

Guest Teacher:

# A Great Thing or a Strange Thing?

BY PASTOR DAVID GUZIK



***“I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing.”***

Hosea 8:12

The prophet Hosea spoke these words to the kingdom of Israel—the ten northern tribes. He is explaining that, while they knew how to perform religious ceremonies, they were not really right with God. In their sin and idolatry, Israel had also rejected the Word of God. God had “*great things*” for Israel in His Word, but these things seemed strange because the people’s hearts were far from God.

This simple verse from Hosea reveals a lot about the Bible. First, it reveals the true author of the Bible when it says, “*I have written for him.*” God Himself wrote the Bible for us. While many believe this, few take it to heart. If this book really is the message of the living God to a needy world, we need to take it far more seriously.

As the great English preacher Charles Spurgeon said: “If this be the Word of God, what will become of some of you who have not read it for the last month? Most people treat the Bible very politely. ... When they get home, they lay it up in a drawer till next Sunday morning; then it comes out again for a little bit of a treat and goes to chapel; that is all the poor Bible gets in the way of an airing. That is your style of entertaining this heavenly messenger. There is dust enough on some of your Bibles to write ‘damnation’ with your fingers.”<sup>1</sup> We need to pay attention to the words of Hosea and realize that the Bible was written by God.

Second, this verse tells us the content of the Bible—great things. Through Hosea, God

spoke of “*The great things of My law.*” The Bible is filled with great things. It tells us about a great God, about a great Creator, His great love, man’s great need, His great wisdom, His great sacrifice at great cost, our great redemption, and our great destiny.

There is nothing in the Bible that is unimportant. Every verse connects to an

important idea or principle. Remember the familiar words of 2 Timothy 3:16-17: ***All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** Because the Bible is filled with great things, it has something to say to us.

Some people consider studying science to be superior to studying the Bible, but the knowledge of Jesus Christ is the best knowledge of all. If the astronomer discovers distant galaxies, that is a very good thing—but it is a great thing to discover the Sun of Righteousness and the Star of Bethlehem. The botanist who studies the world of plants does a very good thing—but it is a great thing to study Jesus, who is called the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon. The geologist who researches

rocks and mineralogy does a very good thing—but it is a great thing to read of the Rock of Ages and the White Stone which each of the redeemed will receive. The history of the world is important and is a good thing to study and understand—but it is a great thing to know the history in the Bible, which records God’s dealing with man and man’s dealing with God.

The Word of God and the things of the Spirit are great things, but they seem like a strange thing when man is in sin and idolatry.

Third, this verse tells us how the Bible is received by the natural man: “***But they were considered a strange thing.***” The Bible might be “strange” because it is unknown or distant, or it might be considered strange because one doesn’t like the message. Paul expressed the same idea in 1 Corinthians 2:14: ***But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because***

***they are spiritually discerned.*** The Word of God and the things of the Spirit are great things, but they seem like a strange thing when man is in sin and idolatry.

Here is a great one-minute spiritual check-up for you to do: Is the Bible a great thing or a strange thing to you? If it is a great thing, do you live as if the Bible were a great thing? Take it personally—the Bible is full of God’s great things for you. ↩

*David Guzik is director of CC Bible College in Siegen, Germany. He has served in pastoral ministry for 20 years and has authored several Bible commentaries.*

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<sup>1</sup>Spurgeon, Charles; sermon titled “The Bible;” *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Pilgrim Publications, Pasadena, Texas, 1990.*