

# The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

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[www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk](http://www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk)

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



## The Michael Finnegan Syndrome

*There was an old man called Michael Finnegan,  
He grew whiskers on his chin again,  
The wind came up and blew them in again,  
Poor old Michael Finnegan,  
Begin again!*

Poor guy, his hirsute ambition frustrated and back where he began!

In the gripping 1958 classic World War II film, *Ice Cold in Alex*, five people (two soldiers, two female military nurses and an apparent South African soldier) try to escape the advancing German forces by driving an ambulance across the desert to the British lines and safety in Alexandria. At one stage they are faced with dunes so steep that the ambulance cannot drive up them. The only solution is to push the ambulance to the crest so with great physical pain and effort they slowly inch the vehicle to the top. Then just as the exhausted group rest for a moment the ambulance starts to slide backwards down the dune and despite their frantic efforts it only stops when it reaches the bottom.

What a waste of effort - they're back where they started!

Do you ever feel like that in your Christian life and experience? Some circumstance, some unguarded conversation, some action, some relationship trips you up and sin and failure greet us once more as old companions. And the terrible, despairing thoughts flood in: *Here I go again! I've fouled up yet again. All this time a Christian and what progress have I made? I'm back at square one. What's the point?*

I'll let you into a secret – you're not unique.

So what do we do? I can't speak for Michael Finnegan's reaction to the loss of his whiskers but I know what happened in the film – the weary five clambered down to where the ambulance rested and then painfully and slowly pushed it up the sand dune again.

So am I saying we have to begin again? Well, yes and no.

Yes, because we must resist the temptation to throw in the sponge, to wallow in our misery but get no further. That is dangerous because we can then slide into an apathetic acceptance of the situation. We need to begin again in the sense that we not only recognize our failure but also remember the promises of God to forgive and cleanse those who truly want it and seek it from him. We will get nowhere until we come to this point.

But **no** if by beginning again we feel as if all our past experience and knowledge of God and his dealings with us count for nothing. **No** if we imagine that effectively everything of our previous Christian life has been cancelled out and is worthless.

Don't take my word for it; the Bible pulls no punches when it details how some of its greatest characters messed up. Abraham, Jacob, David, Peter – men who knew and served God against tremendous odds, real saints, but all, at times, falling and failing spectacularly. But God didn't wash his hands of them; he didn't take Abraham back to Ur and begin all over again with him. God didn't scrub out all that these men had learnt and experienced with him. He picked them up from where they were and took them forward. It is true that sometimes their failures and sins had consequences that followed them throughout their lives but even that was not wasted. Somehow God in his wisdom was able to use that.

Yes, you and I sin – and sometimes **how** we sin! But that doesn't have to be the end. We can begin again at the cross as we come with true repentance to the Saviour who loves us and died for us. But that sin doesn't have to be the kiss of death on our past experience of our gracious God; we can move forward once more with our loving Father, hopefully wiser and more grateful and longing to truly obey and please him.

Isn't our God amazing – how he can take and transmute even our chequered lives for his glory by his wonderful grace?

Dennis Read

### John 6v37

'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.'

### These are comforting truths from the Word

We see in John chapter 6 great miracles.

Healing, Feeding of the Five Thousand, Jesus walks on the Sea. The people are impressed with Jesus feeding the five thousand. But He sees that they are taken up by the feeding and Jesus is saying that the important thing is to believe in Him.

### **He came from heaven just like Manna came from heaven in the wilderness.**

He is the Bread of Life. V35.

He gives eternal life in heaven and fulfilment to ALL who come to Him.

### We have a great divide of the people.

#### **a Those who did not believe.**

Religious leaders, They studied the Scriptures or at least the books of Moses, but their eyes were blinded. Those who wanted their bellies filled with bread. They had seen Jesus and yet did not believe.

