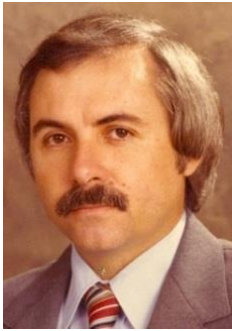


The Beginning of the Journey!

By Jim Myers



Me back then!

Thirty-nine years ago this month I began the journey that led to the work we do today at the Biblical Heritage Center. In my wildest dreams I could have never imagined where that journey would lead. In August 1980 I was preparing to enter the educational program that was required for me to become an ordained minister and had just purchased a new Bible. I opened it and prayed this prayer:

“Dear God, please show me what You want me to learn!”

Immediately this popped into my mind:

*“Unless you know how words work,
you cannot understand one word of the Bible.”*

What in the heck did that mean? Was that God’s answer to my prayer or just random thoughts that popped into my mind? So, I just forgot about it.

I became an ordained minister, founded a church and in the mid-1980s I received an advertisement for a new book in the mail – *Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus*. I ordered it and read the whole book the day it came. That’s when I remembered the prayer above and began to understand the words that seemed to pop into my mind. Ever since then, *piece-by-piece* I have been learning more about how words work. Today, I know that how words work is a *biological process – a genetically hardwired code that is part of human DNA*.

If I had been told this back in 1980, it wouldn’t have made any sense to anyone because the science and technologies that led to that discovery didn’t exist. As a matter of fact, some of the major breakthroughs in *neuroscience* happened only a few years ago. *But what surprised me the most is that we found information in ancient manuscripts of biblical texts that reflect principles science is just discovering*. Do you want to know how *fake news* and *weaponized memes* work? Just read the story of the *Garden of Eden*. How about a story about the first human to engage in *recreational murder*? It’s right after the *Garden of Eden* story. There is also a story about how just *the thoughts of an entire generation* brought down a whole society.

Principles and values embedded in those stories are just as relevant to situations we face today as they were 2,500 years ago when they were first written. A professor and rabbi joined me on this journey, so before I tell you more about how words work, I want to tell you about some important things that happened on our journey.