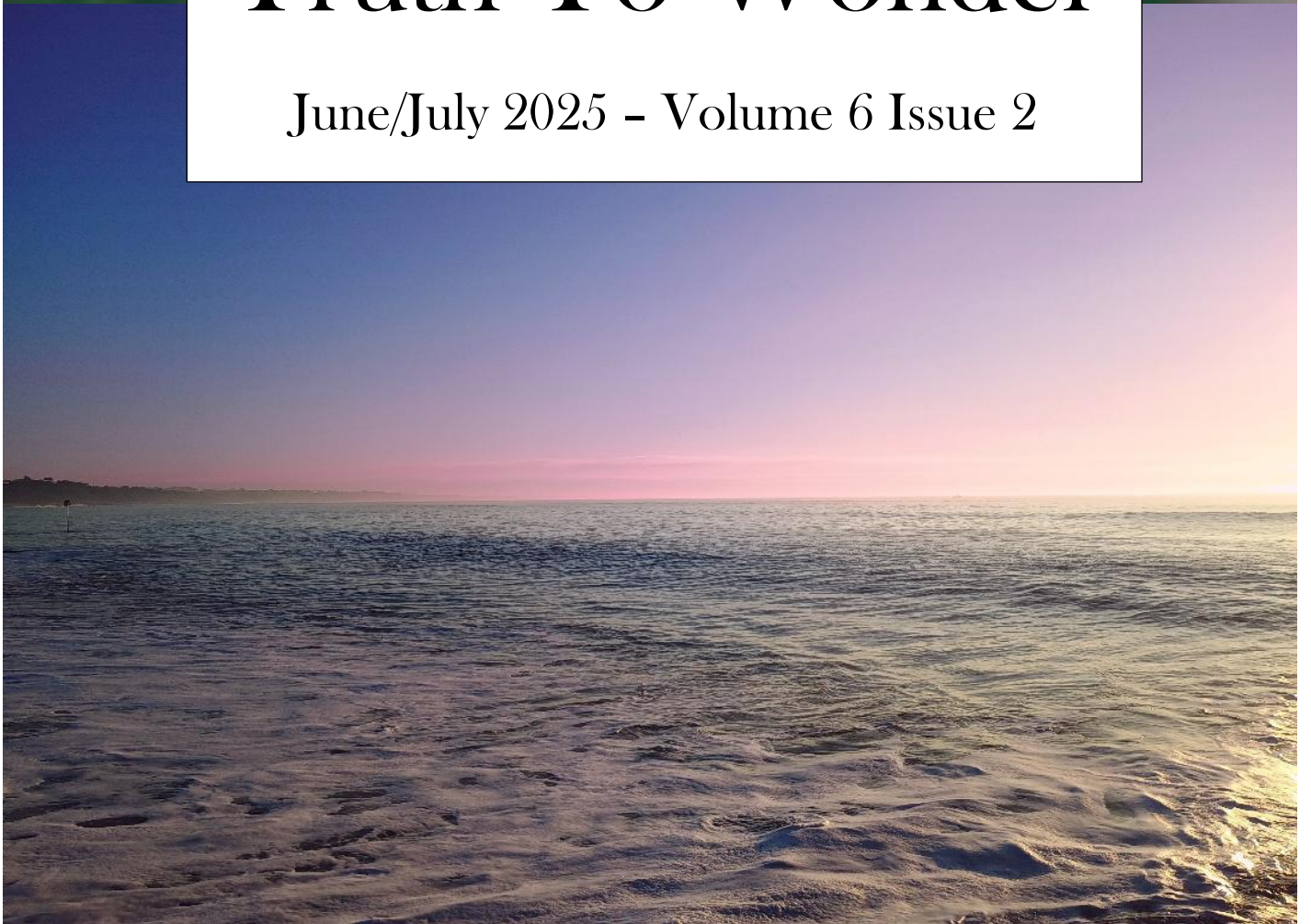




Truth To Wonder

June/July 2025 - Volume 6 Issue 2



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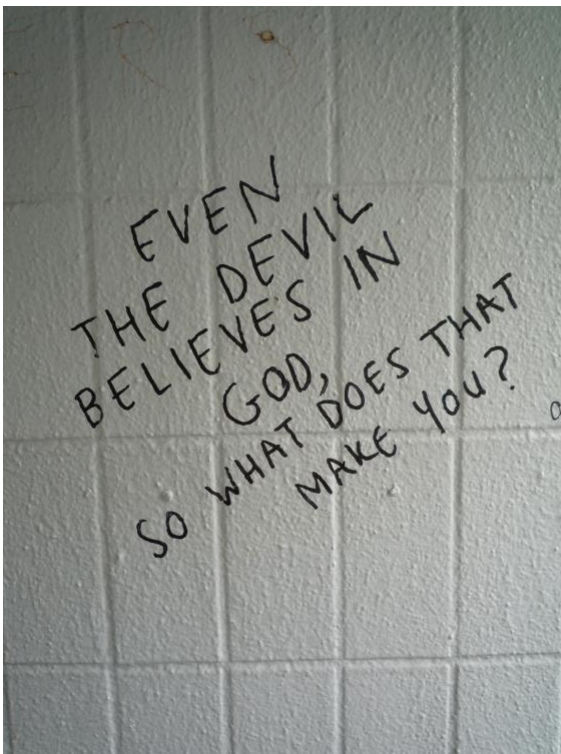
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Missed By Inches

It's a sad truth that many people have a knowledge of the Bible, but no knowledge of its author. Throughout all the generations of mankind, there have been numerous people who have held an intellectual awareness of the existence of God, and quite likely held a solid awareness of the contents of Holy Scripture. However, a head knowledge is not the criteria for redemption, it is a repenting and believing heart. This can be the greatest gulf in existence, though in physical reality, the distance between the head and the heart is merely inches.

To give this heavy fact a visual aid in its teaching, one American pastor stood before his congregation and pulled out a retractable tape measure. As he began to pull out a length of the tape measure, he questioned the gathering as to what they believed was the biggest distance between two points in their immediate environment. Was it between two opposing walls of the church building? Or was it the distance between floor to ceiling? The congregation thought for a moment before the pastor shortened the length of the tape measure to about 14 inches and held it against himself. He held the tape measure's base against his chest so that the tip reached where his brain nestled safely in his head. As the gathering looked on in deep thought, the pastor explained that the greatest distance was one that was in physical reality around 12-14 inches, the distance between the head and the heart.



You see, the distance between knowing the Bible and knowing it's author is huge, and cannot be dismissed as inconsequential. It is of the highest importance, for there are a great many people today who are deceiving themselves. They're doing this by thinking that because they hold a mental or intellectual agreement to the existence of God, and that there are many great truths and teachings in the Bible, that means they are a Christian. They go about their days thinking that they are secure in their future and that a place in Heaven awaits them, based purely upon this mental knowledge and acceptance they hold on Biblical content. This is a tragedy of the highest proportions! This short distance between the mind and the heart, is the reason why many will close their eyes at death and open them again only to find themselves housed in the miseries and sufferings of Hell.

As the American pastor noted, the distance between a place in Heaven or Hell, is that short space between the mind and the heart. A heart fixed in its refusal to repent of its sin and place faith in the risen Lord Jesus, calling upon Him to be its Saviour and Redeemer, will lead that person to Hell, no matter how great that individual's knowledge of the Holy Bible. That short distance between the mind and the heart, is the gulf that many will never seek to cross.

Many will angrily argue with Christians as to how can God eternally punish someone for a temporary crime? In other words, how can God justly judge someone with an eternal punishment over a crime that was committed for approximately 70 years (or however long a life may be)? Yet as one simple Christian observed, the immensity of the crime is not well understood today, even amongst many Christians. The crime of disbelief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is one that not even the Devil has committed! Even the Devil and all his minions, accept that Jesus is the Son of God and do not deny it! As someone scribbled on a wall (see picture), if even the Devil and his demons believe in God, what does that make a non-believer?! It must be understood that unbelief is an immense crime that has eternal implications. We would do well to question why

wouldn't the punishment for refusing to humbly accept an eternal gift, not warrant an eternal rejection? Isn't that a fair and just sentencing in all reality?

When this is understood, the scale of the tragedy that affects so many people in thinking a mental knowledge of God and the Bible is enough, becomes tear renderingly evident! Suddenly, the urgency to close that gap between a head knowledge and a heart faith sinks in!

This is where much of modern preaching is failing, there is no urgency, no fear of God's just judgment, no passion to lead sinners from proud thoughts of self, to humble faith in Christ Jesus. As a result, too many souls will find themselves in Hell, unable to cross the chasm between Heaven and Hell, as they rejected the opportunity to cross it when it was a matter of mere inches.

As believers in Christ Jesus, let's have that sense of urgency for the lost, and not be content ourselves with the thought that others we know have a head knowledge of God and the Bible. That person you may likely love dearly, could be separated from you for all eternity, because you have not been prepared to challenge that small but eternally significant gap between their head knowledge and lack of a heart based faith. Please do not ignore the stirrings of the spirit by the Holy Ghost. Do not silence His witness to you for the sake of avoiding possibly offending someone. For what greater sadness is there, than to know the truth that delivers souls from Hell everlasting, but not share it with others, some of them you love dearly! Do not let that sadness plague your days, but call upon the Lord to strengthen you and give you the words to speak. Then pray He will bless them and move graciously, in calling another lost soul home to glory through repentance of sin and faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

An Outspoken Star

You will struggle to find someone who hasn't heard of Mel Gibson. A Hollywood star for decades, with a list of hit movies under his belt as both actor and director. An often outspoken promoter of Catholicism, Mel caused something of a stir after an appearance on the *Joe Rogan Experience* podcast.

Whilst appearing on the massively popular podcast, the conversation became centred on faith, and discussions began on Mel's Catholic beliefs. What followed however was not a promotion of the former Pope, Pope Francis, but actually an astutely noted exposing of the betrayal of Biblical truth by the further embracing of paganism into the grounds of the Vatican itself by the Pope.



Mel observed how back in 2019, Pope Francis invited a pagan ceremony to be held in the Vatican Gardens, marking the Synod of the Amazon. This ceremony being the worship of the Amazonian goddess Pacahmana, a goddess often depicted as a pregnant mother akin to 'Mother Nature'. This idolatrous act took place amongst the graves of Peter and various martyrs (claimed to be their graves at least), telling the whole world of the place this deeply pagan practice has within the workings of the Catholic faith.

After having held this ceremony in the Vatican Gardens, the idol was taken and placed in front of the main altar of St Peter's Basilica (the most revered place of worship in all Catholicism), before being held

aloft in a procession towards the Synod Hall. Pope Francis prayed over this idol and took part in the ceremonial procession, further displaying his open idolatrous worship to all the world. Furthermore, days later, Pope Francis accepted a bowl used in pagan worship of this idol, and placed it upon the main altar of St Peter's, declaring it worthy to be used as part of Catholic practice. These acts caused outrage, amongst many local Catholics, who stole replica Pachamana idols from nearby churches and threw them into the River Tiber. However, rather than seeing the error of his ways, Pope Francis apologised over the theft of the idols and had them replaced, continuing the idolatrous pagan practice!

