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Truth To Wonder

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Welcome

By the grace and mercy of God we enter another year and to spare the reader the often used subject matter of what New Years Resolutions they might be considering to adopt, hoping that these changes will make us better, more rounded

individuals; I would like us to consider how Our Lord does not ever change and how this is a glorious attribute that warrants our absolute praise and reverence.

In Hebrews 13:8, we read that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” This clear and powerful message to the Jewish convert church remains undiminished for each of us today and was but the continuation of God’s words in Malachi 3:6, “For I am the LORD, I change not”.

What an amazing and joyful thing it is to stop and consider how impactful this simple but powerful statement is to our lives today. Doubtless many of us are distracted if not consumed with worry over how rising prices, societal degradation, increased pathogens, wars and rumours of wars are filling our daily lives. The flux of modern life is driving many to despair, with swathes of people throwing themselves into sinful escapist activities such as alcohol, gambling, promiscuity etc, etc in the hope of finding any semblance of ‘happiness’.

Yet as all will know, the escapism such indulgences provide never last and the world and all it’s problems smashes back into reality. So the ever shifting sands of life keep moving under our feet making us become ever more stressed and rundown.

However in the Lord God, there is one who is not subject to such strains for He is eternal and swallows up all existence within His mighty hand. His love towards man is evident in our lives, just look at the array of daily mercies you are afforded through no merit of your own. Yet the greatest evidence of His love towards us is shown in Holy Scripture and in Romans 5:8 in particular. Here we read, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Consider this statement. While we warred against God, hating Him and setting ourselves against Him every minute of our existence, He gave His only Son for us because He loved us. He loved us so much that He gave His faultless, sinless Son so that we could be restored to Him through the perfect blood of Christ and enjoy life eternal is paradise, free from all suffering and death. Incredible!

Now consider how this offer, though spoken of and written in Romans 5:8, two thousand years ago, is unchanging and remains just as valid for you and me as it was when it was first penned. Now ponder on how this promise first spoken of in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:15 and was already in the heart of God before the Fall of Man. Nothing has changed, nothing has altered because of the one who spoke these words and gave the offering and that One is the unchanging Lord Jesus.

So instead of focusing on yourself and how you plan to live a 'better life' by your changes; resolve to give thanks daily to God for His unchanging love and providential will and that you might find all reliance on this glorious and divine will of God. It's a most beautiful will, a will that brought about the sacrifice of Christ, the offering of His pure blood and your redemption if you but believe on the Risen Son. Now follow Him and base your days in placing your feet where He stepped and know that the course to glory is unchanged, it is the path that leads to life eternal that is bound up in the pierced hands of Christ Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we are so truly thankful that we serve thee, an unchanging and faithful God. How we are comforted by the knowledge from your revealed Word that whilst our days are inconsistent, full of stumbles of faith and weaknesses of sinful flesh; we are upheld by the might of your faithfulness and the steadfastness of your love towards us.

Lord we ask that you forgive our proud hopes that we can attain betterment by our own hands and instead we ask that you bless us with hearts of joyful supplication unto your provision and perfect will. Therein we shall find our purpose, to know and serve you so that your name might be rightly glorified. Lord we labour for your name's sake and we rest not in the fulfilment of our endeavours but in the promise you have given in your Word that when our work is done, you shall call us home to glorious peace and rest in paradise with thee.

Lord we ask that in this coming year, if you tarry and do not come to gather up your children yet,

that you will open the eyes of those who rule over us in government and positions of authority. In this that they might live to serve you and bring this once Godly nation back into dutiful service unto you. Lord if this not be your will, then we ask that you will make our hearts strong in faith so that we might endure all manner of hardships in defence of the Gospel.

All this we do ask in Jesus name and His name's sake. Amen.

A Spirit of Thanksgiving

Gratitude and thankfulness. These are fast becoming pleasant fictions in a culture defined by rights and expectancy. Yet the Apostle Paul, under inspiration from the Holy Ghost directs us to give thanks in everything, and so here is the great war we Christian soldiers are unknowingly engaged in within our modern world. We are called to give thanks in everything, for this is the will of God but we live in a world where thanksgiving is a rare thing and it's replacement 'expectancy' has an extremely powerful intoxicating effect on all who even but sip on its poisonous fruits.

