

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” 1 Cor. 2:9-10

# The Garr Monster Exists

**Theme:** God always gives us the truth we need.

## Review

There are many hoaxes in this world, but scientific and biblical training will help keep you from believing them. The Bible and science agree on the hydrologic cycle, that the universe had a beginning, the need for good hygiene, and the role of blood in life. Humans are unique in all of creation; we alone have a spirit. Our spirit knows there is a God and desires a relationship with Him. Understanding science helps a person appreciate and stand in awe of the greatness of God. A Christian can be a scientist/engineer and still maintain a strong faith in Christ and be a blessing to humanity.



## Introduction

Most cultures around the world have stories about some sort of monster. This lesson will consider a true monster story. This is not about small monsters that can be inside us, like parasites or germs, but big, scary monsters. Of course, we all know that most (or all) of these monsters are not real; they are just part of people's mythological folklore. An example of a mythological monster is the Hodag of Wisconsin, pictured above. The Hodag is a hoax started in the 1800s, but the myth is alive today because it promotes tourism, and the Hodag makes a great school mascot.

Some monsters are thought to still exist (at least by some), such as the Mexican Chupacabra. The Loch Ness monster of Scotland has believers, even though its existence has been discredited. The most common monster(s) with countless reports around the world is of a large, hairy, bipedal (walking on two hind legs), ape-like creature supposedly inhabiting remote forests and mountains. This latter creature (or creatures) has various names: Yeti (Abominable Snowman) in the Himalayas, Almasty in central Asia and Mongolia, Bigfoot (Sasquatch) in North America, and so forth.

**Discussion:** What monsters are parts of your culture? Are they myths or do many people believe they truly exist?

Many television shows are devoted to finding these creatures, especially Bigfoot/Yeti. Yet, after hundreds of hours of programming, countless expeditions to remote areas, and incredible expense to find them, no good evidence of their existence has been found. No hair samples or remains have been collected from an unknown species (as verified

by DNA testing), nor have any reliable pictures been taken.

**Discussion:** Do you suppose all the effort and money spent on finding Bigfoot are just ways of making money on television?

In the daytime, the concept of a monster seems silly, but that changes quickly at night, especially in a remote area. There are many weird noises in the night, more so in a wooded area. Though we know better, those noises and lack of good night vision work on our minds. We begin to think, "Well, maybe they could exist." As our minds run wild, common things become creepy and we lose confidence.

## The Garr Monster

### The Garr Monster Appears

This monster story is true. The story goes back to the early 1960s, and the actual truth of this monster has just recently been uncovered; fortunately, there is a biblical application. My parents bought a farm in western Wisconsin in 1959 when I (Director of Grace 4 You) was in high school. This farm was in a remote area and in a primitive condition; there was no electricity or indoor plumbing. The farm had been abandoned for many years. This area of Wisconsin, USA, is not glaciated (the later glaciers went around this area). The land is very rugged, with hills and valleys that are mostly wooded.

One spring evening in 1960, my father and I were outside at dusk. All of a sudden, we heard an eerie animal sound, something we had never heard. We had no clue what it was. I heard this sound a couple times in the early 60s, and my dad heard it several times. It was not a growl, bark, howl, or screech. It was a short sound and uttered only once. It sounded like something was snorting-out a "garr" or caw sound. No animal we knew made this sound. Was this a threat directed at us, or was it a message to other animals?

We checked with local farmers and animal experts, but no one had a clue what the animal might be. We knew there were no monsters; after all, it was 1960. Once my father heard the monster and shown his flashlight in the direction of the sound, all he could see were the eyes from a distance. Based upon that information and the

noise it made running through the woods, he said the animal was large and fast. Wildcat Mountain was not too far away, so our best thinking was that the animal was probably a wildcat (bobcat) or cougar. Jokingly, we began to call whatever made this sound the Garr Monster, hoping some day to find out what it was. We wondered if some unknown animal migrated to this area to survive the glacial age(s), or if it had always existed in this remote area.

