

IT'S NOT  
AS IT SEEMS

*A Game of Hide and Seek*

Randall and Angelia Barton

# It's Not as It Seems®

## *A Game of Hide and Seek*

by Randall Barton

Title and editing by Angelia Barton

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First Edition

## *It's Not as It Seems*

*It will never look the same again*

*Once you have seen*

*What you have never been able to see before*

*You will never be able to see again*

*What you were only able to see before*

*It will never look the same again*

*This is the end of a time*

*The beginning of something new*

*It will become a "Once Upon a Time"*

*And this is what I know*

*Though it was something you once knew*

*They will not believe you*

*This is the end of "Once Upon a Time"*

*This is the start of something new*

*And if you try to tell the story of "Once Upon a Time"*

*They will not believe you*

*It will never look the same again*

*It will never be the same again*

*It's Not as It Seems*

*by Randall Barton*

# DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN

## Book Design

Every chapter, paragraph, stanza, diagram, table, list, sentence and individual word in *It's Not as It Seems - A Game of Hide and Seek* has been arranged and formatted to complement the written text to help visually illustrate and *show*, the meaning of what is being, *said*.

## Chapter Design

The chapters are titled as would be seen in a theatrical play. Example: Act 1, Act 2, etc. Each chapter begins with a short introductory scene, titled as a 'Vignette.' Example: Opening Vignette, Act 2 Vignette, etc.

## Scripture Text

All Scripture text is shown indented and italicized. For every first use or mention of a Scripture, the Scripture address along with the Bible version being quoted will be listed immediately following and shown as right justified on the page. Addresses have also been listed as needed for supplemental reference. For example an address will be listed again if the Scripture text had not been recently mentioned.

The use of the Scripture addresses will also include vertical side bars to identify the Scripture text from the surrounding narrative. There are a few exceptions to the use of the side bars due to textual formatting and layout styles.

Example: The Scripture text below is shown with preceding narrative, vertical side bar, Scripture address and Bible version.

Jesus said to those standing nearby,

| *“Loose him, and let him go.”*

*John 11:44 NKJV*

Some Scripture addresses will be listed as “*See Scripture address.*” This is used when there has not been a direct quotation of Scripture, yet is being used as a reference for the reader.

## Abbreviations

- e.a. Emphasis Added Used when bolding or special formatting has been applied to highlight sections of Scripture text.
- par. Paraphrased Used when Scripture text has been modified.

## Punctuation Use

- Parentheses () Used for insertion of additional words into Scripture text. Example:  
*I speak with him (Moses) face to face*  
Also used to highlight specific words or sections in narrative.
- Square Brackets [] Used for word substitution in Scripture text. Example:  
*When [Jesus] got into the boat*  
The name Jesus was substituted for the pronoun He.

## Quotation Marks “”

Scripture text has been copied as presented from its respective Bible version. Quotation marks have not been added if not present in original text. If a selection of text begins with an opening quotation mark, that mark is copied along with the text. If there is no quotation mark at either the beginning or the end of the selected text, no quotation mark is added. A selection of text may show an opening quotation mark with no closing mark due to a portion of the sentence being listed, or the placement of the closing mark on a following sentence within the original text.

Example: Shown with opening quotation mark only.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field*

*Matthew 13:44 NASB*

Example: Shown without opening or closing quotation mark.

*the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls*

*Matthew 13:45 NASB*



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OPENING VIGNETTE

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A GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK



*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,  
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

*Proverbs 25:2 NKJV*

**H**IDE AND SEEK; A GAME CHILDREN PLAY. We have all played it, some of us still do. Everyone enjoys finding something hidden. What you are about to read tells the story of a masterful game of Hide and Seek; a story of secrets, riddles and clues. Secrets have been hidden by the Lord, with riddles and clues given so we might search and find them.

This book is about the pursuit of those things that have been hidden. And more importantly, the discovery of... *what has been found!*

Jesus said,

*“I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.*

*Matthew 11:25 NASB*

If the Lord has indeed hidden something, shouldn't we at least be curious as to what it might be?

Hide and Seek, it's just a child's game, surely we can play.