As Mel Gibson recounted this idolatrous act to Joe Rogan, who listened with complete shock at what he was hearing, Mel (a committed Catholic remember) noted that the actions of the Pope was nothing short of apostasy. Mel observed how such a flagrant act of pagan worship under the guise of claiming that 'we all worship the same god, just under different names' (which is true, just not the god they think they're worshipping!), does not mean that it is a knowing dismissal of the truth of Holy Scripture, and therefore apostasy!

The Roman Catholic Church is leading millions of ecumenical Christians into this great apostasy, furthering the warning given in 1 Timothy 4:1, where we are warned that many will depart from the faith in the latter days, as they are led away by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Surely one of the most devilish of these false doctrines is this assertion that all faiths pray to the same god! This is a seducing spirit, as it seeks to appeal to mankind's desire for peace, through deception.

This increased drive for 'unity' was in further display as the conclave to determine the new Pope was getting under way in early May 2025. At Pope Francis' homily, this message of unity and the need to build on the ecumenical work done by Pope Francis, was delivered unto the gathered cardinals as they came together to elect the new pontiff. This message of unity was furthered still by the hit movie *Conclave*. A movie that celebrates an 'intersex' pontiff who gives a rousing speech on the need for brotherhood and unity across the globe. This movie was then applauded by the new Pope, Pope Leo XIII, as he admitted he watched the film before entering the real conclave, so that he knew how to behave. The new Pope has drawn inspiration from a liberal, woke, piece of Hollywood propaganda.

It was striking to witness how the death of Pope Francis caused such a stir across the globe, as mainstream media was completely taken over by coverage of the events of the Pope's last days and funeral. The pulling together of many false religions under the embrace of Mother Rome, through the work of Pope Francis, has shown its fruit in how many Protestant churches and theological seminaries lowered their flags to half mast at his death. This was done to show their mourning and respect for a man who brazenly declared himself to be the Vicar of Christ, the Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, the Prince of the Apostles, and infallible to top it all off!

This embracing of a Papacy, whose open embracing of paganism has been denounced by many Catholics, just shows how weak and corrupted the true Church of Christ has become.

Echoes of Jericho

When Liverpool FC won the Premier League title on April 27th 2025, the celebrating fans at Anfield were so loud and physical in their celebrations that they caused a series of tremors!

The University of Liverpool recorded a series of earth tremors, many of which reached 1.74 on the Richter scale.

These tremors were caused by a mere 60,000 people shouting for a matter of seconds in a stadium! Imagine the tremor that would've taken place as a result of the events laid out in Joshua chapter 6! No wonder the walls of the city came down!

The Biblical record doesn't sound so far fetched when we look at the evidence.

By Jonathan Badger

The Reformers would be spinning in their graves if they knew how far the Protestant faith has fallen, and how happily it is cedeing authority and control back to the Rome. The same Roman Church that is responsible for the death of countless millions through its brutal Inquisition, and the leading of untold billions into eternal darkness through its heretical teachings!

It is alarming that many Catholics are more alert to the wickedness being openly embraced by the Papacy than many Protestant evangelicals are! We are to live by Scripture and judge all things by the Word of God, and if we are to judge Rome by it's fruits, then anyone with any spiritual sense cannot help but see that it's fruit is truly rotten! And if the fruit is rotten then the tree is too be cut down (Matthew 7:19). One day, known unto God, this is exactly what will transpire. The rotten tree that is the Papacy will be cut down and thrown into the fire, so let's ensure that we remove ourselves from being entangled in it's rotten branches and 'come out of her' (Revelation 18:4).

But we will not end in despair and fear. Let's be alert to how this eagerness to embrace the leadership of Rome and the Pope, whichever Pope it may be, is highlighting the spiritual hunger of the world today! Cardinal Nichols of England and Wales commented on the death of Pope Francis, "There is a sense that in the voice of the Pope, there's a voice of something that is needed. For some people it's a moral compass, for some people it's a sense of being accepted, for some people it's the insistence that we must look at things from the point of view of the poorest. That's a voice that has fallen silent and our task is to find someone who can carry that forward." Well, I know someone whose all of those things and is uniquely able to carry it forward, the Lord Jesus Christ! The Pope detracts from this certain truth and the glory of Christ Jesus and so therefore is an AntiChrist, just as **all** the Reformers declared him to be!

We must be busy about our Lord's work, for the harvest is great but the workers are few! The enemies of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ are well aware of the spiritual hunger that is sweeping the globe, and we as witnesses for the true Gospel, must not let these hungry souls be swallowed up by the corruptions and heresies of Roman Catholicism! Instead, let us proclaim the glory and hope of the Gospel, and display its fruit within our own lives each day, so that we are a living witness of the Word of God. Thereby, we might lead others to Christ Jesus, and then they will know the free gift of salvation through Christ Jesus. A gift that 'Mother Rome' has no desire to share!

By Jonathan Badger

Touching Us Through Time

Deep in the Amazon rainforest lies evidence of ancient man's presence. Pictographs in the Serra Do Paituna region, stretch out across the craggy cliffs that protrude from the lofty tree canopy. Speaking like ancient messages, that the land was populated with an advanced people, much earlier than evolutionary theory would like you to know.

Using red and yellow ochre, the pictures painted directly onto the cliffs reveal a world of humanity living alongside incredible, ancient beasts. Beasts that evolutionary theory dictates died out long ago in the last Ice Age. These ancient pictures reveal humanity living amongst huge mega fauna, the kind of which baffles scientists today each time they uncover such fossiled remains. Such fossils tell us that the world we know today, used to be a very different place! A place where giant insects crawled about upon massive leaves, as huge beasts strode across the landscape. All whilst mankind looked on and lived in amazing cultures, utilising advanced technological means for daily living.

As these incredible finds were discovered in the depths of the Amazonian rainforest, archaeologists were astonished at the intensity of colour and clarity of many of the pictographs, even after many thousands of years of existence. One researcher tried to recreate the ochre paints and design a pattern on similar rocks, only to find it soon washed off after limited exposure to the elements. This meant that these ancient pictographs had used an ochre formula that contained some sort of added preservative, meaning the paintings could remain largely undiminished for thousands of years. It's speculated that these ancient artists mixed some type of tree resin with the natural colourings. This formed a substance

that became as hard as amber once dried. Clearly then, these ancient artists held an impressive knowledge and skill in creating suitable and lasting resources for the recording of history, a far cry from the knuckle dragging oafs that evolutionary theory dictates ancient man to be.

According to secular scientists and archaeologists, these amazing pictographs are dated to around 10,000 BC, dramatically shifting the evolutionary timeline of world population movements. What is further perplexing to these scientists and archaeologists, is how these people groups and their cultures, in what is now the deepest regions of the Amazon, seem to have ‘popped into existence’ from nowhere (as commented by Graham Hancock, in the Netflix series *American Apocalypse*). Anyone who takes the Book of Genesis as literal history, which of course it is, does not struggle to explain to bemused

academics such as Graham Hancock, how such remarkably advanced peoples seem to just ‘appear from nowhere’ all across the globe, all at roughly the same time. Any Bible believer can quickly highlight to you, that such discoveries in archaeology, show us that Biblical recording of the events of the Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the nations, is clearly being displayed in these findings.



Discoveries such as these, show how strikingly advanced cultures, all sharing similar myths and legends of ancient history, along with advanced engineering skills such as pyramid building and ship construction (Noah was a master ship builder after all!), all emerged across the globe at a very similar point of time. All this in complete agreement with the Book of Genesis.

The indigenous Amazonian Tiriyo people, still to this day hold an ancient legend of a world destroying flood. The legend tells of how sky spirits warned a shaman of an impending judgement of a catastrophic flood that would wipe out the wicked people of the earth. The shaman warned the people of the coming judgement and some found shelter on the summit of Mt Kantani. However most of the population ignored the warnings and paid the price in the loss of their lives in the turbulent flood waters. The waters then receded, allowing the survivors to return to the lands and repopulate the earth. This legend amongst the native peoples explains why they chose this huge cliff that rises high out of the Amazon delta, to paint their scenes. Such a site was a fitting location to commemorate the devastating event of what we know to be the world wide Flood of Noah's day.

As has been noted in previous issues, and has even been acknowledged by Bible sceptics such as Graham Hancock in his *Ancient Apocalypse* and *American Apocalypse* series, the sheer number of Flood legends that span the entire globe, from people groups that are separated by thousands of miles of oceans and mountain ranges, speaks loudly of an actual cataclysmic event that changed our world in immense proportions.

In the pictographs of Serrania de Lindosa, Colombia, there are numerous ochre coloured handprints painted onto the rock faces of the region. On seeing these ancient witnesses of the post-Flood world, Graham Hancock spoke lyrically on how these hands almost reach out through the millennia and ‘touch us today’, telling us who they were, and how the world actually was thousands of years ago. Indeed they do. These handprints that paint the stones remind us of the words Jesus spoke against the deeply sceptical Pharisees, when He said in Luke 19:40, that if He were to silence the witness of His disciples and the people as to His deity, the ‘stones themselves would cry out’ as a witness to His divine glory.

These stones covered in the ancient handprints do indeed cry out to all who hear, that those ancient people remembered well the terrible but just judgement of the Flood. This ancient witness of God's just wrath against sin, acts as a warning to all those today who terribly fulfil the heavy words of the Apostle Peter. Those words of warning when he

wrote that in the last days, the people would be as those in the days of Noah, and would deny and scoff at the truth of God's judgement upon the wicked (2 Peter 3:3-7). Let all heed the warning, and find salvation and sanctuary from the great and terrible Day of the Lord in the Ark that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The House Of David – A Review

You know those overblown movie trailer voice-overs, that speak with gravelly gravitas to really plug the movie they're hyping? Read the next paragraph with that voice and style in mind:

From the makers of *The Chosen*, comes another completely inaccurate Biblical drama series that will blow all actual Scriptural content out of the water! Watch a young, rebellious David recover from the early trauma of seeing his brave and poetic mother be killed by a ferocious lion, whilst he navigates the slurs of neighbouring families who murmur against his illegitimate birth. See how David bravely takes on Goliath and receive a near fatal blow from one of Goliath's massive spears, only to rally and down the gigantic enemy. Join us, as we embark on a journey that completely ignores the Biblical emphasis that David was a man after the Lord's own



heart, and lived as a type of Christ, pointing the way to the coming Messiah that is Jesus Christ. This, is the *House of David*.

Those words would be a suitably honest trailer for the Amazon Prime show *The House of David*. A show whose creators brought you the staggeringly inaccurate yet oddly beloved (by liberal Christians at least) series *The Chosen*. The creator of *The Chosen*, Dallas Jenkins, acknowledged publicly that the content of the *The Chosen* is '95 per cent' fictional and not Scripturally

accurate. But hey, they put a disclaimer at the start of the opening credits so it's fine (I say sarcastically).

