



Volume 4 Issue 5 December/January

Truth To Wonder

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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The Virgin Birth

The doctrine of the Virgin Birth of our Lord is foundational in the theology of the New Testament. It is in a real sense the once-only place reserved for the coming of our Lord into God's plan of salvation of which the Old Testament is the advance announcement and the New Testament the witness of its fulfilment.

There are those today who argue that it makes no difference who the father of Jesus was. If you believe that you have the brain of a gnat. However, given the graduates I see pouring out of theological colleges today I am more than confused with how they got in. Was our Lord then born of a Jewish woman clearly stained with the sin of unchastity?

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, if our Lord were begotten of a natural father and as in the eye of the law she is as solemnly bound as a married woman, then when she gave birth, she becomes as guilty as a wife who breaks the marriage vow. Did He who we call the Son of God arrive on this earth an illegitimate and bastard son, who in fact would have had no legal or descent right to live.



If He was not the seed of the woman then the Edenic promise that such a seed would bruise the head of the serpent has not been fulfilled; and whoever Jesus is, He is not that seed. If Jesus was not God, then He had no right to forgive sin. He has no right to make Himself the object of faith or the issue of salvation. Further, if He were not true and real God; if He were not God of God, very God of very God, God the Son as well as Son of God, He was not the second person of the Trinity. So who is? No one. Therefore the doctrine of a Triune God, the doctrine that God subsists as three distinct persons in one undivided substance or being, falls to the ground and then the body of Christianity finds itself in the front yard of Unitarianism.

If our Lord were begotten of a natural father and His personality is only natural, then as a natural person He is not infinite. Now, as only an infinite person can atone to an infinite person, only God can satisfy the law, the govt and being of God then He cannot offer atonement to God. To be an acceptable victim for sacrifice and fill the position of a substitute He has to be free from the penalty of sin, to be so He must be sinless, not only in deed, but in essence and nature. If He was begotten by a natural father, then He had a sinful father. So, He inherited a sinful nature. Thus, under the penalty of sin He could neither be substitute for sinners, nor sacrifice for sin.

Now, if He were just a natural son of a natural father then since God alone can raise the dead, He can't fulfil His promise that after laying down his life He would take it back up. He could not of himself raise Himself from the dead. Further, as God, the Father, is said to have raised Him, and it is said He should raise Himself; and the Father and the Spirit are rep as co-operating with the personal power of the Son to raise Himself, then if He were a natural man He could not co-operate with Father and the Spirit in a supernatural act. So, He never was raised from the dead. You see it makes a great deal of difference who was the father of Jesus. If God the Son did not become a unique being with two natures, human and Divine in one body, and one personality forever, then the whole foundation of Christianity as set forth in the New Testament collapses.

By Dr David Badger

Keep It In Context!

But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me. *Luke 19:27*

It's amazing what you can make a text say if you take it out of context. The verse above are words spoken by Jesus, and if that is where I left this piece you would be understandably alarmed that the Prince of Peace said such a statement. However, if you were to turn to Luke 19:27 and read the surrounding verses to give Christ's words their proper context, you would soon be relieved of any worrisome thoughts. You see these words spoken by Jesus were given in the midst of a parable of a wicked king who enacted his rule with great violence and evil. This **is not** Christ Jesus saying to His disciples to round up all non-believers and bring them to Him for public execution. Yet such a ludicrous and poorly researched assertion is popularly put out across the internet by Neo-atheists such as Sam Harris (see picture to the right).



Sam Harris is one of the poster boys of this movement first put forward by the militant atheist Richard Dawkins. Mr Harris delivered a speech that gathered a lot of online momentum at the time, when he used this completely inaccurate argument of Luke 19:27, to show Jesus Christ to be a bloodthirsty maniac 'by His own words'. He contended that the teachings of Jesus Christ were inconsistent and should thus be dismissed as for every 'good teaching' that Jesus provided (Mr Harris used the 'Golden Rule' as an example, *do unto others as you would have them do unto you*), Jesus taught other ideas that were extreme or maniacal (this is where he wheeled out his absurd rendering of Luke 19:27 and thus highlighted his complete incompetence as a scholar).

Tragically, how many upon hearing this pre-school level of argumentation and scholarly understanding put forward by Mr Harris, would've actually gone away and checked Luke 19:27 for themselves to see if his argument held any water? The great likelihood is none would've, and thus they would've had either their weak faith or sympathies to Christianity destroyed on the basis of a totally floored argument.

This is why it is imperative to **defend** the purity of God's Word and to **study** it consistently so that such laughable arguments against the Word of God can be rightly exposed for what they are, ludicrous nonsense. This is again where those who trust in the purity of the Word of God are given the shield of the Holy Spirit to defend against such attacks and indeed repel them with great gusto!

Jude 3 - and exhort you to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

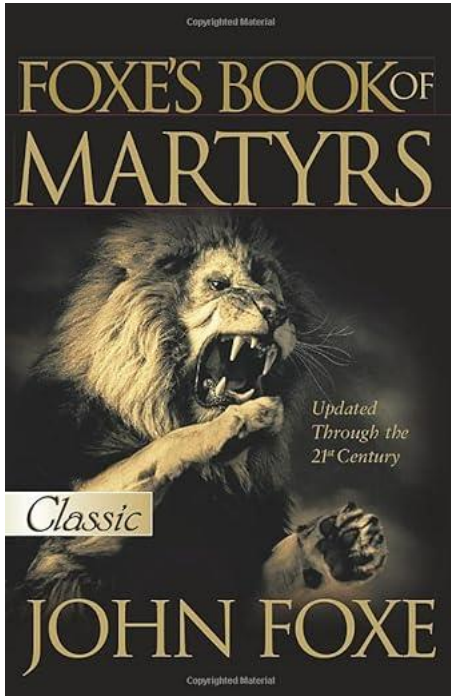
By Jonathan Badger

Bewitched Believers

When we look into Church History, we can see the huge difference so often between an orthodox Christian theologian and a dedicated Bible believer or as one brother has put it, 'an educated Christian scholar and a Bible-believing preacher'. Do you know in 1611 in this land under King James a 'strange' thing happened. The above type of souls under God brought forth a translation that was not only just accurate and readable (sort of important), but a spiritual gem. It was a Bible that had been forged on the practicalities of life. How do you suppose that any revision committee

from 1900 till now could compete with and produce a masterpiece that those on the committee that sent forth the Word of Life after the reign of Bloody Mary and the Martyrs lives of Smithfield (1555 – 1600) did?

There wasn't a man on the A.V. committee who didn't know a friend or a friend of a friend or the relative of a friend who was burned at the stake for calling the Mass a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit. It was such then and still is today no matter how much you paid to hear your modern bible college tell you otherwise. Why don't you go and read Foxes Book of Martyrs much cheaper than an 'accredited bible course' and learn some real Church History about real men and women who died for the faith. Their faith stuck to the Book and it cost everything.



Oh, I know they will tell you the R.C. Church was built on Peter, that Peter was in Rome, that it was The Chair of Peter. Let's take Irenaeus (120 – 192) who refers to Rome as the 'greatest and oldest church acknowledged by ALL' and founded by Paul and Peter. His scrip authority for claiming Peter helped found the Roman Church? None. There is nothing in the New Testament to say Peter was in Rome, near it or had contact with any soul there. The epistle to the Romans is written by Paul and the believers at Rome (Rom Ch16) don't count Peter as a member, founder or bishop.

Rome has taught a thousand things about scripture over the last 2000 years that have as much factual basis as a motorway across Venus. But she pours it forth still and the Bible Colleges suck it up, churn it out, promote it because often their lecturers have no more knowledge than the students they teach.

Yes, there is a Church on this earth that is old, apostate, godless and bloody. She hates the Bible, you say what? She promotes modern bibles. I said she hates THE BIBLE GOD'S BOOK not her perverted rubbish. There is one book on this earth she fears and all her lackies attack and that is the A.V. Bible. Well, that Book will still be here when the Lord Returns and the Judgement of the City on Seven hills takes place then at last it will be known who the greatest Ecclesiastical LIAR was.

By Dr David Badger

A Twofold Message

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. *Hosea 11:1*

The account of the life of the prophet Hosea is one of the most heart breaking yet hopeful texts of the entire Holy Bible. Hosea was called to love, marry and have children with a harlot (prostitute), a woman whose life was so wholly given over to sensuality and the flesh, that she happily sold her body away to strangers. It must have been a singularly heartbreaking calling that Hosea was brought to live in the name of the Lord; to love and give himself consistently to another who flagrantly abused and defiled such a precious gift. Yet this was the point of the heavy task given unto Hosea, to act as a living example to all of Israel, of the heartbreak that God was experiencing of the prostitution of the special love reserved for them as God's chosen people, as they set about debauched and vile idolatrous practices.