Jesus also said,

*“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

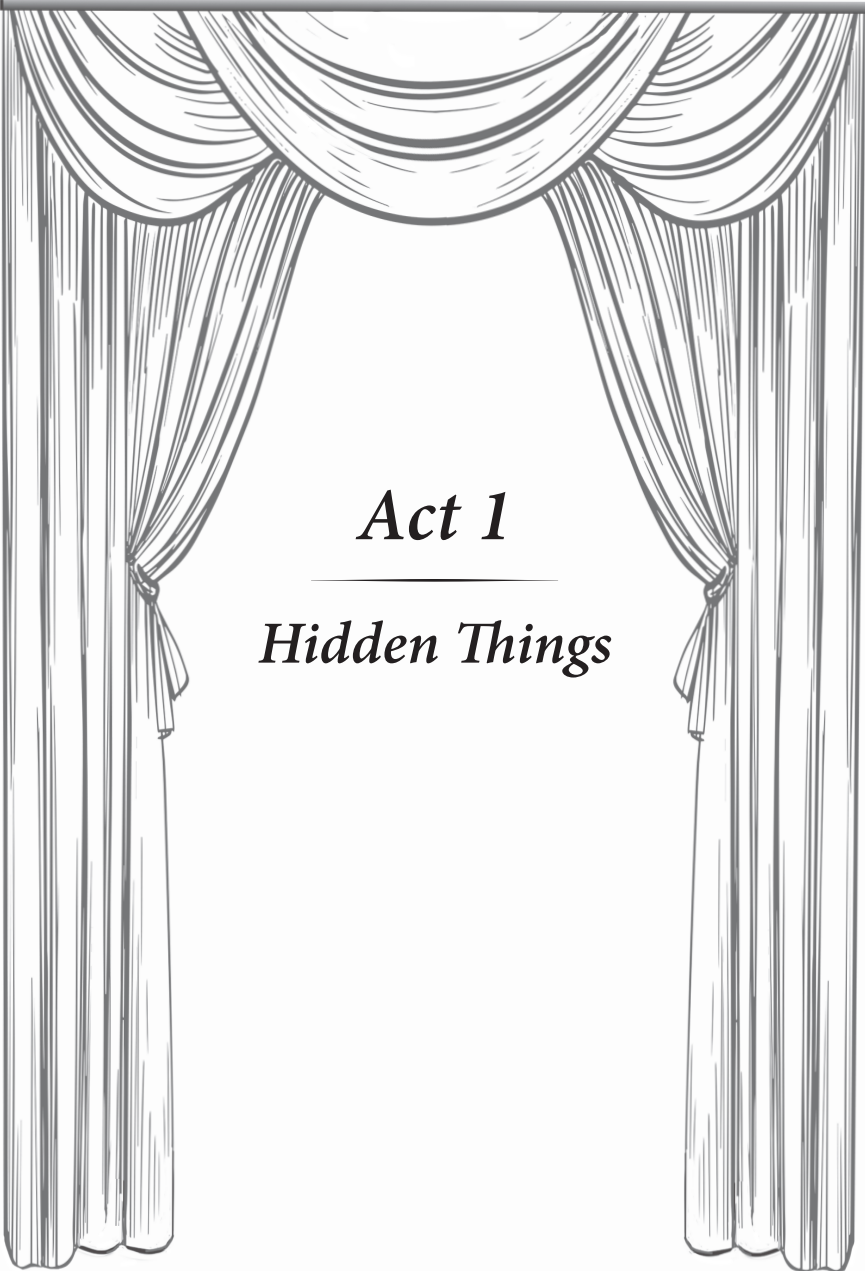
*Matthew 18:3 NASB*

So let's play this game of Hide and Seek.

Let's uncover what the Lord has hidden.

*Welcome to Act 1 – Hidden Things*





*Act 1*

---

*Hidden Things*



## THE PROPHECIES

**P**ROPHECIES; EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD PROPHECY. People yearn to know what the future holds and what tomorrow will bring. Prophecies are intriguing; they capture the attention of even the most ardent skeptic. The Old Testament is literally filled, beginning to end, with prophecies speaking of our future.

What is a prophecy?

Simply stated, it is a word or message from the Lord, which many times tells of something that will happen in the future.

When we think of prophecies, we wouldn't think of them as hiding something. Rather, we naturally think of them as *revealing* something; they are telling us what is going to happen. This would be a logical assumption and, in some cases, would be entirely correct.

Look at this example of the Lord telling Abraham his wife Sarah will have a child.