The same disclaimer greets the viewer of *The House of David*, another creation that feels that the Holy Bible is just not exciting enough to get peoples attention today and so needs some added drama and intrigue to make it appealing. For example, do you find the character of David hard to relate to? No problem, the show depicts him as a rebellious teen who argues with the wishes of his father Jesse, even though the Bible never states this happened.

Do you find the whole story of David's life to be too masculine with not enough feminine input? No problem, the show portrays David's mother as caring, wise, musical, poetic and actually interested in the life of David in opposition to Jesse, whose seemingly is irritated by David's mere presence most of the time. Not enough? That's ok, the show depicts how David's mother bravely stood against verbal abuse poured out against her and her son David over his illegitimate birth. This mother of David is truly a modern woman, so don't worry about the fact that the Bible doesn't say one word about her or ever suggest that David was an illegitimate child. But why stop there?! Is David not scarred enough for modern viewers to really identify with him and so be interested in what happens to him? The *House of David* has you covered, as a young David watches on as his mother sacrifices herself to the jaws of a ferocious lion so that he may live. Dramatic hey?! Ignore that this features nowhere in the Biblical account, it's art after all and so creative license is permissible (again, said with sarcasm).

How about Samuel? Do you find him a bit dry and 'holier than thou' in the Biblical account? So does *The House of David*, so how about a Samuel that is depicted as looking like he's in some constant mystic trance and lives like a hermit to add some intrigue? Ok, let's roll with this and build on this underlying mystic energy

When at the goal He welcomes thee

Oh blessed Paul, elect to grace,

Arise, and wash away thy sin,

Anoint thy head and wash thy face,

Thy gracious course begin.

To start thee on thy out-running race,

Christ shows the splendour of His face;

What will that face of splendour be,

When at the goal He welcome thee?

that punctuates the show, as we watch Michal, David's future wife, be frightened by an incantation that King Agag tries to perform in the middle of a feast of triumph led by King Saul. No it's not needed at all, has no correlation to the Biblical text, and is pretty creepy to say the least, but gosh darn it, it makes for gripping modern TV! Remember, God's Word needs our help to reach people today, as His Word is apparently just too dull for modern people.

Worried that viewers may accept all the added fiction to the Biblical narrative and assume that it's all actually true? Ah don't worry about it, most Christians today won't bother checking the actual Biblical accounts so whose to know. Some pastors won't even spot the made up bits so it's all ok as it's art anyway!

Hesitant over all the extra words and content added to the mouths of the characters involved in the show over their real life counterparts, especially those who are known prophets of God, like Samuel? It's fine, it's artistic license and a useful means of padding out a TV series, and many Christians today play fast and loose with what parts of God's Word they listen to anyway. It's not like many Christians read or know Jeremiah's warning on such matters in Jeremiah 23:16!

Concerned that the show has absolutely no indication of who David was a type of, namely Jesus Christ, and so doesn't point the viewers to the glory of Jesus Christ as the King of kings? Relax, many Christians today see no link between the God of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ anyway, so no harm done.

So, should I watch *The House of David*? If you like your Biblical recreations fantastical and non-source based, with a narrative of 'God needs our help to reach people today', then absolutely. This show will further erode any real Biblical understanding you currently have and replace it with a glitzy, entertaining fantasy that does nothing to highlight all the keys points of the actual Biblical narrative of the life of King David. If you prefer your Biblical dramas and recreations to utilise the Bible as it's basis however, and show a suitable reverence for the purity of God's Word, then avoid *The House of David*!

By Jonathan Badger

Who Do You Go To?

Psalm 73:24-26

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon the earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is my strength of my heart, and my portion my for ever.

Who do you go to in times of need? Do you go to your Heavenly Father over matters? Matters of confusion, worry and uncertainty? Where do you go to for advice and reassurance? As someone who has lost both of my parents (and who were sadly not professing Christians either), I have learnt over the years through lots of heartache that the only one we can always turn to is our Heavenly Father. He never fails us!

We may not understand, we may even be confused as to why something is happening/has happened, but your Heavenly Father knows it all, and will do what is good for His children always. That should be all we need,

wherever we are in our walk of faith, whether a new believer or one with decades of experience! We should always remember He has us! Do you believe this? Do you trust Him enough to give your life to Him fully and not question Him?

Suddenly finding myself at the age of 18, barely out of childhood, without a mother, and at that point without the Lord in my heart, I was looking all around for comfort, guidance, support and love. Did I get it in my (earthly) father? Sadly not. He was an atheist, and sadly within weeks of my mother passing (and after thirty plus years of marriage), he started dating. I had no choice but to accept it and remember my mum with fondest memories (although she was very much a sinner too!). But as months went on, I found myself extremely restless in my heart. This wasn't just because I'd lost my mum and had a very stop/start relationship with my dad. I knew he loved me (he told me so), he'd give me a hug, but he was often very angry in his approach to people. He was always putting people down, belittling them, challenging them over everything (and not in a good way!).

He lived another 13 years after my mum had passed, but died having offended and deeply hurt many people needlessly, including my brother and myself. His anger and pride had driven so many people away in those closing years.

Nearly 10 years on, as a believer in Christ Jesus, I am heavy with sadness over how he lived his life. He made people around him either angry too, or miserable and upset because of how he treated them. But as 10 years of him passing approaches (it will line up exactly with Father's Day this year), I am still so sad over how he lived his life. I know my mum and dad weren't happy together. My brother and I knew they were only together still because of us, they told us so! Yet this sad situation they lived in did not excuse his behaviour. No situation or hardship in life can justify such cruel, cold and superior treatment of others.

The hurt that other people can cause to others is immense. Should it be happening? No, of course not! But if you don't have the Lord in your heart, who do you have to keep you from falling into such angry and bitter ways? Who do you truly have to go to, to receive peace, assurance and guidance from? My dad was riddled with anger. Why? I don't know. But one thing I do know, was that he was angry with God (a God he didn't believe in, which says it all). His last moments were spent crying out for my husband, the editor of this magazine. A man whom my dad had warred against constantly due to my husband's faith, a faith that deeply irritated my dad! My dad cried out for comfort and support from the one whom he had battled so determinedly against for years. Even in those closing minutes, God was witnessing to him to turn from his anger and receive His peace.

To whom my dad's heart belonged at the end, only God's knows. But as a believer in Christ Jesus, I know I can turn to Him with all my hurt and know that He can truly comfort me. It's so true that the closest people to you can hurt you the most, intentionally or not. But in Jesus, we have one closer to us than any friend, father, mother, brother etc, one that will never and can never hurt us, because He is meek and He is good.

In the hurt and confusion of such events, we must go to our Heavenly Father and ask for His comforting and guidance. Do you do this? I know I don't always. Life is so busy now with everything hardly ever stopping or turning off. But it's so important we make the time to stop, and spend time with Him through prayer and a Bible study. After all, He is our comfort, He is our guide, He is all we need!

People will sadly always let us down at some point (or many points!) as we are all sinners, every single last one of us! But He is perfect, and He will bless us with all we need to live with joyful and content hearts. May the Lord bless yours truly, in whatever struggle you are going through. May His peace be known to you, so that you may radiate it out to all that you come across, and so be a witness of His eternal love, mercy and grace. The Lord be with you. Amen.

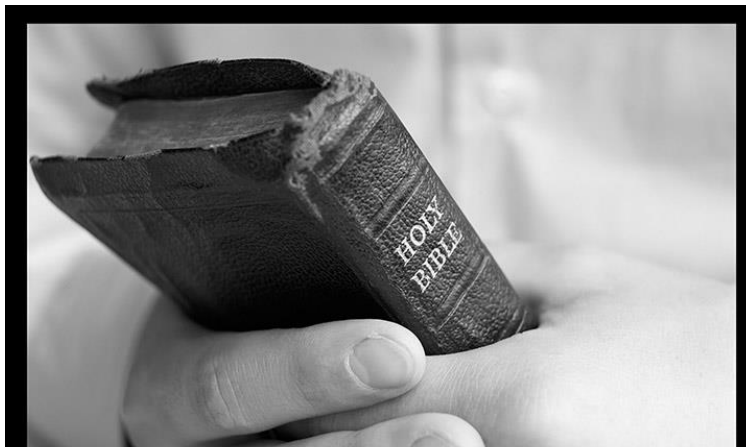
By Donna Badger

Pressing Toward The Prize

Philippians 3:14 – I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The life of a Christian can be troubled by two great pitfalls of daily living. Like ditches that run either side along a narrow path, a veering too far either way can spell enormous trouble. The first great pitfall that catches many unfocused believers off guard, is the concern over the battles, tests and trials of this mortal life. It is an easy thing to become so fixated on enduring the sufferings that come from being a believer in Christ Jesus, that we can end up forgetting the very destination that lies at the end of our journey through this life. That destination being an eternal dwelling in the Heavenly City in the very presence of the Lord God.

Yet instead of marching down the straight and narrow path of faith in Christ Jesus with a happy song of praise in our hearts, and a purposeful power and direction in our steps as guided by the Word of God, we anxiously tiptoe through life. We become too afraid of what we might have to suffer for Christ's sake and the Gospel's sake. And so, we soon find ourselves falling into the ditch of despair and disillusionment, all over our concerns that the cost of faith is too great, the burden too heavy, and the reward too distant. As a result, our faith becomes weak, ineffectual and lacking true joy of purpose.



**"I press toward the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in
Christ Jesus."**

Philippians 3:14 (KJV)

King James Bible Online .org

Conversely, there is the ditch of complacency and conformity. These ditches are ready to receive those believers who do not keep their eyes firmly fixed on the prize of the high calling of God. This ditch lies in wait to catch those who live with an admiring eye to the comforts and accolades of the world. Such believers, though they may attempt to hide it by pious acts, hold a deep covetousness for the affections of the world, seeking after the comforts of life and/or the praise of men. These believers do not understand the true nature of the high calling of those who claim Christ Jesus as their own, and so live with a poor esteeming of the prize of God, as given through faith in Christ Jesus.

So how is a believer to remain on the straight and narrow path of faith in Christ Jesus? How do we not find ourselves tumbling into either

one of these two ditches that await the unfocused believer? As always, it is by a true and right dividing the word of truth that is the Holy Bible (2 Timothy 2:15). By meditating on such glorious passages as Philippians 3:14, we are brought into a heavenly assessment of how we are to view the gift of faith in Christ Jesus. It is the 'prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' For those who are living in fear of the world and potential suffering for the sake of Christ and the Gospel, these words encourage us. They encourage us to reflect on the simple fact that lowly sinners such as we, have been called by the Lord God Almighty, to know Him personally through His only begotten Son!

When we dwell upon this astonishing truth and do not rush through our thoughts, it dawns on us how incredible the Gospel is truly! For what other faith, offers such all encompassing redemption freely to those who once who lived in rebellion against the thrice holy God, all through simply repenting of our sins and

placing our faith in Christ Jesus as our Saviour! Only true, Biblical Christianity offers such an eternal deliverance to those unable to deliver themselves from just judgment!