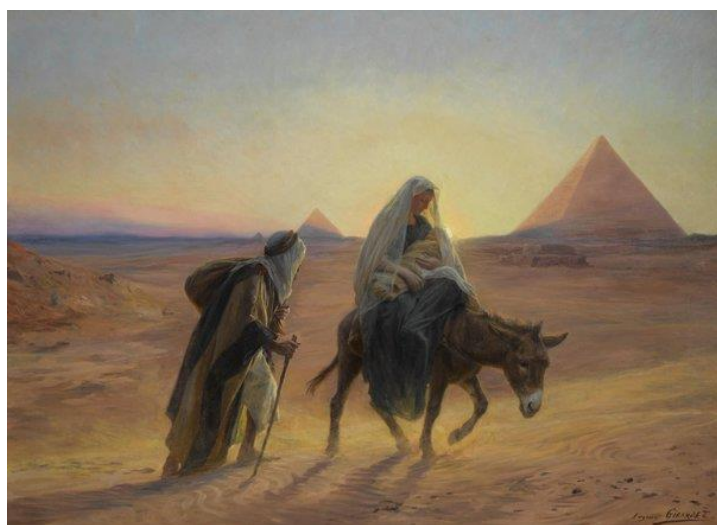
In the midst of this bleak and heart wrenching account, there is a however, a most wonderful glimpse of hope offered to those who had so openly disregarded the love of God. This hope is given in Hosea 11:1 and reads as seen at the opening of this piece. It is a hopeful and certain statement of intent by God, one that both looks back in history and looks forward in time, some 800 years into the future of Israel's history. It is a message that reminds the adulterous Israelites of the amazing love and provision of God, when He called them out of the land of Egypt and took them to the Promised Land in His grace and love.

We see in this precious verse, how this young nation of Israel, was dearly loved by God, and that this love was an unconditional love based purely on the immensity of the heart of God. For what can a little child offer to anyone to profit them? They cannot bring strength of work, greatness of wealth, immensity of wisdom, depth of experience to any; yet they are loved. Anyone of a gentle and warm heart, loves children irregardless of their achievements, skills or merits. This depth of love is seen a billion times over everyday by devoted parents across the globe. However, even the most loving and doting of parents cannot compare in the immensity of love that God holds towards His Creation. This love

was poured out on the Israelites so that they would receive the precious and pure Word of God, so that all the world might come to know God through their work as a nation in the name of God.

So, the wondrous love of God was given to Israel, from the days of its infancy, and was displayed for all the world to see as the LORD brought them out of Egypt. This is the first application of this verse. The first application of the delivering of a son by the gracious and providential hand of God. Yet, as He spoke these words in Hosea, the Lord was speaking of the past as well as speaking of what was yet to come. The miraculous second application of this verse was to be fulfilled some 800 years later, in a small town called Bethlehem Ephratah. This unimportant, minor town in Israel was to become the receiving ground of the Saviour of the World, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As the early days of the infant Jesus' life swept by, the wicked King Herod conspired to have the arrival of the King of the Jews exterminated, and he would stoop to the horrors of mass infanticide to achieve his murderous goals of securing his throne. However, Joseph, the earthly protector of the young Christ, was warned in a dream by God of the heinous crime that Herod was about to commit, and was told to flee to Egypt until it was safe to return. Thus Joseph obeyed and swiftly took the infant and His mother away to refuge in Egypt.



Thus we come to the second application of Hosea 11:1, the bringing up of God's own Son from Egypt at the death of Herod. The hope of these words was to be fully realised when Christ returned to Israel, still in His youth, so that He could later begin His earthly ministry and then offer up His pure blood in atonement for the sins of mankind. The good news of the Gospel was wonderfully glimpsed here in Hosea, a book filled with heartbreak and lament. However, hope springs eternal, for the certainty of hope contained within the Word of God will never be denied, and so in the second fulfilment of this verse, Hosea 11:1, the path to salvation could be laid by the hands of God.

It is an exquisite work of God, that such a verse can look back as well as forwards in time. Yet why are we

surprised by such a wonder? Isn't our Lord the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and fulfilment of all things? Of course He is! In this amazing declaration, we are seeing the very eternal nature of God, the application of His grace and the immensity of wisdom that He possesses, all combined within just a few words! What manner of man is so eloquent of speech, so nimble of mind to achieve such a feat?! Let us tremble at the power of such a God as the Living God, for He alone can fulfil the past and future in the singularity of His Word. Now in this spirit of awe and reverence, let us draw near to Him in praise and thanksgiving, for He is no tyrant or cold dictator of life. No, He is love. His eternal love He longs to share with us, with all those who would receive Him for who He is, just as we long for in our own days. Isn't this longing of us all but a witness to the fact that we are made in His image and likeness, just as His Word reveals? He revealed Himself to us in the flesh, through His only begotten Son, two thousand years ago, and the name of His Son is Jesus Christ. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. Come and adore Him, so that you might receive of the love of God eternally; that same love of which Hosea spoke of and enjoys forevermore. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Qualified To Mock The A.V. Bible

Dr D Badger B.Th; M.Rel Educ, M.Th, Ph.D, B.Sc

Don't we have a lot of modern bibles today and what an army of 'scholars' to endorse them. Despite the fact that these modern versions so often disagree with each other they all have a united front in undermining the old A.V. The stories are endless, the 'facts' pour forth, the qualified opinions comprise a list of names without end and their sincere reverence for the Word of God is almost beyond the capability of the English language to put into words. They make statement after statement on why the A.V. is archaic, incorrect, unsound, in error etc. knowing full well that ninety-nine percent of all believers who read their books, articles etc. wouldn't know if they were being fed a load of old baloney or not. The names go up, the qualifications, the endorsements of them being great defenders of the faith and so forth. Do you know how many of these 'scholars' know the academic arguments surrounding the A.V. issue? Being generous, probably about two percent. There are men of the past and present of huge scholarship who defend the A.V. who these critics have never heard of, they have no familiarity with the academic arguments and couldn't answer them if they did.

Reverent biblicists, that's a term they like being employed to refer to them. It's very warm, safe and calming, isn't it? If you believe it, you are on unsafe ground. They also like to put their qualifications behind their names to give weight to their attack on the A.V. So, how does that work if the one who has all the qualifications is a defender of the A.V.? What if they were attained at the highest possible academic level? Doesn't count?

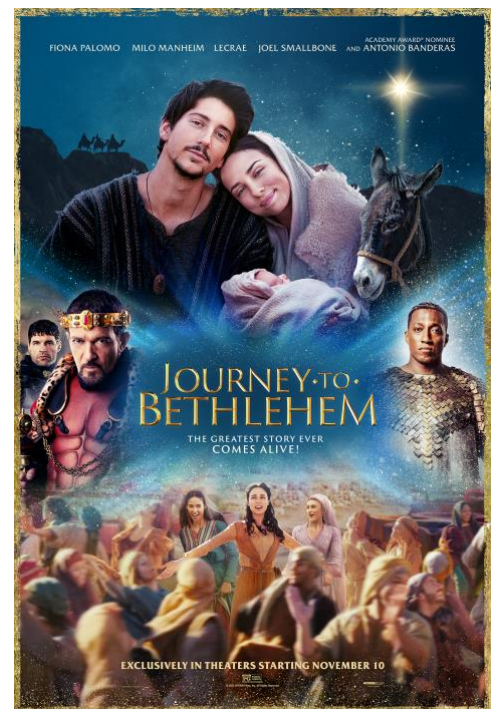
Question. Why is there one bible on this earth that is more hated than all the others? Why do Christians tell more lies about it than any other book? Tell you what, why don't you go and get a copy of the A.V., get on your knees and ask God via His Holy Spirit to speak to you about these matters, ask Him if He has a special Book that is unlike any other pretender and to use it to open up your heart and mind. Do you really fear such a challenge? Why?

By Dr David Badger

Journey to Bethlehem – A Dangerous Movie?

As we approach Christmas, many will be nestling down cosily with a festive film to spend the cold and dark winter evenings. Given however, so many Hollywood made Christmas movies are so removed from anything resembling a 'Christian message' that makes it barely relevant to the thanksgiving of the Incarnation of our Saviour, many will be eager to hear of a new 'Christian' movie about the Nativity; this movie is entitled *Journey to Bethlehem*.

This new movie boasts high production values and even a well-known Hollywood star (Antonio Banderas) playing the role of King Herod; yet sadly that is where the interest in this production quickly ends. *Journey to Bethlehem*, is a musical. 'So what?' many of you are likely asking right now. Well as Todd Friel of *Wretched* (an American Evangelical ministry) wisely notes on this issue, is a musical a suitable medium for the subject matter of the Nativity to be portrayed? Even a brief consideration on this matter should cause the prudent Christian to conclude 'no'. Why so? The Nativity is not a light and breezy event of history, one suitable for the happy, carefree nature of song and dance seen in musicals. The Incarnation of Christ came at a time when the Jewish people were oppressed by Roman occupiers; overseen by a corrupt and wicked foreign ruler (Herod); was a nation deeply divided on matters of religion and faith (the centuries old division between the Pharisees and Sadducees as just one example, forgetting the likes of other groups as the Essenes etc); a nation struggling with heavy taxation by the Romans and rampant poverty and all manner of awful diseases such as leprosy affecting many. This was the setting into which our Lord entered history; during one of its darkest and most hopeless hours. The reality of what **actually** occurred does not fit the choice of medium that is a musical at all!



Furthermore, *Journey to Bethlehem* depicts Mary as a strong spirited, independent woman (hello feminism, it's nice to see you've taken into account how women were actually treated and behaved during the actual time of the Nativity) and Joseph is a young, bumbling, and dim-witted man who blends nicely with how the recent *Barbie* movie portrayed Ken and all men.

