

## Adult Bible Studies

### Current Events Supplement September 15, 2019

#### The Thick Darkness Exodus 19:16-21; 20:18-21

According to a recent news article, “just when you think you’ve cataloged all the beasts of the cosmos, a new one howls to us from the celestial savanna. Fast radio bursts [FRBs] are now one of the hottest topics in astronomy. In less time than an eye blink, these mysterious objects can release enough energy to power the world for three centuries.” FRBs originate light years away from the earth, have immense energy, and come from a source relatively small in stellar size. “Because FRBs last only a thousandth of a second or so, any object producing them couldn’t be much bigger than 200 miles across.” But astronomers do not yet know what FRBs are or their source.<sup>1</sup>

The student book author writes, “No matter how much we learn of God, we must accept that a primary aspect of God is always mystery.”<sup>2</sup> Since human beings are created by God the Creator, our mortal minds can never fully comprehend all that is God. We use human language to describe and define that which we cannot explain or understand. Our understanding of the Creator’s nature includes the fact that we can never completely grasp the nature of God.

Human arrogance can lead us to assume that we know all there is to know about creation, the earth, and the universe. However, in the 21st century, we must admit that there are things we still do not know. We have yet to discover all life in the depths of the ocean, much less everything in the cosmos. FRBs of unknown origin are a recent example of a mystery that human beings are trying to decipher. The fact that objects in the universe are still a mystery to humankind undergirds our praise that God is beyond human, finite definition.

1. Why is a primary aspect of God always mystery?
2. Why is the mystery of God a good thing for humankind?
3. What are mysteries in our world that we cannot explain, and how do they undergird praise of the Creator?

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<sup>1</sup>From “Fast Radio Bursts From Space Have Baffled Scientists for Years. But an Explanation May Come Soon,” by Seth Shostack, MACH at NBC News ([nbcnews.com/mach/science/fast-radio-bursts-space-have-baffled-scientists-years-explanation-may-ncna1049216](http://nbcnews.com/mach/science/fast-radio-bursts-space-have-baffled-scientists-years-explanation-may-ncna1049216)).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2019, by Randy Cross (Cokesbury, 2019); page 21.