



Truth To Wonder

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Against their natural purpose

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: Romans 1:26

The *Guardian* newspaper published an article on June 5th 2024, covering the surge in pop songs that are focused on lesbian relationships within the music mainstream. Once the lyrical topic for underground music artists, this anti-biblical life choice is now being pumped out into the mass media through popular musicians such as the debased Billie Eilish (whom many Christian preachers, podcasters, writers, have denounced as being demonic in her behaviour and artistic content – see picture below). These explicit songs are now being digested daily by the young generation who are clamouring to keep up with the latest offerings made by such wicked women, as they have done since the pioneering days of Madonna in the early 1980's.



The content from the aforementioned *Guardian* newspaper article was far too graphic to quote or reference, as it drew from the various hyper-sexualised lyrics that are filling the new wave of lesbian/queer pop songs. However, one keenly observed note was made by one of these songwriters, King Princess (that name alone should give you a good idea as to what they're about as a music artist), when she commented that the rise in

such debased musical content and sexual perversion has been massively heightened by the TikTok community. The amount of God-hating evil on this platform has been noted many times in this publication before so I will not digress at this point.

As previously mentioned, the lyrics in the latest wave of this queer movement are already graphic. However, as evil never restrains itself when faced with no challenge, another lesbian/queer music act recently stated, "I'm excited about the future – I hope people are going to get even more explicit!" What this will soon amount too will be musical pornography aimed squarely at impressionable young people.

This rise will continue unabated, in this writer's opinion. For such peddlers of filth are being encouraged into the mainstream spotlight by music juggernauts such as Taylor Swift, who had a lesbian/queer act called *Muna* support one of her recent concerts. So much for Taylor Swift being a wholesome musical act and the good old Christian girl from next door!

Yet once again, none of these developments should surprise the keen student of Scripture. For the Apostle Paul warned us nearly 2000 years ago that such an age would come, when he spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that in future days women would change against their natural use (monogamous relationships with men in the sanctity of marriage) and go with what is against their nature (sexual relationships with other women). God's Word is never caught out and needs no updating to keep it relevant, for it has always been

absolutely spot on in its observations on the wickedness of mankind and its downward descent when it abandons God.

So, how have we come to such a worrying position, that our daughters are being pummelled with perverse filth through even mainstream media?! Well again, the Holy Bible tells us exactly how we would get to this point. In the first chapter of Romans, we are told that God has provided plenty of evidence for His existence and that He is the Creator God of all the expanse of Creation, leaving mankind without excuse in its rebellion against Him in the denial of His existence and authority of rule.

Instead, mankind would repress this knowledge of God, show no thankfulness for His gifting of life and Creation to them, and instead fill their heads and hearts with empty and wicked desires that are counter to the will of God (Romans 1:21). As a result of this open defiance against God, the human race would become evil and proud of it (think on how the month of June is now Pride Month – a month-long revelry in anti-biblical sexual perversions), as humanity would announce itself to be the height of wisdom (Romans 1:22). Then as mankind had determined itself to be the decider in all moral reasoning (Humanism), it decided to replace God as it's object of worship, with natural, created things (hello environmentalism, pantheism, New Age mysticism etc), just as we read in Romans 1:23.

At this point, mankind has set itself hard against the following and adoration of God. It has wilfully ignored the witness of Creation as to the truth of the Creator God; set itself up as the determiner of good and evil (lasting impact of the Fall) and as a result is living in full scale rebellion against God. The time of judgement is therefore rapidly approaching, and we should be earnestly preaching the Lord's Word, praying that in His awesome grace and mercy, many yet will be called to salvation in Jesus Christ. In the meanwhile, let us also give joyful thanks unto God for the provision of His Pure Word. For through it, we can see all the descent of mankind into ever greater evils and not be surprised or caught in dismay, for all is as His Word has declared and revealed. Let this be our peace and our hope. Amen.

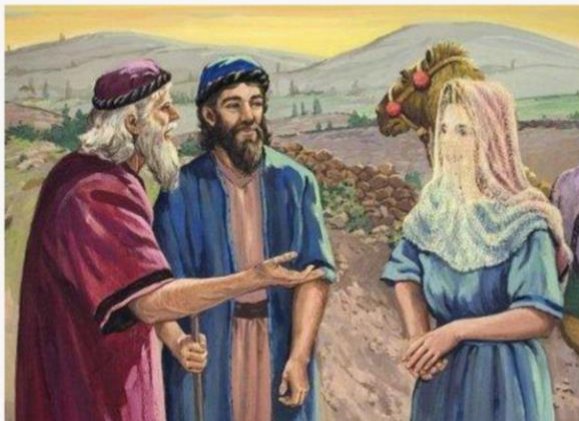
By Jonathan Badger

Looking For Love

I was chatting with some brothers in Christ a few months ago about marriage and one of the brothers mentioned how he found his wife when he 'stopped looking' for her. Of course, by this he meant that he eventually met the woman who would become his wife when he stopped living in anxious thought as to when he might meet a woman that might become a suitable wife for himself. Like me you've likely heard this statement made a hundred times over, its usage often placed clumsily in many a romantic drama on the stage and screen to lead the audience to the happy crescendo of a love finally realised for the main protagonists. Yet

have we ever stopped to question whether such a course of action is good and Biblical?

Isaac and Rebekah



Let's consider the blessed union between Issac and Rebekah in the Book of Genesis. Issac was in the midst of great grief at the death of his mother Sarah, and so his father Abraham moved to provide his son with a wife to care for and comfort his grieving son. Issac was not in the mood to look for a wife given the heartbreaking events which he was experiencing at the time, so in a

sense he wasn't 'looking for' a possible wife. However, there is a subtle yet powerful difference thereafter, in that Issac was not actively searching out a prospective wife as we often do in our longing for a wife/husband; yet he was resting in a state of trust in the loving provision of his father towards him. You see though Issac was not taking part in the search for a suitable wife, he didn't just throw caution to the wind and snatch at the first suitor that came along when he had ceased from actively seeking out a wife. Far from it. Instead, he was trusting in the judgement of his father Abraham, but more importantly he was trusting in the perfect judgment of his Heavenly Father the Lord God. He did not let his guard down against unsuitable suitors seeking to woo him (remember Issac would've been a very eligible bachelor given his family's wealth and status!) and thus open himself up to a potentially damaging life-changing relationship.

It is striking on reflection, how many people state that they met their partner when they 'stopped looking' for one. Yes, to a point it can be argued that letting go of possibly unrealistic expectations of a potential partner can then lead to a wonderful relationship to be established. The Lord can move in such a manner. However, we must guard against opening our hearts in such an unrestrained manner and live under the assumption that every opportunity presented is of God. The Devil gave Jesus plenty of opportunities in his tempting of Christ, none of them were opportunities that were to be taken however. So it can be that in completely dispensing with standards that we hold to in looking for a potential partner out of nothing more than frustration and emotional exhaustion (the usual motivators for the ending of 'looking for a partner'), we are inviting anyone to unite with us when they could easily be completely unsuitable for us. Yet because we have been told repeatedly by friends, family colleagues, the media, that love often comes when we stop looking for it, we assume that it's finally arrived at our door when such a scenario opens up.

Yet if we return to the selection of Rebekah as a wife for Issac, the complete opposite methods were applied in securing her as the love of Isaac's life. The highest standards were put in place by Abraham, who set them in accordance with the will of God (that no wife was to be taken of the Canaanites for Issac). Abraham's servant asked God to lead him to the right woman, not just a woman, and for this to happen successfully, the servant had to wait on the timing of God in sending Rebekah. Doubtless there were other beautiful, well mannered and pleasant women that had gathered at the well where Abraham's servant awaited the provision of God in answer to his prayer. Yet he knew that there was to be a very specific candidate, and that young lady would need be waited for. In many ways, this entire romance and its origin, construction and fulfilment was the polar opposite of 'stopping looking for a wife/husband', it was a deliberate and purposeful seeking out in accordance with the prescribed will of God.



Many Christians find themselves in poorly matched marriages because they grew frustrated in their search for a wife/husband, stopped waiting on the Lord and trusting that He would provide the right husband/wife for them at the perfect time, and so let down their emotional guard. They then presumed the will of God by telling themselves that the one who came along swiftly after they had 'stopped looking' must be sent by God because well hey, the timing of it all. Yes, the suitor does not agree with your faith, how you live your faith, your stance on the Word of God, but gosh darn-it, the

timing was so perfect. In this presumption, we seal a union that was not prescribed by God, but by our estimations of what is good for us and when it is good for us.