Then the silent years came. The monster was not heard again, decade after decade. Had the species died out in the 1970s after surviving for thousands of years? We kidded about the monster, but rarely mentioned it to others. In the 1970s and early 1980s, we did not speak of it much, lest we scare my kids or their cousins; going to an outhouse at night is pretty frightening for a kid even with mom or dad. By the mid-1980s, indoor plumbing allowed us to speak freely of the monster. Of course, by then we had embellished the story and the monster became our myth; it had glowing red eyes, huge fangs, iron claws, and belched fire. It, no doubt, ate wolves for breakfast and picked its teeth with Hodag bones. We all knew better, but we still had no clue what the mystery animal was.

### The Garr Monster Returns

In 2011, some 51 years after first hearing the monster, I was building a cabin on a parcel of the same land my parents bought in 1959. The cabin is in a small open field

with woods around it. I had not thought of the monster for decades, and my dad had been dead for many years; it seemed this monster was an ancient memory. Then, one night in the spring, around 3:00 AM, I was outside looking at the stars (this area has little light from farms or cities, so the stars are clearly visible). That night the stars were exceptionally vivid; they seemed so close that I could touch them. It was a very peaceful night with no moon and total silence—just me and the stars God had created.

All of sudden, the peace was shattered by a spooky sound. The sound scared me, causing me to jump and my heart to race. It came from the woods some 300 feet away, so I knew I was safe, yet I found myself edging toward the cabin door. Then, whatever made the noise started running through the woods, thankfully away from me; it was clearly a large animal by the sound of the crashing and thrashing, but I saw nothing. When I got inside, I made sure the door was locked, twice, and went to bed. I could not sleep because the night's events raced through my mind. It dawned on me that this was the Garr Monster that I had heard 51 years ago. Not only was the Monster still alive, it was right here!

For a several weeks after that, I would go to the cabin and work for two days each week, spending the evenings on the porch reading. Oftentimes a female deer would come down a path with her fawn, and I would watch them graze. I had to sit perfectly still because if I moved, they would run. Such peace and tranquility, but nights were a bit scary.

### **The Garr Monster Identified**

Three weeks after hearing the Garr monster, I had just begun working inside the cabin when, very unexpectedly, I heard it again: **Garr!** This time it was in the daylight and the sound was right outside. I ran to the kitchen window and looked out, with my heart jumping out of my chest. This time I knew I would actually get to see it! The first thing I saw was a female deer (doe) running down the grass driveway, and she seemed to be

running oddly. Oh no, the monster had to be right behind her, chasing her, but my view was limited so I could not see very far behind her. Was it a cougar, bear, or a monster?

I watched for a couple seconds waiting to see it, but nothing appeared. Then, in a flash, I was overwhelmed with the thought that the monster was not chasing her because it had caught her fawn. I raced to the door and ran outside with my hammer in hand. If the monster had the fawn, at least I could throw my hammer at it and try to scare it away. When I got outside, I looked quickly and frantically for the monster in the area of the doe, but it was not there. I looked left, right, back, sideways, then ran around to make sure I got every view. There was no monster to be found, anywhere. I was absolutely perplexed.

I may be old, but I am not totally crazy. I heard the garr sound, saw the doe fleeing, but could not find the monster; how can that be? There is no animal with the superpower of invisibility, so where did it go? I went back in the cabin completely dumbfounded. Slowly but surely, after all the years, the truth began to emerge. The answer was so simple it was almost unbelievable. My dad and I had it all wrong. The garr sound did not come from a monster at all; it came from the doe. The doe that made the sound had a fawn. She made a distress call to warn the fawn (or other deer) of danger. My guess is that when she made a garr sound the fawn just dropped down in the tall grass and remained perfectly still. She provided a decoy to draw the danger toward her (by making noise and running oddly) and away from the fawn. Similarly, other animals feign an injury to draw predators away from their young. The sound is a survival mechanism to protect their young.