Yet there is more! For we are not merely 'called' by God to know Him through His Son Jesus Christ, but we are to receive His 'high calling'! Consider what this means. It means that yes, our debt of sin has been paid for us in the atoning sacrifice of Christ Jesus at Calvary, but that was not the end of God's wondrous grace. He did not just remove our filthy rags of sin in which we spiritually dwelt, and wash us clean of our sins in the precious and pure blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. He then moved to provide us with gleaming white robes of righteousness, given to us through the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ, so that we may enter the courts and Heaven and serve Him as priests of God! This is an eternal privilege not even afforded the mighty angels! This is the nature of the 'high calling' every child of God has received. We have been called to come before the eternal living God and dwell with Him, not as put upon slaves, but as His adopted children! How majestic is the grace of God!

When this 'high calling' is studied and rightly understood, we begin to see how it is the 'prize' of God for those who have received Him, through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. This prize is of the most stunning eternal glory that any being could dare dream of! For we will gaze upon the throne of God without fear of condemnation in weak and broken bodies, but we shall look upon Him with a glorified body as unto the risen Lord Jesus! We will know Him as He knows us, with bodies that will never age, never grow tired, never know pain, never know sadness ever again! How glorious is this prize that awaits the faithful!

By meditating on Holy Scripture, by earnestly studying it's words, we are kept on the straight and narrow path of faith in Jesus Christ. This proper esteeming of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, is what lifts the eyes of the spirit upwards to His goodness and grace. In this sight of God's glorious grace, those who live in fear of the world and what sufferings may be endured for His names sake are made bold for Christ! For what sufferings can any created being deploy that can outweigh the blessings and rewards that await the faithful?!

A proper esteeming of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, is what focuses the eye of faith in those who glance admiringly at the empty and vain treasures of the world. For when we view the temporary pleasures and comforts of this world with the eyes of Heaven, what can even begin to rival the glories that await those who are willing to shun the fleeting comforts of worldly acceptance?! There simply isn't any. There is no prize in existence greater than that of heeding the high calling of God in Jesus Christ, so why trade it for anything less?

It is a great grace of God that He has blessed us with His Pure Word, so that by rightly dividing it's truth, we are provided with a road map of faith. A map that keeps we easily distracted believers from drifting into the ditches of worldly fear, or worldly comfort. This is the goodness and provision of God that will lead us all the way home to glory everlasting. This way, is the way, the truth, and the life, that is Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Thine Be The Glory - A History

Thine Be The Glory is a much beloved hymn (one of my personal favourites), as its simple yet powerful verse sings of the glory of the risen Lord Jesus. Its triumphant melody never fails to pull bold declarations of song from even the most timid of voices. The driving tune acts as a banner of song, marching boldly forward with

striking simplicity yet stirring vivacity, that beckons us to follow its notes of praise with tongues of worship before the glorious throne of God.

Written by the Swiss Protestant minister Edmund Budry in 1884, the original verse was penned in French under the title *A Toi la Gloire*. Though the hymn quickly became a favourite on the continent, it wasn't until 1924 that the original French version was translated by Richard Hoyle. This then enabled the popular hymn to be enjoyed both in the British Isles, and further afield throughout the English speaking world.

The hymn's wonderfully passionate and stirring tune 'See, the conquering hero comes', is taken from Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*. Many will be aware of Handel's faith in Christ Jesus, as he used his God given musical genius to compose stunning works that sought to draw apt and worthy praise of God. Handel's soaring and complex melodies are a wonderful expression of the beauty and intricacy of God's Creation and indeed His personal love for the world and how this was displayed through the sending of His Son Jesus Christ for sinners such as we.

The hymn's theme draw inspiration from 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul speaks of the triumphant Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb. This victory over death by Christ Jesus, is a consistent source of celebration throughout the hymn, as it's easily understood but profound verse draws the heart and voice of the singer to suitable and purposeful praise of the Lord God.



Thine be the glory,
Risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won!

Rightly a popular choice for Easter services considering its theme, it also finds its place in funerals, as its song of triumph over death through Christ Jesus, brings a welcome sense of purpose and hope to those who are laid low with grief over a departed loved one. This is the power of God glorifying song, it's content is apt for all manner of people in all manner of moments, whether this be a moment of triumph, reflection or indeed loss. For in Christ Jesus we have a man for all seasons,

one who is able to sing with us in triumph and joy, but one who is able to weep with us in times of sorrow. So no matter what situation you may find yourself in this day, return to Him in joyful song, trusting that 'Thine be the glory, Risen, conquering Son, Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won!' Such simple but God glorifying words will stir up the faith in you once more, and remind you that the victory is ours, through Christ Jesus, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

What Type Of Man Are You?

There is a widespread crisis affecting a huge swathe of the western population. What is this crisis? What does it mean to be a man in today's world? Thanks to the anti-Biblical movement of Feminism, combining terrifyingly effectively with woke ideology, to undermine all that has been long established and understood to define masculinity, western men are stuck in a state of existential paralysis.

Guides to masculinity (mostly through sites such as YouTube and TikTok) are popping up to assist young men determine their character and therefore place in the modern world. Where once the Church guided young men as to how a man should live and behave through clear Scriptural examples of Godly masculinity, now psychology has taken over to lead modern men into a maze of 'personality types'. The idea is that men can be bracketed into one of seven different personality types, all helpfully labelled after seven letters of the Greek alphabet. These being Alpha types; Beta types; Gamma types; Delta types; Zeta types; Sigma types and Omega types. The personality traits broadly correspond to each bracket as follows:

Alpha males = brave, confident, natural leaders, decisive, social and highly successful

Beta males = selfless, caring, attentive, loving, gentle, devoted, affinity with children, emotionally intelligent

Gamma males = adventurous, energetic, zest for life, creative

Delta males = diligent and hard working, reliable, loyal, seeking of bettering themselves instead of material gain

Zeta males = independent non-conformists, creative, self aware

Sigma males = bold, wise, nurturing, trustworthy, experienced

Omega = quiet but self assured, strategic, imaginative, independent, self motivated

Now, in considering all this, we inherently come to a forced but flawed conclusion, which 'type' are you/is the man in your life? Such an arbitrary listing and bracketing of personality traits forces men to be dispatched clumsily into a category that is most likely not truly reflective of the whole of the individual. In the modern world's panicked drive to lead modern man into a better state of 'mental health', psychology is actually continuing to narrow and chasten the existence of many men unwittingly.

As a man, I look at this list of traits as listed in the differing 'types' and if I am honest with myself as to who I am (Zeta type trait apparently), I am a mungrel mix of elements of Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Zeta, Sigma and Omega types. In all reality, in using worldly wisdom, I am left none the wiser as to what 'type' of man I am! Which 'type' of man should I lean into more? Should I assert my apparent leadership qualities (Alpha), or focus more on being relatable, gentle and friendly (Beta)? Oh no, I'm being indecisive! Blast, there goes my Alpha bracketing! But I have gained self-awareness and a modicum of wit (Sigma type for me then? More indecisiveness. Blast!).



Though I jest, there is a serious point therein. That being that the world's wisdom can't offer anyone anything to truly rely upon. If the world's wisdom can't help me understand who I am as a person, then who can? What way forward is there for me as a man to navigate this confusing modern life and lead a good life filled with good life decisions? Well, there is one way. It's by looking again at these '7 personality types' and seeing that someone else we know doesn't solely belong into one lazy, flawed personality bracketing.

Consider the Lord Jesus. He who lived leading others with wisdom and decisiveness, speaking boldly and confidently of the will and Word of God, and succeeding where all others failed in fulfilling the Law of God perfectly, thereby conquering death at His resurrection, for death had no hold on Him. These are all Alpha male traits.

Now consider how Jesus' selfless sacrifice at Calvary in obedience to the will of the Father, displayed the meekness and gentleness of God, along with His devotion to the will of the Father. Think on how the children raced to sit at His knee and He quickly corrected the disciples who sought to keep the little ones back from His loving presence. Reflect on how Jesus consistently showed a great awareness to the inner most thoughts and emotions of others, and moved to aid those around Him. All of these are 'Beta male' traits.

Next meditate on how Christ's energetic ministry as He walked amongst us in the flesh of man. He traversed ancient Israel many times over, earnestly seeking to bring hope and life eternal to a great multitude of souls. Dwell on how His passion for life meant that He was willing to lay down His own for we sinners, so that we might have a life released from the heavy chains of sin. Thereby enabling us to live life joyfully, in abundance of praise of the love of God as shown through the giving of His Son.

Do you see where I'm going with this? Think on the Lord Jesus. Think on how He can fit very neatly into all the '7 personality types', and not a single one can confine His majesty, His glory, His wonder. Isn't it neat and fitting that the Biblical number of perfection that is 7, is seen in even this modern construction of man, declaring that even blind mankind cannot help but bear witness that the perfection of existence, the perfection of man is found in Jesus Christ!

So how does all this help the confused and scared modern man? Well, if you are made in His image, then why are you looking so narrowly at yourself? Why label yourself by something so constrained and limiting that is your own estimation of yourself? Why settle for a life dictated to you by the blind ramblings of a godless psychologist, who sits there proudly bleating what and who you are? Did they make you? Did they knit you together in your mother's womb? Did they create you fearfully and wonderfully? Of course not. So why constrain yourself to their vain musings?

Instead, find yourself in Christ Jesus, and live as the Apostle Paul, who declared with singular freedom of spirit, 'for to me to live is Christ' (Philippians 1:21). See how by bending the knee before Him in humble thanksgiving and praise, that it was He who made you fearfully and wonderfully, knitting you together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139). See how that you have been made in His image, and as such and through His strength and provision (I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me - Philippians 4:13), any man can be a bold and confident leader in speaking of the glory and power of the Gospel to save sinners. Any man can be gentle and loving to the broken hearted and needy. Any man can wield the wisdom of God through His blessed Pure Word. Any man can raise Godly children with a gentle and nurturing heart. Through faith in Christ Jesus, any man can be a man for all men, that some might be saved thereby (1 Corinthians 9:22) through our humble witness.

By Jonathan Badger

God Has Many Names

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord will provide

Jehovah Ropheka – The Lord that healeth thee

Jehovah Nissi – The Lord my banner

Jehovah Mekaddishkem – The Lord sanctify you

Jehovah Shalom – The Lord sends peace

Jehovah Zebaoth – The Lord of hosts

Jehovah Tsiskenu – The Lord our righteousness

Jehovah Elyon – The Lord Most High

Jehovah Rohi – The Lord my shepherd

Jehovah Shammah – The Lord is there

God is an eternal being whose name is everlasting to everlasting. He has no beginning and no end, hence the title **I AM**. No being can say that of himself but the Eternal One. He it is who loves you.