I loved my then future wife for ten years silently in my heart. No one knew how I felt about her apart from the Lord. It was a constant prayer that if it was His will, that He would provide an opportunity for her and I to be together one day. Ten years passed, and other suitors came along to see if I was available for a relationship. Yet even though I was young in years, I knew deep down that what these other suitors offered was not a patch

on what the girl I loved offered me. The Lord had set standards in my heart that I couldn't let go of as I knew deep down that when I did compromise on them, I would regret it for a long, long time. So rather than letting my guard down and chase one of these opportunities, I declined the offers and continued to wait on the Lord, trusting that if it was His will, He would bring myself and the girl I loved together when the time was right. This He did. He did so when I was completely broken physically, mentally and emotionally. At the time it made no sense to me, and I asked Him many times over, "Why now Lord?!" Yet He was so very, very good to me. He brought the girl I had loved to me when I had nothing to offer but my heart. I was grief stricken over a life I had lost, a future shattered due to ill health. Yet when she was brought to me, she loved me in my sorry state and comforted me in my grief and sorrow. And so, as Issac loved Rebekah for her kindness and compassion in his time of weakness and grief, so too did I love the girl of my dreams all the more for her care of me when I was so very weak.

All this took place not because I stopped looking for the right partner, but because I continued to look, when everything around me and in me was shouting give it up. Yet there was one still small voice, a voice I know much better now, that refused to ascribe to the wisdom of the world and pushed me on to continue seeking after the one I knew would comfort me at my weakest point. How God moves to show us through a great multitude of ways in our lives, that His love is very, very particular, in that it has been delivered personally by the King of kings to you and me. He did not give up seeking after the one He dreamed of. He dreamed of you walking joyfully with Him in the peace of paradise forevermore. He sought you out in accordance with His perfect standards so that nothing of the purity of His love might be compromised or set aside.

So, in closing, do not be tempted to 'stop looking' for a wife/husband if God has stirred up the desire for one within you. Do not surrender the standards of God and what wonders He would delight to bless you with, in the vain notion that when you stop looking, your hearts great love will come along. Instead, do as Issac, and wait on the goodness of provision of your Heavenly Father, and seek out nothing less than one who delights in the Lord God in all same lengths and depths that you do. Then you will have secured a love that reflects the very bond of love known within the Godhead from eternity past.

By Jonathan Badger

The Deity of Christ - John 1v18

John 1v1-18 brings forth perhaps the most incredible Christological passage in the Bible. We start with the Word who is God, who has been in fellowship with God from all eternity past, and who is also the Creator. He is also the light. Further, He has power to make men sons of God and give them life that is of God. We learn that the Word became flesh, dwelt among men and revealed God's glory. John the apostle sets forth the full Deity of the second Person of the Trinity as the Word (God's unique revelation of Himself), this revelation comes forth not by the means of ink and pen, but in human flesh. In the Received Text/A.V. at verse 18 we read a portion of the apostles summary Christological statement that fits with the rest of the

revelation of God's Word.

However, taking the reading for example of the Critical Text/NASV we are introduced to a concept foreign to God's Word yet in agreement with heretical concepts of the Person of Christ. Read verse 18 in the A.V. then we will see what the NASV says, it states, 'No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.'



Now, some will quickly say well, the Critical Text makes a strong assertion of Christ's Deity here because it uses the Word 'God' rather than 'Son', sounds a solid point to 99% of Pastors etc. However, they fail to consider the apostate and Devilish implications of the 'only begotten God' reading.

The Bible reveals the second Person of the Godhead is the eternal Son. Though He had no beginning, the Bible also uses in this connection with the word 'Son' the concept of 'begetting' to further stress this relationship. King David gives us this concept in Ps 2v7. The New Testament continues this theme as John refers to Jesus as the 'only begotten Son' (monogenēs), and other writers present Him as the 'begotten' Son. No passage written by the apostles or anyone else in the Bible corresponds to the Critical Text/NASV variant 'only begotten God'.

It is of no surprise that the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses follows the reading of the Critical Text and even seeks to emphasize the heresy of this reading by translating 'God' with a lower-case g. Let me give you a bit of Church History, you know, the subject that few churches comment on because their Ministers don't know it.

The Gnostics falsely taught that Christ was only one of many 'gods', they were 'emanations' of God. Gnostic ideas were at the back of the false doctrine introduced by the heretic Arius. The Arians were a pseudo-Christian group that appeared in Alexandria, Egypt in the fourth century, shortly before the Alexandrian manuscripts Aleph and B were made. According to Arius Jesus Christ was not eternal, nor was He the God. He was instead a god created or begotten by God before creation. Thus, while the Father is 'the God', Jesus was seen as 'a god' and sub deity, created or a generated god.

So, the Critical Text/NASV introduces phraseology that teaches errant theology. The word 'God' as opposed to 'Son' communicates nature or essence rather than position or relationship. A Gnostic concept that Jesus is not fully God but a begotten god, He is in essence just a mighty being. The theological language of the Bible uses descriptive words like Almighty, holy, everlasting and merciful with the title 'God' but does not permit 'only begotten'. Jesus is God and is the only begotten Son, but He is not the 'only begotten God'. The reading of the Critical Text and found in modern bibles attacks Scriptural Christology and undermines and confuses the doctrine of the full deity of Jesus Christ.

Your modern bibles are full of perversions of God's Word, it is so because they are based on perverted and corrupted manuscripts. They are full of false teaching, doctrine and critical error, you have been conned by the massive majority of textual scholars who know no more about being a child of God than fossil hunting on Venus. Dump your modern bibles and get a version, namely the A.V., whose lineage can be traced back to the foundations of Christianity.

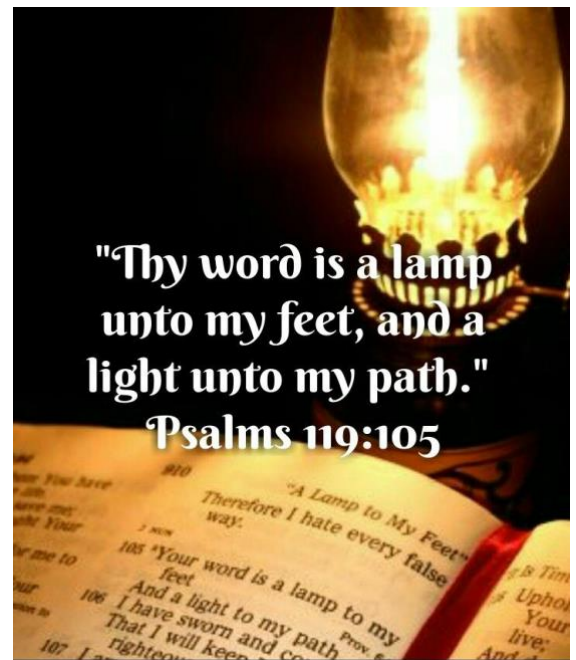
By Dr David Badger

Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto Thy Feet - Ps119v105

The young child in Sunday School's of the past might ask, 'Where does God keep His Word?'. What a question. We are thinking of the Eternal Word of God, it doesn't change or fade away, the Holy Spirit watches over it and men who corrupt it will pay such a price for misleading souls. If I am to walk through this world of sin, I am going to need a sure light and that light needs to be constant and not variable. Herein lies the danger of modern bible versions, they are not constant but they sure are variable.

When God gave His Pure Word to men, He knew there would be those who would corrupt it, we see that in the Garden. We see there in Eden a being whose joy is in undermining the Word of the Creator and he has many followers. Yet even if you don't believe in such a being as the devil, you will still find countless men and women who love to pervert the Creators words. In fact, it is 'funny' because as the devil is denied yet we live in a time when the supernatural is hugely believed in.

