiteracy

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- ❑ Error – Matt. 22:29
  - ❑ Deception – 2 Th. 2:9-12
  - ❑ Destruction – Hos. 4:6; 2 Th. 1:8-9
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## Hosea 4:6 ESV

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My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; ... And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 ESV

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8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

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# We Need to Know The Bible

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- Its Author
- Its Importance
- Its Contents

So we can live out the  
will of God in our lives

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