By Dr David Badger

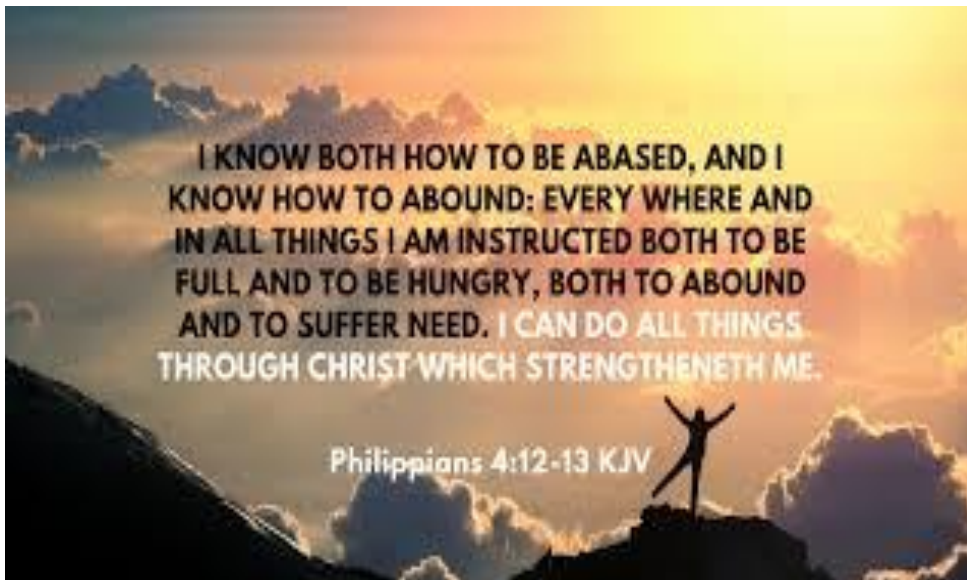
Contentment – A Steadying Virtue

To be content. An elusive jewel held tightly by few in these modern days of greed and lust. Many claim to be content but when comfortable living is removed from them, suddenly contentedness evades their grasp, let alone their heart. True contentedness is a peaceful and thankful acceptance of what has come to your days no matter the circumstance. When we consider contentedness under its true meaning, few would dare claim to be a possessor of its glories.

Contentedness is alien to the mind of mankind. It is not something gifted to a life, it is learned. Adam and Eve walked in perfection of state and environment, and yet it was not enough. All the wonders of a perfect existence were theirs, and yet contentedness did not settle in their hearts. They were led away from contentedness in the provisions of God, even when they were utterly surrounded by His gracious provision. Instead, they listened to the lies of Satan, and the powerful armour against temptation that is contentedness was released by their actions, as they ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

It could be even ventured, that a dismissive view of the immensity of goodness that is held within a content heart, was seen even prior to this early day of history. Lucifer was cast out of Heaven for his pride and desire to be as God. His lustful and proud nature was furthered in its evil, by a heart that was not content with the office, though great it was, he had been given by the hand of God. He wanted more.

Thus, by the lies of Satan and the actions of Adam, sin entered the world. Perfection of Creation was lost, all because mankind was not content with the love and provision of God. This discontentment declares a heart that stands against God and says that He has kept back goodness from His Creation. It reveals a heart that stands against the perfection of God, elevating itself as a superior judge of what is good and needed for our



own existence. Discontentment shakes an angry fist against God and tells Him that you do not agree nor trust His determining and judgment. It is to place yourself as a rival to God. Such an act reflects our father of sin that is Satan, and so determines that each of us is a traitor to a thrice holy and eternal God.

Yet how the immensity of God's grace and indeed His eternal wisdom was revealed to all lost Creation, through a plan that

cries out as a window into His very heart! For through this great treachery of mankind, He moved to provide us a treasure that was unknown to even Adam. Through the hardships and sufferings of life, brought upon us by our own sinful nature, God teaches the receptive heart of a virtue that is treasured so tenderly by the very Godhead. That treasure being contentment.

It is through the ever changing and varying circumstances of life, that God ministers to a heart ready and humble to accept instruction from His gracious hand. As we walk through these short years that is a lifetime, we experience days of plenty and days of hardship. We experience days of adulation, and days of attack. We experience days of success, and days of failure. Those who live in joy and lightness of being only in the days of ease and comfort, then how thin and weak is their character? If we crumble and become bitter and full of

grumbling and moaning during testing times, then doesn't that say that we are weak as a person? As the comedian Jimmy Carr once noted, 'a good character comes through adversity.' If a blind and godless man can see such a truth, then surely we are all without excuse for how we often live in such discontentment!

As the Apostle Paul speaks in Philippians 4:11-12, a person can know contentment in times of ease and times of suffering. How can such a thing happen? If Adam and Eve in their perfect state could not find contentment enough to shield them from falling into sin, then how can we dare hope for such a thing?! Through faith my friend. By faith, we are to trust that the varying times of plenty and persecution; ease and suffering; joy and mourning are given to us by God, so that we appeal to Him for guidance, instruction and hope.

In times of hardship and loss, a person can know true contentment, if they see with the eyes of the Spirit of God. If they see that such heavy times were given to us so that we are brought ever closer to God, then our hearts can be content. A bold claim no doubt! But consider this. If through such hard times, God uses such means to draw us closer to Him, doesn't that prove the amazing nature of His love towards sinners such as we?!

Remember, we are traitors against Him, as we have lived in defiance of His perfect wisdom and judgment throughout our life. If God were like us, we would leave such an ungrateful and rebellious person to suffer the misery of their wicked and traitorous actions. 'Serves them right' would be the motto of our manner. Yet God does not move in such an evil manner. In the enormity of His everlasting love, He comes after we traitorous sinners with an eternal and free gift. A gift of life eternal and freedom from the heavy burdens of our sins! He comes to our aid when all we have done is defy Him. Who does such a thing?! Friend, never, ever doubt the power and depth of God's love. You could never quantify it. You could never fathom its immensities and its intricacies. You do not need to. All you need to is trust it and have faith that He is indeed all that He proclaims Himself to be, the definer of all that love is.

Here He proves His love towards sinners once more, for He knows in His glorious wisdom that our fallen minds cannot comprehend such immensities of wonder. So He came in the flesh of a man through His only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, so that we might know all the wonders of the love of God, in Him! We may struggle to understand and know a virtue or an ideal, but we can easily know and understand a person! And so He came in the flesh of a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we might know God personally!

So, hard and troubling times remind us of this immense and freeing truth, so that we are lifted up above the temporary struggles of this life. We are lifted high into the halls of Heaven, so that we can stand in the royal court of God and be welcomed. We are welcomed through faith in the risen Son of God, as a beloved child of God! Here then is the reason we can be content even in painful times, because we can **know** through these hard experiences of life, that God loved us enough to come after us, take us by the hand, and lead us without fail, to glory everlasting! We **know** that these momentary days of suffering will end, but His love will not. That love will carry us all the way home to paradise forever!

All these glories does not mean that we are to remember the love of God, and find true contentment in times of loss and suffering only. No! We are to live in contentment in times of blessing and ease also! It is an easy thing to chase after more when all is well. Just consider Adam's Fall once more! So it is that Devil will often tempt us with an easy and comfortable life so that we slip away from looking unto heavenly glories, and instead chase after temporary earthly pleasures. This is the way to stumbling however; this is the way to sin, and so it is to be avoided at all costs!

The Shema

As Moses leads Israel to the Promised Land, he is given the Shema in Deuteronomy 6v4. Note that God is One. Yet we learn and indeed have known since Genesis chapter 1 that He is a Trinity. He is one but three.

Going back to the Shema, we are told how to love God in verse 5, that is how Jesus tells us to love our Creator. Ours is to be a living faith (verse 6) that comes from within, one we teach our children (verse 7). The Jewish faith was to be a living faith, not one of ritual. The Pharisees had one of ritual, and Jesus shows it's deadness.

By Dr David Badger

A great guard against such a stumbling of faith is contentment. When we are content in times of ease and comfort, our hearts are lifted up to bless the goodness and grace of God. It reminds us that our ease and rest is not by our efforts or skill, but they are by the grace and provision of God. We stay and lay down in the green pastures of God's care and love. By such actions we worship God, as we find rest in His provision and we do not challenge His judgment by demanding more. For how can anyone demand more of God! We are traitorous sinners remember. What traitor when spared death dares ask for more than this gift?! Such is the ungrateful and sinful manner of humanity; such is the forgetful nature of even the repentant sinner! How often after years of service to God, do we begin to challenge God and say that we should have something different, or even more in our lives? Let us hang our heads in shame at such deeds! Is not the grace of Christ Jesus sufficient for us all?! We have been freed from our sins; we have been snatched from Hell and lifted up to Heaven for all eternity, to dwell in the very presence of the Lord God Almighty...and yet we require more. Doesn't such a nature truly show the heart of mankind against the heart of God! One is selfish and easily discontented. The other is selfless and content, full of peace and resting in eternal love.

How can such a gulf be closed?! How can we ever know true contentment?! Through Christ Jesus, which strengthens us to do all things (Philippians 4:13). If by the strength of Christ, we can truly know and live in contentment no matter our circumstances, then we can do all manner of things! Such was the dream of Alexander the Great, a man who conquered so much of the world, but could not conquer his own desires, greed and discontentment. Such a 'great' and celebrated warrior went to the grave broken and lost. Yet to the humble and unknown repentant sinner, they can go to the grave content, for they know that their eyes will be closed for the shortest of seasons. They know that these quickly passing days of suffering are nothing in comparison to the eternal glories that await them in Christ Jesus!

Outside of the Paul's words on the importance of contentment in a Christian's walk with God, there is a powerful living testimony of the merits of contentment in 1 Samuel 17. Here we read of the familiar account of the battle between a youthful David and the fearsome giant Goliath. The manner of David's behaviour and actions fits the words of the Apostle Paul with staggering precision, mirroring the astonishing accuracy of that single smooth stone that was hurled at the head of Goliath.

David suffers huge amounts of derision in the build up to his clash with Goliath. This comes of course from the likely source of Goliath, his adversary, but also somewhat more surprisingly from his own brother Eliab. The harsh and inaccurate words of Eliab are heightened further by the joining in of the derision of David by Eliab's comrades in arms, who come together to belittle David.

Yet David is not deterred by this put down from even such close quarters as his own blood, as his words and indeed his actions are based in the contentment of God he knows so poignantly in his own life. This contentment did not rest in his fighting skills or expertise, though they were considerable given that he had killed both a lion and a bear by himself. No, his peace and courage in face of great danger was based on contentment of heart, that he knew through these previously hard events just mentioned, that God was with him. As a result of this personal experience of the provision of God, David was content to march into battle

without the clunky and cumbersome armour of Saul, but instead rely upon the tools he was familiar with, a humble sling and staff. David was content to go into great adversity, suffer mockery and derision, with a contented heart because he trusted in the provision and judgement of God. He knew that he was righteous before God through faith, and so God would be with him in battle against a man whose provocations were directly against the might of the living God of Israel! David lives the words of Philippians 4:13!