This sound was not a threat to me at all; it was an alarm to her fawn (maybe other deer, too). She made it out of fear and desire to protect her fawn. I slept well that night, knowing that a deer was not going to break down the door and eat me.

**Discussion:** Recall an incident when someone tried and tried to understand something, but he or she just had it all wrong. Was the real answer very simple?

Now I realized we heard this sound in the spring because that is when deer have fawns. They make noise running through the woods to draw attention to themselves and away from their fawns. Who was the real monster causing fear? I was! I scared the deer the first time by moving around late at night and the second time by

making a sudden loud noise in the cabin. The doe was not used to my being at the cabin, so any noise inside would scare her. Similarly, deer were not used to humans being at the farm back in the early '60s; thus, we scared them. In their fear, they blurted out a garr sound. All the years of silence at the farm were the result of having farm dogs, cows, and farm activity; the deer were well aware of human presence. The terrible, evil, Garr Monster was nothing but a doe. Mystery solved after 51 years.

## Bible Truth & Life Application

The Bible teaches that many of the great heroes/heroines of the faith died without ever seeing fulfilled promises or learning about things they thought were important—yet their faith remained strong. Even today, we can live our whole lives without finding the answers we desire (my dad died without learning the truth of the Garr Monster). We may not get what we want, but God always gives us the truth we need, which is even better.

**1. Job's Experience.** Job was a man that lost everything (family, servants, wealth, health, etc.) because God allowed Satan to take it. God wanted to prove to Satan that Job's faith in God was based upon Who God was, and not based upon the fact God gave him many blessings. In Job's trials, he did come to an understanding of something more important than why he lost everything. He learned that God is in control of life's events and while we may not understand what is happening, we must trust in the goodness of God. Job said, **"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. ... I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You, Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and**

**ashes"** (Job 42:2-6). When Job says his eyes saw God, he is speaking figuratively that he now understood God so clearly, it was like actually seeing Him. Seeing God in this way made him see himself in a truthful manner, as a sinner that should rejoice in God's mercy. In the end, God again blesses Job; but God never did tell Job why everything was taken from him.

**2. Isaiah's Story.** Isaiah is quoted by the Apostle Paul: **"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him"** (1 Cor. 2:9). In Isaiah's time (eighth century B.C.), there were many things that God had not yet revealed to mankind. In spite of not seeing, hearing, or having his heart enlightened with all he wished to know, Isaiah was faithful to the Lord. He, like Job, realized he needed to have faith in God in spite of not knowing all he wished. He realized what was most important was to know he was a sinner in need of God's salvation, **"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags"** (Isa. 64:6a).

**3. Paul's Conclusion.** As shown above, Paul quotes Isaiah. Then comes one of the most remarkable

passages in Scripture, **"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit, For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep thing of God"** (1 Cor. 2:10). This verse is saying that the very things Isaiah wished to know and which he never did get to know, were revealed to Paul in the first century A.D. Isaiah did not know many things because it was not in God's plan to reveal them in his day; however, they were revealed to Paul. For anyone to say we have not seen, or heard, or our hearts have not received the things God has prepared for us, is just plain wrong. God has clearly revealed it! Unfortunately, you will find many who quote 1 Cor. 2:9 and then skip over 1 Cor. 2:10. They do not recognize the wonderful truth that God gave to the Apostle Paul. Sometimes people die without ever seeing or learning what they think is important. Sometimes we have that information right in front of us but do not recognize it. Those who fail to see the truth of 1 Cor. 2:10 have it all wrong, yet it is so simple.

My father did not learn the truth of the Garr Monster, but I did. Similarly, Isaiah was not told many things, but Paul was told them. Thus, we need to learn what Paul has to say because the Holy Spirit taught him the very things hidden from Isaiah. Most people want to know things such as, "What is heaven like?" That is what we want to know, not what God wants us to know. He has more important information for us.