#### **b. Others rejoiced that the messiah had come.**

**John 6 V37 ALL** is the total body of believers for all time.

### We see here that believers are a gift to Jesus from the Father.

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him." **John 17v2**

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." **John 17v24**

While the role of God the Son will be central to the salvation of humankind, we must not forget the role of God the Father. It is God the Father who gives the Son those who will be the Son's disciples. Jesus anticipates that the Father will not give the gift in vain. All those whom the Father gives to the Son will, indeed, come to the Son. None will be lost in the process.

### **(v. 37b). Jesus assures us that he will throw out (ekballo) no one who comes to him.**

The word *ekballo* comes from two Greek words, *ek* (out) and *ballo* (cast or throw). **It suggests a decisive act—force.** The person who throws something out is getting rid of it on purpose—is glad to be rid of it.

Jesus assures us that we need not fear being cast out—expelled.

We have, of course, given Jesus plenty of cause to cast us out.

We have sinned against God.

We have failed to live up to the promise with which God created us.

We have done what we knew to be wrong, and failed to do what we knew to be right.

But casting us out would not be in keeping with Jesus' mission, which is the salvation of those whom the Father has given Him. Nor would it be in keeping with Jesus' character, which is steeped in love.

It isn't all people whom Jesus will not throw out, but "all those whom the Father gives me."

It is the gift from the Father that Jesus will treasure and treat with great regard.

Isaiah.49v15

'But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."

"Can a woman forget her nursing child,

And not have compassion on the son of her womb?

Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

<sup>16</sup> See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.'

We can **feel** that the Lord has forgotten us.

We feel that we have been 'snatched from His hands.'

**Ask yourself. How did I first come to believe?**

### Did you base it on your own feelings or what God has revealed in the Word?

Bible says. We were bound in our sin. Physically dead.

**Charles Wesley describes it.**

### **4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night; thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light**

This is purely a work of God. God did a regenerating (quicken) work in your life. You saw that quickening ray. You saw that

Burden of sin. That awfulness of sin.

**My chains fell off, my heart was free,**

**I rose, went forth, and followed thee.**

I rise in faith. Jesus is real and He lives within my heart and I follow Him completely because He loves me.

### **5 No condemnation now I dread;**

Are we in that position where we can say 'I don't feel any condemnation. I am a sinner but the price has been paid.

My condemnation was put on the Son of God as He died for me at Calvary.'

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Jesus, and all in him, is mine!** Jesus is mine personally mine