The angel Gabriel is played by the 'Christian' rapper Lacrae (nothing Christian about his music and one viewing of his recent discussion on his backsliding in faith will make you question everything he claims about his faith!) and Antonio Banderas' King Herod comes across more along the lines of a pantomime/Disney villain that resembles nothing of the child murderer that the Bible records. His song 'It's Good to be King', is a bouncy, catchy number that makes an absolute mockery of just how demonically wicked this foul man was!

Then comes the clincher, the slaughter of the innocents that Herod orders in the murderous hope of killing the infant King, Jesus Christ, is completely omitted from the movie! Instead, in the movie, Joseph and Mary are able to convince the son of Herod (Herod Antipas) to let them leave Israel for safety in Egypt. Where is that in the Biblical account of the Incarnation of Christ?!

The reviews of this movie by even liberal Christian organisations (the Gospel Coalition being one example – hardly a bastion of solid theological discourse!) have been savage, highlighting all the flaws and errors that have already been noted. If even liberal Christian groups are denouncing this production, surely that says everything that needs to be said on the matter!

All this sparks an interesting question, should Christians even view dramatisations of Biblical accounts? I cannot think of one theatrical production that accurately renders, according to the actual Biblical text, the subject matter on which they are seeking to recount. The movie medium is a uniquely powerful one, and massively underestimated by modern society (there is a reason why the Nazi's had a vast movie programme run by one of Hitler's closest and most demonic of allies, Joseph Goebbels). Movies can leave lasting impressions, particularly on young minds and can shape how one views the world, history and even life itself. All Biblically based movies use artistic license to 'fill out' the narrative so that a 90 minute to 2-hour movie can be crafted. Thus, additions of man's imagination slip into the God's recording of history, and those not deeply familiar with the actual text can come away with misconceived thoughts of what actually transpired in history. One example being in the Sony Pictures movie, *Paul, An Apostle of Christ*, where Paul is talking with a Roman army captain who is overseeing his house arrest in Rome. The discussion flows between them and the army captain bristles with irritation and suspicion that Paul is trying to convert him to Christ, yet as he puts this thought vocally towards Paul to test his preaching mettle, Paul hurriedly backtracks and assures the army captain that he's not trying to convince or convert him at all. This does not match with the earnest preacher that the Bible reveals the actual Paul to be, so what place does it have in a movie about the Apostleship of Paul (along with many other errors of recounting the life of Paul)? It simply doesn't, and yes, an experienced and Bible versed believer will spot this error and dismiss it for the erroneous rubbish that it is. However, not all Christians are so experienced or mature in their faith, and so they will come away from that moment thinking, 'if Paul even did not seek to bring people to Christ through face-to-face preaching and witnessing of the Gospel, then I shouldn't!' This very thought you see time and again on videos posted online by street preachers who are angrily confronted by 'Christian's' who aggressively assert that the street preacher shouldn't be preaching! If that's the case, then Pentecost was completely wrong as Peter should've kept his mouth shut so as not to offend anyone! Praise the Lord that He does move to have His servants preach and witness in the streets as if He didn't, so many more millions would be in hell at this very moment!

The end point is that we must be prudent along with being wise (I wisdom dwell with prudence - Proverbs 8:12) in the dealing with such matters as discussed over this movie in question, and indeed Christian movies in general. Use Godly reserve and caution of judgement (prudence) when viewing such material, as yes powerful Biblical messages can be expressed within them, but exercise caution as to who else is viewing them with you. Be wise as to whether your viewing companion is as knowledgeable and mature in faith as yourself, and whether the material be viewed could cause more damage than good and move to protect them as the shepherd protects his sheep. Also be humble of heart and be wise in being aware of your own strength of faith and Scriptural knowledge in Christ. If you know you are an infant in such matters (we all have been at one point and so do not be troubled), take prudent steps to ensure you don't open yourself up to material that is not a truly faithful recounting of what is actually recorded in Scripture. Spend that time you would've invested in the movie and instead read the actual account of what happened as recorded in the Holy Bible. Then you will grow strong in faith and wisdom, knowing your Lord all the better and ever more peaceful and joyful of heart, the very thing the movie falteringly attempted to do anyway. God bless.

By Jonathan Badger

First Called Christians

At Antioch, the capital of Syria, those who love the Lord were first called Christians. It has been believed that the Bible was taken from its original tongue and translated into Syrian about 150 A.D. You might find it referred to as the Pashitto (meaning simple or correct). We should be aware that the Bible of early Greek Christianity and the early Syrian was the Received Text, it is also of note that the early bible of northern Italy, of southern France, and of our land was (praise God), the Received Text.

Believers should understand that from the churches in Judea pure manuscripts were carried to the early believers in the west. You would have thought that the Emperor Constantine's Bible promotion would have carried all his imperial power, yet in around a generation it's like it's been taken by a powerful hand and withered. In later centuries when the 'apostles' of the Catholic Church entered parts they find the believers using the Textus Receptus, that text belongs to the kind of early apostolic manuscripts that came from Judea.

The Received Text had authority. All the churches that used it opposed the Church of Rome. Rome chose a corrupt text, always has. Again, it is clear that British Christianity never came from Rome. The early Latin Bibles were well set up before they had conflict with Rome. For a long time before the Vulgate was taken up by the Papacy, believers had refused it. Why? Well, one reason for certain, that the languages into which these versions were made, were well adapted to set forth the original text. Exactly as with the A.V. it was partly because the Low Latin of the

2nd Century, the Gothic of Ulfilas, and the strong Lutheran German had that ability that we got a faithfulness to a living Word.

For approximately 900 years the Latin translations held their ground after the arrival of the Vulgate (around 380 A.D.); but horror was coming. Rome waged war. Bibles, documents, manuscripts to be noted, plus those telling us of the Albigenes and Waldenses were destroyed. Do not believe for one second that the Latin Bible of early British believers was the Vulgate of Rome. There really were only two bibles, the Received Text and that of Rome. There is clear evidence for apostolic purity of doctrine, doctrines unlike those of Rome, doctrines that fit with Waldensian and Reformed bodies. The Waldensians of north Italy visited Rome and held forth the Word of Life until the truth of the reformation. Who can truly tell the story of suffering of the Waldenses? Rome wiped out the records. Rome's secret agents did an incredible job. They even destroyed two great Palatine libraries, one Greek the other Latin. Even from the University of Cambridge documents, letters etc. had gone by 1823. The Reformers taught that the Waldensian

Church was formed about 120 A.D. and they passed down the teachings from the apostles. Understand this, the Vulgate was Rome's corrupt Scriptures against the Received Text; but the Received Text the New Testament of the apostles, of the Waldenses, and the Reformers. In the early days Rome corrupted the manuscripts, at the same time the Italic Church handed them on in apostolic purity.

It is also evident that our translators of 1611 used four Bibles that had been under Waldensian influence, e.g. the Diodati in Italian, the Olivetan in French, Lutheran in German, and Genevan in English. Further, we also have reason to be persuaded to six Waldensian Bibles that were written in the old Waldensian vernacular.



How did that Vaudois Church in the Alps get uncorrupted manuscripts? Well, along those wild roads missionaries would have passed carrying such manuscripts. They may also have had letters, documents etc. from the churches in Judea. Remember, Paul's plan to attach Gentile Churches in Europe to those of Judea? Today we know how Constantine's corruption (the Hexapla Bible), was fought. There was a body of churches, nothing like as many as that apostate Christianity but that stretched from Palestine to Scotland. Think, if Rome couldn't crush the word of the apostolic Scriptures in her own land how then in the Greek speaking world of distant and the hostile East was, she going to maintain the Greek Bible?

Look, the Textus Receptus, the Scriptures of the apostle John etc. became the Received Text of Greek Christianity. Then, when the Greek East was shut down for a thousand years from the Latin West, the Waldenses still had in Latin the Received Text. It is utterly false that Rome gave the Bible to the world.

By the time we reach 1611 linguistic scholarship is fabulous and the translators, men of great minds preserved the treasures of past translations, thus the language of the time in which they worked is not limited to their day. There is a great simplicity to it. Further, approximately 150 years of printing had enabled Jewish teachers to provide huge treasures in Hebrew which they had built over 2000 years. It was Prof E.C. Bissell who wrote, 'There ought to be no doubt that, in the text we inherit from the Masoretes, and they from the Talmudists, and they in turn from a period when versions and paraphrases of the Scriptures in other languages now accessible to us were in common use - the same text being transmitted to this period from the time of Ezra under the peculiarly sacred seal of the Jewish canon - we have a substantially correct copy of the original documents, and one worthy of all confidence.'

It is very easy today for 'scholars', (I use the term loosely), to attack the A.V. because they know the other 'camp' of those who love it no longer know their case well. This works well for anti-A.V. Versions and those who push them. The gods of modern bible-translations like Westcott and Hort have wiped the floor with those who loved the Received Text. Tragic couldn't begin to describe this. Westcott and Hort's case is a fairy-tale, always has been.

Let me say this, those first 300 years of the Reformation gave us scholars the like of which you couldn't find today. We could list scholars who were unsurpassed in learning not just then but still would be. The idea so often presented today by those who hate the A.V. that we know so much more now than in 1611 translators is a joke. You can only get away with that argument by relying on the ignorance of your opponent.