Of course it is often easy for believers to think that all those who labour in destroying what God said are atheists, it is thought that the devil only works in 'back rooms', 'smoky parlours', and 'dark corners' and he does work in such places but he loves the places of high repute, of academic excellence, position and influence. That is why some of us do not ignore scholars when it comes to the Word of God, they are human, sinful, proud and willing to betray God as Judas was. When the latest bible comes off the printing press it does so with the comments and backing of many colleagues etc. Not all of these men love God, believe His Word or have any personal faith and even some who do might fail the Lord in what they back. If God has given us His Word, (and we do not use the word if with any doubt attached), then there will have been and has been countless attempts at corrupting it in the last millennia. Just use common sense and ask yourself how can all these modern bibles be a certain light to you path?

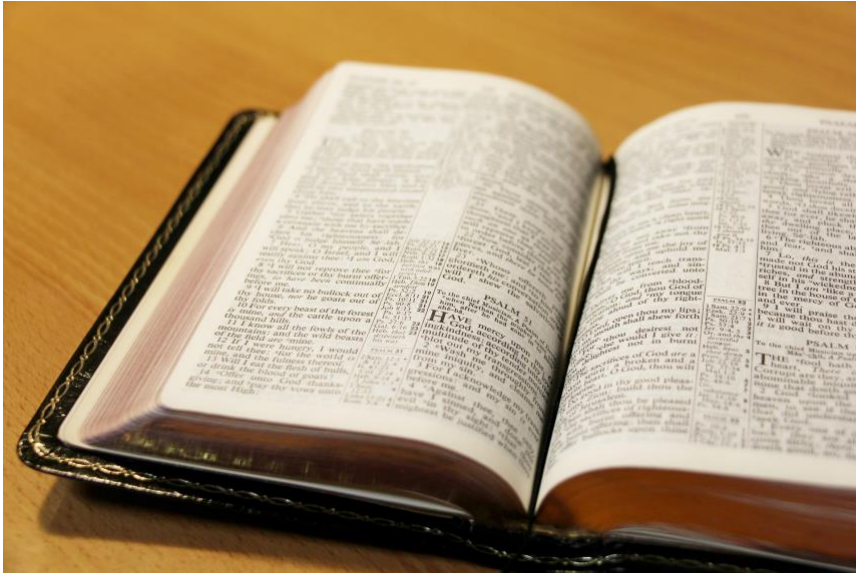


Today of course 'scholars' are gods, if they say, 'Ah but the Greek says', then that is it, the humble believer is to shut up and change his bible. The minister is to do likewise because the chances are that at best, he may have only done basic Greek and a huge amount have done none. How can you argue with a god? I will tell you something 'funny' here, the majority of these scholars who would attack the A.V. Bible all day have a level of scholarship and languages that compared to those who gave us the A.V. Bible would look pathetic. You should take care who you listen to.

Listening, isn't that important? However, so is who you are listening to. Who holds forth the light that guides you? Is the Holy Spirit breathing through the Word you are using? Can you feel Him speaking to your heart, warning, encouraging, giving peace, assurance, joy etc.? Or are you like one of those soul's who says, 'You know I was looking at a couple of bible versions the other day and often even on the same text they totally disagreed.' Even more so, where does that leave you if you are a Pastor? You could get down another couple and they might disagree again. Don't say oh this is all exaggeration, do some work to find out, you might ask well how long is that going to take? I can't answer that, it depends what God needs you to know and if it's just to reach you or others via you, for myself it's been approximately forty years.

You see friend bible scholars don't have to answer the questions of the 'man on the street', they sit in their ivory towers fancying themselves to be 'Solomon' on his ivory throne, but they do not have his God given wisdom. They don't like simple questions. Here is one they hate, 'Where is the Word of God?'. I mean you don't ask a bible scholar that do you?

Now, there are going to be those of you who say well you must seriously dislike all scholarship. No, I once thought they were 'gods' also. However, many of those whose books I studied (and if I had five pounds for every one, I would have some serious money), I wouldn't suggest a Bible believing soul read today. There will be those who say well you are putting down a world you know nothing about. Now dear brother/sister you are not using that argument for rejecting the warning I am giving you. I did three years at Bible College, eight years Theological Seminary work and that is not counting the years of secular university work. I have been an evangelist, pastor and bible teacher and been involved in two national ministries and one



international ministry plus I have invested forty years of study in the area of manuscripts, if you honestly think that I don't know what these men will do to rob men and women of the light of God's Word then don't bother to read on. If you don't think that fame, honour, prestige, recognition, standing etc. don't count to scholars you are blind. Some start their life in academic halls with all gracious reverence for the Lord's Word who in a few years have imbibed every bit of modernistic rot and unbelief in greater or lesser measure than you

would ever have believed. Again, I remind you that a scholar is just a sinner, maybe a saved sinner sometimes, but still open to deceit, falsehood, deception, unbelief and the fear of ridicule from colleagues. You have to have a very high view of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to watch over and keep His Word. Is the evidence there that He has done that? Oh yes my friend most definitely.

Today's scholars do not like you raising question marks over the evidence and arguments for modern bible versions, the A.V. as we have said in other papers previously is said to be an old fossil. Well first of all I have never found any evidence in forty years to reject it, but I have found a lot to reject modern bibles. Oh, they use to adorn my shelves but not anymore. I believe that God showed me very clearly where His Word was and is and it's not in a bible based on Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

The Preservation of Scripture is not a doctrine spoken of today in the era of modern bibles, to equate a set Word, preserved and kept with a pile of self-contradictory books called scripture is nonsense. These books are just money-making ventures to keep today's restless believers happy. Have you ever seen today's modern believers comparing their bibles? They are comparing different books.

Dear brethren, you might not like everything I say but nevertheless the facts in support of the A.V. Bible are well covered up by today's scholars. You will not find in the average Christian book shop books defending the A.V. However, such books exist, and it may amaze you to know that there are scholars who totally defend the 'Monarch of the books'. Such however don't get recognition or a platform for their work or ministry, thus the modern bibles and their supporters in academia get free reign in the propagation of falsehood.

Dear brethren I am not writing these things for my benefit or recognition but for your soul's welfare. I know your soul would benefit from using the A.V. Bible and getting rid of your modern version whichever one, that includes the N.K.J.V, it is not what it claims to be.

So, we will for now bring things to a close but if the Lord so pleases, we will continue with further material in 2025. We shall do so with only one intent in mind, His Glory and that His Name be lifted up and honour be given to the way He has preserved His Eternal Word, the Lamp unto our feet.

By Dr David Badger

An Ancient Answer to a Current Question

Logan Paul, the YouTube star and entrepreneur put a commonly phrased question to a Christian Apologist in one of his podcasts. The question was, 'How can God send people to Hell when they've never heard of Jesus?' It is a reasonable question, and one that can make many Christians panic in how they respond. As always though, the answer to any challenge to the goodness and mercy of God, is to be found within His own Word.

If we look at the life of Abram, or Abraham as he'd later be known after being renamed by God, we see how God gave a physical example as to how He answers such a big question put towards him. When we think of Abraham, we think of a great and faithful man of God, one renowned throughout Scripture for his strength of faith in God. Yet we sometimes forget **how** he came to know the Lord God so intimately that he could talk with God as a friend does with another.

Abram came from Ur of the Chaldees. The Chaldeans were a pagan people, rich in education and learning, with a staggering understanding of mathematics and astronomy. A powerful people group through their extensive trading connections with the nearby civilisations of the Egyptians, Canaanites, Hittites etc, made them a prominent nation in the ancient world. Yet for all their success, the Chaldeans were not a people who followed the Living God of the Bible. They were as the other people groups of their time (circa 2000 BC), followers of pagan gods.

So how did Abram know of God to a point that when God called him to come out of Ur and leave his home, all to follow the promise of God of a land given to him and the people he would father in a land unknown to him?

Abram would've had no idea who Jesus was in the fullness of revelation that we know Him via His complete Word, for this would be some 2000 years before the earthly walk



of Christ Jesus. Abram would not have a clue what the Gospel of Jesus Christ was if you were to ask him back in those ancient days whilst he walked the streets of Ur. Yet the Holy Scriptures declare Abraham (Abram) to be righteous before God (Romans 4:3). How could Abraham be considered righteous and thus clean and forgiven of his sins without knowing of the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, quite simply because he **believed God**.

