

THE FORBIDDEN SCIATIC NERVE

Title: *The REAL Big Bang, Pt 32*

Series: Perseverance, Pt3

May 19, 2019

ser#3836

Sun E Sun L

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. In our last study we looked at an amazing truth, a golden thread that weaves it's way through the cloak of God's word. That truth is: Defying all the laws of psychology, *it is NEVER too late to change*. Jacob, a mommy's boy, a sneak and cheat, fleeing from his brother's death row sentence, smitten with beauty and a kiss, becomes "A ruler with God." Amazing! Absolutely, say it with me, "Amazing!"

GRANTED, it took 97 years, but God's not bound by our timetable, or our years.

- 1) Jesus changed the world in 3.5 years.**
- 2) Thomas Jefferson gave us the Declaration of Independence in 17 days.**
- 3) Mikhail Gorbachev transitioned Eastern Europe from Communism to democracy in 4 years.**
- 4) Martin Luther King, Jr ushered in the non-violent Civil Rights movement and changed the face of the USA in 13 years.**

- 5) Marie Curie discovered polonium and radium and paved the way for the modern day x-ray. It was a lifetime journey.
- 6) Mother Teresa taught us how to love the unloveables and castaways in her 87-year journey.
- 7) Last but not least, on Mother's Day, Martino's short 43 years showed us that no matter how tough the odds might be, if we're willing to "press on" and "press through" whatever mountains that loom in front of us, Jesus is and always will be, the "Waymaker."

B. If a person will let Him (capital "H"), God will make radical personality and character changes in his/her life. How do we know that's true?

Luke 18:27

Jesus said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

C. Here's the key, we can never give up. Ever!

LET ME ILLUSTRATE.

As 478 of you have done, I have taken the Bible challenge **(show photo)** and am reading through the Bible



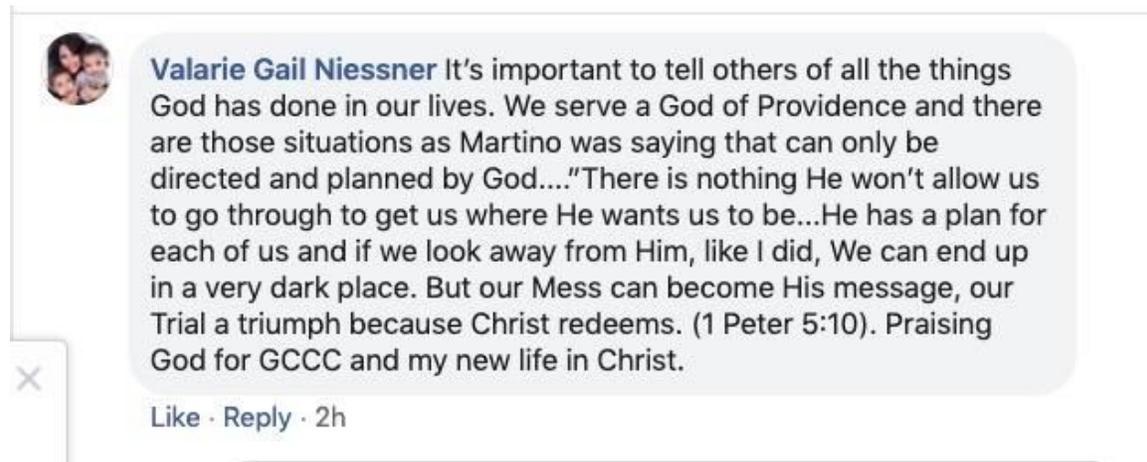
verse-by-verse, cover to cover, from *Genesis 1:1* to *Revelation 22:21*. (New I have done that since I was 13,



at that time, and I could not be more pleased—and I think God is, too.)

Often I'll post something out of my reading on the *Take the Bible Challenge* website. Monday morning I posted this

out of my Quiet Time. **(show photo Facebook post – Joseph Bruce Sofia)** Two hours after my post, a member of the group posted this in response. **(show and read Facebook post – Valarie Niessner)**



Would you like to hear her story? I knew you would. 😊

(show video – 4:12)

D. Today, I'd like us to look at one very important guideline in living and understanding our Christian journey. Recall Jacob's wrestling match with the Stranger. As daybreak approached, the Stranger dislocated Jacob's hip and said, "Let me go." But Jacob refused and said, "I will not let you go until You bless me." It's at this point in the story that the Stranger gives Jacob a new name; the name by which Jacob's family would forever be known, Israel.

Just as the Man was departing, Jacob said to Him, "Please, tell me your name." The Stranger replied, "Why do you ask me My name?" and then He blessed Jacob.