Our text for today is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, three clear directives from the Lord via the Apostle Paul to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in everything. Spurgeon once wrote, "When joy and prayer are married their firstborn child is gratitude." These words from the Prince of Preachers identifies the wondrous fruit that is thanksgiving and gratitude when a heart of joy is united with consistent prayer unto the Lord God. This fruit is akin to the incredible blessing of a new life being brought into the world, a dear little one whose gentle smile and trusting embrace is a tender glimpse into the innocence that was lost when Adam Fell in the Garden of Eden. This child of joy and prayer should be strong, and a source of life and strength to those who brought it's life into the world as a real child, when blessed of God is a source of strength and provision for its parents when they are frail. So too it is with the child of joy and prayer that is gratitude, it is the strength to the bones of the believer when times of testing and trial have come down upon them.

Though this directive is given in the New Testament, it's application has been evident since the Book of Genesis and throughout the Old Testament. Let us turn now to Genesis 8:20 and see how Noah, on leaving the Ark after a year being sheltered from world wide destruction, immediately sets out to give thanks unto God. Given the enormity of the events that had transpired and the task that laid before Noah and his family of repopulating the earth, caring for the surviving creatures and restoring teaching and Godly knowledge to mankind, it would've been understandable on a human level, for Noah to become sidetracked and even overwhelmed. Yet we read in Genesis 8:20 that, "Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar."

Noah, on leaving the ark with his family, immediately sets out to thank the LORD for His wondrous and miraculous provision. Doubtless Noah had been in fervent prayer throughout that year on the ark, praying for deliverance from the terrors of judgement being unfurled on a wicked world; praying for the health and strength to care for his family and the animals on board the ark; praying for a restoration of the world so that they might emerge from the bowels of that great wooden structure and into the warmth of the sun once more.



Noah builds the first recorded altar

After much prayer, the explosion of joy on setting foot on dry land after so long and after such world wide devastation would've been staggering. Surely Noah and his family would've leaped and sung great songs of praise in much rejoicing that the Flood was over and peace was restored by the grace and mercy of God. In this

marriage of joy and prayer, gratitude and thanksgiving is born in the heart of Noah leading him to build the first altar recorded in the Bible. Such is the enormity of gratitude that Noah feels towards God for His miraculous provision, he sacrifices one of every clean animal and bird unto God. Given the scarcity of life that remained at this point, wilfully giving up healthy animals on such a scale would be decried as lunacy by worldly men. But Noah understood that God provided this sacrifice in His directive to bring seven of every clean animal and bird into the ark, thus preparing a spare animal for sacrifice after the safe passage of the ark, long in advance of its need. Noah trusted in the provision of the Lord and so happily gave back to God what He had already set aside. God always provides an offering worthy of His acceptance, and when we live in rejoicing and prayer, we are blessed with the eyes of heaven to see the provision. Thus in this awareness of God's goodness we are to give back to Him in all thankfulness and without restraint, no matter how mighty the cost, for it is of the Lord's doing and it always was His. In His magisterial wisdom He affords us such tremendous provisions daily and watches as to how we deploy these abundant gifts. Whether we use them for ourselves or whether we return them to God, the giver of all good gifts as we are told in James 1:17. So Noah offered up the blood of life unto God in thanks, all but a foreshadowing of the blood of eternal life that was offered up by Jesus Christ on the cross for the sins of repentant man. Our own lives are but gifts from God, and those who are His were called to be so by His will, purchased by the blood of Christ and so we are to return this gift of life back to God in faithful service, for it is His anyway. He has blessed us with life and watches to see what we do with it. Do we live for Him, or do we squander it on ourselves? Give it to Him and He shall seal it in the Book of Life and give it life abundantly for all eternity, for in His grace He has deemed it good that a humble heart is grateful for it's existence and joyful in it's returning unto Him.

So you see how vital a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude is to the child of God? Yet let us further the cause by looking at another hero of the faith, Gideon, who in Judges 7 took a mere 300 unarmed men to defeat the wicked Midianites by the strength of God. Gideon, though a timid soul,

was faithful in his service to God. In this humble servitude, God was tender to Gideon's fears and assured him constantly that He was with him throughout all. At each instance when Our Lord assures Gideon that victory will be His, Gideon does as Noah did and straightway worships God in fullness of thanksgiving. Note in Judges 7:15, that after Gideon had heard an enemy soldier speak of a dream that Israel would defeat Midian even though his force was completely outnumbered (God had told Gideon to go and spy on the Midian camp if he was still afraid, this led to Gideon overhearing the dream interpretation), Gideon returned to camp and immediately worshipped God. Now what is worship but a great sense of praise of the glory of God and thanksgiving for His mercy and grace towards sinful but repentant souls. Following this Gideon led those 300 unarmed men in total victory against the Midianites in what was a tremendous foreshadowing of the victory that Christ will have in the great battle of Armageddon.



