



Truth To Wonder

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Welcome to Truth to Wonder

It's with great joy and thanksgiving unto God that I welcome you to the twelfth issue of Truth To Wonder Magazine. It is incredible to look back on the first year of this publication and consider the wondrous grace of God in enabling this ministry to come into being and consistently grow in it's content and outreach. What started as a short newsletter aimed at bringing a small collective of God's children together during the first Covid lockdown, now stands as a substantial monthly magazine available to the world through our website.

Let this ministry be a witness to all that God is not hampered by our constraints of doubt, fear, confusion, laziness etc. He can take the humblest souls who count themselves nothing and make them monuments to His eternal glory so as to confound the wise of this world.

Whether the work the Lord has called you to do is small or great, do not diminish it with pride filled ambitions or sinful self doubt. His work is accomplished through us according to His perfect will and purpose. Though you may not be stood in front of thousands preaching mighty sermons and your offering may seem meagre, like the old woman who gave but two mites as an offering to God; what delights God is the sincerity, faith, humility and thankfulness of the offering no matter how small. So you may be cleaning toilets for a living, but if Jesus Christ is your king then scrub with all your might and with a shining smile on your face. That joy even in the lowest and humblest of tasks will declare boldly to a sceptical and cruel world that true peace, joy and happiness comes from Christ, not a successful career, pay check, strong body or any other worldly thing. What a mighty servant you would be if in that humble work your joyful enterprise, no matter how lowly, led another to Christ. Why the bells of heaven would ring in triumph and the angels would sing great songs of joy and praise unto the LORD Almighty. And when you are called home to rest at long last, whether that hour finds you dressed in rags or robes, The Son of God will greet you with eternity stretching

love and speak those longed for words, hoped for by all His servants, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, what words can we offer that will bring the due praise to your hallowed name? We are lowly, sinful beings not fit to look upon your thrice holy throne. Yet Gracious Lord you bid us come, come boldly before your throne of grace so that you may embrace us as the jewel of your eternal plan of redemption.

Oh Lord forgive us that we doubt you and your might. Forgive our boastful and pride filled hearts when we believe we can be more for you that what you have ordained our lives to be. We deserve nothing more than eternal hellfire and yet we grumble and moan with seeming abandon at how our greedy desires are not met. Lord, place in us a heart that is hungry for you alone, for all goodness comes from you. Show us gently Lord, for we fear your power and might, that where else can we go for the words of life, for you are the Eternal Word.

Lord, gives us contentedness of spirit, so that we are satisfied truly with what you have appointed unto us, whether we are to stand before thousands for you or but one. Yet Lord we ask also in a manner that confuses even our own mind, that you will fill us with a hunger for you Lord, so that we crave to know you greater this day than we knew you yesterday. Lord your wisdom is eternal, for whilst we are bemused by such a seeming paradox of requests contentedness and hunger, such requests are good in your eyes. As we have come humbly at the first, placing our sinful lusts and desires at the cross, so that we may gain heavenly things, a heart that is born in the image of your only begotten Son the Lord Jesus. Ah Lord, there is no doubt, confusion or error in your wisdom and bless us so we pray this day and all the appointed days of our life. In Jesus name, amen.

Nearer My God To Thee

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with
thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

A History of Nearer My God To Thee

The tragic tale of the band who kept playing as the Titanic sank beneath the icy waves of the Atlantic, is well known. What is not as well known is that the tune they played as the ship slipped under the waters was *Nearer My God To Thee*.

This classic hymn is also said to have been the favourite of the American President William McKinley, who whispered it's words as he lay dying after being shot in Buffalo, New York.

Written by Sarah Flower Adams in November 1840, who after reading Genesis 28:10-22 (Jacob at Bethel) felt her heart moved in prayer to long to be drawn nearer to God. A skilled writer, Sarah used her God given talents to condense the Biblical account into the five stanzas of this beloved hymn.

Sarah inherited her passion and talent for writing from her father, who was himself a newspaper editor. Born in 1805, Sarah pooled her talents with her sister Eliza, and produced a number of hymns which would be later published in their 1841 book *Hymns and Anthems*.

The most popular melody for *Nearer My God To Thee*, arranged by Lowell Mason and entitled *Bethany* comes from an old Irish ballad entitled *Oft in the stilly night*.

Sarah Flower Adams became desperately unwell with Tuberculosis, a much feared illness of the Victorian era and went to be with the Lord at the young age of forty-three. Yet it is as A.W Tozer says, those who are called home to God at a young age have their labours shortened so that their rewards may begin earlier.

By Jonathan Badger

514 Nearer, My God, to Thee

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Nearer, My God, to Thee'. It is a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. The score is arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system includes the title '514 Nearer, My God, to Thee' and the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the fifth line. The third system contains the sixth line. The fourth system contains the seventh line. The score is published by Bethany Music, Inc. and is part of a collection of spiritual songs.

1 Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!
2 Near - er, my Lord, to thee, Near - er to thee,
3 Near - er, O Com - fort - er, Near - er to thee,
4 But to be near - er still, Bring me, O God,
E'en though it be a cross That rais - eth me,
Who to thy cross didst come, Dy - ing for me! sweet
Not by the vi - sioned steep An - gels have trod,
Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to thee,
Strength - en my will - ing feet, Hold me in ser - vice sweet
Grant me thy fel - low - ship! Help me each day to keep
Here where thy cross I see, His - I wait for thee,
Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee!
Near - er, O Christ, to thee, Near - er to thee!
Near - er, my Guide, to thee, Near - er to thee!
Then ev - er - more to be Near - er to thee!

Reel: Sarah F. Adams, 1840-45; in: C. Horner & Co., 1852-53, vol. 2, 4
New Lowell Hymns, 1790-1875

BETHANY
A. & S. 0444

Challenging Questions of Faith

If God controls everything , why are we to pray?

Our youngest daughter loves crafting. She will spend hours cutting and sticking and offer us bizarre creations that she sweetly believes are great works of art. Yet as she is only three, sometimes the use of items such as cello-tape poses too great a challenge for her fine motor skills. So she'll get visibly frustrated that she's not able to find the end of the cello-tape (who hasn't known this frustration?!). Yet instead of asking for help, she'll stubbornly carry on until she gets so agitated that she will slam the offending tape down and let out an audible expression of her annoyance. She knows I can help her but she refuses the assistance, instead relying on her capacity and the fulfilling of her will even at such a tender age.

We are very similar in our own natures as adults in regards to prayer. In our frustration at a given situation, we may ask 'If God controls everything then why do we have to pray for what we need?' It's the same situation as any child who asks in their head 'They know I struggle with this so why don't they just do it for me?' An understandable query indeed. Yet notice the issue at the centre of this query, a heart of a frustrated, unfulfilled personal will. We, like the agitated child, ask this question when our will has not been realised and so we stamp our feet and cry 'Well God knows everything and controls everything so why bother with prayer.' It's a petulant heart that ventures such an angry, frustrated question. In this query we challenge God to effectively become our 24/7 butler, supplying our every want and need regardless of His will. This however reveals the deeply sinful nature of this great question. We seek to make God our servant so that our will is done, not His.

