



# Some Surprising Scriptures

Mark 12:11 “This was the  
LORD'S doing, And it is  
marvelous in our eyes.”

A background image of red fireworks exploding against a black night sky. The fireworks are in various stages of explosion, with some showing long, thin trails of light. The overall effect is a vibrant, celebratory scene.

Occasionally, I come across a passage of scripture that causes me to do a mental double-take.

- I am freshly filled with wonder at the infinite wisdom of God
  - Deut. 30:11-14 - “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”





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- I am reminded that I will spend a lifetime studying the word and still learn new things at every point along the way
  - Psalm 119:148 - “My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.”
- I have discovered that I must grow spiritually before I can uncover and learn deeper matters
  - Psalm 119:99-100 - “I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.”

The background of the slide features a large, vibrant red firework exploding against a black night sky. The firework's trails are dense and radiating, creating a starburst effect. A smaller, similar firework is visible in the lower-left corner, also exploding. The overall scene is dynamic and celebratory.

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- I have learned that my understanding in the past was child-like; I suspect that years from now, I will view my present understanding as child-like, too
  - 1Cor. 13:9-12 - “For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”



The background of the slide features a large, vibrant red firework exploding in a starburst pattern against a dark, black night sky. The firework's trails are dense and radiating, creating a dramatic and celebratory atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

## Amos 9:9

- “For surely I will command, And will sift the house of Israel among all nations, As grain is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.”
  - God will disperse Israel all over the earth, but none of the good will be lost
  - The good are not exempt from the scattering; the sieve is impartial
  - God does not lose track of the least among the good, regardless of how far they are scattered

# Amos 9:9

- Gen. 18:25 - “Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
- Jer. 30:11 - “For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you with justice...”
- Amos 9:11-12 - “On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does this thing.”





# Numbers 24:13

- “If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak”
- Balaam said all of the right things while intending wrong things
  - Num. 22:38 - “And Balaam said to Balak, Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak.”

The background of the slide features a large, vibrant red firework exploding in the upper right quadrant, with numerous smaller, fainter red firework trails scattered across the dark background. The text is overlaid on this scene.

# Numbers 24:13

- Balak lost his temper with Balaam after the third cycle of blessings on Israel
  - Num. 24:10-11 - “Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times! 11 Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the LORD has kept you back from honor”





## Numbers 24:13

- Balaam tries to excuse Balak's disappointment
- God restrained him from saying what he wanted to say, and constrained him to say what he wanted to avoid
- Balaam tried to make up for it, but it was premature
  - Num. 24:14 - "And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

A large, vibrant red firework bursts in the upper right quadrant of the frame, its numerous thin, radiating trails creating a starburst effect. Below it, in the lower left, another smaller red firework is visible, also in the process of exploding. The background is a deep, dark black, which makes the bright red trails stand out sharply. The overall scene is dynamic and celebratory.

## Numbers 24:13

- Instead, he gives Balak the assurance that, whatever Israel should do to his people, it should not be till later, but in his days there would be peace.
- He then told Balak how to undermine Israel



# Numbers 24:13

- Num. 31:16 - “Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”
- Num. 25:1-3 - “Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.”

A background image of red fireworks exploding against a black night sky. The fireworks are in various stages of explosion, with some large, dense bursts and others smaller and more delicate. The colors are primarily red and orange, with some hints of yellow and green. The overall effect is a vibrant, celebratory scene.

## Numbers 24:13

- 1500 years later... Rev. 2:14 - “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”
- *Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo* - “If I cannot move heaven, I will solicit hell.”



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## Numbers 24:13

- Balaam was a Gentile prophet under the Patriarchal covenant who knew God and was inspired by God
- He knew the will of God perfectly well and could repeat it accurately
- He had the experience of talking with God and witnessing miraculous events

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## Numbers 24:13

- But none of these things kept him from temptation and sin.
- “A man may be full of the knowledge of God and yet utterly destitute of the grace of God, may receive the truth in the light of it and yet be a stranger to the love of it.” (Albert Barnes)
- 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”



## Exodus 10:26

- "Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."
- Pharaoh wanted to negotiate with Moses allowing them to take their families but leave the livestock as if in pawn
  - Ex. 10:24 - "Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you."

## Exodus 10:26

- “It is common for sinners to bargain with God. Some sins they will leave, but not all; they will leave their sins for a time, but they will not bid them a final farewell; they will allow him some share in their hearts, but the world and the flesh must share with him; they mock God, but they deceive themselves.” (Adam Clarke)
- Not one hoof left behind; there will be no compromise!



## Romans 4:1-8

- “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

# Romans 4:1-8

- Doing everything perfectly results in no profit!
  - If I keep every New Testament command perfectly, if I commit no sin in my lifetime, if there is no sin of commission or omission on my record when I stand before God in Judgment, I break even
  - I have no red ink, but I also have no black ink; the end tally is zero; I have nothing to offer to purchase a cardboard refrigerator box under the I76 overpass in the poorest section in Heaven, speaking hyperbolically
- God must add to my account to make me profitable, even with having lived perfectly



A large, vibrant red firework bursts in the upper right quadrant of the image, with numerous long, thin streaks radiating outwards. A smaller, similar firework is visible in the lower left. The background is a solid black, making the bright red colors stand out prominently.

## Romans 4:1-8

- Luke 17:10 - " So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do."
- Job 22:3 - " Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?"
- Job 35:7 - " If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?"

# Romans 4:1-8

- Acts 17:24-25 - “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”
- Isa. 66:1-2 - “Thus says the LORD: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist, Says the LORD. But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.”



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## Romans 4:1-8

- I am not trying to discourage you from living morally and doing good works
- I am trying to get you to understand how dependent you are on God to get to heaven, because you aren't going to get there on your good works and righteous acts
- The most skillful doctrinaires have tried and failed (Pharisees)
- When you do right, thank God and give Him the glory