Gideon and the 300

Have you noticed friend that when a spirit of thanksgiving is thriving and strong, the heart is clear in its actions and deliberate in its path and deployment. Much like the energetic and thriving child who sets off to create a joyful world of adventure and triumph, so too does thanksgiving lend the often timid heart a strength that is usually unknown to it. Could this be why so many of us stumble in confusion on so many aspects of our daily lives, unsure as to the will of God in any given number of areas, whether it be work, family, health, etc? I fear it to be so. Why do I fear it to be so? Because friend I am the chief of this great sin; one who has neglected rejoicing in the abundance of daily blessings from a gracious God; one who has often forgotten and shunned the power of prayer. So when I have declined the wonders of rejoicing and prayer why am I

surprised that a spirit of thanksgiving is reluctant to sit with me? Why then when I have dismissed this happy child from my midst, am I surprised that I struggle to discern the will of God? You see when you are ungrateful for what you have been blessed with, you grasp at anything in the hope that it will soothe this wound that is ingratitude. Yet the tragedy is that nothing will soothe it, for ingratitude of God's goodness and His gracious provisions where His mercies are new every morning led even Adam to seek after more and doubt the goodness of God's provision in a perfect creation.

So while ingratitude is spiritual death by a thousand cuts, it's bleeding wounds driving the desperate heart to another round of sinful indulgence in the hope that this might numb the pain for a while; thankfulness is life by a thousand songs, a thousand songs of praise that Christ Jesus will reign in power and glory for a thousand years from the throne of David before all is made new and perfect, and that we shall be with Him to see and enjoy it all.

This is fruit of thanksgiving and gratitude, it opens the eyes to glory of eternity and the hope of what is to come by the grace and glory of Christ Jesus. This is the certainty of hope that the Apostle Paul speaks of in 1 Thessalonians 5, the chapter of our main text today. Paul speaks of the terrible day of the Lord and the judgement that awaits the unredeemed. Yet his words close in hope and assurance that all who are in Christ shall be spared this destruction and shall be safe with Him, sharing in His glory as we meet those who have gone before us in perfect bodies in the twinkling of an eye in the air. This is our comfort in times of mourning or sadness, for these times do come and they do bring the heart low. Yet friend here is the joy, that through Christ Jesus we shall join them in the air when He comes for us, if we still are alive at that glorious hour. It is through thanksgiving therefore, a thankfulness unto God for the provision of His only Son, that the sting of loss is brief and fleeting, whereas the strength of God leads us on ever forwards in joyful hope of that glorious day!

God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son Issac, instead He provided the offering in the form of the ram stuck in the thicket. Be eternally

thankful that God did not stop the offering of His only begotten Son, instead providing Him as a perfect sacrifice so that all who believe on Him should know the assurance of the love of God. Thankfulness you see calms the heart, whether in times of blessing or loss; it is a sure path that leads to life eternal through faith in Christ Jesus and because of Christ Jesus, we shall be with those who have gone on before us and so we can rest in joy and thanksgiving, knowing our future, untroubled by the temporary and assured of our place in the heart of God by the blood of Christ. Amen

By Jonathan Badger

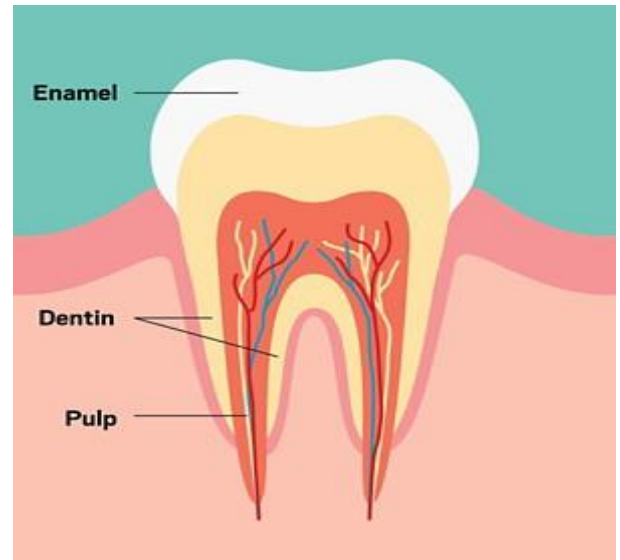
A Miracle in Every Mouth

Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body. It's a good job too considering the massive amounts of wear teeth endure throughout a lifetime. The biomineralisation process that forms the incredibly intricate structure this is tooth enamel comes from cells called *ameloblasts*. These amazing cells produce particular proteins that harden to form the tooth enamel. However these rare proteins are only in production during the teeth's development, making any type of natural repair to the enamel in teeth maturity exceedingly rare. Hence why dental hygiene is so important for each of us.