Let's remind ourselves that God is just. God would not judge someone on refusing evidence they were never given, for that would not be just, and God cannot act against His own attributes but rather in accordance with them. So, what evidence did Abram have whilst living in a godless people that were the Chaldeans? The same evidence that has been offered every generation of humanity from Adam through to today. That evidence surrounds us and indeed houses us every single day. That evidence is that of Creation. All the many wonders of Creation that populate our days, from the mighty oak tree to the diligent and organised work of the humble ant; from the sweeping sunrise each morning to the uniqueness of each solitary snowflake, we are engulfed by a world that declares unashamedly that order demands an order giver. Chaos cannot create order; any parent of a teenager will attest to this when they walk into a filthy bedroom and recognise that it must be tidied by a person rather than wait for random chance to amazingly clean everything away neatly out of pure happenstance.

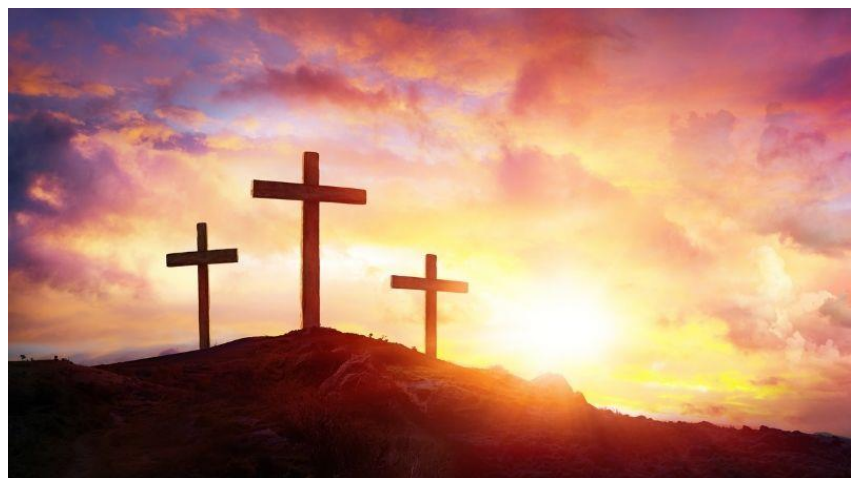
If this were not enough, then the body in which we dwell is a monument to the Creator. How can such a bewildering array of organs all harmonise so exquisitely so that a single human life can exist and continue to exist each day?!

Then we have the intangible proofs of the Creator God. How can time, space and matter create by itself emotions? What physical element can create hope, joy, surprise or even the most desired of emotions that is love? Where does the mind reside and from what did it arise? Can even the most amazing coming together of amino acids produce consciousness?

So, we are surrounded by an avalanche of evidence that there is a Creator God. And if we have the capacity to investigate all these things and know for ourselves the wonders of emotions such as love, then doesn't it stand to reason that this Creator God who gave all these things would like us to know Him as we like to be known by others? As you can see, as we follow these thoughts and considerations rationally and logically, we are stepping closer and closer to the God of the Bible. We are approaching the one who made all things out of His love and desire for us to know Him as He knows us. When we follow this trail to its logical conclusion, we come to the realisation that we have been made by a Supreme, Creator God.

Thus, Abram had come to this same conclusion, and so believed in God having assembled all the pieces of evidence given to him in the love of God, and seen that God wanted him to see Him and know Him for all that Creation declares Him to be, namely **good**. So, trusting that God has presented Himself for all the world to see, Abram believed these declarations of God and followed Him. It was on this simple basis, the belief that God is exactly what all Creation declares Him to be, powerful, personal, giving, loving and good, Abraham was counted as righteous by God. For even though Abram did not know Jesus Christ in the glories of His Gospel that were to be revealed in years to come, He knew of His nature and indeed His love in no different a way. For Abraham assessed the claims of God made through Creation and believed in what was being declared to him each day, that there is a God who made all things, and to whom therefore we are accountable and that this Creator God is good. Isn't this the essence of the Gospel?! A belief that Jesus is the Son of God, the Creator to whom we have sinned against, but is good and turns away no one who seeks Him and His forgiveness!

So, as we can see, God is a just judge and judges according to the level of evidence given to each individual. It is by the same Gospel that every soul is redeemed, yet it may be by different degrees of evidence given that this eternity opening truth is revealed to the heart. But before we race ahead and suggest that therefore because of all that we've said, it is only a belief in God that is needed, not narrow faith in Jesus Christ, let's remind ourselves of the key point raised. Many of us **have heard** the appeal of Jesus Christ and **seen** the evidence for ourselves. Therefore, if we were to dismiss this even greater level of evidence provided by God to us of His existence and revelation of His existence in the form of Jesus Christ, we are rightly condemned to eternal separation from Him in Hell. We saw and heard the evidence and dismissed it, we cannot claim to the appeal that we never heard of Jesus Christ or the Gospel, for that would be a lie and a further condemnation upon ourselves.



Thus, God has moved to give us wonderful answers to the very deepest questions of life, through the gracious provision of His Word. When we test this provision of God that is the Holy Scripture, we learn of His immense love and longsuffering all the more and see for ourselves that He is patient and longsuffering, seeking that none should perish. So, the evidence builds....

The Purchasing of Machpelah

In Genesis chapter 23, we read the sad account of the death of Sarah and the purchasing of her burial site by Abraham. Abraham seeks out the purchase of a particular cave and its surrounding field known as Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite. This whole transaction is carefully recorded for all of history for a purpose, with this purpose being three-fold. One, it provides a brilliant window into the legal intricacies of the ancient world and thus a fertile ground for checking the historicity of the Biblical account. Second, that the way Abraham goes about the purchase speaks highly of the man and is a great example to all Christians as how to act and live as a believer in Christ. Third, that the finality of the transaction displayed in Genesis 23, points towards the full and final transaction of Christ Jesus at Calvary in His payment to cover the sin debt of mankind unto God.



Let's begin with point one, the window into the legal practices of the ancient eastern world, and how this Biblical account has been verified as accurate by archaeological findings. The Nuzu tablets, discovered east of the Tigris River, a location near to the Biblical account as depicted in Genesis 23, and conservatively dated at circa 1500 BC (not far removed from the time of Abraham), are a massive collection of some 20,000 clay tablets that record an array of ancient topics. These range from marriage records, adoption agreements, inheritance law and treaties. These records attest to a complex and highly organised legal system that matches the Genesis account of Abraham's purchasing of Machpelah. Significantly, we have learnt from these clay tablets that it was illegal for Chaldeans to own land in Canaan for the purpose of residence. This was because the Chaldeans were such accomplished traders within the ancient Near East, that Canaanites were afraid of Chaldeans buying up their land and displacing them. We see such legalities taking place in Genesis

23, as Abraham has to seek permission from Canaanite landowners for the purchase and ownership of a land for the purpose of burial. Once more, archaeological discoveries are corroborating the Genesis account of history to even the often-complex world of property law.

Secondly, we see how a godly man is to behave in such delicate situations. Abraham's renown as a powerful, wealthy and virtuous man have caused the natives of Canaan to offer him his requested land of Machpelah as a free gift. How many of us would happily accept such an offer without consideration as to how we come across as servants of God? Abraham shows a remarkable character trait in this situation, as he does not take advantage of another person's generosity, something many of us are prone to do! Instead, he politely declines and respectfully ensures that the going market rate of the land is given. This gracious decline of an act of generosity is a wise one and not the act of a martyr. Abraham in his cool and thoughtful declining of a kind offer, would've been well aware that if the land were taken as a free gift, accusations of theft of land, illegal ownership etc could've easily been stirred up in future days by disgruntled Canaanites who would appeal to the Canaanite legal system as revealed in the Nuzu tablets. So, by ensuring that a fully legal and binding sale has taken place, no one could argue in future days that the transfer of ownership of the land was anything but correct and proper. Thus, ensuring that the future resting place of Sarah and many of the patriarchs would be secured for generations to come.

Thirdly, in this event, we see a remarkable picture of the securing of salvation by the shed blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary. For just as Abraham sought a fully legal transaction that would ensure no challenges of legality for his ownership of Machpelah, this but points to the seeking of a full and final payment for the sins of the world made by Christ Jesus on the Cross, all so that those who believe on Him might know with all security that His claim to them cannot be challenged; we are safe in His hands forever.