Here then, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, we read of two of the great heroes of the faith in David and Paul, both declaring the immeasurably powerful virtue of contentedness to all who would listen. Both of these men, either side of the earthly walk of Christ Jesus in terms of timeline, point to the source of this contentedness to be none other than Jesus Christ! Consider how Christ knew contentedness in times of suffering and mockery, and in triumph and glory, better than both the warrior poet and king that was David, and the man many call the greatest Christian ever, that was the Apostle Paul.



In Christ Jesus, we see how in just one week of His earthly ministry, He knew both the adulation of men and the abasing of men! On Palm Sunday He was heralded a king. Just days later, those same crowds cried out for Him to be crucified. Yet at both points, the contentedness of Christ Jesus was supreme. How so? He looked beyond the temporal highs and lows of fleshly life, and looked to the glories of Heaven, the glories He had known from eternity past, the same glories He knew He would return to for all eternity future! His contentedness was in the known love of the Godhead, a love that He had come in the flesh of man to reveal and offer a return to for all believing mankind. He was content in the will of the Father and that it was good, and that He was uniquely able to fulfil this perfect will. This contentedness meant that He could do all things, even conquer the last enemy that is death.

Let us never neglect or deride contentedness. It is a wondrous virtue of Heaven that is alien to fallen man, but learnt by a humble heart ready to receive of the bountiful grace of God. Contentedness steels us against the temptations of Satan. It keeps a proud spirit humble, and strengthens a weakened heart to be strong in the provision of God. So friend, if you do not know this awesome truth, then be as David. Bend down and pick up that humble smooth stone from the brook and trust that it can do all that is needed to bring freedom and triumph over even the most terrifying giant. For that stone is the Lord Jesus, one who provides living waters so that all who come to Him are refreshed and ready for battle each day. That smooth stone that is Christ Jesus, when deployed with a trusting arm, He is all you will ever need to overcome the world. There is no giant that cannot be overcome by Him. So call upon Him this day to be your Saviour, turn away and repent of your sins and believe on Him. He will show you wonders in your own days that will give your heart true contentment, because you will know for yourself, that He is all you'll ever need. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Man That Time Forgot – Part 1

Dedicated to Mr Schofield, my old 4th year teacher in Junior School whose travels to Egypt and amateur archaeology fired my mind in matters of lost civilisations and ancient cultures. The brief exciting facts in this article are taken from the manuscripts, letters, log-books and records of Lt-Col. P.H. Fawcett D.S.O.F.R.G.S.

The class sat quietly as Mr Schofield, towards the close of a long school day in the winter of 1964 on the Lincolnshire East Coast, lay aside his chalk. Sitting behind his big desk he clasped his hands and prepared to begin another thrilling story. This story was to be the true account of Col Fawcett's expeditions to South America and the facts surrounding his final disappearance in those dark jungles.

Today most are familiar with the film Jurassic Park and the six subsequent films released since. Again many will be aware that the original work entitled, 'The Lost World', first appeared in book form written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Far fewer will be aware of the fact that it was Conan Doyle's meeting with Colonel Percy Fawcett, who had recently arrived back from South America, that fired Conan Doyle to write 'The Lost World'.

Fawcett, like many great men are often misunderstood, was called 'Fawcett the Dreamer'. The truth is that this army Colonel was no fool, nor eccentric mystic, he believed he had stumbled upon some incredible evidences of ancient civilisations but sadly he was ignored. While interest was aroused over his expeditions he received little financial backing. However, as a Founder's Medallist of the Royal Geographical Society he was given a respected hearing by some. Sadly, the archaeologists and museum experts would not credit a fraction of what he knew to be true.

Taking a look at the man for a moment we see that he was not only a high-ranking soldier but an engineer, his pen drawings had been accepted by the Royal Academy, he played cricket for his County and built single-handed two successful racing yachts. He patented the 'Ichthoid Curve' - which added knots to a cutters speed. He was a great explorer, an archaeologist and ethnologist and his work as a geographer received scientific recognition.

Colonel Fawcett vanished into the Matto Grosso of South America in 1925 after having spent some ten years in those jungles on previous expeditions. No-one has ever discovered what befell that last party of jungle adventurers though many different accounts, some credible, some fantastic have come forth.

Our reader may be familiar with another old film entitled, 'The Land That Time Forgot', so it seems fitting as so few know anything today of what Percy Fawcett discovered to call this work, 'The Man That Time Forgot'. The work herein represents only a tiny fraction of the whole story and it merely seeks to look at some of the things that Colonel Fawcett records, in the light of Creationist arguments for a lost Pre-Flood world.

William Carey – Mini Biography

Born in August 1871, William came to Christ through the witness of a fellow apprentice shoe maker. Whilst he mended shoes, William taught himself Hebrew, Italian, Dutch and French. He also began to preach and then became a pastor.

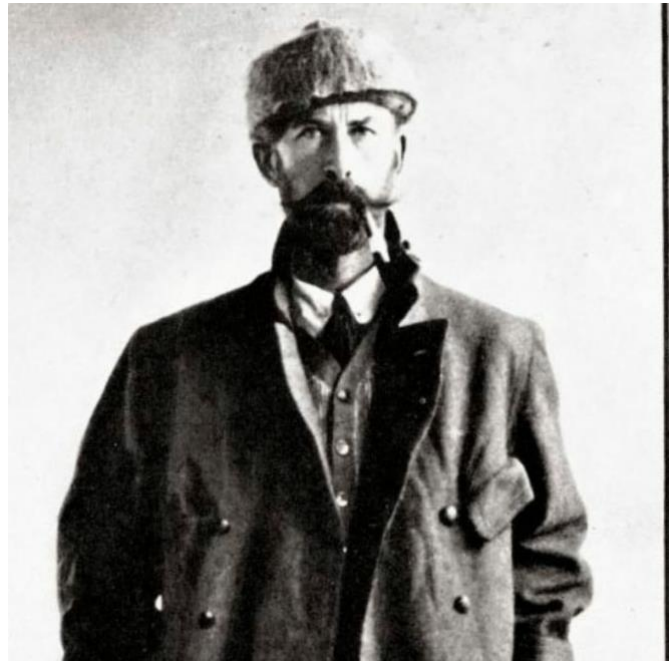
William felt a burden for people who'd never heard the Gospel, and so in 1793, William and his family went to India as missionaries.

William's life was hard but amazingly productive for Christ. He laboured to translate the Bible into 35 different languages and dialects across India. He was also a leading voice against infant sacrifices and the burning of widows, both Indian customs of the time.

He also established the Serampore College, a place where missionaries and preachers could be trained to spread the Gospel. It also offered education to those in the lowest of society, freeing them from the cruel constraints of the caste class system.

Colonel Fawcett records that there existed certainly at the time of his expeditions, in the early 20th Century, a remnant of an old civilisation, its people now degenerate but still preserving records of a forgotten past in mummies, parchments and engraved metal plates, plus remarkable pottery bearing strange inscriptions. Mention is made of an eminent Brazilian man of letters, who writes that his studies had convinced him that, 'The Autochthons of South America lived in the remotest ages in a state of civilisation vastly different from the present'.

There are stories of many lost cities completely buried in the jungle and Colonel Fawcett had certainly seen evidence of this. In one instance all that remained visible was a statue on a great black pedestal in the centre of a square. It should further be added that Colonel Fawcett was not without tangible evidence. Twenty-four packing cases full of pottery, stone and golden figures, weapons and other relics from finds made there by an eminent German archaeologist were offered on his behalf by Percy Fawcett to the British Museum, they were not interested.



One particular tribe mentioned preserved the Legend of the Aldeia de Fogo - The Fire City. Its dwellings were said to be roofed with gold. In regards to this ancient story Colonel Fawcett passes on a good guiding principle when dealing with ancient people's accounts in South American jungles. The account referring to this place clearly seemed to come from the distant past as he searched for the city's remains and did not find them. However, he did learn an important lesson from this story. He argued, why should it be supposed that the ancient cities, if they existed at all, had to be in the region where the traditions about them were told? He had discovered on more than one occasion that the Indian had no conception of distance and often gave the impression that something which was in fact remote, lay close by. The Indian child on hearing stories of a wonderful city 'over yonder' would grow up thinking that this existence was just beyond the limits of the tribes movement or boundary. The truth was the tale could well have been passed from generation to generation from the long distant past of that people. Colonel Fawcett strongly pointed out that to hear the stories of an ancient city in the near area but not to find it, could not be taken as evidence that the story had no basis in fact. He tells us, 'Time means nothing to them. They can trace their ancestry back thousands of years and occurrences dating from antiquity are related as recent happenings'.

With that in mind then let us move on and consider further cultural stories from that area of the world relating to the Indians' past. Various Mexican traditions inform us that long ago there came from the East a Toltec (i.e. wise and artistic) people, who were responsible for the erecting of the cyclopean buildings that existed before the Aztecs. Now, the term Toltec seems to cover a number of related peoples including the Olmecs and Xicalancas, these were groups that claimed great antiquity and they also claimed to be destroyers of the last giants. Interestingly, giants are a part of Peruvian history.

Tribes in Colombia and Ecuador tell of Bochia, a man who lived for 2000 years supposedly and founded their civilisations. This reminds us of some of the large age-spans in Genesis, though these Indian claims seem exaggerated. A part of these peoples lived on a island to the South, extending from what would be Guatemala in Percy Fawcett's day, Westward beyond the Galapagos and Southward to 20 degrees below the equator. East-central Brazil is said to have formed a fourth island from about 9 degrees to 25 degrees south latitude, extending from Paraguay River to some 5 degrees beyond the present Atlantic coastline.

The peoples who Colonel Fawcett generally terms Toltecs had colonised the island from another island whose savage aborigine type people were in a very advanced state of degeneracy. The 'Toltec' people were evidently a light copper colour, blue-eyed, probably having auburn hair and being of delicate features. Colonel Fawcett points out that even in his day the glint of henna could be noticed in the black hair of some of the tribes in spite of the intermingling of races. He tells of having personally seen such Indians' with blue-eyes and pure auburn hair, yet they had no contact with any fair-haired modern peoples, or even with the dark-haired Spanish and Portuguese. To a lot of the degenerate Indians' at the time of his expeditions, the Toltecs were



considered to have been superior beings, who constructed huge cities and temples to the sun. They were also said to use metal implements, papyrus for writing and to be highly civilised in all manner of arts.

In Mexico and the Southern island where the Pacific coast now is, it is said these people were learned in the use of the ideographic and hieroglyphic writing. In parts of South America there is evidence to suggest from various inscriptions either communication with the Middle East or definite links to an older civilisation, a phonetic alphabet had replaced the glyphs.

It is clear that Brazilian civilisation goes back a long way and their descent downwards has happened in relatively recent times (thousands of years). Their decline may be due to sudden isolation of a people, the vast distances, impenetrable swamps infested by nightmare reptiles and other degenerate tribes all around. Chinese traditions certainly argue the possibility of the Pacific coast communicating with Asia, and relations with the Orient.