**Alive in him, my living Head,**

**and clothed in righteousness divine,**

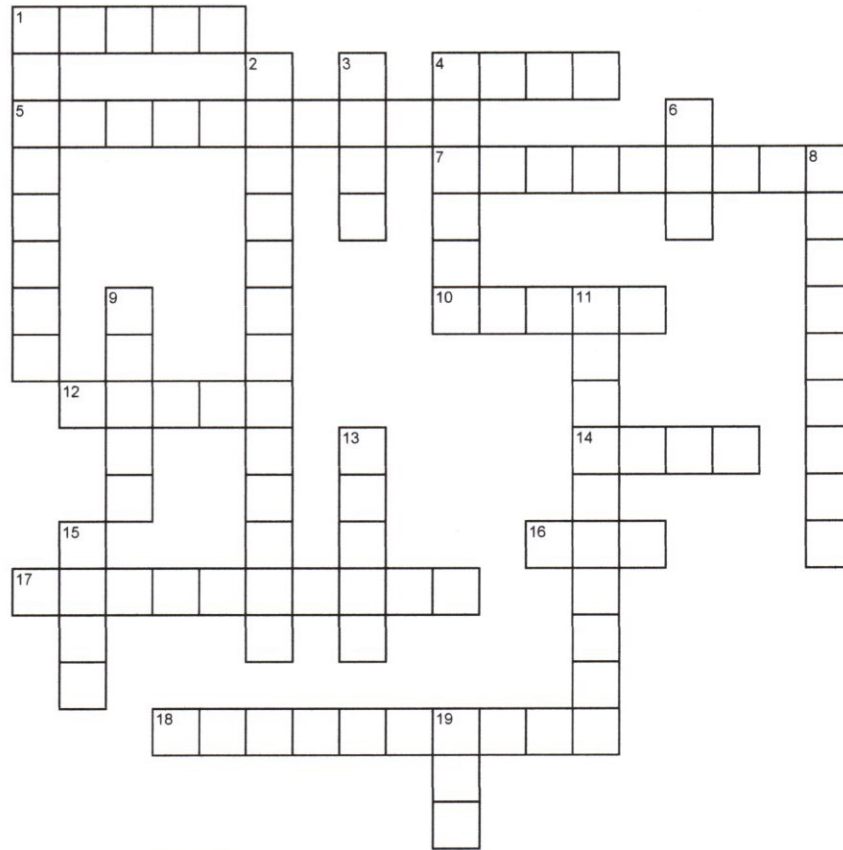
**bold I approach the eternal throne,**

**and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

David Page

# Bible Crossword Puzzle

Moses Red Sea Crossing – Exodus 14 KJV



[www.kjv-bible-verses.com](http://www.kjv-bible-verses.com)

## ACROSS

- 1 This pillar went and stood behind them during the day.
- 4 What the waters were to the Israelites on their right and left.
- 5 The Egyptians overtook the Israelites beside this place.
- 7 Moses said they would see these people no more.
- 10 What the Lord told Moses to do unto the children of Israel
- 12 Where the Israelites wanted to go back to.
- 14 The direction the strong wind came from.
- 16 What Moses was told to lift up.
- 17 The Egyptians overtook the Israelites before this place.
- 18 The number of Chariots Pharaoh used to pursue the Israelites with.

## DOWN

- 1 The name of the officers in charge of Pharaoh's chariots.
- 2 Where the Lord overthrew the Egyptians.
- 3 Who the Israelites cried out to.
- 4 What the Lord took off the Egyptian chariots.
- 6 What the Israelites accused Moses of taking them in the wilderness to do.
- 8 What Moses told the people to stand still and see.
- 9 What the pillar gave to the camp of Israel at night.
- 11 Who moved from before the camp of Israel and went behind them.
- 13 What the Lord would do for them.
- 15 What Moses was to stretch out over the sea.
- 19 The type of ground the Israelites would go through the sea on.

## **John 6v37**

**'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.'**

Heavenly Father thank You that in Your mercy and grace You sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins and that all who come to Him by faith will not be cast out. Thank You for this free gift of Your grace. Help me to share the good news with others who are dead in their sins and heading for eternal separation from You. This I ask in Jesus name, AMEN

Heavenly Father, sometimes the way ahead seems so clear, but at other times the way seems shrouded with uncertainty and the road ahead seems to be hidden in the questioning shadows.

I want to be in Your perfect will Lord, and I pray that Your will be done in every area of my life. I long to have Your assurance that this is the way to walk, but at times Your will seems to be hidden by a cloud of uncertainty and swamped by a foggy mist of unknowing.

As I step out into the future Lord, I place my trust in You. My desire is to remain in the centre of Your perfect will for my life.

Lead me Lord on the right path that is best for me I pray. You have promised to be with me wherever I go, for You know the steps that I take. My trust is in You and I want to do only that which glorifies You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Bible Reading John 6v22-40

**1 Come to the Saviour now,  
He gently calls to you;  
In true repentance bow,  
Let Him your heart renew.  
Christ came that you may know  
Salvation, peace, and love,  
True joy on earth below,  
A home in heaven above.**

**2 Come to the Saviour now,  
All who have wandered far;  
Renew your solemn vow,  
For His by right you are;  
Come like poor, wandering sheep  
Returning to His fold;  
His arm will safely keep,  
His love will ne'er grow cold.**

**3 Come to the Saviour, now,  
He offers all to you,  
And on His merits you  
Can plead for life anew.  
No vain excuses frame,  
Respond to Christ today!  
None who to Jesus came  
Were ever sent away.**

**4 Come to the Saviour, all,  
Whate'er your burdens be;  
Hear now His loving call,  
"Cast all your care on Me."  
Come, and for every grief,  
In Jesus you will find  
A sure and safe relief,  
A loving friend and kind.**

**Wigner, John M., 1844-1911**