In prayer we place ourselves in wilful submission to Him, knowing that yes, everything is in His control and according to

His will. As a result we do not ever surprise Him with our prayer requests. At no point has God ever heard a prayer and gone "Ah, well I wasn't prepared for that," like some rent a Santa at a shopping centre during Christmas.

Prayer is the softening of the heart, the submission of the will, the submitting of self to one who is so much greater in every aspect that it boggles the mind. Prayer reminds us in a most wonderfully gentle and tender way how truly cared for we are. It calms the soul like nothing else can as we are brought into the throne room of God and shown that He already knows our needs and has moved to meet them, whether in a manner we understand or not.

God does not ask us to pray so that He is up to date with our needs, hopes, fears etc. He does so longing that we will place ourselves in a position of submissive trust so that He may meet us in our need as a loving father does to a troubled child. I do not always step in to aid my frustrated daughter as she needs to learn to trust in the available help and instead ask for help. This trust in the supply of help when needed is what will give a heart of strength in future tests and trials. Prayer builds the heart, it strengthens the soul as we are shown that when we place ourselves in submissive trust in God, we ask that we are remembered in the out workings of His perfect will. As any child of a loving parent will know, it is this submissive trust of one more able, more skilled, more powerful, more knowledgeable, that brings a sweetness of peace that is so visibly missing from our world today.

Prayer brings our hearts in line with God's. It does not inform God of our needs, it informs us of our need for Him. In this act of submission then, we see how merciful, loving, faithful and gracious He is to us and we see how wicked, selfish and sinful we are, then we ask with calm and joyful hearts that His will will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Prayer strengthens and humbles us, preparing us for the trials of this world, and the glories of the next.

By Jonathan Badger

The Book of Ruth – Part Five

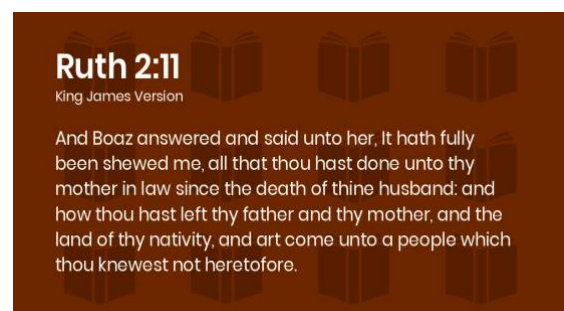
We pick up our study of the short but rich text of the Ruth in chapter 2 verse 10, as Ruth is filled with shock and delight equally at the sheer grace of Boaz's kindness to her. Remember he has allowed this foreign woman to glean freely from his fields and help herself to fresh drinking water in the heat of the Israeli day, all whilst offering her protection from others who may seek her harm. Such is the generosity of Boaz that far supersedes the Jewish laws of aiding the needy, that in verse 10, Ruth throws herself to the floor in amazement, overwhelmed by Boaz's great grace.

Her words are so rich in humble adoration that they are a beautiful rendition of the redeemed heart in Christ, who having tasted salvation stands in amazement at how the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, has revealed himself to them. Her words have been repeated by so many a saved soul as she says, "Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing that I am a stranger?" Were we not all strangers unto God before Christ Jesus came to us in our desperate need and led us back home to Our Heavenly Father. Whilst Ruth is stunned by Boaz's actions, how much more overwhelmed would she be of spirit if she were to know at that point that her interactions present and future with Boaz were to reflect the very grace of God himself?!

Boaz in verses 11 and 12 gives her an answer to her query as to why her. His kindness is in reward of her kindnesses to Naomi, and her strength of faith in trusting the God of the Jews so much that she left her own family and land and followed Naomi into the unknown.

Boaz, always humble in nature and quick to ensure that all praise and glory to given to God and not himself, tells Ruth that he is merely the outpouring of the LORD's rewarding for her kindnesses and life in action of faith and not just empty words of faith. Boaz assures her that the LORD is blessing her

with a "full reward," a promise also extended to all who trust in His word and gracious majesty. I am sure times have troubled you so much that you have doubted if the strain and hardships of a life lived in devotion to Christ is worth the often deep sorrows of this life. Let the words of Boaz, whom being a foreshadowing of Christ himself, be a constant comfort to you, that come the hour appointed by God, you too shall inherit a full reward for your life of faith in Him. This reward will be so great that you, like Ruth, will throw yourself to the floor in overwhelmed humble adoration and cry out in wondrous joy, "why have I found grace in your eyes?"



Here though the holiness of Christ shines so brightly that the reflection of himself in Boaz is blinded by His eternal glory. Whilst Boaz gives an answer to Ruth as to why her, when we ask that question, even in the greatest humility, we will not know the answer, as the deepest expressions of God's love for us remain bound up in secret within His own heart and in His own wisdom. Consider how the vain spouse who asks hopefully, "why do you love me?" They are seeking flattery, praise, a vocal acknowledgement of their goodness. We pose the same question to God in our search for flattery of pride, even in our humblest state for such is the depths of our pride. Yet by keeping such secrets of why He has loved us with an everlasting love, deep within His own heart, God gently but wisely keeps us focused on Him when we are threatening to sabotage a love so pure it confounds the mortal mind.

Remarkably, Ruth even after this wonderful act of kindness from Boaz, continues to hope for further blessing from Boaz in verse 13. Her

great hope is that she may remain in his kindness and stay in his presence even as a mere maid servant. Her request to “find favour” in Boaz’s sight is not selfish greediness, it is a thirst for goodness, a longing for sanctuary from someone who has shown a heart of grace and kindness that was freely given. Such a love is intoxicating and a joyful dependency is quickly born in the heart of one who has experienced such a blessing. It is the purity of love that was once feared lost in the Garden of Eden, when the mysterious bond between Adam and Woman was corrupted by sin leading to the separation of trusting submissive dependency of the woman towards the man, and the kind, nurturing, protective leadership of the husband. Ruth looks to find her joy in acting as a servant of one so kind as Boaz, a beautiful example of the scriptural marriage (one that will be fully fulfilled between Ruth and Boaz come the end of the book).



Yet as powerful as this reflection is it serves as the gateway to an even deeper truth, and the even purer love of which Christ is the author and finisher. The redeemed heart is so enraptured by the wondrous kindnesses and grace of Christ that it is not satisfied with but a taste of grace, it craves to be in its presence constantly, as He is the source of all peace and rest. So Ruth depicts this sudden awareness of reliance and dependency that the newly redeemed heart finds in Jesus.