So even in this most sad of situations that is the purchasing of a burial plot for a beloved wife, there is a ray of light piercing through the grey skies of weeping. That light is the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By Him, we can rest in all peace knowing that our purchasing from the grave eternal has been secured and declared fully legal by Lord God Almighty. Therefore, we can have calmness of heart and certainty of hope always, that we have our place of rest secured forever; that place being the loving embrace of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

God's Awesome Promise

I will be his father, and he will be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee: 1 Chronicles 17:13

This most glorious of promises was delivered to David after God had told Nathan the prophet in a vision that David was not to build the temple. This was because David had slain many in battle, and so his hands were bloodied through warfare. As the temple was to be a house of prayer and a house of peace, a man of peace must oversee its construction, and this would be undertaken by David's son Solomon.

David's desire to build God a permanent dwelling place to replace the Tabernacle, a construction primarily of fabric, was a noble desire, for David did not wish to dwell in a great palace of cedar wood (a highly prized material in the ancient world, symbolising power, strength and wealth) whilst the Lord God dwelt in a tent. Yet whilst David's plan is a well intended one, done in service of the Lord, God does not desire it of him, for what man can offer anything to Almighty God?

The tenderness of God's love towards each of His own is on full display in this gentle calming of David's ambitions. God reminds David in the preceding verses that He never sought a permanent dwelling place from those appointed to lead His people in generations preceding David. The Lord shows David that He is unchanging and requires nothing of any man. All He seeks is our love. A prince or a pauper can offer Him this, and so the Lord turns none away who seek Him for who He is, the Father of Lights and the giver of good gifts.

There is no sweeter gift of God, than the giving of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, whom He gave for the salvation of the world. It is through Jesus Christ that we can come to the Father and call Him 'Father'. It is because of the righteousness of Christ Jesus, that when we do approach the throne of God in prayer, he does not turn us away, because we have been adopted of Him through the Firstborn of God that is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Instead, He looks upon us, we redeemed in Christ and sees only the purity of His own Son Jesus, for we have been wrapped in Christ's robe of righteousness and thus declared clean of all our sins before Almighty God. Thereby we are made sons and daughters of the Lord God, brought into the heavenly fold by our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is this promise that is extended to David so graciously by God after having denied David's request to build Him a temple.

This radiant promise of God is compounded by His own attribute of *mercy*, for we read in our verse in question, that God will not take His mercy away from David's son, that being Solomon, the one who would be king in future days. God gives this most prized of gifts to David in that He promises by his own faithfulness that He will be with Solomon throughout all his days. What godly father does not have this hope as one that he holds dearest to his heart, that his child will be the Lord's. The Lord does indeed honour the secret desires of the heart when they are in tune with His own will. Herein the abundance of God's mercy is displayed to us today through this mighty text, that it is by the faithfulness of Christ that we are assured of the promise of life eternal through faith in the Risen Saviour that is Jesus Christ.

How good the Lord has shown Himself to be in this turning down of David's aspiration of building Him a temple in which to dwell. God has limited David's plans because David's plans were limited. God's plans are so much greater and sweeter, for David would've built God a house of stone and wood in humble service, but God will build David a house of life eternal through his own royal line, a line that would lead to the birth of his Saviour, the Lord Jesus. Through Jesus, men's hearts would become a dwelling place for God, no matter where they might be in the world, or in what generation they might live.

How beautiful is the thought that God was happy to dwell in a mere tent for over 400 years, for his desire was to be amongst His people as He is in the revealed glory of Jesus Christ, personal, humble, gentle and near.

Consider now how the man that was tasked with taking the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, was a tent maker, that man being the Apostle Paul. As God first dwelt



with His people the Jews in a tent, so he was delivered to the world in the preaching of a Jew who made tents for a living. His humility, gentleness and nearness did not change and still has not, for still all He desires from any of us, is to dwell with us in our hearts through faith in Jesus Christ.

This stunningly gracious gift was given to David because David sought to serve the Lord, even if he did not always know the will of God. Yet God was not angry with David, hence His gentle putting down of David's plans and delivery of this wonderful promise in its place. A promise delivered to a humble heart that sought only to serve the Lord. Whereas the verse ends with a sobering warning to all who turn away from the goodness of God, for God reminds us that the man who preceded David as king, Saul, turned away from God and instead sought provision from evil and darkness. For Saul sought guidance from the witch of Endor, knowing the depravity of such an act, and so had willingly tossed away the blessing of God.

The message then is clear. Those who seek to serve the Lord in humility of heart and faithfulness of spirit, will be close to the heart of God. When they go astray from his will, He will move to correct them lovingly as a father does to a child. In His awesome goodness, He will show us why we have erred, but He will then remind us of His unchanging goodness and how because of His own wondrous nature, we can rest easy knowing that He will watch over us all the way home to glory. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Ever Darkening skies

Charles Swaab, the leader of the dark organisation that is the World Economic Forum, has declared that he'll be stepping back from duties during 2025. The likely up and coming leader of this political/economic/social behemoth is one Yuval Noah Harari (pictured below), a gay Jew whose various books (*Sapiens*, *Homo Deus*, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, *Unstoppable Us*, *Nexus*) have a combined output of 40 million units sold worldwide.

Born in 1976, Yuval grew up in Kiryat Ata, Israel as one of three children to Shlomo and Pnina Harari, a secular Jewish family of Lebanese Jewish and Ashkenazi Jewish descent. His father was a state employed armaments engineer and his mother was an office administrator, meaning that Yuval and his siblings grew up in comfort.

A gifted student, Yuval was able to skip mandatory military service and instead pursue academia via the Atuda programme due to health issues. He began studying history and international relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the age of 17. Yuval earned a B.A degree having specialised in medieval history and military history. Continuing his studies, he came to England to study for his D. Phil (Doctor of Philosophy) at Jesus College, Oxford.

During his early years, Yuval was committed to the cause of Israel, namely that they were a unique people that needed to defend itself and its culture/identity with all fervency. However, after his time at Oxford, Yuval moved away from this defence of his own people and instead turned towards a globalist ideology. During this same period, Yuval began a debased sexual quest where he set himself the objective of having sexual relations with one new man a week. Whilst he is 'married' now (to a man), he continues to hold to the hedonistic concept that there is 'no such thing as a guilty pleasure' as no guilt should ever be felt over anything that gives pleasure.

Yuval's beliefs that man is on an ever-improving evolutionary curve has permeating his writings, as his massively popular books focus on the progress of humanity from a supposed ape-man ancestry to near future biotechnological creature that is more akin to a *Homo Deus* (god-man) state. This coming *god-man* state that humanity is progressing towards, according to Yuval at least, is the driving force behind a whole new religious concept that is known as *Dataism*. The term *Dataism* was first coined in 2022 Albert-Laszlo Barabasi to define an artistic movement that determines data as the central means of understanding nature, society, technology, and even human essence. As a side note, all those who say Art is a pointless subject miss how this one area has shaped worldviews and thus directly impacting billions upon billions of people for generations!

So, Yuval is a leading voice is a drive to push humanity to an existence where data is god. In other words, those who have a valuable input to drive this biotechnical revolution forward will be embraced as a 'useful people' group; useful because they will be contributing to the society fuelled god of data (sorry Nimrod, seems like Yuval is pinching your dream of bringing everyone together to become gods schtick). Those who are not so technologically minded, able or conforming, Yuval openly categorises as "useless people". Seeing that the vast majority of the workforce is not in the computing industry, that renders a huge swathe of society 'useless'. Yuval, being a historian, notes that when a vast populace knows it has become 'useless' it revolts. His solution is to provide a UBI (Universal Basic Income - seen that being tossed around in political discussions



recently?!), a universal, unconditional income that will provide for the masses. However, Yuval is no fool, he knows from his philosophical studies, that even if someone is provided for materially, they will soon become bored and then become socially/politically unstable, posing a threat to the system established. Yuval proposes that the best way to quieten the “useless people” to acceptance of the situation, is to ‘drug them, and give them videogames’. Hmmm, what do we see in the young today, but a generation raised on medication for ADHD, anxiety, gender dysphoria etc, all finding comfort in an alternate reality of technology where they can escape their sad reality. A progress report for this aim captured by Yuval would read, ‘Steady progress, little refusal of steps taken, proceed roll-out across society’.

