

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

A Call to Divine Revelation & Endurance



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Introduction:

In our spiritual journey, knowing the truth of God often comes with challenges and trials. The phrase “The Man Who Knew Too Much” implies a burden of knowledge, and we see this theme woven throughout the Scriptures. Many biblical figures who received profound revelations from God faced significant trials. Today, we will explore the lives of key Old Testament and New Testament figures—Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, John the Revelator, and more—each of whom had to pay a price for their knowledge and understanding of God’s plans and purposes. We will also incorporate insights from sages and rabbinical commentary to deepen our understanding.

I. Notable Figures Who Knew Too Much

1. Moses

- Scriptural Reference: Exodus 3-4, 32-34
- Chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses possessed intimate knowledge of God’s will and the covenant with Israel. His journey was marked by rejection, leadership burdens, and intercession for a rebellious nation.

2. Joseph

- Scriptural Reference: Genesis 37, 39-41
- Joseph had dreams of greatness that foretold his

future. Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and imprisoned, his trials were a refining process that shaped him for leadership.

3. Daniel

- Scriptural Reference: Daniel 6
- Renowned for his wisdom and ability to interpret dreams, Daniel faced persecution for his unwavering devotion to God. His knowledge of God's sovereignty led him into the lion's den, yet he emerged unharmed.

4. Elijah

- Scriptural Reference: 1 Kings 18-19
- A prophet who demonstrated God's power, Elijah faced immense pressure and fear from Queen Jezebel. His journey reflects the inner conflict of knowing God's might while grappling with human vulnerability.

5. Paul

- Scriptural Reference: 2 Corinthians 12:1-9
- Paul experienced profound revelations but was given a "thorn in the flesh" to keep him humble. His knowledge of God's grace was intertwined with trials that tested his faith.

6. John the Revelator

- Scriptural Reference: Revelation 1:9
- Known for his visions and profound revelations

about the end times, John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos for his faith. His knowledge of God's ultimate plan came at the cost of isolation and suffering, yet he remained faithful and was given the privilege of revealing God's future to humanity.

7. Socrates

- **Historical Reference:** Socrates, the ancient Greek philosopher, is often remembered as a man who “knew too much.” His relentless pursuit of truth and wisdom led him to question the status quo in Athens. His knowledge and teachings ultimately resulted in his trial and execution, as he was deemed a threat to the traditional beliefs of society.

8. Job

- **Scriptural Reference:** The Book of Job
- Job was a man of great faith and understanding of God's justice. However, he faced immense suffering and loss. His knowledge of God's righteousness was tested through trials that challenged his understanding of suffering and divine purpose.

9. David

- **Scriptural Reference:** 1 Samuel 16-31
- Anointed as king, David had a deep understanding of God's heart and plans. Yet, his journey was fraught with challenges, including betrayal, the pursuit of King Saul, and personal failures. His knowledge of God's promises came with the price of hardship and

repentance.

10. Peter

- Scriptural Reference: Matthew 16:13-20; Acts 12
- Peter, as one of Jesus' closest disciples, received profound revelations about Christ's identity. However, he also faced persecution and imprisonment for his faith. His knowledge of the Gospel led him to suffer for the sake of Christ.

II. The Fable of the Two Travelers

Once upon a time in a small village, there lived two travelers: Eli, the Man Who Knew Too Much, and Sam, the Know-It-All. Both set out on a journey to find the legendary Tree of Wisdom, said to grant profound understanding to those who reached it.

Eli: The Man Who Knew Too Much

Eli was a humble man, well-versed in the ways of the world and the teachings of the sages. He had spent years studying scrolls and listening to wise elders. He understood that the journey to the Tree of Wisdom would be fraught with challenges, and he prepared himself for the trials ahead.

As he traveled, Eli encountered a raging river. He knew that to cross it, he needed to build a sturdy raft.

Instead of rushing in, he took the time to observe the current and gather materials. With patience and careful planning, he crafted a raft that safely carried him across the river.