When damage does occur, dental fillings using resins, amalgams or ceramic are helpfully implemented by dentists to bring some relief to the ailing teeth; these additions do not often adhere well to the tooth and are easily damaged or come loose.

So there is a quest within dentistry, to find a product that can act provide the same levels of tooth hardening and protection that natural enamel provides, outside of the development stage of the tooth. A research team at Zhenjiang University, China, led by biomimeticist Zhaoming Liou, has discovered that coating teeth with a gel containing calcium phosphate ion clusters, generated a micro thin layer of enamel over a 48 hour period (2.7 microns thick layer to be exact). Whilst this is a remarkable breakthrough medically, to be able to replicate the staggering

process that God designed in forming tooth enamel, this whole process found by the research team in China must be improved dramatically. This in itself will take years and massive investment, research and development. It is believed that without any delays, it is still at least two years away from being available for use.



So while these developments are fantastic and demonstrate the amazing scientific ability of man, it provides a greater testimony that once again where men always plays catch up and is only able to offer a poor imitation of what God perfected long ago.

By Jonathan Badger

An Ancient Acknowledgment

A popular assertion that the nation of Israel had not existed in the land of Canaan before the 12th century B.C has long been claimed by secular historians. This assertion against the ancient claim of Israel over the land of Canaan (or Israel today) has enormous ramifications today. These being the strength of claim the Israeli people have to the land today in political arenas and the validity of the history recorded in the Old Testament. This claim by secular historians fuelled by a lack of historical evidence outside of the Bible regarding Israel's occupation of the land of Canaan prior to the 12th century B.C.

This bold argument has been dismissed however by the discovery of an intriguing piece of black granite called the Merneptah Stela. This discovery was made by William Flinders Petrie in Thebes,

Egypt in 1896. As many of you will know, Petrie is regarded as the father of Egyptology and the date of this discovery shows how happily hidden any evidence supporting Biblical history is by secular historians/media.

On this piece of black granite (dated to be from c 1208 B.C), a description is made to honour the Egyptian gods and the Pharaoh's achievements, in this instance Merneptah, the son of Ramesses II. The majority of the text details Merneptah's successes in complete victory over the Libyans.

The stela also details other victories over differing cities and people in Canaan, including the phrase, 'Israel is laid waste and his seed is not'. There is exaggeration here as Israel was certainly not annihilated.

Egyptologists are in agreement that out of the eight other references to conquered groups recorded on the stela, seven refer to lands whilst the eighth refers to Israel as a people group. This would indicate that whilst Israel was indeed in the land of Canaan and a significant force to be recorded by the superpower of the time (Egypt), they were not yet fully established and in full control of the land. This would fit the Biblical period of the Judges, when Israel experienced numerous oppressions by foreign enemies (due to their wickedness before God) whilst they were still establishing themselves in Canaan.



The Merneptah Stela

As we have seen then, the argument that Israel had not existed in Canaan before the 12th century B.C cannot be made as by 1208 B.C, the Egyptians were recording victories over them in the land of Canaan.

The immense delay in this discovery reaching people highlights how biased historians are towards anything that verifies the Bible's historical record. However, we can be reassured that once again, history and archaeology are very much in agreement with the Bible.

By Jonathan Badger

Cursed Creation

We know from Genesis 3 that creation as a whole fell under the curse. Despite knowing this there was always a question in my mind when it came to the judgement of Noah's flood. Yes the thoughts of man were only wicked continually. But why did the animal kingdom need to be destroyed? Why not just wipe out the wickedness of man?

I had a compelling answer to this question in a recent news story. The dog population of an area in India had been decimated by the local monkeys. After a pack of dogs had mauled a baby monkey to death, the adult monkey population had instigated a campaign of canine genocide. Starting with the puppies they worked in groups to round up dogs and take them up trees or to the top of tall buildings. From these locations they then hurled them to their deaths. Over the course of a few months the monkeys killed over 250 dogs. When they ran out of dogs they moved on to the areas children. Several parents had to fight off a group of monkeys trying to abduct an 8 year old girl.

