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## Religion: Paul Ott 'Interviews' ancient leaders in Web site short story

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Enterprise-Journal

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Paul Ott was doing his Scripture reading one morning when he had a sudden urge to ask old King Solomon a question or two.

As the idea turned over in his head, more characters popped up, and more questions.

Finally he organized his thoughts into a story in which he asks 13 people, from Adam to Abraham Lincoln, one question each.

The story, entitled "The Holy Visits," appears on Ott's Web site, [www.listentotheeagle.com](http://www.listentotheeagle.com).

"Suppose in the quietness of your own home one morning, you had the opportunity to visit with 13 Godly souls that had each lived at different times from the beginning of time until modern day time," the story begins.

"Suppose you could question each of them separately and each one

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would give their answers and then a short statement to end the conversation. Listen carefully as each of these 13 gives their 21st Century answers and opinions to us today.”

Characters interviewed are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, Mary the mother of Jesus, St. Peter, Paul, John and Lincoln.

Ott, a singer and storyteller from Dixie Springs, said he did a good bit of research on each character before coming up with the answer. “When I was doing it I was kind of scared one would show up,” he joked.

The story begins, not surprisingly, with Adam.

“ ‘My question to you, my great grandfather, is — well — how could you have eaten that apple?’”

“(Adam picks up the apple and stares at it for a few moments.)

“ ‘My son, before my death, caused by the eating of this apple, I asked myself the same question many, many times. The answer is very simple. A question for a question...why do YOU partake of the forbidden fruit? Remember, I’m no longer with you but because of Eve’s and my sin, sin is still with you after all these years. Please beware, my son, and let all my grandchildren know if you continue giving in to the evil one, you will also be cast out of the Garden forever, as we were.’”

The questions continue with other characters. How did Noah get all those animals on the ark? How could Abraham agree to sacrifice his son Isaac? And so on down to President Lincoln: “I must ask you what you think of us today in these United States, that you served so well, now that our government has basically made public prayer illegal and has tried to take God out of every part of our lives?”

Ott said he envisions the story being acted out as a church drama. He figures it would take about half an hour to present.

The story is copyrighted but may be used for readings or skits at no cost. Ott would like to hear from people who read or use the material.

“The good thing about this is if they like it, just print it off the Internet and go,” he said.

He’s considering turning it into a video, perhaps as a follow-up to his

nonprofit video “The Day of the Lord,” which combines Scripture readings with footage of nature scenes. It’s also available on the Web site.

“I really would like to expand on the characters and spend more time with them,” Ott said.

“It was really done through prayer and God, and it’s up to him.”

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