Further along the path, Eli came across a group of travelers who were lost and arguing. They were frustrated and unwilling to listen to each other. Eli, knowing the importance of unity and cooperation, offered to help them find their way. He listened to their concerns, shared his knowledge, and guided them together to the next destination.

Sam: The Know-It-All

In contrast, Sam was brimming with confidence. He believed he knew everything there was to know about the journey to the Tree of Wisdom. He dismissed Eli's advice and insisted on forging ahead without preparation.

When Sam reached the river, he scoffed at the idea of building a raft. "I can swim across!" he declared. But as he jumped into the water, he quickly realized that the current was stronger than he anticipated. He struggled and barely made it to the other side, exhausted and humbled.

Later, Sam encountered the same group of travelers.

Instead of listening to their concerns, he interrupted them, proclaiming, “I know the way! Follow me!” He led them into a dense thicket, thinking he knew a shortcut. However, they soon found themselves lost and disoriented, and Sam’s arrogance led them further astray.

The Meeting at the Tree of Wisdom

After many trials, Eli and Sam finally reached the Tree of Wisdom. It was a magnificent sight, its branches heavy with fruit that shimmered with light. As they approached, they were greeted by the Guardian of the Tree.

“Welcome, travelers,” the Guardian said. “You have both sought wisdom, but your paths have been very different.”

Eli stepped forward. “I have learned that true knowledge comes with humility and the willingness to serve others. My journey taught me the value of patience and collaboration.”

The Guardian nodded. “Indeed, you have demonstrated the essence of wisdom. You understood that knowledge is not just about what you know, but how you apply it and share it with others.”

Then the Guardian turned to Sam. “And you, Know-It-All, what have you learned?”

Sam hesitated, realizing the truth. “I thought I knew everything, but my arrogance led me into trouble. I see now that true wisdom requires listening and learning from others.”

The Lesson

The Guardian smiled. “Eli, you shall partake of the fruit of wisdom, for you have proven yourself worthy. Sam, your journey is not over. You must learn humility and the importance of seeking guidance before you may enjoy the fruit.”

With that, Eli tasted the fruit, and his heart was filled with understanding and peace. Sam, humbled by his experience, vowed to change his ways and seek wisdom through humility.

III. Psychological Differences: The Man Who Knew Too Much vs. The Know-It-All

The psychological differences between the Man Who Knew Too Much and the Know-It-All are profound and significant:

1. Humility vs. Arrogance:

- The Man Who Knew Too Much, like Eli, embodies humility. He recognizes that knowledge is a journey and is open to learning from others. The Know-It-All, like Sam, exhibits arrogance, believing that he has all the answers and dismissing others' insights.

2. Openness to Growth vs. Stagnation:

- Those who know too much are often more willing to embrace change and personal growth. They understand that knowledge is not static. In contrast, the Know-It-All tends to be stagnant, clinging to their beliefs and resisting new ideas or perspectives.

3. Empathy vs. Self-Centeredness:

- The Man Who Knew Too Much often shows empathy and compassion, understanding the struggles of others and using his knowledge to help. The Know-It-All, however, may be self-centered, focusing on proving his superiority rather than helping others.

4. Resilience vs. Fragility:

- The Man Who Knew Too Much tends to be resilient, able to navigate challenges and learn from failures. The Know-It-All may struggle with setbacks, as their identity is often tied to their perceived knowledge and superiority.

Conclusion

The fable of Eli and Sam illustrates the profound difference between the Man Who Knew Too Much and the Know-It-All. Eli's journey reflects the trials and humility that accompany true knowledge, while Sam's arrogance serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of pride and self-sufficiency.

In our own lives, we are called to be like Eli—embracing knowledge with humility, recognizing that true wisdom often comes through trials and the willingness to serve others. As we reflect on the lives of biblical figures like Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, John the Revelator, Job, David, and Peter, let us remember that knowledge is a gift that must be handled with care.