As regards South America many traditions tell of a great cataclysm, the story of a Great Flood exists in cultures all around the world. Stories from this part of the world tell us that the face of the Pacific Ocean was radically changed, also the face of South America. From this earth changing disaster obviously different peoples split apart and lost contact with each other. South American history tells us that the Incas for example built upon the ruins of ancient civilisations. It is also of interest to note that the later history of the Toltecs tells of their extremely savage character. This does not seem to bear with the original form. I would suggest that it doesn't take many generations for a people's character to entirely change and when that people are isolated from other civilised cultures the decline can be rapid.

With a huge cataclysm it must have taken at least some centuries to rise again, any former trade, relations, adoption of other cultures advances etc. would have ceased. Some group's natural talent would have recovered quicker than others but all kinds of advances in trades, arts, building, navigation, engineering etc. would have been wiped out. It is again interesting that the Popul Vuh says, 'The black and white men lived happily, and soft and delightful was the language of these people. They were strong and intelligent. But there are in places under the moon men whose faces are not seen. They have no houses. They wander as unintelligent as the mountains, insulting the people of neighbouring nations'.

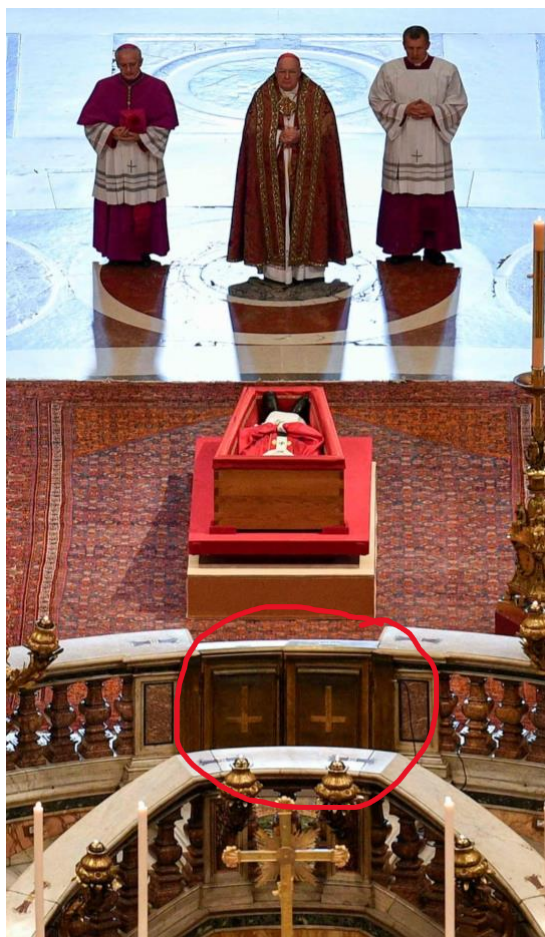
One thing we know from countless masses of evidence that can be gathered from all around the globe is that the face of the earth today is different to what it once was. Awesome changes have taken place and even the most advanced cultures are today hundreds of years behind where they could have been but for the wickedness of man and the resulting Deluge. The after effects of such a planet changing cataclysm would have lasted at least centuries. Take the Atlantic Ocean for example, tradition tells us it was unnavigable owing to terrifying storms and that on the European side.

Next time, we will start our adventures with Colonel Fawcett in Tiahuanaco, a pre-Columbian civilisation in western Bolivia.

By Dr David Badger

A Mysterious Darkness In The Vatican

At the recent funeral of Pope Francis, TV cameras positioned high up in St Peter's Basilica caught sight of something normally hidden from view. If you look at the picture below, just below the head of the coffin, what



do you see? An inverted cross, just like the ones emblazoned on walls in the ever expanding Satanic churches across the globe.

Some will at this point say that it's the cross of Peter, otherwise known as the Petrine Cross. Tradition says Peter was crucified upside down, as he counted himself not worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Therefore, the argument goes that the symbol is not Satanic (even though it features regularly in Satanic practices which cannot be simply overlooked), but actually Christian.

Firstly, the Vatican website has some information covering the artefacts of St Peter's Basilica. It states, 'Saint Peter was crucified with his head facing downwards, according to a tradition passed down by Origen, Eusebius of Caesarea, and Saint Jerome, but already attested in the apocryphal Acts of Peter, dating to around the end of the 2nd century.'

It must be thoughtfully considered that this tradition of Peter's death is based upon the thoughts of three men, some of whose work would become the foundation of the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings, namely Origen, Eusebius and Jerome.

Secondly, by referencing the Apocryphal writings, Rome is again relying upon non-Scriptural musings to support the claims that

the Petrine Cross is perfectly 'Christian' in its symbolism. Roman Catholicism is **not** Biblical Christianity, no matter how many times the world lazily lumps the two together. Therefore, it's claims that the cross of St Peter, or the Petrine Cross is perfectly safe for Christians to wear or display is based solely upon the inventions of men, not Biblical teaching/history.

The deep and mysterious symbolism rooted in Roman Catholicism does not end with this one symbol. Far from it! Sometimes overlayed on a picture of the Petrine Cross are the 'Keys of Heaven' or the 'Keys of St Peter'. These crossed keys, one gold and one silver, are meant to signify the divine power of God and the earthly power of the Pope. The keys face upwards towards heaven, with the handles facing downwards to show the authority given to the Pope by God. Firstly, that's incredible levels of blasphemy, as God has not given earthly power to rule to the Pope! Secondly, Scripture tells us who the Prince of this world is (John 16:11), so I'm bemused why the Pope would want to equate himself with that being! Unless he actually serves that being of course.

The same symbol in New Age/Occultic teachings however, has a meaning that goes back many centuries prior to the Papacy's adopting of the symbol in the Middle Ages. In esoteric symbolism for example, the symbol represents hidden wisdom that resides in the human consciousness and when unlocked can release the 'Christ

spirit' in each of us. When this 'Christ spirit' is mastered, 'God consciousness' can be attained through the mastery of thoughts, emotions and magical energies governed by the Laws of the Universe. In other words, the symbol often displayed across the Petrine Cross, as seen in much of the Papacy, has an ancient symbolism that teaches that there is secret wisdom to be gained. This secret wisdom (what the Gnostics claimed in the early days of the Church) can supposedly unlock the mysteries of the universe and therefore make us like Gods. This is the same fundamental teaching of the Occult! Could it be that in such symbols displayed proudly across the Vatican, we have a warning of a mystery religion that goes back all the way to the Fall?! If so no wonder the Apostle John was amazed at the sight of the woman who rides the beast in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 17:6), because of its immensity of wickedness that covers and permeates human history!



Take the significance of the pinecone for example. Why does it feature so prominently in Papal imagery? Look at the picture to the left. Pinecones have been used as a symbol of new life since the days of the Sumerians, one of the oldest civilisations known to man! Many Sumerian and Mesopotamian (so including Babylon - Mystery Babylon, see where I'm going with this?) reliefs uncovered by archaeologists show gods holding a

basket in one hand and a pinecone in the other. Scholars believe the pine cone was dipped into the bucket which contained blood and was then sprinkled over an object to signify regeneration. Doesn't that sound like a corruption of the Levitical sacrifices (or go back even further to the provision of animal skins for Adam and Eve), all of which pointed towards the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ at the Cross! One such relief shows the god Tammuz performing this act of using a pinecone and basket in a ritual cleansing ceremony. Tammuz was believed to be worshipped by ancient cultures in Mesopotamia as the godlike offspring of Nimrod and Semiramis. These three being lifted up as a false trinity from the days of the Tower of Babel. This is how deep and ancient the symbolism truly reaches and is brought right up to the present through Roman Catholicism.

As you can see from the picture above, the pinecone is also a natural symbol of the Fibonacci sequence, a mathematical sequence where the next number is gained by adding to two previous numbers together. In short, a mathematical process that depicts the journey of humanity's 'enlightenment' when mystery wisdom is added to it, thereby allowing it to reach the next stage of consciousness. This goal is very much the bedrock of Eastern mysticism as seen in Buddhism, Taoism and Hinduism, along with other Shamanistic practices from across the globe. It is no surprise therefore that Rome is leading the charge for all religions to come under one umbrella, as it has the political, social and economic power to pursue such a course of action successfully.

This is where Biblical Christianity is such a problem to the Papacy. Whilst Rome desperately tries to convince the world that it is real Christianity, true Biblical Christianity exposes Roman Catholicism for what it is, a mystery religion that has its roots back in the ancient days of Babel (Babylon). The Papacy has tried for centuries to crush Biblical Christianity, but has failed each time. If anything it has made it stronger! So the devil has learnt from his failures and is now trying a new plan. A patient plan. Rather than coerce Christians to renounce their witness for Christ, one that exposes Rome for what it is, it is attempting to put its arm around the true Church and seduce it to come into its house and enjoy the luxuries and pleasures that appeal to humanity. Such a harlot Solomon warns of repeatedly throughout Proverbs, and is again seen in the Book of

Revelation. A whore drunk on the blood of those who have stood against her deceptive and murderous ways (Revelation 17:6).

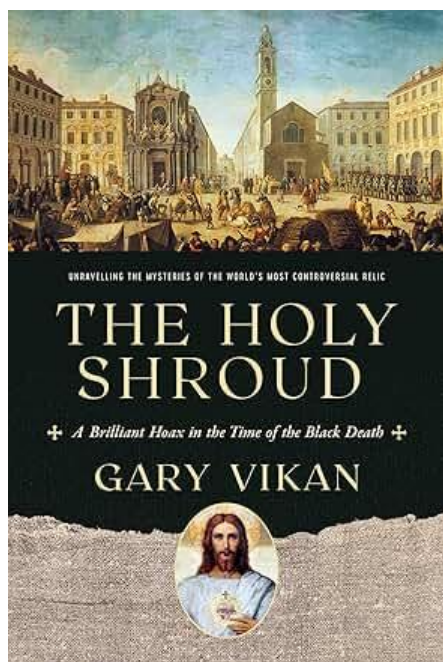
The rise of the Papacy is accelerating at pace, and front of the queue in going into her house of death is much of Christendom today. We are being led astray from the Pure Gospel of Jesus Christ by an avalanche of Bible versions that no longer expose the errors and fallacies of Roman Catholicism. We are being softened week after week by infectious music that soothes the ear but numbs the spirit from being alert against deceiving spirits. We are being lulled into false brotherhood through TV shows and movies that ignore Scripture and instead promote tradition, mysticism and inventions of men. We are being brainwashed by subtly New Age literature that is desperate to lead you to your 'best life', guides to 'unlock your potential' and easy steps to be Christ like.