Now, some will say but many manuscripts have appeared since 1611, okay, but the huge majority are in substantial support of the Traditional Text that the Reformers used and the A.V. Much has been constantly spouted about Alexandrinus, Vaticanus and Sinaiticus and I am so glad because there are some who are beginning to wish they had not shouted so loud. Why? Because increasing questions are being asked about these manuscripts since the 1970's. Right now, for example there are some scholars who see Vaticanus as possibly a fake and Sinaiticus? Well, much to be said.

Let's consider a few thoughts. We have been told that in 1627 the Alexandrinus landed in London, obviously too late to be used by the A.V. translators. As others have asked so we can too, why does a manuscript have to stay in the home city of scholars etc. in order for them to have information from it? Again, as often stated, if that were the case then the Revisers of 1881 and 1901 were really in a mess. Look, the scholars of Europe and on our shores had the opportunity to be fully conversant by 1611 with all the problems involved in the Alexandrinus Manuscript.

The Catholic Encyclopedia admits that the New Testament from Acts on, in Codex A (Alexandrinus), argues with Vaticanus. So, if the difficulties presented by Codex A and Vaticanus were that bad, then why do we have to wait until 1881-1901 to be told of the terrible mistakes that the A.V. translators made when the manuscript had got here in 1627? The facts are that the problems of these two manuscripts were not only well known to the A.V. men, they were known to Erasmus. We learn that the Old Testament of Vaticanus had been printed since 1587. Erasmus knew of Vatican readings of the 'Sixtine' publications in Rome in 1587. However, he was aware of the massive evidence that the Received Text was correct.

The story today of the Sinaitic Manuscript by Tischendorf in a monastery at the bottom of Mt. Sinai is becoming increasingly interesting, that, we can't deal with now but going back to the original discovery it is of note how excited was the clamour that the new find was similar to Vaticanus and yes, (just what they wanted), different from the A.V. That 'amazing' discovery of Sinaiticus stirred the tumult for revision more wildly.

Further, the Sinaitic Manuscript, to quote, 'is a brother of the Vaticanus'. That also means they present the same problems. The various readings were known to the A.V. men and thus they flat rejected them 100% correctly. They also had other manuscripts which, had all the same problems, so, even if they had not had Alexandrinus, Sinaiticus and Vaticanus it still wouldn't have mattered.

Listen, among the cursive and uncial manuscripts which the Reformers had, the majority agreed with the Received Text. However, there were a few that sat among what has been termed 'the counterfeit family'. Those particular ones have all the problems that you can dig up in Alexandrinus, Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

I wish today that our students, lecturers, Prof's etc. had some knowledge (real knowledge), of the men who under God brought forth the A.V. Let me give you a working picture of the difference. When King James appointed the 47 men to begin the greatest work of Bible translation, they were divided into three groups. One was at Cambridge, one at Oxford and the third at Westminster. Each of the companies working on six portions of the Hebrew and Greek Bibles. Each member worked individually on his task, then he would bring to each member of his body the work he had performed. Then, the committee all working together went over the portion translated. When they had agreed, after having compared their labours they sent it to each of the other bodies to be critically examined. If anything of doubt was seen, they would note this and send it back to the company it came from. Then, if there was still a question on the matter, a general meeting of the chief heads of all the bodies at the end of the work. So, each part of the work was examined at least fourteen times.

Further, to this it was agreed that if they were confronted with some special problem or obscure situation, then all the learned men of the land could have their judgement sought. Let me give you a picture of the Revisers of 1881 and how they worked. The Old Testament Committee sat as one body secretly for ten years. The New Testament Committee likewise. This method left them at the 'guidance' of a determined little group who dominated the whole set-up. It seems an iron vail of silence was very much enforced on the rest of the Revisers at all time. The public knew nothing of any consequence in those ten years. At the end a grand scheme was organised and the Revised Version was launched with pomp and heraldry. It is still today as big a con as it was then.

My dear brethren remember this about the A.V. men, it is not just that they had staggering scholarship. Those men built upon a martyr foundation, that was laid in the previous century. Those men were employed by the Holy Spirit, their labours had eternal worth.

By Dr David Badger

A DARKNESS EMERGING IN DEVON

We're fast approaching that time of year where many celebrate the foul festival that is Halloween. For some unfathomable reason, parents are happy to dress their children up in vile costumes of ghoulish characters that at any other time of the year they would be quick to heavily frown upon. Yet the interest in all things related to this dark and pagan festival is rapidly increasing in Britain, so much so that the University of Exeter is offering from September 2024, a Masters Degree in Magic and Occult Science. Yep, you read that right!

The course leader, Professor Emily Selove, observed that this new course has been created in response to the "recent surge in interest in magic". The university has commented that it is a unique course, offered nowhere else in the UK (yet) and is designed to bring together various fields such as history, literature, philosophy, archaeology, sociology, drama, psychology and religion, to show how magic and Occultic practices have impacted these areas across the world.



Professor Selove observed "Decolonisation, the exploration of alternative epistemologies (philosophical study of nature, humanity's scope of knowledge, rationality of beliefs etc), feminism and anti-racism are at the core of this programme". Isn't it interesting how all these movements/ideologies have gained great momentum amongst the intelligentsia and mass media since the erosion of Christianity within western society. It's as though one ethos had to be removed quietly before another could take its place...

The program will be delivered via the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, which is also interesting in that we have a course designed to bring together a huge variety of fields of academic study under the tutelage of a deeply anti-Christian religion that is the Islamic faith. There is a powerful but quiet uniting of ideologies under the banner of defiance against the Word of God, and cunningly all conducted from the land that brought forth the most accurate and beautiful rendering of God's Word ever delivered unto mankind, the AV/KJV Bible.

The alarming nature of this course does not end there. Exeter University has announced that students studying the course will be 'prepared for careers in teaching, counselling, mentoring, heritage and museum work, work in libraries, tourism, arts and publishing industries and other services.' Just look at those fields for a moment. Graduates of this abominable course will be placed in positions of **teaching others**; guiding people who are suffering times of personal strain and confusion (counselling, mentoring); control of **public education** via museums and heritage sites (Satan's ambition does not end in the school classroom!); control of **public information** through libraries and publishing, and even **public entertainment** through the arts and tourism. This is a deeply sinister plot being boldly unveiled to a nation who just a generation ago would've been in uproar against such a course! Where is the Church at such a time? Where is their vocal opposition to such demonic activities? It's silent, as it's too busy giving sermons on carbon footprints, critical race theory, LGBTQ+ embracing, etc, etc; or it's too busy trying to work out which Bible version to use that week as each one says something different!

Pray that this vile, demonic course is quickly removed by the Lord, so that it's devilish aims are brought to nothing. We must seek His mercy and His wisdom, for He is the one who finds out all witty inventions (Proverbs 8:12) and plead that He will once again send Godly men to stand against this ever-growing tide of bold-faced evil. Otherwise, we are likely to find our beloved land fall much like 1920/1930's Germany. A nation riddled with economic instability, great surges of interest in the Occult and open embracing of homosexuality in its cities (a recent Sky Documentaries special looked at this explosion of homosexuality in 1920's and early 30's Berlin). Sounds familiar doesn't it. What befell that nation? The rise of one of the most evil and demonic men to ever have walked this earth in Adolf Hitler. It was a nation prepared to receive evil and so it was put down by God in His righteous fury. Pray that we as a nation, do not follow this tragic and recent tale of history.

By Jonathan Badger

Unknown to Man but Known to God

How familiar are you with these men of history: Heli, Matthat, Janna, Naum, Nagge, Semei, Rhesa, Addi, Cosam, Jonan, Menan and Ragau? Most likely you are as I was at reading these names; at a complete loss as to who any of them are. Not a single one of them is obviously remarkable in any way, no clear reason on initial inspection to attribute any great importance to any of these men. Yet each one of these seemingly unimportant men to the eyes of man, are actually of the upmost importance to the will of God. Each of these men listed, are found in the Holy Bible. Every one of them play a most pivotal role in the history of all mankind. If you turn to Luke 3, you will find all these humble men listed as part of the most important bloodline ever recorded in human history, for each of these men were fleshly ancestors of Jesus Christ.

At this festive season, we rightly reflect on the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus in the flesh. Yet it is often tempting to view this miraculous event as an isolated event in time, detached as it were from history. However, to do so is to diminish the meticulous planning and exquisite execution of timing that God put into place for the Incarnation of His Only Begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, long before Adam fell into sin in Eden, God knew all that would be required so



that Adam and all his offspring throughout all the pages of history, might be able to have a way back to Him. God knew in all His glorious depths of wisdom, that a most wonderful and intricate plan of redemption was needed, so that the Creation He loved so deeply could be restored to all He desired it to be in the richness of His love and provision.

As each of these unremarkable men, stepped into time, and soon stepped out again and into the pages of eternity, their days were the unceasing chase of God's grace towards repentant sinners such as you and I. Each humble life of the men listed earlier, was laid ahead in the foreknowledge of God, so that Our Saviour might be delivered unto mankind for its deliverance. Just think on that for a moment. These unremarkable men, that the world likely dismissed as unimportant, were actually key components of the delivering of the Son of God for fallen humanity! Such is the astonishing grace of God that He chose to deliver His Son unto us through such humble means so that we might see for ourselves the meekness, the gentleness and goodness of His love towards us. He crafted such a means of bringing His Son into the world so that even the most forgotten of souls can see that they are not unknown to the Living God!