Furthermore this willing vulnerability of Ruth before the just, generous and honourable

Boaz (a trait he shall further establish later on in the events that go on to unfold), is a beautiful rendering of the ordination of roles between husband and wife as according to God. Modern feminist thinking has become so ingrained in our culture that the thought of an ‘independent woman’ is practically second nature and without debate. Men have been attacked so aggressively for any attempt at suggesting a leadership role that even a suggestion of this idea is enough to make most men cower in the shadows. Just look at the plethora of property programmes on TV, where the host will ask as to who makes the decisions regarding what type of home/location the couple or family are looking for. 9/10 times it is the man who will quickly assert that the woman ‘wears the trousers.’

Such a thought is not scriptural however. Take Issac and Rebekah for example, a wondrous God ordained romance that has been recorded for all human history to strive to emulate. Abraham’s servant asks what he should do if the proposed wife to be refuses to leave her home and come to Issac’s home, Abraham makes it very clear that in that instance the servant is to move on as that is not the woman selected by God for Issac. When Rebekah is found by the servant and marriage to Issac is proposed, Rebekah does not seek a delay or to have Issac move to her location. She leaves her family home and travels to Issac, placing herself in vulnerable but trusting submission that it is the Lord’s will and that Issac will now be her provider and protector.

To dismiss this example as but a one off relationship is to dismiss the template of Godly marriage that God has set out in the union of Issac and Rebekah. Such a union shines a light on the glory of the heavenly, eternal union of Christ and His church. As Rebekah comes to Issac and places herself in loving submission to the leadership of Issac, so too does the church come in loving submission to Christ. Ephesians 5 is that great exposition on this matter and should be intently studied by all men and women in

place of the empty secular relationship counselling of today.

In returning to the text, we see in verse 14, that Boaz once again returns with grace in response to Ruth's further request. Boaz doesn't turn her away and say 'you're pushing your luck now.' Boaz now shows what a Godly man does in marriage. He doesn't abuse the power that is placed in his hands and treat Ruth as a servant, an inferior to himself. No, instead he offers her further sustenance by giving her a place to eat with himself and his own workers.

Boaz has lifted Ruth up from her lowly position put forward by herself in hope of grace, mercy and protection and brought her alongside himself, to share in his abundance. A Godly husband should do this ceaselessly. He should always be nurturing and protective of the willing trust of submission made by the wife to themselves and so bring them close to them in all counts so that they can share all glories and treasures together.

Such a full union was first ordained in Eden, when woman was created from the rib bone of Adam, so that Adam would say in delight "she is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh." There is an awareness of deep union between Adam and his new bride that they are reserved unto one another, a knowledge that she is his to be loved, nurtured and protected. Why? Because she is of himself, and as Paul said in Ephesians 5, "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."

Therefore Boaz here represents the full out-workings of the scriptural man in relation to woman. He sees the hopeful, trusting submission, responds in grace and kindness, and elevates her to a position of loving protection and provision, sharing in the same abundance and blessings as himself because he has the power and ability to do so. Herein Boaz, centuries beforehand, fulfils the words of Paul, and in so doing shines a light on the greater truth of why a man is to do these

things. As men we are to do all this because as Paul notes in Ephesians 5, "even as the Lord the church." Christ does the very same for all those who belong to him in His church. He sees the lowly, humbled soul, crying out for mercy unto Him. He grants His mercy and then elevates us in His grace so that we might be with Him and share in His glory, resting in His protection and provision for all eternity



The scriptural role of man and woman, husband and wife therefore is a constant window into the eternal plan of the salvation of man through the grace and love of God. It is no wonder then that Satan has sought to undermine and destroy this great gift to mankind. Yet as believers in Christ, we must defend this ordination of God with everything we have, because to abandon in fear of offending man, we are abandoning the daily strengthening of the assurance of our salvation in Christ. It is through the strength of the Biblical marriage that many I have no doubt, can be brought to Christ.

Women, wives, be as Ruth; and men, husbands be as Boaz so that all the world may marvel at the strength, the beauty, the reflection of eternity that is contained within your very lives. Herein you will do a mighty work for God, and you will be greatly blessed in your days on this earth and richly rewarded in heaven.

By Jonathan Badger

Incredible Design For Dinner?

Salmon is a healthy and nutritious food source enjoyed by many across the world. Yet have you ever considered the amazing engineering and design by God contained within them as you savour your delicious meal?

When baby salmon (also known as alevins) are born, they begin their early life nestling under rocks as they absorb the necessary nutrients for growth from their yolk sac, which remains attached to them at this early stage. Developing into small fry, the now growing salmon spend the next stage of life living in the stream where they were born. At the age of a year old, the still small fry travel to the ocean, where they congregate in 'schools' of fellow small fry salmon. Lastly, the then adult salmon move further out to sea where the rest of it's days are spent, predominantly alone, barring it's return to the streams of it's youth so as to produce it's spawn for the next generation of salmon.



The alevin or baby salmon

Where the genius of God's design comes in is in the evolution defying fact that the young salmon do all of this with no assistance from it's parents. They swim downstream, navigating the various tributaries through to the ocean, without any parental guidance, to an ocean they don't know exists.

In maturity, they instinctively know when they are to return to mate and to spawn again without any teaching or parental guidance

from older salmon. How would such an accurate navigational and biological awareness have happened by complete accident? Such a wonderful system shouts of an irreducibly complex design that must have been perfect from the moment of it's inception.

The mature salmon leave the ocean and return to the very same spawning beds where they were but tiny alevin not long prior. Again, only a remarkably accurate navigational system embedded in each salmon from birth could possibly lead to such a fluid and efficient system of reproduction.

The female will dig, using her tail, a hole in the gravel of the stream beds and lay up to 17000 eggs! These eggs are then fertilised by the male salmon. Salmon certainly understood God's command to be fruitful and multiply! This mass of eggs is what makes our expensive delicacy of caviar. The young salmon usually hatch into the alevin stage in the early spring.

Similar to sea turtles, salmon use magnetic sensors to navigate their way through the oceans. Once they have found their way to the correct stretch of coastline so as to spawn, they use their excellent sense of smell to lead them specifically back to the point of their own birth! This staggering sense of smell is shown in their ability to detect chemicals of one part per million! Such an incredible sense of smell enables them to navigate hundreds of miles of river systems, often fighting through waterfalls and upstream currents.

Salmon usually stop eating once they reach the river systems having left the ocean. They continue to the end of their quest using only stored energy. If this was achieved through millions of years of trial and error by 'mother nature', then all the salmon population would've starved to death trying to find it's way home in the often maze like river systems of the world.

