

Carolyn Roth Ministry

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Good News in Nature

Written in 2018, I titled this book *Good News in Nature* because it describes plants in the Gospels. Gospels translate as “good news.” The book mostly contains stories about Jesus, i.e., parables, miracles, teachings, and just ordinary events in his life, such as coming across Zacchaeus who climbed a sycamore tree in Jericho.

For those of you who love photographs, it has 43 along with two pages of maps.



Delving Deeper

The slogan for Carolyn Roth Ministry website (www.CarolynRothMinistry.com) is “Delving Deeper.” On her site Carolyn offers research, education, and consultation to individuals and organizations who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible.

Why would anyone want to delve (look, plunge beneath the surface) deeper into the Bible? After all it was written 2000—3500 year ago. It has to be as outdated as Plato, Hippocrates, and names of other unpronounceable Greeks. You don’t read what those guys wrote, why read what Bible author’s wrote? Don’t we get enough of the Bible at church on Sundays?

Impossible as it seems — I have no idea why you would want to read the Bible. I only know why I read the Bible. Not only do I read it, I read different Bible translations and commentaries. The Bible is the most fascinating book I’ve ever read. Over 50 years, I’ve read the same passages repeatedly. They don’t get old. I gain new and sometimes strange (for me) insights into what is being said.

All 7 of my non-fiction books are Bible-centered. Each delves deeper into a Bible topic. Perhaps my favorite is *Out of the Shadows, Exploring the power of Bible women*.



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.

Hazy, Lazy Days of Winter

It is very late January and all the business of the Christmas season is over. New Years is over, Even Epiphany Sunday is over. Big Sigh.

So — what is going on in this writer's world:

Friday I travel to Harrisonburg to attend a writers workshop with Jane Friedman. I decided to go for two reasons. First, I am a follower of Jane Friedman. She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia so must be a good person. Plus, I get her weekly electronic newsletter in which she gives hints on being a better writer. Her content is excellent.

The second reason I am attending the all-day workshop and perhaps the most important reason: I want to know if she has anything new to offer me. I have been writing for about 10 years and need to know if I am up-to-date with what writers should know and do. If anyone knows Jane Friedman's work, you know she is totally awesome.

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I just had two articles published in an online magazine: www.Politicichicks.com. This newsletter is for conservative individuals and has over 150,000 subscribers. Yeah, I was surprised also that it accepted two not one of my submissions. God is Good. One was about the migrant situation on the US-Mexico border.

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In February 2019, I will publish a new book: *The Whole Earth Groans, Interpreting Bad Plants in the Good Book*. I love this book and found writing it was cathartic. I get so concerned about the United States and the political rancor in Washington DC. Writing this book make me realize that the same situation occurred in ancient Israel. It is helping me to see that because of my nations turning away from God, the United States will have to suffer the consequences. I hate consequences, don't you?

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Today was Sanctity of Life Sunday at church. I remember when I was pro-abortion rather than pro-life. God has given me time in my life to change my thinking to be more in line with his. I keep remembering the prophet Joel who promised that God would redeem our wasted years. God has certainly done that in my life.

Contact Details

Dr. Carolyn A. Roth

Carolyn Roth Ministry

CarolynRothMinistry@gmail.com



Your Going to be a Dad!

Zechariah, the clan of Abijah (a descendant of Aaron), lived in the Judean mountains with his wife Elizabeth. When this Bible episode starts, we are told that the couple is very old and had no children.

Twice a year, priests were required to serve a week in the Temple. Zechariah was chosen by lot to offer morning incense in the Temple Holy Place. As Zechariah prayed, Gabriel, an angel, appeared to Zechariah.

Gabriel told Zechariah that God was going to answer his prayer for a son. The son will be the man/messenger who comes before God's son.

Apparently, Zechariah doesn't believe Gabriel's message. Zechariah asks how he can be sure that such an outlandish promise will come to pass. Gabriel's response showed that he didn't appreciate Zechariah's doubts. He replied that he, Gabriel, stands in the presence of God and that because of his doubt, Zechariah will be mute until the birth of his son.

Zechariah returns home and Elizabeth become pregnant. During the nine months of her pregnancy, Zechariah cannot speak. Remember, this is the Zechariah and Elizabeth who Mary visits during her pregnancy. Zechariah could not talk to her — he was mute.

At Zechariah and Elizabeth's son's birth, they name the boy John even though that wasn't a family name. This son of Zechariah is known as John the Baptist.