There will be many at this time of year who will be feeling terribly lonely and believe themselves to be forgotten and forsaken. If you are reading this and feeling like this then take comfort my friend, for the world did not know any of the men we listed at the start of our piece. They were men who likely quietly lived their lives for God and soon slipped silently away into the awaiting arms of their Lord and God. Yet their names are etched forevermore in the very Word of God! The Word that shall stand for all eternity, even though heaven and earth shall pass away, their honouring by their Lord God shall never be removed from them. They were not forgotten by God, and neither are you. Even if all the world has abandoned or dismissed you, be of good cheer for the Lord Jesus offers His nail pierced hand to you and calls you to Him by your very name.

This seemingly unremarkable list, given to us in the Gospel of Luke, is God's proof to you that He does indeed remember and honour the humble and forgotten heart. So come and adore Him, born the King of angels, as the humble shepherds did two thousand years ago. He rests peacefully, knowing the way to the Father has been opened by His shed blood at the Cross of Calvary, and awaits to receive you, just as He did those humble shepherds that blessed night long ago. Yet this time, He will not be receiving of gifts from wise men, but instead He shall be giving of the greatest gift that is life eternal, to wise souls who call upon Him as Lord and Saviour. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Importance of *The*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6 NIV*

Above is the common rendering of Isaiah 9:6 as found in commonly used modern bible versions such as the NIV, ESV and NASB. The NIV is widely used in UK churches (the common version in my hometown of Bournemouth) and this translation is the one we shall be inspecting given this festive season, as Isaiah 9:6 is used to grace many a church poster over Christmas.

The eagle-eyed Bible student will notice many alterations from the Received Text as widely attested to throughout the Church Fathers, the majority manuscripts and indeed the AV/KJV Bible. However, in this short piece, we will be looking at just one error of translation and its worrying implications. That error is the omission of the word *the*. At this point you may roll your eyes and think 'that's just being picky', or 'what difference does it make?!' Well, quite a difference when you look at it with all due care and consideration (when dealing with the Word of God, nothing less than this should suffice anyway!).



The is an adjective, or more specifically a definitive adjective. It is used before nouns which are specific and are to be understood. *The* is used to bring the attention to a specified individual/thing that the writer is wishing you to be aware of and can be used to mark the significance or limitation of an individual/item. In other words, *the* is used to aid the identifying of a person/thing so that the informer can be assured the informee understands who or what they are talking about. *The* brings clarity to a discussion or situation and removes doubt. Think of it this way; if we were in a car together and I saw a cow in a nearby field and I wanted to know if you had seen the cow as well, I would ask, 'Did just you see **the** cow?' Thus, you would know immediately I was referring to a specific cow that I had just seen in the passing fields. I wouldn't say, 'Did you see cow?' If I said that I could be referring to any old cow anywhere, at any time, even one in

your imagination! It's completely open ended and nonsensical! Yet this is what modern translations have done with Isaiah 9:6.

In the NIV, the preceding word *the* (as seen in the AV/KJV Bible) is removed from the titles **Mighty God, Everlasting Father** and **Prince of Peace**, even though they are nouns! Grammatically, *the* before these titles gives the correct definitive identification of these roles and how they are applied to a specified individual. Without *the*, any of these titles could refer to anything like a mystic force akin to something out of Star Wars! (Clearly the NIV is **not** the translation you are looking for, to paraphrase Obi Wan Kenobi).

The omission of *the* demotes Jesus Christ, the Son given by God as outlined by Isaiah in this prophecy, because it takes the emphasis away from how this same Son of God, Jesus Christ, is the revelation of all these glorious titles! It deliberately weakens the emphatic statement being made by the Holy Spirit through Isaiah, that Jesus Christ is the embodiment of these wondrous and eternal roles of God. In short it demotes the Incarnation of Jesus Christ from the arrival of the God-Man to a god-man. This is a devastatingly damaging demotion of the deity of Christ Jesus and spells a catastrophic blow to the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice at the Cross. For if He is not **the** revelation and embodiment of these titles and roles of God, then He is not the fullness of God and thus His sacrifice is not equal to the required perfection of sacrifice demanded by God. If His sacrifice is not equal to the debt of mankind's sin, then humanity is still at a loss before God! So, we would still be in need of additional help to finish off the work done insufficiently by Christ! If this is so then we are back to works based salvation and Catholicism!

There is the end point. These modern versions are harmonising beautifully with Mother Rome. They are excellent pieces of ecumenical engineering designed to expertly manoeuvre you away from the Pure Word of God that brilliantly and consistently identifies Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father, and towards a confusing web of interpretations (as seen in the endless Bible versions today) that need explaining by 'scholars' and priests.

Ask yourself this question. Why would God come in the flesh as Jesus Christ, so humbly and simply as He did in all poverty and simplicity of existence, only to leave you a book that completely confounds that simplicity with endless differing interpretations and renderings that even 'experts' can't agree on? Surely, He wouldn't, as that would invalidate every point that Christ made throughout the Gospels, that the simple of heart will receive Him gladly.

By Jonathan Badger

Out of the Mouth of Babes

At Christmas time, many will have the cosy image of the baby Jesus nestled peacefully in a manger filled with warming hay. This picture of peace and fragility summarises poignantly the weakness of the flesh that Christ took on so that He might know our frailties and infirmities (Hebrews 4:15). Yet in the grace and wisdom of God, this wondrous provision He enabled for our bettering does not end there. Through such fragile and delicate means, the Lord has appointed great strength and wisdom to be given to mankind. We know this through His Word, as the Lord says, **Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. Psalm 8:1**

A brilliant and extremely recent example of the application of the truth of our Lord's words was broadcast in America on prime-time television. On a popular US game show, the host Steve Harvey, invited a little girl no older than four years old onto the stage. On gently quizzing the girl, Steve was left slack jawed by the little girl's amazing scientific knowledge of the human body. The sweet and well-informed girl enlightened Steve (see picture below), the audience and viewing public that the pelvis is a **gender specific** bone, meaning that an absolutely crucial part of the human body cannot be freely interchanged or dismissed as 'unisex', as a woman's pelvis is perfectly engineered for childbearing whereas a man's is absolutely not.



By the mouth of this precious little one, Steve Harvey (an extremely liberal 'Christian') and all who watched the event unfolding before their eyes and ears, an elementary truth had been delivered, that men and women are different and cannot freely change their gender. The anatomical, biological science dictates this unequivocally. Let us not forget that just a few years ago during the height of the Covid pandemic, we were being constantly told, 'trust the science, no matter where it leads!' Well, all science is leading without doubt to the inarguable

conclusion that men and women are indeed different and that a man cannot claim to be a woman or vice-versa.

It can be intimidating living in this modern world, especially with how aggressive and even violent trans activists can be (just ask J.K Rowling – the devil is a fickle master!) but be encouraged that if a little girl can stand and speak the truth happily with a smile on her face, then you certainly can. This is the strength that God promises in His Word, that He has given strength to us though the mouths of babes and sucklings. When we can be overawed by the world and the vocal minority, let us be reminded by the words and actions of such dear little ones and step up to protect such innocent wisdom.

By Jonathan Badger

A Full Fat Faith

Those of us who grew up in the 1990's and 2000's, will likely remember the massive push for everyone to drink skimmed or at most semi-skimmed milk. It is argued by government health officials that full fat milk was dangerous to the human body (evolutionary argument that mankind is not evolved enough to process dairy efficiently; scientific and medical rubbish) and was a driving force behind childhood obesity in particular.

As the years rolled on, doctors became concerned at the massive spike in cases of osteoporosis, especially amongst children. Studies and investigations were conducted at great expense to the taxpayer, only for the medical researchers to discover something that generations of people have always known, that full fat milk is good for you! Following this stunning revelation, schools were hurriedly supplied with a carton of fresh milk for every child in Early Years education for free, in an effort to arrest the alarming spike in numbers of children suffering from weak bones. This realisation that bones need calcium and one of the most natural, cheap to produce, plentiful and easily digested ways of accessing good amounts of calcium for strong bones is via full fat milk.

Why am I making this rather unusual statement and what relevance does any of this have in regard to Christianity? Well consider the current state of modern Christianity today. It is a mess of bickering denominations and weak-willed Christians who aren't able to stand up against anti-Biblical ways in society, even though their conscience yells at them that such things as homosexuality, cross-dressing, pornography, gambling, alcohol, etc, etc are affronts to God. One needs only look at the sorry sight that Archbishop Justin Welby gave the watching world as he was confronted by angry LGBTQ+ protestors recently. Instead of being able to give strong, truthful but loving answers to the questions and accusations of the mob, he stood looking like a rabbit caught in the headlights of an eighteen-wheeler truck! If the leader of the Church of England is so weak in his stand, then how poorly equipped are the laymen of the faith?!



The spiritual bones, if you will, of many Christians today are too weak to withstand spiritual attack because what they have used to supply their spiritual sustenance, a modern bible version, has had so much of the goodness of God removed from it that it lacks anything truly enriching to the soul. Much like the skimmed milk that is deprived of so much of the natural goodness of full fat milk, and the dangerous implications this can hold to a body, especially a young body still growing; modern versions are incapable of supplying the same richness of content that the Received Text of the AV/KJV Bible can.