What the world could soon be facing is a technological dictatorship. This is something that Yuval openly declares is likely in the best interest of humanity as he has commented that soon this type of ‘dictatorship will be more efficient than democracy’. So, we have a man living in open and defiant sin against God, refusing the history of his people having once accepted that they are the chosen people of God, pushing the world’s elite to pursue course of action where a few will preside over the many, all of which will be mind-numbed sheep accepting any command as long as they are provided for and entertained. This will be achieved by a coming together of the world’s technological and economic powers all to push humanity to its inevitable god-man status. Doesn’t that all sound like the Book of Revelation to you? As each day passes, it appears that the end of the road for this world is approaching with ever increasing speed!

I do find it interesting how many of these deeply God-defying men such as Yuval Noah Harari are Jewish (Karl Marx being another that comes to mind). It wouldn’t surprise me at all if the Devil would take great delight in corrupting one of God’s own people to turn against Him in the hope that it will bring about the destruction of God’s promise to the Jewish nation that they will be a people before Him forever. Didn’t the Devil try a similar thing with Judas Iscariot, a Jew who betrayed his own.

Something sinister is brewing in Davos, meeting place of the World Economic Forum. All the world’s elite meet under this banner to decide the direction of the world in coming days. Most interestingly of all, all those who do meet in this elitist group, all have sought guidance from one figure, the Pope of Rome. No other organisation on Earth has the wealth and political power to even come close to that of Rome, and the world’s elite know this very well, hence they seek the pontiff’s guidance and blessing. If this socio/political ambition of Yuval Harari is able to come together with the reach of the Papacy, all will soon find its place according to what is detailed in the Book of Revelation.

Pay close attention to what is happening in the Papal Offices and see who goes in and out of those doors. Prepare yourself for the skies to become much, much darker yet. This murky world that the Church has become far too comfortable in will soon be required to declare whom its soul loves. You just watch the vast majority fall away, but do not be disheartened good Christian soldier but look up, look up and watch for your Lord’s return! For when the skies are at their darkest, that is when His light will burst through the most gloriously! So, come Lord Jesus! Whilst we await that trumpet call, steel our hearts so that we do not become fearful of the vast ranks of evil we see stirring on the horizon of our days. For you shall descend with the armies on heaven, riding to certain victory, before you take to your throne in Jerusalem, and we shall serve you in peace and plenty at last. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Lord Provides Good Wine

We’re going to look at a prickly topic amongst many Christians, that being the question of the consumption of alcohol. The majority of Christians will agree that drunkenness is always a bad thing and that the Holy Bible makes it very clear that no believer in Christ should ever become intoxicated with strong drink. This message is relayed clearly in Scripture from the account of the drunken behaviour of Noah not long after the Flood as

seen in the Book of Genesis, right the way through to the Epistles of the Apostles in the New Testament. Yet is there any indication from Scripture that the consumption of alcohol is to be avoided completely? It is a strangely divisive topic and one that will often stir up very animated defences from those who enjoy a tipple or two.

To answer this potentially volatile topic, we will look at the issue from three areas: historical context, scientific support and Scriptural observations. I invite the reader to assess the points raised in this piece calmly and objectively and to take what is discussed with open prayer and careful Scriptural study to verify the claims and points noted.



Firstly, we shall assess the historical context of the discussion of alcohol consumption within Biblical times. Many in defence of the consumption of alcohol will rally to the flag of 'Jesus drank wine so that means it's ok'. Ok, let's assess this initially valid consideration. The age and culture in which Jesus lived was one deeply affected by Greek culture. The 'Hellenization' of the Mediterranean, North Africa and Asia Minor had been imbedded for centuries after the conquests of

Alexander the Great in the 4th Century BC. Even at the time of Christ, Greek culture was still prevalent amongst the aforementioned societies and regions, with Greek being the *lingua franca* or common language of the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus.

Greek culture held a deep importance in social gatherings, with parties being a common and much enjoyed activity throughout the ancient world. These gatherings were known as *symposiums* and were the places to be for the well to do of the Greek speaking world. At these parties/gatherings, the consumption of alcohol was widespread and much enjoyed, as it was used to do the same thing people use it today for, to 'loosen up' and thus enjoy the event more. However, there was a key difference to what we consider to be acceptable wine consumption as to what the ancients considered to be acceptable wine consumption. The wine consumed at these parties/gatherings was always watered down and heavily so. The maximum amount of wine to water ratio considered to be socially acceptable was 1 part wine to 1 part water (50% water and 50% wine mixed together), with the majority of the time the wine content being around 20-30% wine to 80-70% water. This was done to ensure that the relaxing properties of fermented wine without inducing its detriments. The alcohol would be present enough to lower social anxieties without inducing drunkenness, all so that stimulating conversation and sharing of ideas could take place well into the night. This is why today we use the term *symposium* to mark a gathering of people to learn and share intellectual insights and discussions.

The ancient world view of the consumption of pure wine, as we drink it today, was considered to be something only **barbarians** did. In other words, those who held no moral standards, no consideration for learning or self control and uncivilised. Indeed, to the people of Jesus' day, *strong drink* (what the Bible consistently warns against people consuming) was what we know today as wine, not the act of getting drunk. In other words, *strong drink* is the bottle of wine you may enjoy with your evening meal. Again, the world of Jesus' day would consider anyone who regularly engaged in drinking such beverages to be barbaric, irresponsible and uncultured, let alone the act of getting drunk, something reserved for the often-debauched Dionysian orgies (Dionysus was the Goddess of Wine by the way).

Secondly, let's consider the scientific perspective of this question. Dr Hubermann has become a worldwide authority on neuroscience, appearing on numerous health shows and blogs all across the globe. He has been regularly quizzed on his stance towards alcohol and what impact it has on health. Dr Hubermann always maintains a cool, neutral standpoint on the issue, highlighting that he has no issue with people who do decide to drink and that his personal conclusion is based upon the many health facts that show the negative impact consuming **any** amount of alcohol has on the body.

Dr Hubermann has identified that many studies have shown that having a glass of wine with your evening meal (a widely done thing) dramatically changes sleep patterns, having a damaging effect on the body's circadian rhythms (something that will be looked at in a later article) along with eroding healthy gut bacteria, a vital natural defence against infections and is interestingly a modern day health crisis with intestinal infections and cancers rocketing in number.

Dr Hubermann regularly calls to attention the conclusions made from numerous scientific studies that just two alcoholic drinks a week has a substantial impact on the grey matter of the brain, namely the neurons of the brain. This impact is extremely damaging as alcohol rapidly accelerates a thinning of the the neurons meaning that connections between brain cells decreases, often leading to diminished brain volume and thus leading to brain disease. Again, it doesn't take a genius to see the recent explosion in rates of Alzheimer's and Dementia in society that may well have been boosted by the increased alcohol intake by society in the last 30 years.

The modern male is becoming a weak and timid version of what the male was just a couple of generations ago. Medical studies agree that this is not just a cultural problem but is also a physical problem, with testosterone levels amongst modern males at an alarming low across the population. Again, interestingly, Dr Hubermann has been vocal in his highlighting the medical fact that alcohol destroys testosterone. We are beginning to see a tsunami of health damaging properties contained within alcohol and so we have to deeply question why Jesus would provide such a liquid for plentiful ingestion at the wedding in Cana?!

To those who say that they drink wine for its health-giving properties, Dr Hubermann is politely direct in asserting with scientific evidence to support his conclusions, that any potential health-giving properties contained within red wine are overwhelmed by the damaging effects it has on the body. Dr Hubermann's stance is that alcohol is a poison, contesting based on scientific and medical evidence that the physical damage caused by drinking just 4-5 alcoholic drinks a week is so overwhelming that the debate on whether drinking alcohol is a good and reasonable idea is a closed one.

In a discussion with health expert Chris Williamson, Dr Hubermann and Chris Williamson agreed that the obvious physical effects that are easily discernible by the normal drinker are inappropriate behaviour; brain fog; tiredness; sloppiness; lack of productivity and emotional instability. Doesn't that sound like a lot of people today?! Could it be that alcohol is behind a large portion of the mental health epidemic that is being talked about at great length throughout the country? It wouldn't be the first time in this nation's history that such a problem has emerged. In the days of Wesley and Whitefield, England was in the grip of a national crisis of alcohol consumption, with gin being the liquor of choice for many. Indeed, the scale of the problem was so severe, that the English were mocked heavily by Europeans as being nothing but a nation of drunks (sound familiar?). It was by the preaching of the Gospel and the putting away of alcohol that this nation was brought back from the brink of a French Revolution style upheaval, and instead became the launchpad for the spreading of the Gospel across the globe by the wondrous Word of the A.V/KJV Bible (note before any modern Bible versions).

