

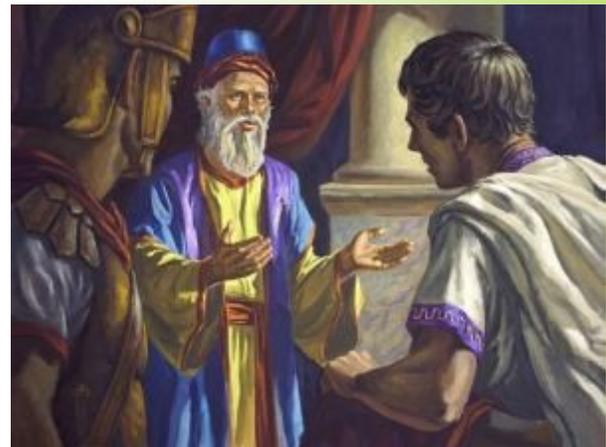
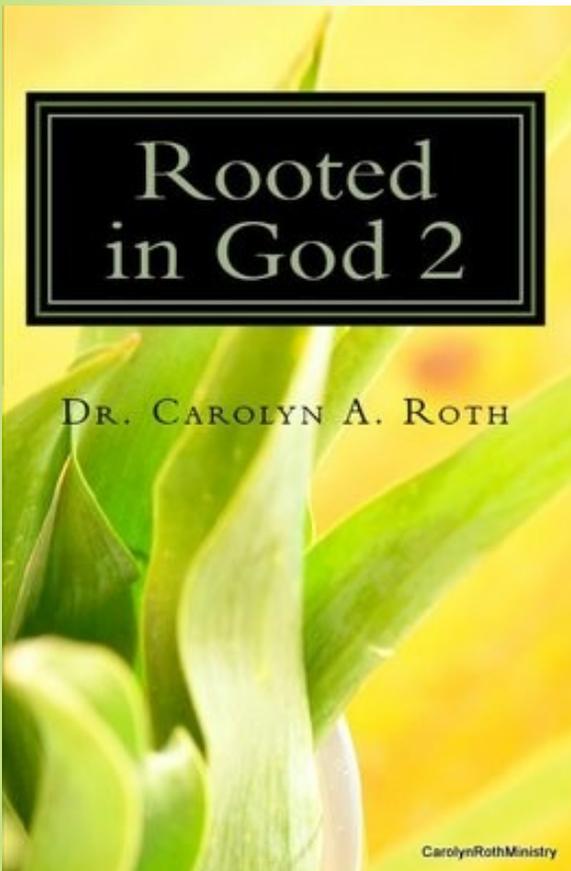
# ***Carolyn Roth Ministry***

***Volume 3, issue 3***



## **Retirement**

I have three of these books left in stock. When they are gone, I am considering marking *Rooted in God 2* as out-of-print and concentrating on other books.



## **What Changed?**

Joseph was wealthy man from Arimathea and a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling Jewish council. Joseph asked Governor Pilate for Jesus's body as soon as Jesus died.

Pilate released Jesus's body to Joseph. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus's body from the cross and prepared it for burial. The two men placed Jesus's body in a never-used tomb that Joseph had prepared for himself.

During Jesus's ministry, Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple of Jesus (John 19:38). Yet, after Jesus's death, Joseph claimed Jesus's dead body. Many Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century ask: "What changed?"

Why did Joseph wait until Jesus's death to declare himself a follower of Jesus?

If you live in the Roanoke area and do not have a home church, please visit St. John Lutheran Church, 4608 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018. 540-774-0712. Services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

## Bible Characters,

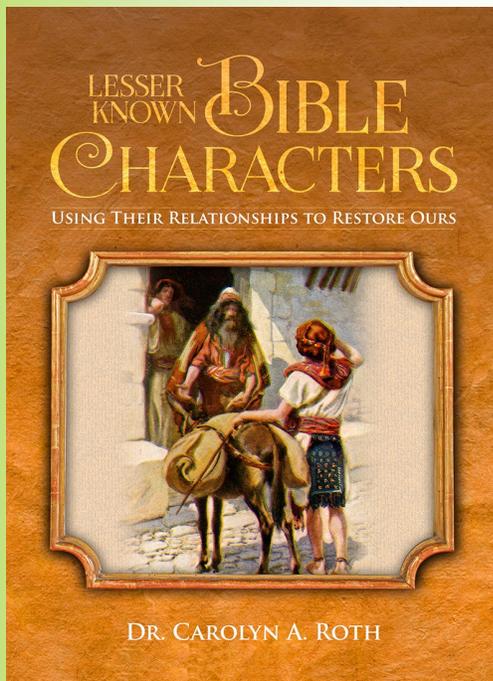
Using their relationships to restore ours  
([www.obscurecharacters.com](http://www.obscurecharacters.com)).

About 5 years ago I started a Bible characters blog. It is just now catching on. There are about 180 posts. A lot of readers use posts in Sunday School classes.

Initially, the Blog was about obscure Bible characters. Often, most Bible readers wondered why their names were mentioned in the Bible. More recently, I changed it to all Bible characters.

I wrote a book, “Lesser Known Bible Characters” using Blog characters. It was published by Tate Publishing. When Tate went out of business, I republished it as “Restoring Relationship, Applying Behaviors of Lesser-Known Bible Characters.”

Both books are available from my website and from Amazon. Restoring Relationships is available in electronic format as well as paperback.



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## The Earth Groans

When the earth was created, it was “Good.” Genesis chapters 1-3 provides one explanation of how we got from a perfect creation to where we are now.

Here’s the story: God told Adam that he was free to eat from every plant in the Garden of Eden with the exception of one tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Have you noticed that when we are told we can’t do something, we always seem to want to do it? We think what we can’t have is better than what we have. That’s what happened to Adam and Eve. I imagine they first eyed the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They noticed that the Tree’s fruit looked good and appeared tasty for food.

Adam and Eve were together when Eve picked fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve offered Adam a fruit. He ate it. Earlier they may have had a conversation that went something like this: “Why can’t we eat it? God’s just being mean! After all, the tree is here in the middle of the Garden. Why should we walk over to the other side of the garden to get a luscious fruit similar to this one?” Whatever their thoughts or conversations, the result was that Adam and Eve ate fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They disobeyed God.

Oops, disobedience has consequences! God is just. Adam and Eve were punished for disobedience. The impact of their disobedience affected all creation. God cursed the soil/ground. No longer did the soil produce only good or beneficial plants. Some plants were not-good, even harmful. God told Adam and Eve they must leave the lush Garden of Eden.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the created universe became subject to death. Since then, creation has groaned as if under the pains of childbirth (ouch!). The ancient Greek word for groan was *mâ-shash*, which implies a sense of groping, feeling, searching. Both man and creation reach out, groping for the new heaven and earth where creation will be free of its death sentence.

Controversy about creation and the environment is rampant. As we hear and read these controversies, each of us needs to realize mankind is responsible for God looking at creation and calling it “good” versus looking at creation and cursing it.