We are to be as the Apostle Paul and count it all dung, for that is what it is, and instead return unto the Pure Word of God and nothing less! A Holy Bible preserved by the Lord God, sealed with the blood of the martyrs, and gifted unto men so that countless millions have found redemption through the repentance of sin and the placing of faith in the risen Lord Jesus.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

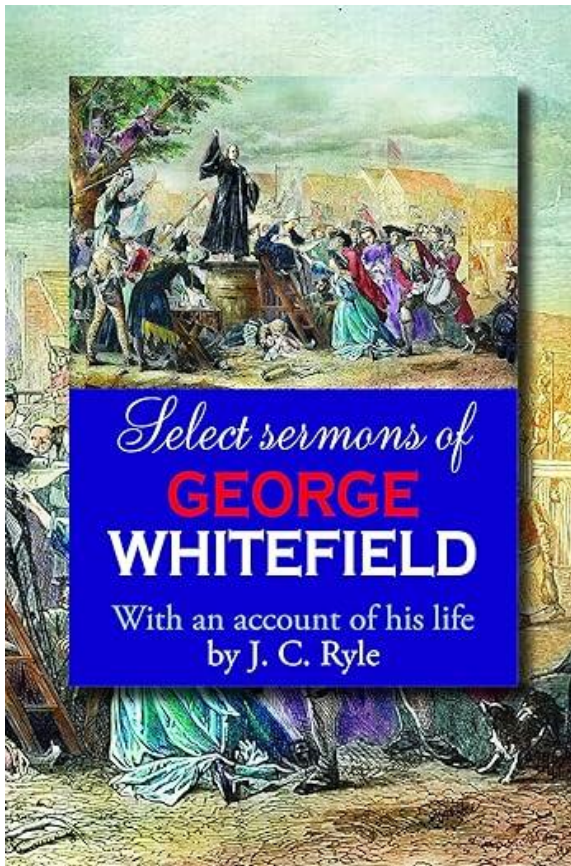
The Holy Shroud - *A Brilliant Hoax in the Time of the Black Death*



The history of the Christian church is strewn with holy relics and artefacts, none more controversial than the Shroud of Turin, the supposed burial cloth of Christ. In *The Holy Shroud* Gary Vikan shows that the shroud is not the burial cloth of Jesus, but rather a photograph-like body print of a medieval Frenchman created by a brilliant artist serving the royal court in the time of the Black Death. It was gifted by King John II to his friend Geoffroi de Charny, the most renowned knight of the Middle Ages, who shortly thereafter died at the disastrous Battle of Poitiers while saving the King's life. Though intended as nothing more than an innocuous devotional image for Geoffroi's newly-built church in the French hamlet of Lirey, it was soon misrepresented. Miracles were faked, money was made. Combining copious research and decades of art world experience with an accessible, wry voice, Gary Vikan shows how one of the greatest hoaxes in the history of Christian

relics came into being.

Available from Amazon



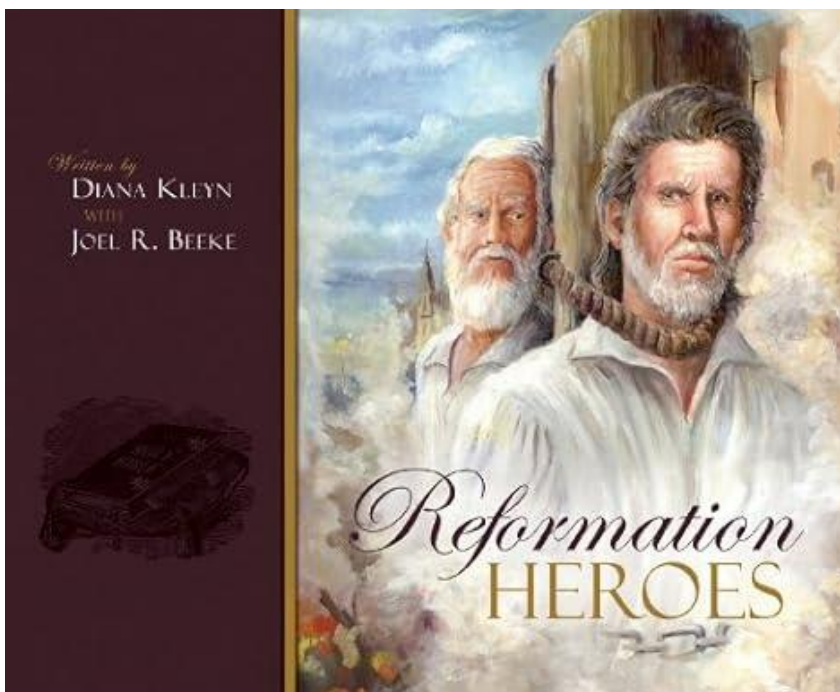
Select Sermons of George Whitefield

Whitefield was not only the greatest preacher and orator of the eighteenth century, he was also one of its most saintly characters, if not the saintliest of all. Certainly there was no more humble or lovable man amongst them. What can be more profitable, next to the Bible itself, than to read something of the life of such a man and to read his own words!

D.M. Lloyd-Jones: "What can be more profitable, next to the Bible itself, than to read something of the life of such a man as George Whitefield and to read his own words? The famous essay by Bishop Ryle is certainly the best short account of Whitefield that has ever been done, and it is good that it should be thus reprinted. At the same time this volume provides samples of the great preacher's sermons. It is a judicious and representative selection."

Available from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

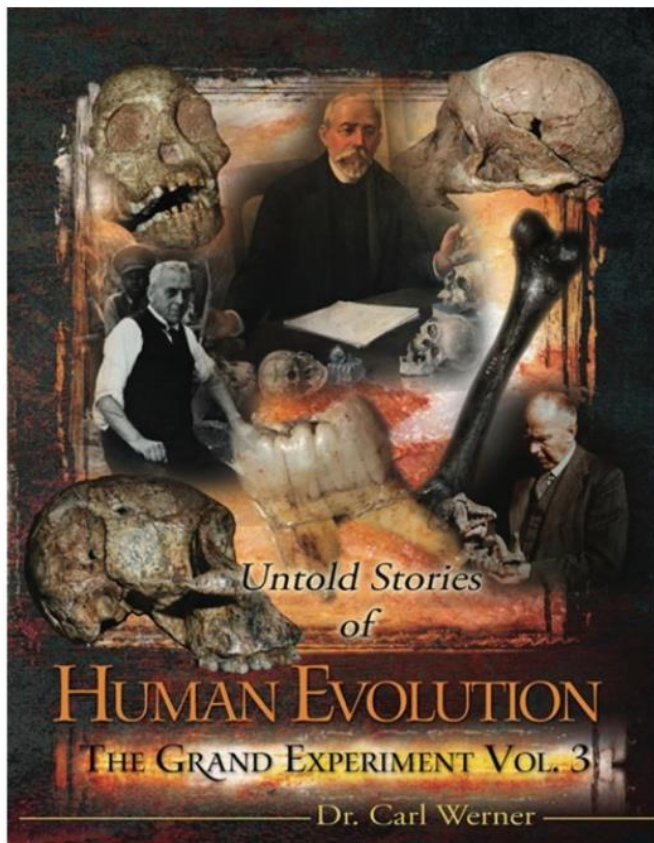
Reformation Heroes



The Reformation did not happen instantaneously; it was something God patiently arranged over a number of years. As you read this book, you will learn how the Lord used some people to plant the seeds of church reform long before October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther published his ninety-five theses. Luther's story is well-known; we trust you will find it interesting and instructive to read about him and about forty others (John Knox, Peter Martyr Vermigli, Zacharias Ursinus, Willem Teellinck, etc.) who contributed to the Reformation - some well known and others not so - most of whom are Reformation heroes.

To provide a more full picture of the many sided Reformation, chapters are also included on the Anabaptist and Counter Reformation movements. The book concludes with a brief summary of the influence of the Reformation in different areas of life.

Available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)



Untold Stories of Human Evolution Evolution: The Grand Experiment, Volume 3

Readers are given a rare insight into the world of anthropology and ape-man fossils, as well as how to evaluate the evidence. Dr. Carl Werner's research and interviews on five continents tackle the compelling question: Did humans evolve from apes?

From the author of *Evolution: The Grand Experiment* book and DVD series comes another informative and thought-provoking study on evolution—this time *Human Evolution*.

Available from Answers In Genesis UK

<https://store.answersingenesis.co.uk/product/untold-stories-of-human-evolution-evolution-the-grand-experiment-volume-3/2247?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=true>



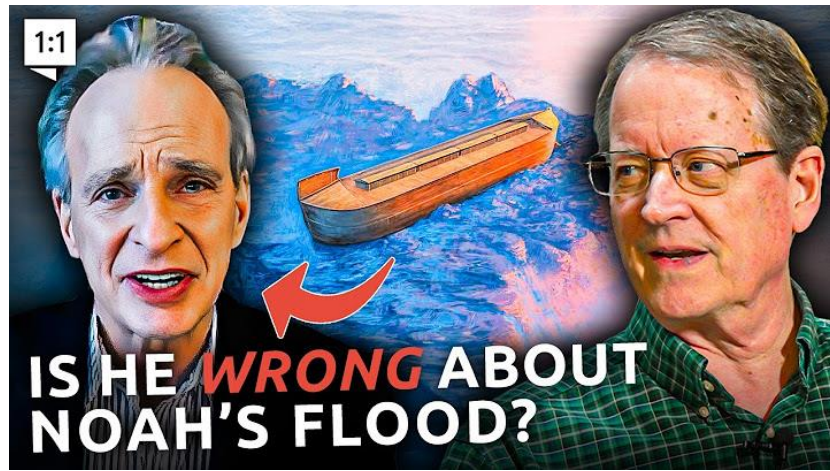
<https://www.youtube.com/live/WdDovNqWN4A?feature=shared>

Why ALL Christians Should Believe in a YOUNG Earth

[Answers in Genesis](#)

It's amazing and deeply concerning that so many Christians hold to an old earth timeline. Such a stance dismisses the authority of God's Word over the musings of very fallible scientists. Science does not go against the Bible but actually supports its historical recordings.

God has told us how and when He created the earth. He has not deceived us. We deceive ourselves if we ignore His eyewitness ... Click on the link above to be taken straight to the video on YouTube. Otherwise search the above title through Answers In Genesis YouTube channel.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cokASl3vQCg&pp=ygUSYW5zd2VycyBpbiBnZW5lc2lz>

You WON'T Believe What This Christian Leader Just Did

[Answers in Genesis](#)

William Lane Craig told Latin American Christians that the Bible's account of Noah's ark is scientifically indefensible. Is Genesis wrong, or William Lane Craig? It's a sad truth that many Christian leaders today make declarations that openly undermine the truth and authority of God's Word. When the wisdom of man is put against the wisdom of God and His Word, there is only ever one winner.

Click on the link above to be taken straight to the video or search the title of the video through Answers in Genesis' YouTube channel.



KJV Controversy: Westcott and Hort
477 views · 8 days ago



Streaming Truth

https://youtu.be/QWjtW6PF9sc?si=GJNoBcznea_m4EyE

KJV Controversy: Westcott and Hort

A short but informative YouTube video detailing the dark motivations of Westcott and Hort, the two men responsible for the proliferation of greatly diluted and compromised modern bible versions causing such confusion and division in Christendom today.

Click on the link above to be taken straight to the video.

Thank you for reading TTW magazine - Numbers 6:24-26

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