Thus, with just these few highlighting examples of the highly damaging nature of alcohol, we must question why we would believe that Jesus Christ, the pure Son of God, would embrace the usage of a liquid that causes such extensive bodily damage at even small amounts? Furthermore, throughout all of Scripture, fermentation and leaven (usage of yeast) is consistently used as a symbol of sin and corruption. We must ask ourselves the

important theological question of why would the thrice Holy Son of God willingly consume and promote the consumption of a fluid that is created by methods of decay (result of the Fall) and symbolic of the universal corrupting action of sin?! I struggle to believe that the Lord would do such a thing, and this thought is shared with Dr Henry Morris (considered the father of modern Creation Science, so someone whose thoughts and insights are not to be dismissed quickly!) in his notes on the wedding in Cana contained within his Study Bible

On a similar note, do we believe that the Lord would provide an immense amount of alcoholic wine to a gathering that was quite possibly already drunk?! If his own Word declares that drunkenness is a sin, then why would He then provide more alcohol to compound the sin?! Doesn't the Lord's Word declare that He does not lead us into sin! (Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil). To believe that He would do such a thing is beyond the reality of just who He is! As previously noted, Dr Henry Morris, shared this bemused outlook on modern Christians who seem to think that Jesus Christ was quite happy to engage in such consumption.

This is far from a deep dive into the topic of alcohol consumption but even this short investigation into the hotly contested topic should give more than enough evidence to make any Christian heavily question their part in consuming a drink that has no positive mention in the whole of Scripture. Now to those who say at this, 'hang on, doesn't Paul tell Timothy to take a little wine because it's good for the stomach'. Well yes he does. But remember that the Greek word for wine is *oinos* and is the same for fermented and non-fermented wine, and so Paul could've easily been advising Timothy to drink fresh grape juice, which is indeed good for digestion.

So, I invite all those who do consume alcohol as Christians to carefully consider their position and reevaluate their position. The historical, scientific and theological evidence against the consumption of alcohol is significant to say the least at even a cursory level of investigation and study. I leave you with this thought, one made by Dr Hubermann, nobody asks heated, irritated questions when you say that you don't consume certain food groups or do not gamble, attend nightclubs etc, yet the pushback experienced when someone says they don't drink alcohol is consistent and often condescending or hostile. Why is that?! Could it be that we are missing something very important about the impact of alcohol on the individual? A point that the Bible makes time and again, that it offers no good thing to humanity.

By Jonathan Badger

For Surely There Is An End

Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 23:17-18

These powerful words stand as an encouraging call to we believers in Christ to not look upon the wicked and be jealous of their seeming success and prosperity. This instruction is often hard to enact, as it goes against our sinful fleshly nature and has challenged believers since the days of Job and beyond. So how are we to live these words that have been delivered to us by God for our own welfare. If we turn to the Acts 3:1-11, we read of an incident which gives us a very real demonstration of why this directive of God is indeed a good and profitable thing (as all Scripture is, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

This passage teaches of the healing of the lame man by Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate within the Temple grounds. The man in question had been lame since birth and had been brought to the Temple daily to seek charitable giving from those coming and going from the Temple of the Lord.

It is not hard to imagine the sad state of this poor lame man. He had been brought to beg for help at the Temple gates daily for decades, relying on the goodwill and generosity of man, never a sure thing! He likely would've looked on the various classes of people going in and out of the Temple, walking assuredly with strength of body and living in wonderfully self-supporting means. Oh, how he likely envied their lives! Yet how many of those whom he watched enter and exit the Temple were going to worship God with a truly humble heart? Yes, their bodies may have carried them ably into the house of prayer, but were their hearts strong in Christ so as to carry their prayers to our Heavenly Father?

The instruction to live in the fear of the **LORD** all the day long is a hard one to bear, especially when it seems to be accomplishing little in our flawed, mortal estimations. This poor lame man would've known this thought well, far better than you and me! But to live in the fear of the **LORD** is to live in the wondrous awe of just who He is. Remember that He is the one who raised up the mountains and set the seas in their place. He is the one who but spoke all the immensity of the universe into existence! To live in this awe of His majestic power is to remind the failing heart that He can do anything, including coming to your aid. Even if all the world has forgotten you, He has not! He cannot, for He knows all things, and is good and merciful to remember and comfort those whom the world has dismissed. So as the lame man was brought to wait upon the presence of the Lord daily in the physical sense, within the Temple grounds, so we are to emulate him and come into the presence of the Lord daily within His Temple that is our hearts through believing and earnest prayer.



When we do so, the gentle but powerful comfort of God moves swiftly to aid us in our weakness. For on that day, after years of heaviness of heart, sadness and sorrow, the lame man would be made whole! The end of his crippled nature had come! It is no different for the broken heart when it comes to Christ Jesus seeking forgiveness of sin and healing of heart. The once crippled soul, unable to walk into the presence of God in wholeness and assuredness of being, is now restored by the healing hands of Jesus Christ! Now it is able to skip joyfully, giddily as a little child, right to the very throne of God and know they shall be received as a beloved son/daughter of God.

This happy truth is a wonder for sure! But what of you who say that the joy of that happy day of salvation in Christ Jesus has faded with time and the heavy hardships and trials of life are overcoming you? Is there nothing here for you to rest in and thus cure you of your envy of the wicked as they sit in seeming peace and prosperity? Be comforted friend, and rest in the fear of the **LORD** all the day long, and you will see with an equally great joy confirmed to your own heart by the witness of the Holy Spirit! That joy being that one day, known unto your Heavenly Father, all these heavy days will end too. Come that day you will be called home to

glory everlasting! That expectancy you held dearly that as Christ Jesus lives, so shall you, shall be fulfilled and not be cut off from you! You shall gaze upon your Redeemer with your own eyes and know Him as He knows you, and you shall rest in His presence and provision in all wondrous purity eternally!

Just as that lame man had not been forgotten by God and was gloriously healed by the power of Christ Jesus through His Apostles, so too have you been healed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, brought to you by the witness of His Apostles through his preserved Word. Not only this, but that you have a day appointed by the decree of God, when every tear shall be wiped away, and your end shall be one that is the stepping into glory everlasting.

So do not envy the wicked. Instead weep for them, for their end is also expected, but not one leading to everlasting days of glory but everlasting days of torment. Witness to them of the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and pray that they might be made whole also, just as the lame man was. Then they too might come boldly before the throne of God, through Jesus Christ, and be embraced as a beloved son/daughter also. What a joy that would be! Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Reason to Rise Early

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mark 1:35

There has been a great surge of interest recently in the health benefits of getting up early in the morning in order to start the day. A growing number of celebrities are taking to blogs, Instagram, YouTube etc to share how they're living their 'best life' by maximising the hours of the day and thus positively impacting their mental/physical health.



The idea is that in exposing ourselves to natural light as quickly upon waking as possible, the body's circadian rhythms, or our natural body-clock, are positively impacted thus ensuring a healthy regulation of sleep patterns, hormone levels and metabolism. Medical research is increasingly showing that modern life with its heavily screen orientated way of living, is playing havoc with our circadian rhythms, thus massively impacting upon our health.

The physical benefits of waking early, so as to spend some time in natural light are: better sleep; boosted immune system; lower stress; regulated appetite and

boosted moods due to increased levels of vitamin D from the sunlight. It is therefore quite evident that there are many benefits to this course of action. Yet is this 'discovery' anything new? Well, in a word, no.

As we read in Mark 1:35, Jesus was an early riser, and would've thus profited from the physical benefits of this act as already outlined, as He experienced all the frailties of the flesh living in a very real, physical body as you and I. Yet this was not an isolated incident, as there are plentiful references in Scripture to not just Jesus, but many of the saints engaging in this simple but profitable act. Yet their desire in rising early was not to maximise the performance of their body for themselves, but to seek after their Heavenly Father in quiet and focused prayer, away from the distractions of the day.

As we read in Mark 1:35, Jesus was up before the morning light, so the physical benefits of morning light exposure were not His goal. His desire upon waking was to come to His Father in loving prayer, seeking His blessing and provision for the day ahead. As important as taking care of oneself physically is, taking care of oneself in matters of faith is more important!