By the grace of God, some people do still find Christ through modern bibles, but nowhere near the rate and strength that the world witnessed for 300 years with the AV/KJV Bible. Entire nations and populaces were changed for the better (anyone who doubts this just go and read some of Charles Darwin's personal observations in his letters to family and friends, on the inarguable fruits that true Christianity brings to a society) by this one, Pure Text that was the wondrous culmination of the work of God to provide the world with the most accurate, readable, beautiful, eloquent, nuanced translation of Holy Scripture that history has ever seen!

As we enter 2024, many will be making New Year resolutions, and one of the most common resolutions is to get fitter and in better physical shape. This is a sound resolution to make, for your body is a gift from God and should be looked after as a result. There is no better way to do this I promise you, than by getting yourself an AV/KJV Bible and reading it daily. If you find some of the words challenging (in reality there are very few that are challenging!), get yourself a dictionary, or use Google, and expand your vocabulary as you learn of the huge and wonderful depths of revelation contained within the pages of this God given Book.

I have suffered with significant health issues since I was 16. I can tell you now that the times when I feel at my physically strongest come when I am reading the AV/Bible, or speaking about it, whether to one person or a church full! Its words are life giving, I am a walking testimony to the truth contained in the Good Book, where I stand with the Psalmist and declare with a happy heart, **“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. Psalm 28:7 KJV**

By Jonathan Badger

The Wisdom of Treating Others Well

In October of 2023, the entertainment world received the shocking news of the death of Matthew Perry (see picture on next page). To many of my generation, Matthew Perry was one of the most famous and recognisable TV Stars of the last 30 years, having shot to international mega-fame as the character Chandler in the US sitcom, *Friends*. Matthew's long-

standing battle with alcohol and drug addiction was well known, and in his later years he desperately tried to overcome his addictions and indeed help others with their problems with alcohol abuse. He even turned his own home into a liquor free retreat for addicts trying to escape the lure of the bottle.

In many of his interviews, Matthew stated that all he wanted from life was **‘to be famous’**, even at any cost to himself. Yet he would soon find out, just six months into his role as Chandler in *Friends* according to interviews he took part in, that something ‘material could never fill a spiritual hole’.



So, with years of addiction and heavy disappointment that all his fulfilled materialistic dreams had given him nothing but depression and despair, Matthew set about to use his remaining days to offer he'll to others battling this awful addiction. In one of his final interviews before his untimely death, Matthew stated something quite remarkable given his ambitious statement made many years prior, of his great need to be famous. Matthew stated that he wanted to be remembered as someone who helped others; someone who used

their wounds to help others heal from their own heavy scars. He stated with utter conviction that he wanted to be remembered for that first and foremost, far above his role of Chandler in *Friends*.

This noble desire had only come to rest upon the heart and mind of a deeply troubled Matthew, after he had wasted years chasing a dream that when caught, offered nothing but self-destruction. What had eluded him for so long was the simple truth and goodness contained within Christ's directive to all, that the Law of God can be brought down to just two laws; love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and strength; and love your neighbour as you love yourself (Matthew 22:36-40). If Matthew had just listened to this simple instruction, given through the pen of his name sake's disciple, and applied it to his life, he would be very much remembered for what he hoped he would be, a man who loved others and gave himself to help them. Indeed, if Matthew had listened to the words of Christ and shunned the fool's gold of fame and fortune, then he would likely still be living and fulfilling his final goal of helping others.

Isn't it strange how when a rich and famous person is approaching the end of their life, or they have passed away and heartfelt eulogies are given by their nearest and dearest; how many times the highest and most poignant compliment given to that person is that they were 'a gentle, warm and loving person'. Such were the comments that were made at the death of Sir Bobby Charlton. A man who'd won it all, one of football's all-time greats; and yet all who spoke at the news of his passing, focused on his kindness, love and help he offered others. Isn't it amazing that we'll the bell tolls on life, the words of Christ that were so long fought against, suddenly become radiant and highly prized.

For decades I wanted to have my name remembered by many and have some sort of lasting legacy, such was my ambition in the strength of youth. Yet by the mercy of God, my strength was taken from me so that I might be given something far greater, contentment. Now just a short step away from being 40 years old, (it is strange to see it written down, such is the vapour of life - James 4:14). Now, with years behind me I too see the wisdom held within the words of Christ Jesus, and how very good it is to love others and you like to have yourself loved. A life filled with the application of these words is the finest life a man could ask for. He can step into eternity knowing that he has loved after the

instructions of His Master, and that if all the world would forget his name within the hour, it would not matter one jot; for his name is known unto God and He will welcome him as a son coming home at last.

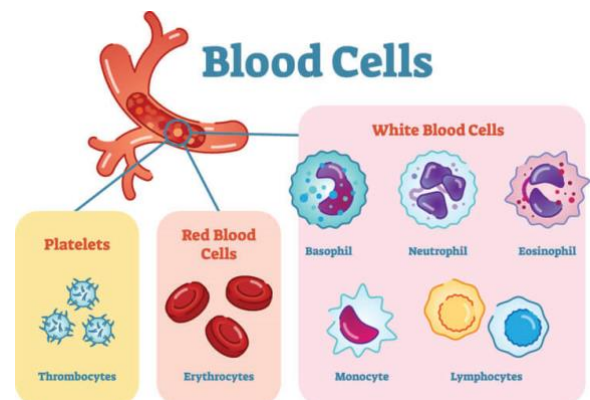
So, seize the wisdom of Christ's instruction and set aside all selfish ambition and desire, as it will not satisfy you and will end up destroying you anyway. Yet the instruction of Christ is set up to give you peace, and an expected end (Jeremiah 29: 11). Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

There's Life In The Blood

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. *Leviticus 17:11*

According to some well-known preachers/theologians, it was the death of Christ that was important for the atonement of sin and not the shedding of His blood (John MacArthur is famously one example of this viewpoint). As you can see from the opening verse, such preachers/theologians readily dispense with what Scripture has to say on the matter. One could not get any clearer as to what counts in the eyes of God as an acceptable atonement for sin than in this verse from the Book of Leviticus, referencing the sacrificial law that would be perfected by Christ at Calvary.



The theological importance of this point is obvious and consistently dealt with by no less than Scripture itself, but what if science held something potentially interesting to uphold the opening statement of this verse from Leviticus 17, that 'the life of the flesh is in the blood'?

In Sweden, research is being conducted by private billionaires into the potentially regenerative properties offered to those of older age, by receiving regular transfusions of blood from their offspring. Such billionaires are already engaging in this unregulated practice and cheerfully attest to the expansive health benefits they have noticed since engaging in this program.

Whilst this is still a very under-researched topic, it holds an interesting thought in relation to the words given to us thousands of years ago through Moses. Could the possible scientific merits of this treatment reveal another layer of wondrous truth to what Christ has done for us in the giving of His own pure and precious blood?! It wouldn't be the first time that the Holy Bible informed us of scientific truths long before secular scientists got there to make the 'discovery' (just think of how we read in the Book of Job that the world hangs on nothing in space; or how Solomon speaks so eloquently of the Water Cycle in Ecclesiastes). Such a discovery would bring the wandering eye of faith back to the importance of the blood of Christ to bring new life, a rebirth of the heart, cleaned of all blemishes, like the cleansed blood of the old body by the blood of the youthful.

It's all an interesting thought and we await with interest what the research will discover as to whether this new form of 'de-aging' has any true scientific merit. If it does, however, don't go singing the praises of the scientists too highly, as God, through Moses, would've got there 3500 years before them.

By Jonathan Badger

Nothing Worthwhile Comes Easily

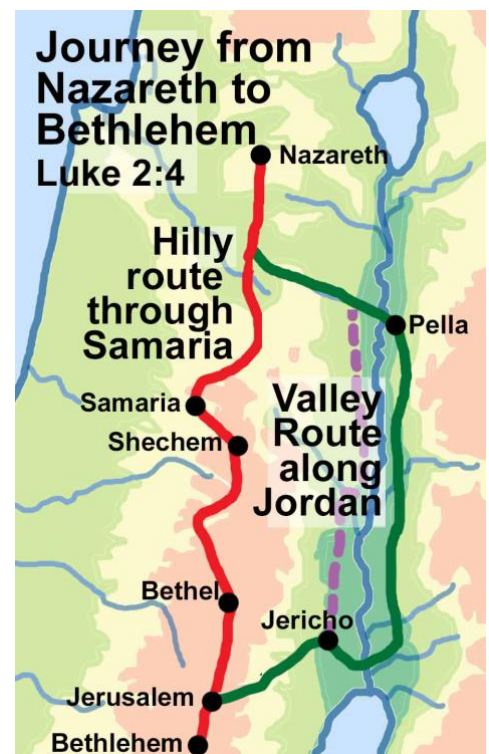
There is a common misconception in modern Christendom of how the Lord God moves in the provision of blessings. You can pick up any number of books on 'receiving the blessing of God' speedily, easily, without exertion or effort, in any given Christian bookstore. Churches up and down the land have been infiltrated with the nonsense of 'prosperity preaching', a notion that untold prosperity, comfort and material security awaits all Christians, and that they just simply have to will it into existence (that is nothing less than Hindu manifestation of the will) through faith that God wants all His children to experience worldly ease. No doubt this is an appealing concept, a notion that sits well with our fallen nature to live in material ease and plenty; yet is it Scriptural?

