

WHAT ABOUT THE STRANGE STUFF? JN. 12:27-30

Many times I've been asked questions about the strange stuff!

Some is close to spiritual...

Some a little weirder...

Some downright strange...

I. Strange stuff happens.

I'm not saying this event was strange, but that what the people thought they knew / heard / experienced was strange!

John 12:28-29 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

Many Christians are not comfortable with this premise → & for several reasons:

1. We want to know what happened & why it happened!

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

Proverbs 30:33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

The scientific method, assumptions that things have an explanation → lead to us not like stuff we don't understand.

2. We want to control our environment and life.

Are we all born this way?

Even hyper-Charismatics only want a specific, highly limited group of experiences that they control.

They don't want all experiences, just the ones they want.

3. We don't like Charismatics and Charismaticism.

How do I defend my basic premise?

➤ Strange stuff is ubiquitous

This would include: dreams, visions, emotions, emotional experiences, premonitions, déjà vu, "the leading of the Spirit," and occasionally even weirder things such as ghosts or a presence!

Abraham Lincoln's mother:

➤ Strange stuff was ubiquitous in Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Genesis 18:1-5 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And **he** lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men stood by him**: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

Exodus 3:1-3 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. **And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.**

To deny strange stuff requires us to deny too much!

II. Strange stuff happens for us.

John 12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came **not** because of me, **but** for your sakes.

John 11:41-42 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: **but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.**

III. Strange stuff happens **without** understanding &/ interpretation.

John 12:28-29 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a **voice** from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it **thundered**: others said, **An angel** spake to him.

Which was it? Thunder? An angel? The voice of God?

This is always the problem and the solution!

3 thoughts:

1. We don't know what happened.

2. Biblical characters usually didn't know what happened.

Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him **were heavy with sleep**: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Luke 9:33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: **not knowing what he said**.

Luke 9:34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: **and they feared** as they entered into the cloud.

Luke 9:36 And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. **And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.**

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I **cannot** tell; or whether out of the body, I **cannot** tell: **God knoweth**;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I **cannot** tell: **God knoweth**;) How that he was caught up into paradise, **and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it **not**: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 22:8-9 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, **See thou do it not**: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

3. We can't know what happened apart from divine revelation → which isn't being given now.

IV. Strange stuff just happens.

And, this is exactly where we must

Potential causes:

1. Holy Spirit

2. An unholy spirit

Maybe, but what would be the point? What advantage would he gain? Was this Satan's role in Scripture?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Revelation 12:9-11 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

3. Human spirit

What might contribute to this?

4. Spirits