II. WHAT'S THE LESSON?

A. Far too often, in our short lifetime, we want *answers* when God wants *trust*. The answer was there all along. In fact, Jacob would live with the answer the rest of his life, physically (limp) and spiritually (name change). He couldn't hide it if he tried. Look at ***Genesis 32, verses 30-32.***

30 So Jacob named the place *Peniel, saying, "Indeed, I have seen God face to face, and yet my life was spared." *The Face of God

31 The sun rose above him as he passed by Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the

tendon at the hip socket, because the man struck Jacob's hip socket near that tendon.

TO THIS DAY many observant Jews do not eat the *gid hanasheh*, the Hebrew words referencing the sciatic nerve of any kosher animal.

B. Let's get up-close and personal! As believers, should not Christ be seen in our *walk* and *talk*? In a real sense, should not our walk and talk be as noticeable to those around us as Jacob's limp?

Our Christianity should not merely be in our dress; it should be in our step. It should not only be in our step; it should be in our speech. Just as Jacob's limp was noticeable to all, so our relationship with the LORD should be noticeable to all.

Galatians 4:6 tells us, “

6 ... because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Romans 8: 5-9

5 Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh; but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8** Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God.

IN RESEARCHING WHY THE JEW DOES NOT EAT THE TENDON ATTACHED TO THE HIP

Rabbi Posner tells us that “the Zohar [an allegorical interpretation of the Pentateuch] teaches us that in every struggle we are powerful, and can overcome our evil urges *if* we so desire. There is only one place where lust is so strong that even great men are powerless—the *gid hanasheh*. ... because once it has been aroused, all rational thinking and religious scruples are left far behind.”
 (*Chabad.org Rabbi Menachem Posner)

NOW IF YOU'RE A WOMAN YOU MAY OR MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THAT.

I'm not a woman; I can't speak for you. But as a man, I think I can speak for most of us; you know exactly what the Rabbi is referencing. And the men said, “You betcha!”

It's interesting that when Abraham made his servant swear that he would find a wife for Isaac, it was ratified, so to speak, by the servant gripping the underneath part of Abraham's thigh. **(show photo)** (When a person gets a massage, parts of the thigh are referred to as a “no touch zone.” (*Massage Today, Ben Benjamin, PhD)



B. May I say, “ONLY THE MIND OF GOD.” When my wife came home from work on Monday, I was so excited about this truth, that I shared it with her. Usually I don’t share my sermon because I want the it to be fresh when she hears it. She responded with, “Only the mind of God.” That’s why we are to be students of the Bible. *2 Timothy 2:15*

B. Yet, St Paul, speaking through the Holy Spirit, says in *Romans 8:9*...

You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

In other words, the Holy Spirit, if we give Him place in our thoughts and actions, will not let us get to the place where we have lost all control. He is a filter through which all of our thoughts and actions should pass.

HEAR ME! No hear the LORD, not me. I know what it is to hear the Spirit’s voice and do what I want to do anyway—which is yield to the flesh. And can I say, nothing good ever comes out of it. But when I listen to the Spirit, something good always comes out of it.

ILLUSTRATION: On Easter I shared with you how we miraculously sold two houses and bought a house in one week. It was a fleece—“Is this of God or not?” Well, in the process of inspections, negotiations, etc., not all things went down that were to our liking. Our first

response was to say, “If that’s how it’s going to be ‘forget it’.” But once we put our “feelings,” better worded, our “flesh” aside, and looked at HOW God answered our prayers, we realized that there was a choice in front of us:

- 1) Follow our flesh—which would put us in a mess.
(Or)
- 2) Follow the Spirit’s leading—which would, in the end, grant us order and peace.

C. Allow me to be so bold as to ask you: Where are you facing a choice to *follow the flesh* (mess) or *follow the Spirit* (order and peace)?

III. INVITATION—CLOSE OF SERVICE

A. Where do I start?

1. If you haven’t given your life to Christ—start there. Here’s how:

Admit— your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*);

Commit – yourself to His righteous by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (*Isa 53:5; Col 1:22*);

Do it today! (*Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2*).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!

2. If you haven't been baptized—start there.

3. If you don't read the Bible, Tithe or Serve—start there.

4. If you haven't connected—start there.

B. I'd like to bring the service to a close by *opening* the Altar for you to 'RATIFY' your commitment to:

1. Make the right choice

2. Give your life to Christ

3. Be baptized

4. Commit to reading the Bible

5. Commit to tithe

6. Find a place of service

7. Connect

ser3836, *The Forbidden Sciatic Nerve (The REAL Big Bang, Pt 31—Perseverance, Pt 3)* Words w/ Invitation 1627)