# MYSTERIES THAT LEAD TO FAITH









3 and 4 = Hebrew literary (poetry) device

"Here is an observation/principle" with several illustrations

- May be several answers given to what the 3/4 have in common
- This may lead to different interpretations or applications of the 3 /4
- These are <u>proverbs</u> i.e. snapshots of wisdom (*Proverbs 1:1-7*)

#### **EXAMPLE**

- ✓ items which leave no trace or trail
- ✓ items which stand out against a background
- ✓ items which move slowly
- ✓ things which seem mysterious and unexplainable i.e. "way of"

# How can it actually happen? Amazing! Beyond my understanding!

### WHY ARE MYSTERIES AMAZING?

### They **HUMBLE** us!

## Our smug sense of intelligence and security is **challenged**.

## Logically, there is only the alternative of **fear** and **faith**.

Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens. What can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave. What can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. (Job 11:7-9)

When I consider your heavens ... the moon and stars ... (MYSTERY!) What is man that you are mindful of him? (HUMILITY!) (Psalm 8) \*Option 1 = Be afraid! \*Option 2 = Trust! (The mystery forces you toward one of these responses.)

#### WHY ARE MYSTERIES AMAZING?

### They **HELP** us!

# By adding wonder and raising questions, mysteries stimulate our lives!

Countless individuals have found a sense of <u>purpose</u> and <u>service</u> in the <u>investigation</u> of things "too amazing for me."

Lives and civilizations have <u>prospered</u> because folks pursued and solved mysteries.

All things are possible if you can believe [step out into a mystery] (Mark 9:23)

Blessed are those who have not seen [mystery!] and yet have believed.

(John 20:29)

#### WHY ARE MYSTERIES AMAZING?

### They **PREPARE** us!

"... in order that you may know the **mystery of God**, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge". (Colossians 2:2)

"Beyond all question, the **mystery of godliness** is great ...
body/spirit/angels/preaching/belief/glory."

(I Timothy 3:16)

A relationship with God would be **impossible** for someone who has never encountered a **mystery**.

The "unknowables" of life provide <u>practice</u> and <u>discipline</u> for faith/fellowship with our Creator who is unexplainable and unaccountable!

"... God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see." (*Il Timothy 6:15-16*)