Salmon are amazing athletes, with bodies designed for maximum output from the

streamlined shape of it's body, to the fact that almost every muscle in it's body is dedicated for swimming. The inner organs of the salmon are completely contained by muscle, with the famous pink muscle colour coming from a combination of slow (white colour) twitch muscles and fast (red colour) twitch muscles, perfect for swimming great distances. This pink hue is further strengthened by the food the salmon ingests which contain pigments such as carotenoid. The salmon is such an athlete that approximately 70% of it is muscle!



Salmon leaping up a waterfall

Such muscle quantity make salmon excellent leapers, often able to jump over 4m or 13 ft in height. This incredible power is ideal for contending with the strong currents and waterfalls that salmon often find themselves contending with on their migration back to their spawning point.

So when you are about to enjoy a nice piece of salmon, pause for a moment and consider how The Lord has placed a witness to His creation right on your very plate. We are all very much without excuse if we deny the evident truth that the Lord created all.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

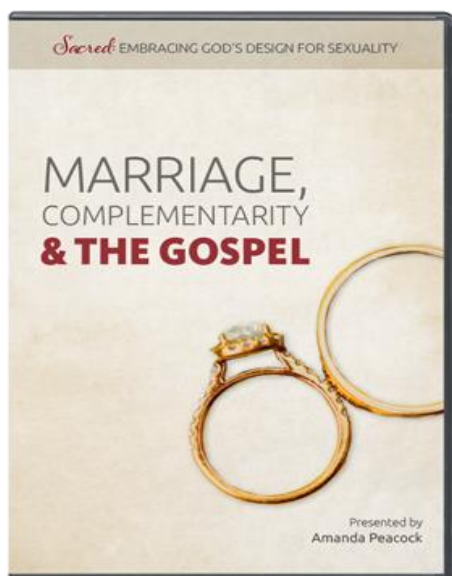
Creation Museum Signs



You can now take home the incredible teaching signs from the Creation Museum via this big new book. The beautifully illustrated publication goes room by room through the entire museum, giving you all of the fantastic teaching material. Includes the newest exhibits, Starting Points and Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. Share this life-changing information with friends, neighbours, and loved ones!

Available at answersingenesis.co.uk

Marriage, Complementary & The Gospel



Today, words like “headship” and “submission,” “leader” and “helper” are imbued with negative connotations. Are these biblical truths and directives old-fashioned, antiquated notions of patriarchy? Or are they still truths we are called to cling to, even in our modern context?

This excellent dvd (also available to stream via the Answers TV app) provides a much needed study of the beautifully crafted, God ordained roles of husband and wife and how these roles have been deliberately and purposefully attacked by a Satan inspired liberal society.

Led by Amanda Peacock, wife of former Chelsea and Newcastle Premiership footballer Gavin Peacock (now a Pastor in Canada having left a position of sports pundit for the BBC), this lecture will shine a light on how indoctrinated many believers have become in towing the feminist, liberal, anti-scriptural line on gender roles within the family. The God ordained roles of husband and wife are a vital witness to the world, remind yourself of its truth and life out-workings through this excellent resource.

Early Briton – Part 3

We cannot continue on with our look at the early days of the Church and the Gospel either in Briton or elsewhere, without considering one vital question, the written word of God. Knowing that the infant Church had the O.T (Old Testament) Canon is not in dispute. Further, a lot of conservative theologians will agree that by A.D 170 (at the latest), the concept of N.T (New Testament) Scripture was firmly established. One thing we will say is that the N.T is not late and sudden in it's emergence as famous (or infamous) Theological Liberals like Harnack state. There is no evidence for a gradually heightening estimate of the N.T. either, it is received as scripture from the beginning. As Professor Warfield argued, 'Not only were the N.T. books at the moment of writing, but were known to be inspired from the first.' The writer believes that the Pure Text was established and known very early and that the hand of corrupters was soon at work (as stated in the N.T.), creating their own Revised Version.

If you are a real Bible-believer you will know of the spiritual war that the Prince of the Power of the Air engages in to deceive. If the early church had a Received Text, this would be a prime target. The corruption of the Water of Life still goes on today. There are countless bibles today based on corrupted texts that the Early Church rejected. If we know the God of the Bible and the way He watched over the transmission of the O.T text, we shall not have any difficulty believing that God made sure the early Church had a Pure Text wherever it was established. Further, if God has a Book then by virtue of the fact it is His Book it would have to remain perfect.

Today there are thousands of ministers who believe in the perfection of the 'original writings', yet those same men do not believe that God has been able to watch over the transmission of His original work and still retain it's God-given perfection. Thus it follows that no translation is perfect and therefore the perfect Word of God does not

exist. There is not a scholar living, or indeed who has ever lived, or will ever live that could explain how the Holy Ghost could transmit His Word through sinful man and keep it perfect in the first place.

We say that if God had a perfect Book 2000 years ago then He will have it today, if you don't believe that, well it's a free country but don't expect me to believe that God had a Book and lost it. When some of you ministers hold the Bible up and say to your congregation, 'this is the Word of God', you do not believe any such thing. The writer believes God had a Book, has a Book and will watch over that Book at the very least until 'heaven and earth pass away.'

The Early Church has a Received Text, it was viewed as Scripture and on a par with the O.T. A developing Canon over goodness knows how long after the apostles death is a myth. That Received Text existed in a day while there were enough original witnesses alive to vouch for it's veracity. God knew that corrupters would quickly arise and therefore it was vital to the spiritual health of the infant Church that they had a standard to measure copies of the N.T. by. It is not scholarship that proves this but sheer common sense.

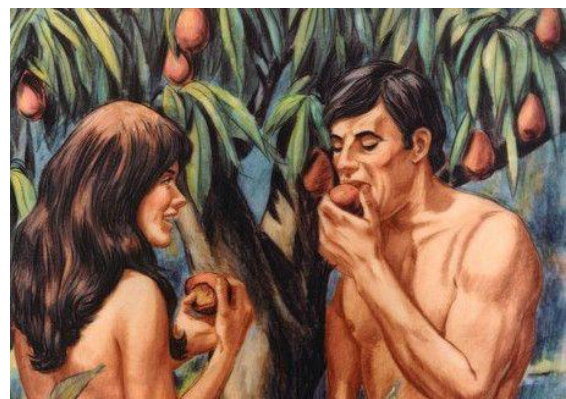
Finally, in closing for now, we turn our eyes once more to this 'sceptured isle'. Even if we do not believe that Christianity was present here before the Roman occupation, we know it was soon after. The story of Christ and His salvation began to reach the English before the name of England was known. If not from Pentecost, the Gospel had most certainly arrived with the legions, and by the time the Romans withdrew some 400 years later there was a British Church.