Creation is vengeful and evil in and of itself. Even though we know it falls under the curse and it groans and travails under the weight of sin, we still look upon it as somehow innocent. It is not. If the days we live in now are even close to those in which Noah lived then we are witnessing a

creation that is falling apart at the seams and unspeakably cruel. In order to reset the world and purge it, all life had to be destroyed. Evil and wickedness had become endemic, not just among humankind but throughout the animal kingdom as well. We find ourselves in the same position once again. Only this time the purging will be done in the ultimate way – by fire.

By David J Badger

The Great Deception – Part Four

The field of New Testament Textual Criticism requires a high degree of competence, often lacking today. Many men now endorse modern bibles without the slightest idea of what they are talking about which then influences countless pulpits and the men in them.

When Westcott and Hort's work was taking hold on the minds of Churchmen and some godly souls sounded the alarm, none is to be remembered more than John William Burgon B.A, M.A, B.D. Gresham Professor of Divinity at Oxford University. In his time as a student, he achieved many high academic honours. Burgon was a Fellow of Oriel College and Vicar of St Mary's (the university Church), later he became Dean of Chichester. Intellectually he was a giant of a man but more importantly he loved the Lord and His word.

Dean Burgon held a clear consistent position on New Testament Textual Criticism. He believed in the Divine Inspiration of the Bible and that God had preserved the text of Scripture. When one examines his work today (which I have), but few bible 'scholars' have, we find he had laboured industriously in the arena of New Testament Textual Criticism. He had examined codex B, and had made many journeys to European libraries to both examine and collate many New Testament manuscripts. He was indeed what one would call a REAL scholar. Edward Miller said of him, 'He added particulars of 374 manuscripts previously unknown to the world of letters'. In the British Museum you can find 16 volumes containing 86,489 quotations of New Testament citations by Church Fathers.

As I look at my bookshelves I see two volumes by E.M Goulburn, Burgon's Biography, Goulburn defended his work of writing it as follows: 'His friends claim for Dean Burgon, that, in regard of the variety and versatility of his intellectual powers, the intensity of his moral faculties, and the profound veneration for the Word of God which formed the chief feature both of his spiritual character and of his teaching, he showed a pre-eminence among the men of his generation which abundantly entitles him to a life as distinct from a memoir'.

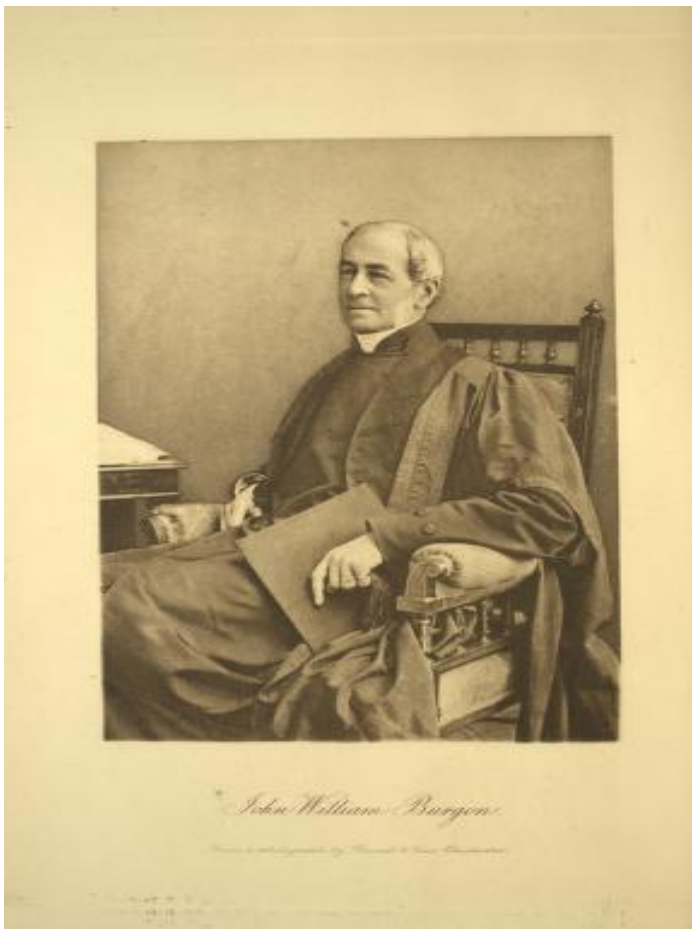
Here then is a mighty spiritual warrior against the Westcott and Hort theory. Few today have heard of him and that includes modern theological lecturers and those pushing modern bibles. They are a joke. If you listen to these men you will swap the Word the God for a 'mess of postage'.

