

# The DAILY BLUFFER

It's No Joke, Maybe

## *The Daily Joke & Riddle*

Why couldn't Noah catch many fish?

*A: He only had two worms.*

Name That Biblical Character:

Instead of going to Nineveh on God's divine mission, I decided to go in the opposite direction. I ended up hauled into the sea and swallowed by a whale. Who am I?

*(Yesterday's character: Joshua)*



Photo by Caroline Barsotti

## Chris Anderson interview

By Eric Reynolds

*The Daily Bluffer* interviewed 2022 keynoter Chris Anderson about this year's conference theme. The interview has been edited for clarity.

*Daily Bluffer:* Can you explain what your theme is about this year?

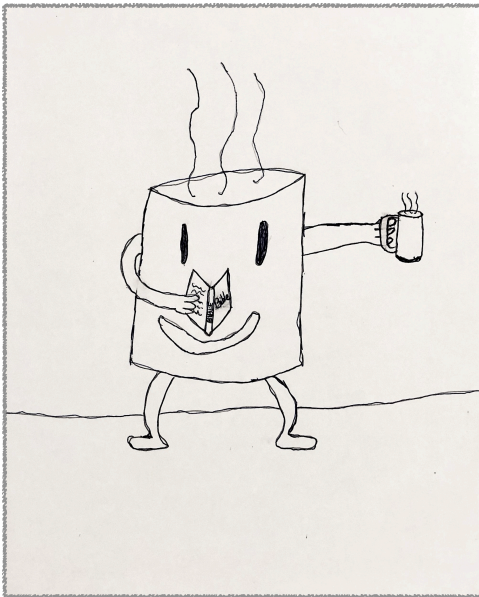
*Chris Anderson:* I'm talking about the Bible as literature, a way to read the Bible as if it is another work of literature, and how that might help us better understand the Bible but also help us better understand God and enter into a deeper relationship with God.

*DB:* Do you have an example you can share?

*CA:* Yeah, I'm talking about two main ideas: one is the idea of genre, which just means kind. There are lots of different kinds of language in the world, and writing and books and music and so on. There are lots of different kinds of writing in the Bible, and so if we know what kind of writing we're looking at, we can ask the right questions. And the best example is the Book of Genesis, the creation story. A lot of people assume

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**CAPTION** Cartoon by Ian Weber



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**Found Thursday's Hidden Spot:**

Zoe Vanderwal  
 Irena, Zuzi, and Zdenek Langer  
 Breitenstein Family  
 Alexander Wathen  
 Bill Zulke

that it is intended to be read as science or as history, but the church teaches that story is an inspired myth. It's not meant to be read literally. It's not about exactly how the world was created in a scientific sense. It's about how God is present and gives meaning to our lives right now.

*DB:* So it's similar to how Jesus taught in parables?

*CA:* That's exactly right. That's a beautiful comment. That's a genre, too. There are all kinds of genres. The word Bible means libraries. So there are lots of different books in the Bible, and within the books there are different genres, like parables. That's a perfect example, and when Jesus says I'm gonna tell you this parable we know we are sort of primed. We know what to expect, versus I'm going to give you a scientific explanation for such and such. That's just not how it works. It doesn't mean that the stories in the Bible are not true. It doesn't mean that they are all myths. But it does mean that if we look at them from a literary point of view, we don't make the mistake of assuming that they're trying to tell us about things they're not trying to tell us about. A famous saying is: The Bible teaches us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go. For the Bible is not about the ages of rocks, but about the Rock of Ages.

*DB:* If there is one thing you want everyone to take home from Summer Conference this year, what would it be?

*CA:* Be not afraid. The Bible is telling us again and again to not be afraid. Don't be afraid that God is just something made-up. Something not real. Something that people believed a long time ago. The Bible is telling you that God is here right now. So don't be afraid. ✚

Fr. Cat arrives for Mass at. St Meow



Caption by Edward Barsotti

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**FIND THE SPOT:**



Find this spot and sign the note we hid there, and you may get your name in the next *Daily Bluffer*.