The Lord said to Abraham,

*“I will surely return to you at this time next year;  
and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.”*

*Genesis 18:10 NASB*

Then the following year,

*Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.*

*Genesis 21:1-3 NASB*

This prophetic word from the Lord to Abraham clearly said, what would happen, to whom it would happen, and when.

*Sarah will have a son next year*

Some prophecies however, unlike this first example, are not so clear, and not so easily understood.

Look at this next prophecy. The Lord speaks to the prophet Ezekiel and gives him a prophetic message for King Zedekiah.

*Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are among them.”’*

*Say, ‘I am a sign to you. As I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall be carried away into captivity.’ And the prince who is among them shall bear his belongings on his shoulder at twilight and go out. They shall dig through the wall to carry them out through it. He shall cover his face, so that he cannot see the ground with his eyes. I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare.*

*I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans;  
**yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there.***

*Ezekiel 12:10-13 NKJV e.a.*

Notice this prophecy takes on the form of a riddle. It says the king will go into captivity in Babylon,

*yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there.*

How can he go to Babylon and yet not see it?

Look at the record in the book of Jeremiah regarding King Zedekiah when Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon attacked Jerusalem and captured the city.

*So it was, when Zedekiah the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, that they fled and went out of the city by night, by way of the king’s garden, by the gate between the two walls. And he went out by way of the plain. But the Chaldean army pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And when they had captured him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he*

*pronounced judgment on him. Then the king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes in Riblah; the king of Babylon also killed all the nobles of Judah.*

***Moreover he put out Zedekiah’s eyes, and bound him with bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.***

*Jeremiah 39:4-7 NKJV e.a.*

This prophetic word was fulfilled exactly as it had been told. King Zedekiah did go into captivity in Babylon, but he did not see it.

*His eyes had been put out.*

The full meaning of this prophecy would not be understood by King Zedekiah, or anyone else, until *after* it came to pass. The meaning of this prophecy remained a mystery and riddle to the king.

Look at this next example. The Lord speaks to the prophet Isaiah and gives him a message for King Ahaz.

The Lord said,

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

*Isaiah 7:14 NASB*

This is a difficult prophecy. Who is this referring to? When will this happen?

*How can a virgin be with child?*

Today we may take this prophecy for granted because we have heard the story of Mary conceiving a child by the Holy Spirit while still a virgin and giving birth to Jesus.

But that story wasn’t known when Isaiah’s prophecy was given. That story wouldn’t be told for another 700 years. To put that length of time into perspective, the United States has been a nation for less than 250 years. For almost three times longer than the United States has been in existence, no one knew the meaning of this prophecy.

After this prophecy was given to King Ahaz, 700 years later, the angel Gabriel tells Mary she is going to have a baby. Watch how Mary reacts when she is told, her question is the same as ours.

*The angel said to her,*

*“Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.*

*“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*

Mary does not understand and asks,

***“How can this be, since I am a virgin?”***

Now, notice this next detail. When Mary asked, “*How can this be?*” Gabriel then explained the prophecy.

*The angel answered and said to her,*

*“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*

*Luke 1:30-35 NASB e.a.*

Gabriel explained the prophecy given to Mary. But there was no explanation given to King Ahaz; he was given only the prophecy. The meaning of the prophecy remained a mystery and riddle to the king.

*A virgin will be with child*

The prophetic word given to King Ahaz was fulfilled exactly as had been told, a virgin was found to be with child. But the meaning of this prophecy would not be understood by anyone until again, *after*, it had come to pass. More than seven centuries later, the angel Gabriel gave Mary a prophetic message that it was she who would conceive and give birth to a son.

## *The Meanings of the Prophecies*

The prophecy in the first example was clear and its meaning was understood.

*Sarah will have a son next year*

The prophecies in the second and third examples however, were not clear and their meanings were not understood.

*How will he not see it, though he will die there?*

*How can a virgin be with child?*

These latter prophecies took on the form of riddles; their meanings were hidden.

To summarize what we have just seen:

- Some prophecies are *clear* and their meanings are understood.
- Some prophecies are *riddles* and their meanings are hidden.

## *Hidden Meanings*

Here are three other examples of Old Testament Scriptures that also have hidden meanings.

After the Israelites had fled Egypt, while still in the desert, they complained to Moses that there was no water.

The Lord said to Moses,

*“Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.”*

*Numbers 20:8 NKJV*

Here is a Scripture from the Old Testament that contains a hidden meaning, which we only now know because the apostle Paul explained it in the New Testament.