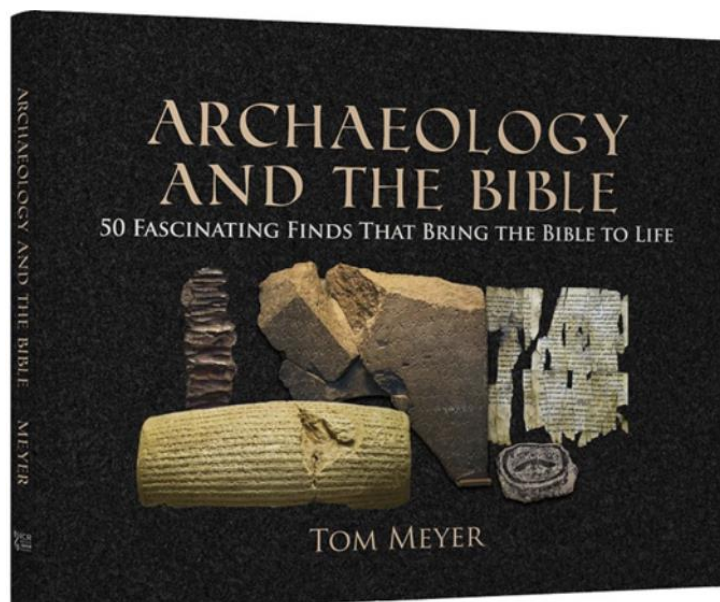
In going to the Father in prayer, even in the still darkness just before the dawn, Jesus showed us how we are to live in a manner that regulates our heart before God. For in seeking God early, we shall find Him early. When we find the source of blessing and provision early, then our hearts are set at rest from the very commencement of the day. So, we enter the day in peace of heart and clarity of mind (doesn't that sound like the goal of all modern mental health plans, just done quicker, easier and better!), ready to serve our Lord with joy and thanksgiving in all things. In doing so, we become powerful witnesses of the unique power of the Gospel to bring light and life to a repentant heart.

There is a saying, 'Whatever you first think of when you wake up in the morning, that is your god.' There is some truth in that statement. For when we wake up, our first thought often shows our minds greatest consideration, what is pressing most upon it. As believers in Christ Jesus shouldn't that be Him?! We are to follow our Lord's example as always, and see the great benefits of rising early, not with the goal of maximising ourselves to fulfil our desires, but with the goal of maximising the day for the glory of God. Thereby, we should come to Him in loving, devoted and hopeful prayer, seeking his blessing and provision for the day. Then, by the light of the world that is Jesus Christ, our very souls shall find regulation and contentment, so that we might be happy, joyful and loyal soldiers of Christ Jesus in a world of darkness. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

Archaeology and the Bible



Examine archaeological discoveries from over 2,000 years of history that affirm the Bible's historicity. *Archaeology and the Bible: 50 Fascinating Finds That Bring the Bible to Life* will help equip you, your children, and your grandchildren with the truths you need to defend the faith.

The Bible has been God's Word to His people for millennia, but most people today question whether the events it records are actual history. Every time the Bible's claims can be tested, however, they stand up to scrutiny.

In *Archaeology and the Bible: 50 Fascinating Finds That Bring the Bible to Life*, Tom Meyer covers over 2,000 years of biblical history, from the patriarchs to the early church period. Using discoveries unearthed from those periods, he demonstrates that the Bible's people and places really did exist and the events it reports really did happen.

Tom has an M.A. in the Historical Geography of Israel and an M.A. in Middle East Culture and Religion from Jerusalem University College. His unique insights into the world of the Bible—its cultures, geography,

archaeology, and customs—will equip you with the truth you need to defend the accuracy and reliability of the written Word of God.

The Stones Do Cry Out

"Even though I and those close to me had gone to church our entire lives, we were totally incapable of defending our faith using biblical archaeology that is, until I became equipped and began to teach that indeed the stones do cry out ([Luke 19:40](#)).

That, in short, is the aim of this book—not only to praise God that His Word is truth, as wonderfully demonstrated by archaeology, but to equip you, your kids, and your grandkids with the truths you need to defend the faith. So, grab your fedora, your leather jacket, a water jug, and your Bible, and let's embark on an exciting journey to the Holy Land." —Tom Meyer (from the Introduction of *Archaeology and the Bible*)

Available from Answers in Genesis

Instincts by Design



Inside *Instincts by Design*, you will discover scientific mysteries of human and animal bodies only creation can explain. This fascinating, full-color book explores the instincts that are necessary for life, helpful for growth, and necessary for protection.

Instincts by Design will keep readers captivated with answers to questions like these:

- How does a baby know when to inhale and exhale?
- How does a mother's milk change to meet the needs of her baby?
- Why is the instinct to sleep one that we cannot override?
- Why is it important that your tongue is the center of your taste receptors?
- Why is the hunger instinct crucial for survival?
- What instincts help brainless jellyfish hunt and kill their prey?
- Why would God give horses the ability to sleep standing up?
- How do more than 5000 species of birds journey thousands of miles every year?

The key question for someone doubting there is a God is whether these complex sets of instructions could have appeared without a Programmer. *Instincts by Design* is the #ProBible resource you will want to share with family and friends who need more evidence that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Almighty God. Christian readers will finish this book with an awe of the creative, perfectionist God who loves us so much that he did all this for everyone.

Available from Answers in Genesis

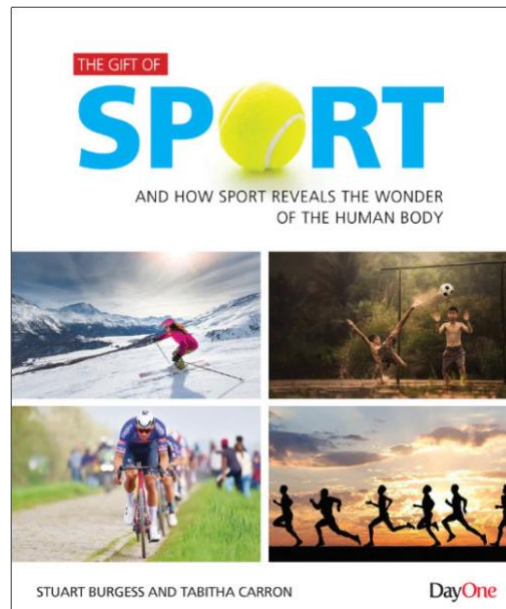
The Gift of Sport

The Gift of Sport is a lavishly illustrated large format book co-authored by a father and daughter, both of whom are well qualified to write such a book. A keen runner himself, Prof Stuart Burgess has designed highly successful chain wheels for Team GB's Velodrome track bikes, contributing to a host of gold medals in past Olympic games. Stuart's team are involved in the bike design for the 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July-11 August). Tabitha Carron played for Cambridge University women's rugby team and also represented her country in cross-country running.

Various aspects of design are discussed at different points; e.g., of the human body, or the horse's body in the case of equestrian sports. Sports help us explore the great outdoors and enjoy God's creation as well as maintaining fitness and health.

Following an introduction, there are 25 chapters on all manner of sports, outlining the rules, equipment, tactics, and strategy. Each chapter has sections on the history of the sport and the science involved, plus a box of fun facts. There is a chapter on '10 top athletes with Christian faith' (from around the world) and another on 'The dark side of sport'; e.g. idolizing sports stars/teams, gambling, temptations to cheat, match-fixing, what a Christian's priorities should be, and more. The final chapter asks 'Are you in the most important race?'

Available from Creation Ministries International



Genesis In The New Testament (DVD)

Without Genesis, there is no basis for understanding the New Testament. This presentation highlights the vital connections between the history in Genesis 1-11 and New Testament teachings.

It is clear that the New Testament writers all regarded Genesis as history: the people, events, and even the chronological order of events. For instance, John's Gospel begins by quoting Genesis 1:1, and pointing out Jesus is Creator. Jesus Himself affirmed what Genesis teaches about Adam and Eve, marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman, Abel's martyrdom, and Noah's Flood. Even the Apostle Paul focused his Gospel preaching on the historicity of Genesis. The first man, Adam, brought sin and physical death, while the last Adam, Jesus, brought righteousness and physical Resurrection.

It is critical to accept Genesis as history because, without it, the Gospel becomes incoherent.

Available from Creation Ministries International

