

Scott Thybony's Canyon Commentary: Elvis Finds God on Route 66

By [SCOTT THYBONY \(/PEOPLE/SCOTT-THYBONY\)](/PEOPLE/SCOTT-THYBONY) • AUG 25, 2017

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This month marks forty years since Elvis Presley died. But the legendary singer and actor found God long before that...on Route 66 near Winslow, to be exact. Scott Thybony has more in his latest Canyon Commentary.



https://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/knau/files/styles/x_large/public/201708/elvis.jpg

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Somewhere on Route 66 near Two Guns, or it might have been Twin Arrows, Elvis Presley found God. The singer who became an idol to millions had left Graceland on his way to Hollywood to star in a movie called *Harum Scarum*. It was 1965, and being behind schedule the crew members took turns driving the bus straight through.

Despite his phenomenal success, Elvis had reached a point in his life where he felt hollowed out, empty inside. During the past year he had read a hundred books on religion, which left him desperate to experience God firsthand. His spiritual quest had reached a crisis point, and doubts were crowding in. For hundreds of miles, Elvis brooded, rarely talking to his crew. When they reached Amarillo, he took the wheel and continued driving west.

They crossed New Mexico and entered Arizona on a highway pointing deeper into the blank distance. Larry Geller, his hairdresser turned spiritual advisor, sat next to him. "Man" Elvis said, "I needed this to really shake the past and be alone like this with nature, away from everyone else." As he drove beyond the Painted Desert, Elvis kept his thoughts to himself.

"In the distance, mountains loomed in the fading light," Geller recalled in his book, *If I Can, Elvis' Own Story*. "An iridescent blue sky seemed to drape itself over the sacred mountains of the Hopi Indians and color everything in view with a peaceful, heavenly shade." Without warning Elvis shouted, "Whoa!"

He was staring at a mass of clouds building over the San Francisco Peaks. "Do you see what I see?" he asked Geller, who looked up and instantly recognized the face of Joseph Stalin in the clouds. They watched it change shape and disappear, but Elvis continued to gaze upward. Suddenly he hit the brakes and pulled off the highway. Jumping out, he took off running into the desert and told the hairdresser to follow.

"It's God! It's God!" he cried with tears streaming down his face. "It's love. God is love!" He hugged Geller, laughing and crying, overcome by what had happened. He explained how he initially feared the dictator's face was a projection of his inner self, and if true he only wanted to die. But as he watched, the cloud transformed into the smiling face of Jesus, and Elvis knew God had finally revealed himself.

"Can you imagine," he asked Geller, "what the fans would think if they saw me like this?"

The two of them walked back to the bus and resumed their journey. By the time they reached California, Elvis had decided to radically change his life and told Geller he wanted to become a monk. The hairdresser realized they could lose the entire brand if he followed through. So he had a long talk with his friend and convinced him his talent was a gift from God, one he couldn't renounce. Elvis agreed to continue his career and soon slipped back into the celebrity scene.

The singer had come a long way from Tupelo, and I suppose his fate had been set long before. But I wonder how different things might have been if he had let the vision on Route 66 change his life. Instead of spending his final years as a lounge act in Vegas, Elvis might have ended up in a monk's robes singing Gregorian chants in a remote monastery.

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Lupco Jan Steriev • 2 minutes ago

this goes to show elvis new history and as far as stalin goes, scum was poisoned by beria (at least he did some good), his kgb chief aka right hand man after he got rid of dwarf yezof, he was now to get rid of beria so all the problems could be blamed on "enemies of bolshevism and revolution!"

<http://encyclopediasupreme...>

it is interesting to note that stalin died to the minute 13 years later, after signing katyn forest (and areas) executions of over 22 000 polish military personnel and polish inteligentsia! there was some justice in the end and let it be known forever!!!!!!!!!!

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Nathan Gregory • 2 years ago • edited

This was followed by Elvis pouring himself into books about God and eastern spirituality with a passion, bringing a spark to his life that was largely missing as he sunk into a deep depression.

How did his wife Priscilla support him in this, you might ask? She feared he was changing in ways she didn't approve of, and that he might not be "ELVIS" anymore if he continued this quest, so she she took those books and made a bonfire in the backyard and BURNED EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM. You can read about it in her book. Awfully proud of herself for it too. "Saved him" from getting involved in something so treacherous.

Elvis then abandoned his spiritual curiosity, cut Mr. Geller out of life,