

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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*Ho, Ho, Hooray for Frans Prekerst on his Birthday!!!*

## JOKES with BIBLE allusions

### BERTIE WAY OF RECALLING

"I can't recall all the details, though at my private school I once won a prize for Scripture Knowledge, but I remember that they had the dickens of an uphill job trying to charm it, and after they had sweated themselves to a frazzle no business resulted. It is often this way, I believe, with deaf adders". ("Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit" 1954). Bertie refers to the deaf adder on many occasions. The original Bible text: "Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely." (Psalm 58:4-5, KJV)

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### TEMPORARY MEMORY LOSS

His prize in Scripture Knowledge at school was long ago and Bertie had black spots in his memory:

"Who was Jezebel, by the way? The name seems familiar, but I can't place her.'  
'A character in the Old Testament, sir. A queen of Israel.'  
'Of course, yes. Be forgetting my own name next. Eaten by dogs, wasn't she?'  
'Yes, sir.'  
'Can't have been pleasant for her.'  
'No, sir.'  
(*"Jeeves in the Offing"* 1960).

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### BERTIE EMBROIDERS

Bertie says: "I felt rather like Lot's friends must have done when they dropped in for a chat and their genial host began to criticise the Cities of the plain". ("My man Jeeves" 1919), Genesis tells how Lot and his family fled from the doom over his city. However, no chat with friends is mentioned in Genesis, nor does he criticize the cities! On the contrary, he was a very unwilling refugee, forced by his angel guests. Genesis 19:28-29 (KJV) "He (Abraham) looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived."

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### BERTIE MISS THE DEEPER MEANING OF A PHRASE

Bertie's life was doom and gloom. He had just survived a luncheon with Honoria Glosop and his Aunt Agatha and expressed his feelings with the words of Paulus: "Death, where is thy jolly sting?" ("The inimitable Jeeves" 1923). Nothing could make the present situation worse. But Paulus had another perspective: Death is nothing to fear for a believer. In 1 Cor. 15:55 he wrote: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" What he wanted to convey is: Have hope! Death is not a bad thing for the believer because *Death is not the end!* He was reminding the congregation in Corinth of the hope of resurrection.

Plum let also other persons used this quote in the same way as Bertie, for instance Hugo Carmody in "Summer Lightning" (1929).

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### EVEN A BISHOP CAN ERR

If bishops can make mistakes price winners in Scripture knowledge are excused. In "Meet Mr. Mulliner", 1927 there is a dialogue between the curate Augustine Mulliner and his bishop. The latter is talking about his wife.

"Truly," sighed the bishop, 'as a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. Proverbs xi. 21.'

'Twenty-two,' corrected Augustine.

'I should have said twenty-two.'

Augustine is correct.

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### GUSSIE FINK-NOTTLE

Augustus Fink-Nottle had got the honour to award the prize for Scripture Knowledge at Market Snodsbury Grammar School to young Simmons. Under the influence of alcohol and always suspicious to this prize, since Bertie Wooster once won it, he asked a control question to the prize winner: "Who was What's-His-Name — the chap who begat Thingummy?" ("Right Ho, Jeeves" 1934). Simmons was really in trouble. The Bible contains several pages of genealogy, for instance in Genesis 4:18 (KJV): "And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech".

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### MORE GENEALOGY PROBLEMS

After the annual smoking concert at the Drones a Crumpet tells his fellows that the Pat-and-Mike-sketch which Pongo Twistleton and Barmy Fotheringay-Phipps had performed was close to become inhibited because the rivalry between Barmy and Pongo about a girl. A Visit at an Evening Service in a country Church made Barmy revise his attitude towards Pongo. The Crumpet tells: "The Lesson was one of those chapters of the Old Testament all about how Abimelech begat Jazzbo and Jazzbo begat Zachariah. Would Abimelech have behaved like that to Jazzbo or — for the matter of that — Jazzbo to Zachariah?" (Young Men in Spats, 1936).

Abimelek and Zachariah are biblical names. But *Jazzbo* makes one start. He is an impostor! The name Jazzbo may have come from Jazzbo Brown in the opera "Porgy and Bess" which had it's premiere 1935.

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### MIX-UP BY CAPTAIN BIGGAR

"I passed through the furnace like Shadrach, Meshach and Nebuchadnezzar or whoever it was." ("Ring for Jeeves" 1953). Captain Biggar was referring to the three men in the burning furnace in Daniel 3:20. "And he (King Nebuchadnezzar) commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and to cast them into the midst of the burning fiery furnace." Nebuchadnezzar, was the bad guy in this story!

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### OOFY PROSSER

When he met Uncle Harold and saw his fatness he compared his feelings with those of the queen of Sheba. "Now that he saw the man in the flesh, he felt, like the Queen of Sheba, that the half had not been told unto him." ("A Few Quick Ones" 1959) "And she (the queen of Sheba) said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard." (1 Kings 10:6-7)

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