By Dr David Badger Snr



The Theology Of The Gospel – The Greatest Truth To Wonder

Where will you live after death? That is not a contradiction, it is simply a fact that you will live again after your mortal body dies. The first thing you should know about yourself is that you are a sinner. How did you become one? You were born one, a sinner, so was I. Sin in fact is the reason you will die, the Bible says, 'Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death' (James 1:15). The story of how you were born in this sinful condition goes back a long time, not millions of years but certainly thousands. Man was created by God, he never evolved, but was made without sin. Your first parents were Adam and Eve, not fairytale figures but real people.



The entry of sin into creation through Adam

The book of Genesis tells us of our ORIGINS and that because of something that our first parents did we see the first sin. Thus it is, we are born sinners. Of course you may say 'I don't believe in all that', well, your alternative is to believe you are nothing more than an animal; an animal who will live and die with no real purpose in life, a life with no significant meaning and of no lasting importance. Friend, you know you are not an animal; your own conscience witnesses to right and wrong, you feel guilty, you think about death and the questions mount. You are basing your whole life on Darwin's book, *The Origin of Species*, that book may be the reason you don't believe the Bible.

You may not like the idea of being called a sinner nevertheless, sin and sinner describe your condition. Therefore, if you are ever to live in God's heaven, He is going to have to do something for you, as you won't be able to do something for yourself. However, why should He do anything for you? You don't worship Him, serve Him etc. In fact there isn't a single reason why He shouldn't leave you to live and die. Not a reason, except His love. Do you know why you are reading these words now? Because of God's mercy. These may be the last words you read before you die.

So, what is the Gospel? It is God's provision for your sinful condition. The Gospel is about a Person and what that Person has done, and that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a proclamation of God and our relationship to Him, it is about the fact that we are condemned sinners before a Holy God and a Holy Law. This Gospel then 'is the power of God unto salvation'. Man needs to be saved from his sin.

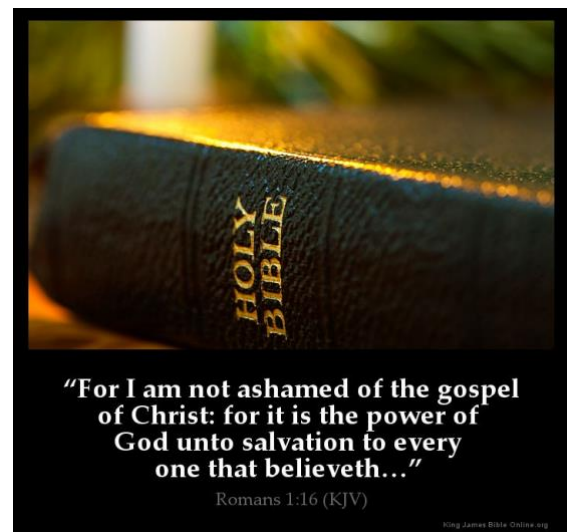


If you believe in evolution which tells you you are an animal, a creature that never sinned because it wasn't created in God's Image then you don't need a Doctrine of Salvation. If man never Fell there is nothing to save him from. Salvation then is man's deliverance from the consequences of the Fall in Eden and of sin.

What then is there in deliverance from sin? We've been freed from the guilt of sin. Salvation delivers from guilt. We feel guilty, we know right and wrong (which makes no sense if we are only animals), we feel guilty because we have broken God's Law.

Next, there is the power of sin, we don't only feel guilty but we feel controlled by it, sin has dominion over us. When man in Eden listened to a voice that was not God's and did what he was commanded not to, he lost his freedom. Satan is in fact god of all men and women who don't know Christ and His Salvation. It is his spirit (Satan's) that works through you, your parents sin (Adam and Eve) gave him entrance so as to have dominion over you. However, Christ can deliver you from this power. The Gospel opens the way of fellowship with God. Salvation also let's you look to being with God after you die. You see without salvation we live every day under the wrath of God because of sin and if you die without God's salvation you will appear before God in all your sin. God has reserved a place for sinners hereafter and He calls it Hell. Something else about this salvation, it can never be undone. Why? Because your salvation relies on God not you.

Further, in Romans 1:16-17 it tells you the Gospel 'is the power of God unto salvation.' You see the Gospel is about God's power not man's. It's about something He has done, you and I didn't play any part in this plan of salvation it was all God's doing. Also, the power lies in the Gospel, not in us. His power cause it to produce salvation in you. Your salvation is certain because it is God who is doing it. You see when God starts a work in a man's heart nothing can stop it, it will end in



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

King James Bible Online.org

eternal life. This salvation is about God's power to keep you.

Further, the Gospel is about making us righteous in His sight. It enables you to stand in His presence with righteousness. He provides you via the Gospel the very righteousness you need to stop Him sending you to Hell. The Gospel is a righteousness from God that He has provided through the Lord Jesus Christ. How then did the Lord Jesus Christ provide one with a righteousness that God will accept? Well to do so He kept the Law you couldn't keep. He kept it perfectly. Also, the penalty that the Law gave against your sin – He bore, He took in His body the punishment your sins demanded. He satisfied every demand of the law against you. So, God 'imputes' to the believer, puts to his/her account the perfect righteousness of Christ.

The Old Testament clearly teaches the concept of 'sacrifice'. Blood has to be shed, if it isn't there is no remission of sin. Jesus was made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Thus, in being given His righteousness you can appear in God's presence faultless via a righteousness not your own. If one interprets the death of Christ apart from sacrifice and expiation that interpretation is wrong.

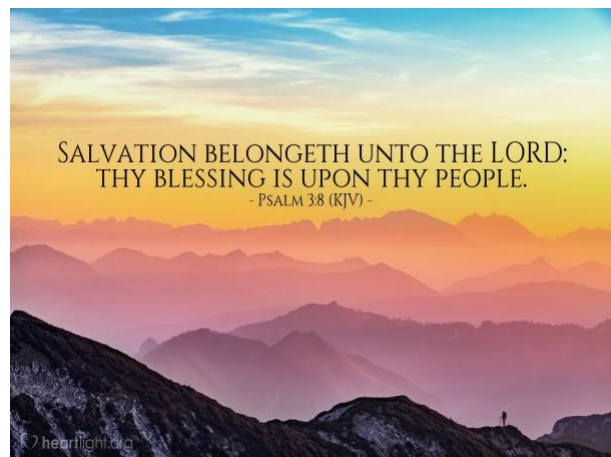
When you look at the Cross you should see two things, first the wrath of God on sin. Secondly, the love of God toward you the sinner. You see if you don't see His wrath you cannot see His love. When the Lord Jesus Christ dies at Calvary, we see supremely the character of God. Jesus and He alone enters into death for the sinner as no other could, in the beauty of holiness. He and He alone enters death in the merit of His own character.

At Calvary the Lord Jesus Christ rendered to the Father complete satisfaction for the sins of all who believe. No other was good enough to pay the price of sin, He only could unlock the gates of heaven and let us in. Finally, read 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Lord Jesus Christ was

made sin. That is not a statement of character, because He remained infinitely Holy. It tells us of the position into which He went for us.