Many will be attending Christmas services, where ministers set the scene of the heavily pregnant Mary and the dutiful, tired Joseph, exhaustedly making their way to Bethlehem from Nazareth so as to fulfil the requirements of the Roman Census under Caesar Augustus (although also fulfilling a far more important decree that was given by God in Micah 5:2 – God is overseeing all things, no matter what man thinks). Yet, as they set this scene so familiar to all, they often don't reflect on something that is staring them in the face! That the very Incarnation of the Saviour, the pinnacle of all blessing unto mankind, came through an exhausting experience filled with all manner of dangers and exertions.

The journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth was a hard and indeed dangerous one. Covering at least 90 miles of hard terrain (depending on route they took) that may have included river crossings, hill climbs, narrow passes, it would've proven tricky for a young, fit man like Joseph, let alone a heavily pregnant woman such as Mary! Now consider how the obvious routes to Bethlehem would also be known trade routes and how these trade routes would be populated by opportunistic bandits, who would happily seize upon the vulnerability of weary travellers.

Finally, think on how it reads in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, that Joseph and Mary were travelling as a couple and not part of some large caravan. Thus, we can assume that their openness to the harshness of the elements and terrain, and the potential violence of bandit attack, was all the greater again!

When we piece all the hard realities of what Joseph and Mary faced to just reach their destination of receiving the blessing of God that was the provision of their own Saviour. If this was the manner of the way that the greatest ever gift to humanity was given by God, why would anyone think that God would give lesser gifts in an easier way?! It would've posed no issue to God to have His Son be delivered unto mankind in a manner more physically convenient to Joseph and Mary (He could've been delivered unto us via the hometown of Joseph and Mary, so that they were at home and surrounded by friends and family). Yet God does not work to the convenience and ease of humanity, He moves for the welfare of humanity. It is much like the startled and disgruntled Ebenezer Scrooge complaining to the Ghost of Christmas Past, that being disturbed from his slumber did not appear to be for his welfare at the time, but it was, as he would later see.



In the goodness of Our Lord's concern for our eternal welfare, He moved so that these two humble souls, Joseph and Mary, would have to travel a hard and dangerous journey to receive a most wondrous of blessings, that would be the birth of our Saviour; so that we might look upon this event, and see a powerful Gospel message given through the arrival of a blessed infant. For the receiving of Christ in the heart is no different than how He was received into the world in the flesh by Mary and Joseph. They were humble of heart; they obeyed the decree to leave their home and travel to where Joseph had been born; they endured days of hardship and danger, so that they could receive the promised Son of God,

their own Saviour and Redeemer. The humble of heart also leave their worldly home of sin, even turning away from friends and family, so that they obey the call of God to return unto the place of the creation, the pierced hands of Christ. They endure hardships and danger, mockery and persecution, just so that they might receive the one promised to them, the Son of God Jesus Christ.

The blessings of God are given as in the same manner that our Lord Jesus was given unto us. For if Jesus Christ is the greatest blessing any soul can receive (and what believer dares question this truth?!), and He came to us in the flesh through such a way, and for Him to be unchanging, consistency is required thus making our spiritual receiving of Him to be in the same manner. Think on Proverbs 8:35, where we read, **“For whoso if findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD”**. To *obtain* is to gain through exertion; this is the differentiation between *obtain* and *receive*. This does not mean we do good works to gain Christ. It means that we are to labour against our fallen nature and to labour in our days for the glory of His name so that we may through His grace and righteousness, be counted holy, as He is holy. Thus, we **obtain** the favour, or manifestation of the goodwill of the LORD, and that is no less than the very Son of God, Jesus Christ, to be ours forevermore.

There are no shortcuts in this life. It is a race as the Apostle Paul observes (1 Corinthians 9:24) and as such to receive the due prize the rules of the race must be adhered to. Too many Christians today want to win the race (a noble desire) but they do not want to endure the suffering that inevitably comes with a long and gruelling race. They refuse to take up their cross daily (Luke 9:23) and instead to take up their ease daily, deluding themselves with the comforts and indulgences of this present world. So, Christ looks upon such souls and speaks these words against them, “because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16) Yet our Lord is rich in grace and mercy, and to these same shortcut seeking, lukewarm, worldly pleasure seeking Christians He says, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasen: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19). Remind yourselves of who He truly is and seek Him to know Him as Zaccheaus did; not desiring to enjoy what He can do, but desiring to know who He is; this is how to be wise and obtain the favour of the LORD. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Hilarity of Atheism

An American comedian has drawn significant public attention in America for comments made regarding atheism on his Netflix special. The comedian (Pete Holmes), observes how atheists laugh at believers in God for their need to have the existence of the universe be generated by a God who created everything out of nothing, and that this is nothing more than a child’s fairytale as it relies on miracles to explain our existence. As Pete Holmes observes however (Pete is no Christian, his very colourful language bears testimony to that), atheists believe that the universe came into existence out of nothing; in fact, even more nothing than believers in God argue, as at least God existed as a means of providing the power to cause Creation, so there has always been something or someone in existence.

Pete continued to note how atheists contend that this ‘nothing’ spontaneously brought about all the information and material needed to create the physical universe, out of nothing. That is the very definition of a miracle! Yet atheists laugh at believers in God for ‘needing miracles’ to explain how the universe came into existence. It is the epitome of nonsensical hypocrisy being put forward by every atheist out there!

However, Pete wasn’t done there! He commented on how atheists believe that nothing created everything (a scientific impossibility, just check the laws of thermodynamics for a start) and that how when you die, you simply return to nothing. Pete turned this assertion around with excellent wit and insight and noted that atheists then return to their creator (nothing) when they die, as according to their own estimations and logic. But hang on, isn’t that what Christians believe?! That when we die, we return to our Creator?! You see, no matter how far away atheists try to run from the logic

of the existence of God through their own meandering thoughts and understanding, they inevitably wander straight back into the logical foundation that underpins the assertion of the existence of God; it's simply inescapable!

If it all wasn't so tragic, it would be truly hilarious how blind man can be to what is staring him in the face every minute of every day. Such bumbblings of logic by atheists only proves the point they argue against, that the fool hath said in his heart there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

By Jonathan Badger

Trust In God's Plan

Today, it is a popular thought that you're the author of your own story, so live however you want; self-love is important, and you need to focus on yourself. This is not true or accurate. While we are responsible for our actions and life decisions, we are not free from the consequences of them, and we are accountable to God, because He is the author of our very existence. As a result, we are not to live however we like, and selfless living, which constant care and consideration for others is real way to happiness in what is often a tough life.

It is hard being a Christian woman in today's society. We are often looked down upon and treated differently due to how we view and live out our lives. Recently, I was speaking to my doctor after having my condition of Fibromyalgia confirmed, and they offered me counselling; I declined it because talking to another person who is a non-believer will not benefit me in the way they were hoping it would, as I fully believe and trust that I have been given my health problems because I can handle them because of Christ's grace. I truly believe there is a plan for this to be used to help me or someone else in the future. This hope in the power and planning of God gives me the strength to endure, when all the world says give up.

We are not given our problems because we cannot handle them, but because we can through Christ Jesus, and that the trials will bring us closer to Him, strengthening our love and trust in him and His plan for our lives. He takes simple people 'nobodies' and turns them into people who make a difference through such tests and trials. It is proved again and again throughout the Bible, that He always gives the tools to handle any trial, no matter how big. An example of this is David with Goliath, and that with a simple stone David, was able to take down a giant. David was not terrified like his brothers; he believed and knew God had put him in this situation for a reason and that he was able to take down a giant through faith in our Lord through just a simple stone. *1 Samuel 17- 49 & 50 - "And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David."*

I keep being told I look the best I have in years, and that's wonderful to hear but when people ask how and why I seem so happy, content and refreshed, they expect a conversation about a new face cream or that my doctors finally got my dosing of medications right to stop my nervous system attacking itself; what they hear is my happy and bright appearance is because my day starts and ends with prayer. Along with prayer, I read my Bible to get a better relationship with my God and receive His gift of the armour of faith, so I can handle what is thrown at me. You can imagine the sheer confusion on their face when I tell them these simple but effective steps to peace, purpose and joy in life, even when things are difficult.



The thing I am still learning is how to pace myself, and not to rush things as my health will feel the effects of it. So I may not get everything I planned for in a day but that's ok. The common saying is 'Rome wasn't built in a day' which while is very true and apt to be said in our current godless world. However, when I feel completely overrun with the mundane daily tasks, I stop to take a moment and remember God didn't create the earth in one day; He took six. This wasn't

because He needed to pace Himself like we do, but in His goodness, He did so to show us how to go about our days; working hard for Him but also resting in Him when we grow tired and feel the strain.

What did I do to change for people to comment about this huge shift in my nature? I started to start living openly as a servant of Christ.

- 1 - I put my sole focus on Christ Jesus, pray as often as I can and read my Bible daily.
- 2 - Realised true beauty comes from my what fills my heart (Jesus Christ) and not how I look.
- 3 - Have an open and obedient heart for whatever I am called for in the Lord's name.
- 4 - Be bold and open about my relationship with my Lord and Saviour.
- 5 - Be gentle to myself and others around me. We live in a sin-filled world, and we as Christians, need to be an example and light in the darkness to those that are lost and long for peace.