Below are just a few of the deeper truths that God taught Paul. These are the truths that we in the Age of Grace are privileged to know, which no one knew before our Age. With this information we can say, "In our Age, eye has seen, ear has heard, and the things God has prepared for us have entered into our heart." At least 20 incredible truths in Ephesians Chapters 1 and 2 directly relate to this topic; seven are shown here.

## Examples of what God has prepared for those who love Him. These are our Spiritual Blessings.

1. *We were chosen by God, before the world began, to be holy in Christ* (Eph. 1:4). This is referring to the fact God chose a plan of salvation before He created the world. His plan of salvation for today is that we must be "in Christ." If we are in Christ, we are holy and without blame. We become "in Christ" by our faith in Him.
2. *We are adopted into His family* (Eph. 1:5). Each believer is adopted into His family, with all the benefits of full-grown adults.
3. *We are no longer rejected, but accepted in Christ (the beloved One)* (Eph. 1:6). Imagine that, the Almighty accepts just as we are—there is no rejection and there are no second-class citizens with God. He accepts us because as a believer we are in Christ (which makes us one with the beloved One: Christ).
4. *We have redemption and forgiveness* (Eph. 1:7). Through His blood (death on the Cross for us) we have been bought back (redeemed) from the bondage and penalty of sin. Upon faith in Christ, all our sins immediately are forgiven and we are presented as perfect to God (because we are in Christ).
5. *We are sealed by the Holy Spirit* (Eph. 1:13). Not only are we saved by simple faith in Jesus Christ's death for our sins, but also that salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit. It cannot be taken away by anyone; that seal is made by God, so it can never be broken (even when we sin, the seal is secure).
6. *The eyes of our understanding are enlightened* (Eph. 1:18). This enlightenment is what Isaiah wanted, and what we get. Our eyes are open to understanding

and learning the deeper things of God. (These seven examples are exactly that.)

7. *We are made alive* (Eph. 2:5). When we have faith in Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven (even those of

the future). In a spiritual sense, we are raised in newness of life, just as Christ was raised from the dead. When we die, we will go to Heaven. Death has no hold on us; Christ has conquered the grave for us.

## Take 2 Heart

### Summary

The Garr Monster story is true, but those involved had the facts all mixed up, which is typical of monster stories. The truth was finally discovered after 51 years. The terrible Garr Monster turned out to be nothing but a deer. The author was fortunate to discover the truth, but many people die without ever finding the information they desired. The same thing occurred in the Bible. Examples of this desire are Job and Isaiah, who never did not get the answers they thought important. Instead, they received truth and information far superior, information God knew was more important for them. Today, in the Age of Grace, God has fully revealed in the Bible the very things those of the past wished to know, and more. These things apply directly to us, and those that God knows we need. These are the eternal, spiritual blessings guaranteed to each believer by God.

### Gospel

**"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"** (Isa. 53:6). Isaiah learned

this most important lesson, and it applies to us. Each of us has to realize he or she is a sinner, and that Christ died to pay for that sin (laid on Him the iniquity of us all). That is God's wonderful plan of salvation.

### Encouragement

It is easy to get discouraged because so many things can go wrong. We all feel sorry for ourselves at one time or another, but the good news is that the Lord is concerned about those feelings (Heb. 4:15). Indeed, He sympathizes with us. He feels our pain, and assures us that He will use the negative events in our lives, in some way, to bring about good. It may be that the things we find troubling now are preparing us to help someone else, or to mature us and make us more like Christ. God may not answer our prayers the way we want or expect; but He will answer them in a way that is best for each of us. This is consistent with how He worked with Job, Isaiah, and Paul. Remember, the spiritual blessings the Lord has given us surpass anything we can imagine. Take courage; the Lord is on your side and with you always.