His death was voluntary, He entered into death, it had no claim on Him. Even in death He was still the Lord, His body could not corrupt for sin had no claim on Him. Though you and I are by nature lost with no claim on God or His love, yet His Son died for all those who believe the Gospel.

Admit your guilt and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, accept by faith God's gift of salvation, a justification which you and I cannot earn or merit by any human means. Read Psalm 3:8, Psalm 25:5, Psalm 37:39, Acts 4:12.



By Dr David Badger Snr

A Refutation of Accepted Truths?

A recent Sky Sports article listed the achievements of aging, 'past their prime' sportsman such as LeBron James, Ronaldo, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Lewis Hamilton etc as a series of, "refutations of accepted truths. Of what the human body can do and what it can't." Yet if we hold the Bible as our standard in all areas of life, science included, such physical achievements even at an 'advanced' sporting age should hardly surprise us. Remember that pre-flood man lived well into the ages of 900+ frequently (look at the

Genesis record of the ages of Adam, Seth, Methuselah etc) and that post-flood man up to the era of the Biblical patriarchs lived to around 150 years old. Moses even lived to the grand old age of 120 and we are told that he died even though “his eyes had not grown dim” (meaning that he was far from being a broken down old man). Such lengthy lifespans would mean that a man’s physical prime would far extend beyond the limited window we commonly experience today.



LeBron James, champion long past peak age

So whilst evolutionary science is befuddled by such longevity of a growing array of sporting stars, Biblical science smiles quietly unsurprised that man is medically technically capable of remaining physical able for an advanced stretch of time. The reason for the breaking down of man’s body is down to the effects of the curse from Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden; a curse all humanity feels as we are all descendants of Adam.

Sportsman such as LeBron James, Ronaldo etc are achieving these ‘staggering’ accolades and titles through the adoption of Biblical principles as to how they treat their bodies (whilst none are not believers in Christ, the way they approach their physical conditioning does very much reflect scriptural teaching). Each one adheres to a approach that requires maximum input into each aspect of their daily lives, whether this be training, study, diet or even rest. Doesn’t this sound like the words spoken in Ecclesiastes 9:10 where we are told “whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” Discipline and application is crucial to succeed, any sportsman will tell you this, and this is what these older sports stars are demonstrating. By applying maximum focus and utter dedication on the task at

hand, great things are accomplished. This is made clear by the physical evidence of the aforementioned sportsman

However, how many of us apply this same crucial Biblical teaching to our life of faith? In honesty do you apply yourself with the levels of focus and dedication to achieve the desired goal as these men have done in their sporting arenas? ‘Well these are exceptions to the rule, I am no Olympian’ you may say. Yet consider that your life of faith is authored and finished by the Lord Jesus himself. Do you not think that if you strived to fulfil the words of Ecclesiastes 9:10 that your Lord would not provide you with the means to accomplish this heavenly goal?



We are too quick to throw in the towel in regards to our faith, as we consider ourselves too tired, too busy, not able to dedicate ourselves to Christ so completely as those Biblical words command. Yet aren’t we told in Our Lord’s Word to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,”? (Philippians 2:12) Application of faith is vital in the life of a believer, as after all “faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:17) Consider those aged sportsman who ‘defy accepted truths’ purely by the sweat of their brow. With the grace of God, if you were to apply such dedication of faith in Christ, you would be empowered by the Lord of Hosts to achieve even greater wonders than even the most famous of sporting heroes.

How so you may ask? Remember that as impressive as these sportsman and their achievements are, they are done in the spirit of idolatry. They chase immortality through

their works, trying to raise up their name to adoration. Yet their trophies and medals will be burnt up one day soon when the Lord will judge all creation with fire and fervent heat. Their accolades and applause will be worthless, lost forever and accomplishing nothing. Such is the vanity of man and marks great truth in the words “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul.” (Mark 8:36)

Instead seek to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ through your labours, but be mindful always to not rest in your labours. If the LORD blesses you greatly in this world do not be vain and ascribe your success to your efforts. Remain humble always, knowing that in Christ alone is the victory. Christ Jesus is the one who truly exceeded all of mankind, for in His perfect life as a man, He remained sinless. He fulfilled all the Law so that you might be gifted a place with God forever through His death and resurrection. Let the Gospel be your motivation to labour for His names sake. Apply yourself to His word and train your heart, your mind and your soul in His truth. Then your endeavours, your labours will be recorded in the heart of God and your reward will be kept safe for all eternity by the might of His power and glory, and you will live in triumph through the grace of God and the blood of Christ forevermore.

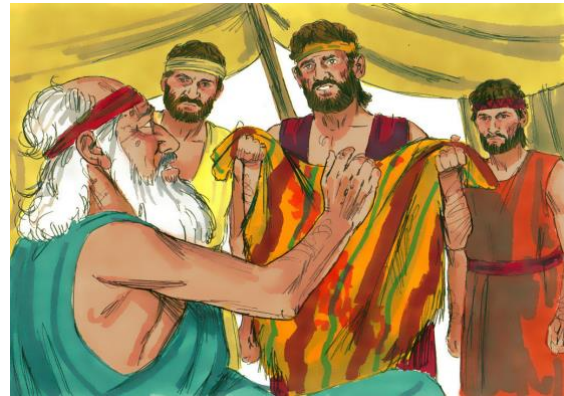
By Jonathan Badger

Provision for a Nation - Part 6

It is my intention this month to look at the next, and last 2 verses of Genesis 37 in some detail, as they hold a wealth of contextual detail for what is to come. It is also a natural end point to this part of the story and study, as chapter 38 is somewhat of a break in Joseph’s narrative.

“And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down

into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh’s, and captain of the guard.”



The devastated, grief stricken Jacob

The brothers come to realise that they have achieved their ends perhaps a little too well with their father now in such intractable, inconsolable grief that they find themselves having to offer comfort. But how extraordinarily hypocritical this comforting was. If they genuinely looked upon their father with love, sympathy and empathy then it would have been easy to return this distraught man to his senses. They just had to say – Joseph is alive and been sold into Egypt. You could be sure Jacob would have saddled up the nearest camel and headed to Egypt with a caravan of his earthly wealth as a ransom with which to purchase his son back. He would have been so happy of the news that he probably wouldn’t have asked questions; at least not initially. His stirring into action would have consumed all. However his sons did not show such genuine concern for their fathers sanity, and instead determination to follow through their actions, the need to cover their guilt, hardened their hearts sufficiently to stand and attempt to console their father in the grandest of hypocrisy. Even if one of the eleven felt burdened to tell the truth, hard stares in the

back of their skull from the other 10 would have stifled the tongue.