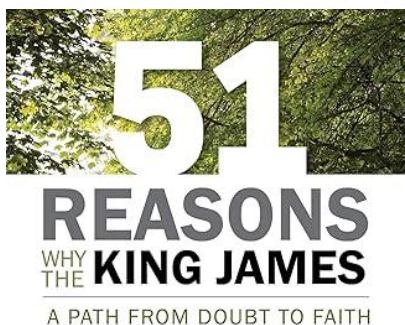
Does everything I say sound familiar? That's because we read it over and over again in our Bible and can take examples from the incredible ladies in the bible such as Ruth and Mary! They were loyal in their relationship with our Lord. They were patient; they didn't quit through the tough times and are now they're in the glory of heaven which waits for all who believe in Jesus Christ. I don't know about you but that's a glory I cannot wait for and is shared by all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I will continue to fight my invisible health battles thanks to the grace of God in my heart, and with kindness in my voice and love in my soul, because I wear the armour of God, and I know there is nothing I cannot handle with Him.

All in all, our problems are tiny thanks to the mighty God we follow. Though we may stumble in life, He will not leave us and He will lead us through the hardships and struggles, so that His plan for our lives will be perfected through His strength, love and mercy. The best outfit anyone can wear is the armour of God, so we must trust Him even when the times are hard. If it's in His plan, He can and will make the impossible possible.

By Tara Badger (edited by Jonathan Badger)

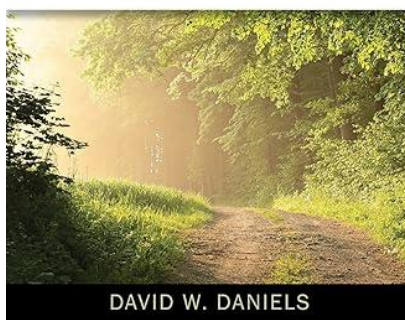
Resource Corner



51 Reasons Why the King James: A Path from Doubt to Faith - paperback

Many Christians claim to have faith in a Bible that doesn't exist. That's right, they say they believe the "original autographs" were without error, but they don't have them! We need a Bible we can trust that we can actually hold in our hands. Here are 51 reasons why you can trust the King James. Be ready to give an answer!

Our world is split between two camps: those with faith, and those with doubt. Right now, those with doubt are outnumbering those with faith. But God only blesses faith. It's "the Christian faith" —not the Christian doubt. Are there reasons to trust that God kept His promise to preserve His own words? Yes! There are many. This book is a small collection of those. People have been finding, not only what faith looks like, but have actually made the move and left the doubting Bibles, with their contradictory doctrines, and come to the King James. There they found a consistent message, consistent doctrine, and a consistent faith. So they can hold the Bible up in their hands and say, "Thus saith the Lord! This is the words of God." Trusting God's Words Can Change Your Church! The result? An increase in holiness, faith, soul-winning, Christian growth and confidence in the Scriptures. Read "51 Reasons" today!

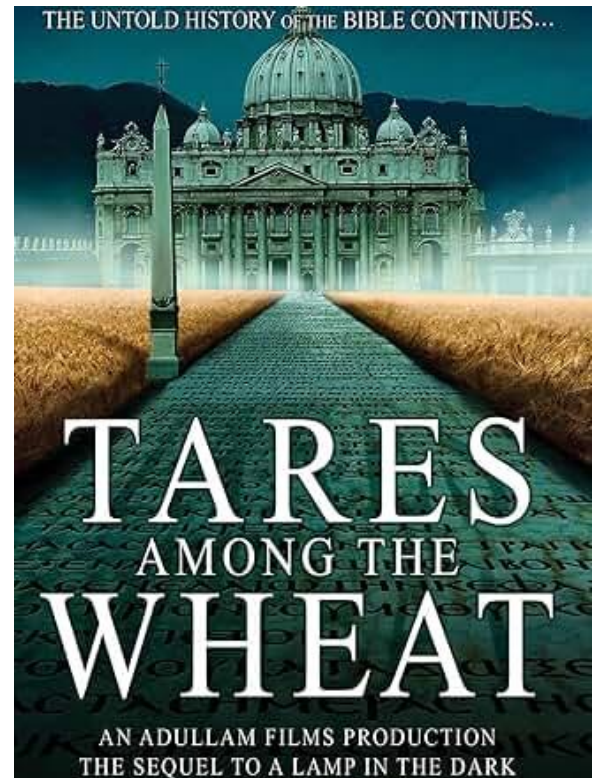


Available from Amazon

Tares Amongst The Wheat - video documentary

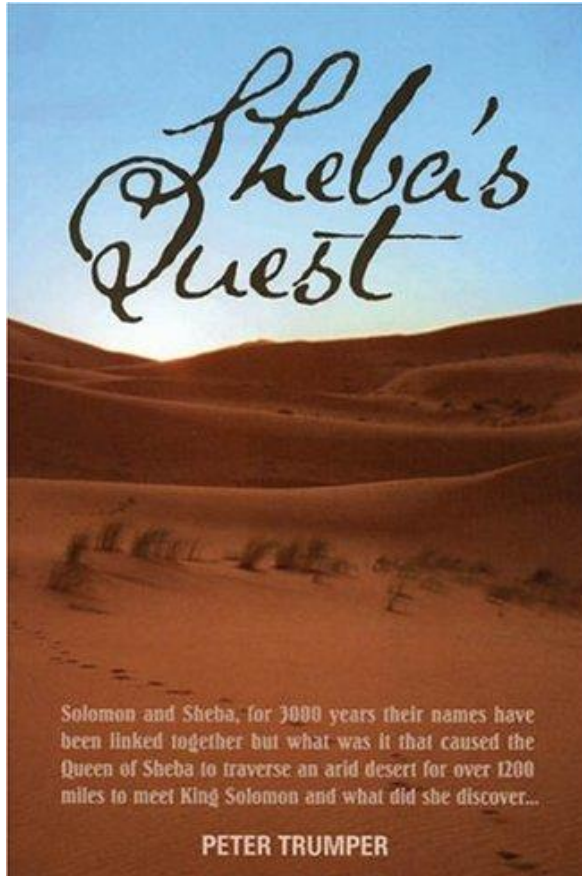
In the 19th century, a revolution in Biblical scholarship was prompted by the publication of a manuscript, the Codex Sinaiticus, declared to be the oldest Bible manuscript ever found. Shortly after this discovery, deniers came forward against it. The controversy surrounding this manuscript is perhaps the most incredible untold chapter in Bible History. Witness the struggle between Bible believers and deniers.

Available to rent or buy from Amazon Prime Video



Sheba's Quest - paperback

The Queen of Sheba is undoubtedly one of history's most fascinating personalities, the subject of stories both biblical and romantic; the lady who courageously traversed an arid desert for over 1,200 miles to meet King Solomon.



For 3,000 years their names have been linked together, reference was even made to them by Christ himself. Yet, despite her fame, how little is known about her and the reason behind her momentous visit to Jerusalem! Some say she arrived from Egypt on a trade mission and had a romantic affair with Solomon. From such stories Hollywood movies arise! In fact, as this book relates, it was not commerce that caused Sheba to journey such a distance, but rather the irresistible grace of the Living God. Her heart ached, not for trading agreements or romance but for truth, and she was prepared to travel far to find it.

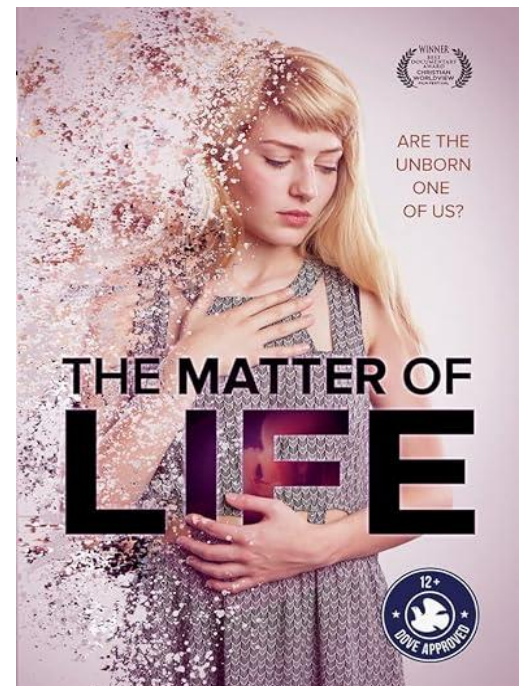
With sanctified intelligence then it is possible to unravel the 'hard questions' that Sheba asked Solomon; to follow her train of thought during that historic meeting between the two.

In turn, as we quest concerned 'the name of the Lord' we can understand what was taking place between the two. The world refers to commerce or romance, but in fact, Solomon was pointing Sheba to the 'name which is above every name', before whom 'every knee should bow'. Available from Amazon

The Matter of Life - DVD

The award-winning film *The Matter of Life* cuts through the angry rhetoric and divisiveness about the issue of abortion and presents a message that goes beyond pro-life and pro-abortion arguments. It forces us to ask the question: Are the unborn one of us? Featuring the stories of women, former abortion clinic workers, historians, religious workers, pro-life atheists, and many more, *The Matter of Life* stresses entering this conversation with understanding, love, and support. Doing so is critical to save the lives of the unborn and to care for the women who carry them.

Available from Amazon and Re-lived.com



TTW

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I'm
Thank you for reading Truth To Wonder Magazine, and we pray the Lord blesses and keeps you.