

Carolyn Roth Ministry

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Newsletter



Information Just for Christians

Alternative to U-Tube!

Recently I discovered God-Tube (www.GodTube.com). I subscribed and every day receive an email that includes a mini Bible lesson, a video by a (usually) popular recording artist, and a prayer on a special topic. If you are a teen ager, likely this site is not for you. However, if you are a maturing Christian, the site can add to your day. I share some of the content on my Facebook page.

Politichicks:

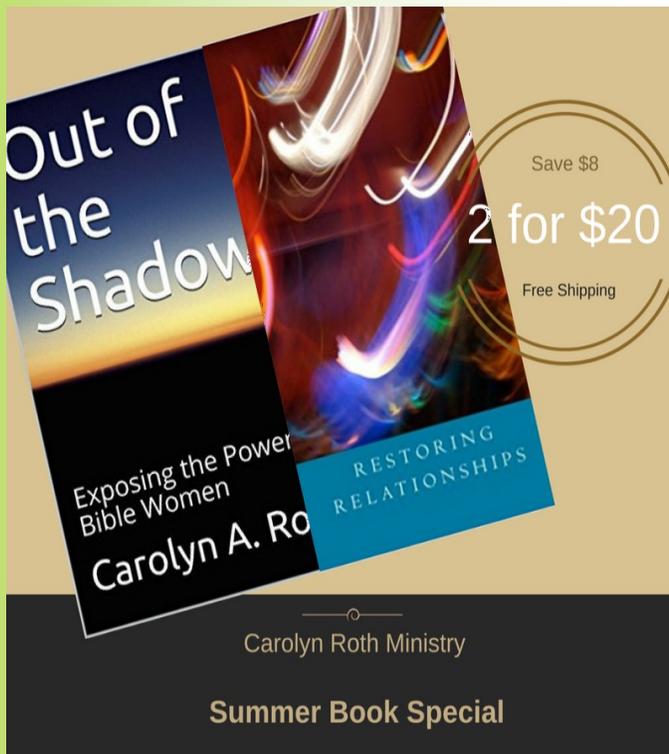
www.politichicks.com is an online political newsletter for conservatives. I subscribe to it and write for it. My articles are found under the **Religion** section. The editor is Ann-Marie Murrell, a good Texas Christian.

God as a Gardener:

www.GodasaGardener.com is a blog that I write on plants of the Bible. Generally, I add three posts on Bible plants per month. There are hundreds of plants named in the Bible. Reading about them enhances our knowledge of the Bible and walk with Christ as we drill down into their symbolism.

Bible Characters:

www.obscurecharacters.com. Ever wonder why some individuals, i.e., Shamgar, Jair, were named in the Bible? They seem to just take up space. What are we to learn from their lives? I've asked the same questions. In this blog, I answer the question. I add three characters per month.



Do you need to better your life?

These are two of my favorite books because they show how Bible characters who lived thousands of years ago can impact our lives for the better in the 21st century.

Go to my website (www.carolynrothministry.com) to purchase these two books. You save \$8.00 by getting free shipping and handling. And, as always, I pay any taxes.

Habakkuk Questioned God (Gasp!)

Bible References: Book of Habakkuk

Synopsis: This prophet is like me who asks God, “Why are you letting these evil times happen?”

The Total Story: Habakkuk first question to God in effect was: If you are so powerful, God, why do you let the wicked flourish and good people suffer?

God’s answer is that he is raising up the Babylonians to enact retribution on the wicked inhabitants of Judah. Habakkuk is stunned by God’s answer. God is going to use the Babylonians to enact retribution on Judah. Everyone in the world at that time knew that the Babylonians were evil, wicked, perverted.

Habakkuk’s second question to God was, how can You, a just and righteous judge, use these cruel, wicked Babylonians? These guys are more wicked than Judah! Then, Habakkuk attempts to support his assertion by describing the awful behaviors of Babylonians.

God does not answer Habakkuk immediately. Yet, Habakkuk firmly believed that God would respond to him and God would do it in his own time. As Habakkuk waited for God’s answer, he watched to see what God did and would do. Habakkuk looked for signs to explain God’s seeming non-response.

In God’s second answer to Habakkuk, God gave Habakkuk a revelation in a vision. God told Habakkuk to write it down and share it with others. God revealed to Habakkuk what was going to occur at the end of the ages, the final outcome of the wicked.

Finally, Habakkuk affirms that he will trust in God regardless of the seeming devastation on the earth.

Habakkuk’s dialogue with God shows that it is okay for each of us to question God. The way that we question God is important. Reread Habakkuk’s honest perplexity about God’s sovereign actions. Habakkuk wasn’t rude or derisive. He honestly wanted to know God’s answers.

Reflection: Have you ever questioned God’s decisions? Have you ever have to wait for an answer from God to your questions. What did you do while you waited?

Plant and Prophets

Bible Reference: Matthew 7.:5-20.

This teaching is labeled “A Tree and Its Fruit” Jesus began with “Watch out for false prophets.” Then, he told hearers the reason for his warning: false prophets were ferocious wolves that acted like gentle sheep. The good news was that people could recognize false prophets by their fruit—by looking at both their words and actions. Just as a man can’t pick figs from a thistle, neither can a false prophet produce good fruit.

The plant associated with the thistle in Matthew 7.15-20 is the *Centaurea iberica*, known as the Spanish thistle or Iberian star thistle. Spanish star thistle is an invasive plant that replaces pasture lands and displaces forage for livestock.



Jesus told followers that both plants and prophets could be recognized by what they produce. When we recognize someone, we are familiar with them, distinguish them from others, and comprehend what they do and say. God gave some guiding principles to differentiate between a true versus a false prophet.

1. When prophets, pastors, or theologians say that it isn’t important whether Jesus was truly God or in some way deny the deity of Jesus, they are false prophets.

2. True prophets read, obey and live God’s word. Believers need to discerningly read the scriptures so they don’t get taken in by words of false prophets.

3. False prophets are recognized by sin in their lives. A person who breaks God’s commandments consistently and without repentance is a false prophet.