Jacob's daughters also got involved in the consoling and attempts to comfort. Daughters would have likely included the daughters in law and daughters born later than Dinah. At least the daughter's efforts were likely to have been genuinely born out of concern for their father, as it is unlikely any of the brothers would have revealed Joseph's true fate to any of them.

But despite all efforts both real and hypocritical, failed miserably to assuage Jacob's heart breaking, soul crushing grief. I pray you have never experienced such grief yourself, but you can become so consumed by grief that you want to remain in that state forever, and you can find yourself even stubbornly refusing to even contemplate the notion of ever being happy again. This is where Jacob is, and it is a dangerous place for the soul to be. It can be a place that drives you seek the Lord for help and comfort, but it can also be a place of self destructive intent. Jacob had decided he was not going to return from this place of grief until he died and joined his son again. This also displays the fact that Jacob had an understanding of the afterlife, of eternity, and that he would meet his son again. An understanding that the individual has both a physical and a spiritual part, and that what makes us who we truly are, cannot be measured by the part that is physical but by the soul that lives on after the death of the body.

Verse 35 is the first time that the term "grave" is used in the Old testament to refer to the abode of the dead. It is used before this to reference a physical place of burial (i.e. Genesis 35:20 the physical place of Rachel's

tomb) but not to represent the place of transition from life to the afterlife.



Inconsolable Jacob tearing his robe in sorrow

In verse 36 we return to Joseph and a rather matter of fact statement, without embellishment, as to his ultimate fate. At no point thus far are we told of Joseph's feelings or emotions in all of this, and we are not told here. This is a young man who has never been away from his family and has gone from a position of pre-eminence to one of betrayal and servitude. Sound familiar? A foreshadowing of Christ, who left his home on high, the beloved only begotten Son, to become God Incarnate and enter a life of servitude and ultimately betrayal.

Something of the context of Egypt as a nation is important to consider at this point. The Hebrew name for Egypt is Mizraim, and this comes from the name of the founding descendant of Noah, his grandson, the son of Ham. Ham's sons, Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan founded many of the surrounding nations. Canaan is self explanatory as the founding father of the Canaanites, the original inhabitants of Canaan or Palestine. Most historians agree that Put founded Libya, and Cush Ethiopia. We get the name Egypt from the Greek – Aiguptos, however its is of significant interest and a historical confirmation of the original founder, that the

local name for Egypt is Misr i.e. a derivation of Mizraim.



Egyptian bank still bears the name Misr

How the history of Egypt is laid out and where the historical figures of the Bible fit within this is a subject of grand debate and more commonly outright argument and disagreement. The secular history of Egypt is largely built around the ancient historian Manetho, who is believed to have been an Egyptian priest who lived in the early third century BC, the Ptolemaic Kingdom of the Hellenistic period, and wrote a history of Egypt in Greek, believed to have been commissioned by Ptolemy II (285-246BC). The problem is this history has not survived the sands of time except for fragments in Josephus, and works of Julius Africanus, Eusebius and George Syncellus. More problematic is that Manetho is not regarded as the most reliable of sources, but yet his division of ancient Egyptian history into 30 Dynasties is still taken as the framework for secular history. A Dynasty is usually deemed to be a line of kings that are direct descendants of father to son. However serious miscalculations occur in multiple areas especially on the basis that these dynasties were not simple direct lines of descendants but often involved periods of co-regency (ie two or more kings ruling at a given time). The tendency of kings to write over or remove names of previous kings from monuments so as to claim them as their own provides another layer of confusion and difficulty.

In recent years there have been attempts to provide a revised chronology for the history of Egypt due to the glaring issues in the standard chronology and when this shortened history – allowing for events such as co-regency, and using the Assyrian historical records of Egypt which are well known to be more accurate – the correlation of the events of the Bible with historical Egypt is astounding.

On the basis of this revised history Joseph would have been sold into slavery in Egypt in the 12th Dynasty whose revised dates would be from 1703 to 1572BC. This is also known as the Middle Kingdom and is one of the highs of Egyptian history, starting with King Amenemhet the First, who may have been the Pharaoh at the time of Josephs sale into slavery, and then moving to Sesostris the First at the time of Josephs promotion to the second highest position in all Egypt after Pharaoh. Sesostris the First was known to have a prime minister (or vizier) who was called Mentuhotep. This man appears to have had extra-ordinary power in the land. In Genesis 41:40 we find Pharaoh saying to Joseph:

“Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.”
And in 41:43

‘And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt’.

It is believed that Sesostris the First’s Prime minister had such a level of power and importance. Emille Brugsch wrote that “In a word, our Mentuhotepappears as the alter ego of the King. When he arrived, the great

personages bowed down before him at the outer door of the royal palace”.



Sesostris I of Ancient Egypt

It is also of note that a grand canal was built in the 12th Dynasty bring water from the River Nile into the Faiyum Oasis. To this day it is known as Josephs Canal and may have been built to help prevent the affects of drought.

So Joseph is sold to Potiphar, captain of the guard and possibly captain of the Pharaohs own body guard. Potiphar as a name means “the one who the god Ra has given” or “the one placed on earth by Ra”. Ra was the Egyptian Sun god and portrayed with the head of a falcon, having a massive centre of worship in Heliopolis.

The whole period is utterly fascinating and we could spend considerable time in further discussion but space does not allow. I pray that you might wish to undertake study of your own into this period and see how beautifully the facts of history tally up with the biblical account at all points. It is certainly not a dry exercise and will strengthen your faith in the inerrant word of God. Amen.

By David J Badger Jnr

Revive Our Hearts

This is an app I have on my phone which I load up whenever I have a few minutes opportunity, whether this be travelling in the car as a passenger, on my break at work, or in the small hours of the night when my back and hip pain prevent me from sleeping. In this often great pain I turn to the word of God to bring me peace and calm through my worries and physical pain. I wanted to share this app with all the lady readers we have (although men can also gain much enrichment from it's content) as there is a great deal of beneficiary content available to access. For example there was an article I read recently on how mums (and indeed dads) need strength from the Lord in everything so as to be a strong parent as we support our children in their physical, emotional and spiritual needs and development. Whilst aimed at women, as previously mentioned men can also profit from it's content. The article mentioned previously is very apt for my husband Jonathan (the editor of Truth To Wonder) who cares for our youngest daughter Chloe during the working week, as she is a typical energetic 3 year old finding her feet, testing boundaries and wanting to be constantly entertained. Our nightly and morning prayers are filled with pleas to the Lord that He will sustain Jonathan with strength throughout the working day as he has suffered with M.E since being a sixteen year old. Furthermore that He will sustain myself at work in a busy primary school and then when I return home to resume duties as a mum of two beautiful yet tiring girls.

There are so many articles, blogs, videos, and feeds to read and watch, and what better way is there to spend our free time than by reading Our Lord's Word and reap the

benefits of the Godly advice and guidance of other God fearing women. You are bound to find something you will find relevant to read as there are so many different subjects covered – motherhood, anxiety, trust, enduring through challenges, dealing with physical issues such as dementia, etc, etc. Ladies, it really is worth a look. Enjoy!

By Donna Badger



A Message of Hope for Mother's Day

This is not an easy write for me but I feel compelled to write it to all the readers out there who have lost loved ones, particularly their mothers as we celebrate Mother's Day here in the UK this month. As those of you who know me personally know that I lost my own mum some nearly 19 years ago now when I was only 18 years of age. It was sudden and completely out of blue, we did not even know she was ill. She was here one day and 'gone' the next. She died from an aortic aneurysm (rupture of the main artery pumping blood from the heart), from being a smoker for decades of her life. It sadly, (smoking), took its toll on my father too who also passed away five and a half years ago now, even though he did manage to stop smoking in his latter years after the birth of

our eldest Naomi, it had already taken its toll on his body as he was also diabetic and had had heart issues in the past as well.

Anyway, I do not wish to upset anybody reading this, (that is not my point at all), my point in writing this is to hopefully help people to be able to find comfort in losing loved ones and also to urge people to talk to loved ones about the Lord before it is too late. I have sadly been through it several times (as I only have my brother left of close family on my original side of the family and have lost Jonathan's grandparents and mum also who I loved as my own as they took me in as their daughter and granddaughter, they are missed so very dearly) but I write this and mention these things for two reasons - my original earthly family were not believers – I was not raised as a Christian, in fact it was frowned upon by my father as he was an atheist, but my new earthly family – Jonathan's parents and grandparents were Christians. I say these things so those of you outside of our family can 'paint the picture' and see where and why I say these things as I was not a believer in the Lord when my mum passed away. I knew of Him and didn't believe in evolution, but I can honestly say that I did not love the Lord or even know Him in my heart, maybe just in my head. We should, need to and must love Him with our whole hearts; know Him and walk with him through everything. He is our guide, our strength, our everything, in everything. Go to Him in all you do, put everything to Him. He will bring you peace.

**Blessed be God, even the Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of mercies, and the God
of all comfort; Who comforteth
us in all our tribulation, that we
may be able to comfort them
which are in any trouble, by the
comfort wherewith we ourselves
are comforted of God.**



2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Back to my mentioning of mums passing. It took my mum to pass away for my life to be 'turned upside down' and for my eyes to be opened. You see the Lord brought Jonathan back to me, (my husband for those of you who do not personally know us) as we met at Junior School at the age of 7 years but lost contact at Secondary School, (even though we only lived across the road from one another).

It was Jonathan who began really talking to me about the Lord and getting me to question my life - where I had come from, what I was doing, where I was going if I did not allow the Lord into my heart. It took me a year and a half of questioning, but one night when reading my Bible, (in fact Christmas Eve back when I was 19 years of age), I came to know Jesus as my Saviour. This was also only a few months after losing my last (original) family grandparent too.

This is where I hope to help others and why I write about such a difficult subject: I am not able to say that I will probably or possibly even see my (original) family members again and that saddens me a lot, but the joy I feel when I think about seeing my 'Badger' family again and such great people of the Bible such as Abraham, Moses, David, Joseph, Sarah, Ruth, and so so many more, is so tremendous and brings such comfort to my heart when sorrow can feel so very strong in having 'lost' those who did not trust in Jesus. But most importantly meeting our Saviour. It is this we must remember and hold dear to our hearts when thinking of the loved ones that we have lost, it brings us hurt, my goodness me I know that too well but our real family - our Heavenly Father is waiting for us in heaven, calling us home (when He deems fit), our brothers and sisters in Christ are there too waiting for us. So dear friends, if you have lost a loved one (particularly your mother or grandmother) as we celebrate Mother's Day this month, do not be saddened, for if they were a fellow believer in our Lord then you will see them again, or if you think that they

were not (like in my case) remember though you loved them dearly, they were but your earthy mother/grandmother and your real family are waiting to welcome you with open arms in heaven. **Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

It is very much an issue for many of us lately as we witness friends and loved ones become poorly with Covid-19, and so it is more important than ever to pray for our loved ones that they have their eyes opened and their hearts put on fire for Christ Jesus, so that they know and love the Lord. We all want to meet our loved ones again one day but sadly not everyone receives His calling. Friend, please be sure to make sure you do, do everything you can to ask Him to come into your lives so He can comfort you in such matters. May the Lord bless you all and bring peace to your hearts. **2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.**

By Donna Badger



Family Bible Quiz

1: What was the first thing David when he found out Saul had died? 2 Samuel 1:11

2: Was Saul buried before or after David became King? 2 Samuel 2:4-6

3: Who was Ish-Bosheth's father? 2 Samuel 2:10

4: Who was Ner's son? 2 Samuel 2:12

5: Who killed Abner? 2 Samuel 3:27

6: Why did this person kill Abner? 2 Samuel 3:27

7: Where was Abner buried? 2 Samuel 3:32

8: What did Banaah and Rechab do to Ish-Bosheth? 2 Samuel 4:6

9: What was Jonathan's little lame son called? 2 Samuel 4:4

10: Where was Ish-Bosheth buried? 2 Samuel 4:12

David grieving over the death of Saul

Answers

1: He ripped his clothes in grief 2: After 3: Saul 4: Abner 5: Joab 6: Abner had killed Joab's brother in battle and Joab wanted revenge 7: Hebron 8: They killed him 9: Mephibosheth 10: Hebron, the same as Abner

By Naomi Badger

A Final Thought

February saw the government outline its four-staged plan for returning the country to "business as usual" following the Coronavirus pandemic, which has given many feelings of optimism, albeit somewhat cautiously. After many months of tiers, lockdowns and associated restrictions, the thought of being able to see family and friends, plan holidays and enjoy the spring and summer has lifted the spirits of the nation. But as we move forward and look to put the days of the Coronavirus behind us, let us do so in a spirit of humility and thankfulness. We would do well to remember that God, who makes the sun to shine on the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45), wills trials and tribulations also. We should be accepting of the hard times when they come; nay, not just accepting, but God, in his inspired Word, calls us to rejoice in tribulation, as the endurance of them but builds our character (Romans 5:3-4). The Lord Jesus Christ told us to expect troubles in this world (John 16:33), and who among us has suffered more than Christ during his earthly ministry? So, as we venture out in the coming months, looking to enjoy our lives with less social distancing and restrictions, let us give God the glory for the trials of the past year, that have but built our character and allowed us to, in our own small way, share in the trials and tribulations of his Son. And, looking ahead, the troubles we face in this world will never begin to compare with the great eternal glory that awaits us (Romans 8:18). The last year, far from being a time for grumbling and disappointment, should give us pause for reverent reflection and praise to the Lord whose providential hand guided it all.

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

By John Sivewright

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