There is an interesting story told by a friend of the Dean's (Hoskier by name), another scholar. On a very dark and cold night in 1887 he was sat with the Dean in his study at Chichester. As midnight struck, the Dean having laid aside his books now ascended his stairs for bed. He stopped, looked at Hoskier and said these words. 'As surely as it is dark now, and as certainly as the sun will rise tomorrow morning, so surely will the traditional text be vindicated and the views I have striven to express be accepted. I may not live to see it. Most likely I shall not. But it will come'. Well, his labours profited this soul, I can testify to that and they have profited others I personally know of.

Burgon wrote a classic work entitled *The Revision Revised* which he dedicated to Right Honourable Viscount Cranbrook, with these words: 'My one object has been to defeat the mischievous attempt which was made in 1881 to thrust upon this Church and the Realm a Revision of the Sacred Text, which recommended though it be by eminent names – I am thoroughly convinced, and am able to prove, is untrustworthy from beginning to end. The reason is plain. It has been constructed throughout on an utterly erroneous hypothesis. And I inscribe this volume to you, my friend as a conspicuous member of that body of faithful and learned laity by whose deliberate verdict, when the whole evidence has been produced and the case has been fully argued out,

I shall be quite willing that my contention may stand or fall. The English (as well as the Greek) of the newly 'Revised Version' is hopelessly at fault'.

Burgon very quickly spotted the textual corruption came forth from constructing a Greek Text for the Revised Version which leaned so heavily on the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. Many passages or clauses were either corrupted or had suspicion thrown on them without justification. Now, it is impossible within the space of these articles for me to cover many examples but I will pick three. The first, Dean Burgon actually years before the Revised Version issue wrote a famous book on. That book has never been answered.



Dean William Burgon

The issue has to do with the last twelve verses of Mark. Many modern bibles have a footnote to the effect that these verses are not in the original. The 'original' being the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. There is in fact no good reason to reject these verses, in fact there is massive evidence for them. If you study the manuscripts, the old versions the lectionaries and the Church Fathers, these verses stand solid.

Our second example is 1 Timothy 3:16. The words, 'God manifest in the flesh', are changed to 'he who was manifested in the flesh'. That is a clear attack on the Deity of Christ. Burgon found that out of 254 copies of St Paul's Epistles, 252 had preserved the faithful words. Further evidence shows what is the correct reading.

Thirdly our text is Revelation 13:18, the famous number 666. The Revisers put, some authorities read 616. You often find a footnote on this in modern bibles. What authorities? One cursive, one uncial, one Father and no ancient Version. Ireneus in 170 A.D knew about 616 and rejected it. 666 is in all the best and oldest copies. It is believed by men who saw the Apostle John. It is accepted by Origen, Hippolytus, Eusebius, Victorinus, Primasius, Andreas and Arethas. In fact for those who worship their opinion, 666 is accepted by Tischendorf, Tregelles, Lachmann, Westcott and Hort. Does someone not want you to count the correct number? The margins of modern bibles are often the dumping ground for corrupted readings. They undermine faith, cause doubt and raise questions in the minds of many simple souls. This is wickedness. How many of God's people have these perversions caused to stumble?

Modern bibles that have come forth from the Revised Version have many doctrinal errors. You will find for example, matters regarding the Virgin Birth, omission of 'begotten' alters His eternal Sonship and His relationship with the Father. Omissions of 'Alpha and Omega' involving His eternal generation and eternal future, omissions of Christ's omnipresence, His eternal future state, His part in creation, the fact that salvation is only through Jesus Christ and faith in Him. There is a weakening of the fact of Christ's bodily resurrection, His bodily ascension, His bodily return. Many of those who push modern bibles will say, 'The Westcott and Hort text has a few omissions but no major doctrines are involved'. Well, that is false. There are preachers who parrot the standard line of bible corrupters which is, 'if they take a doctrine out here, it is found somewhere else in the New Testament'. So what if they leave it in a 100 other places; if they take it out any place it is DEFECTIVE, deficient Greek version and a defective English version based upon it.

Well brethren, I wish you every blessing this New Year and if the Lord wills we shall continue further thoughts on these vital spiritual matters.

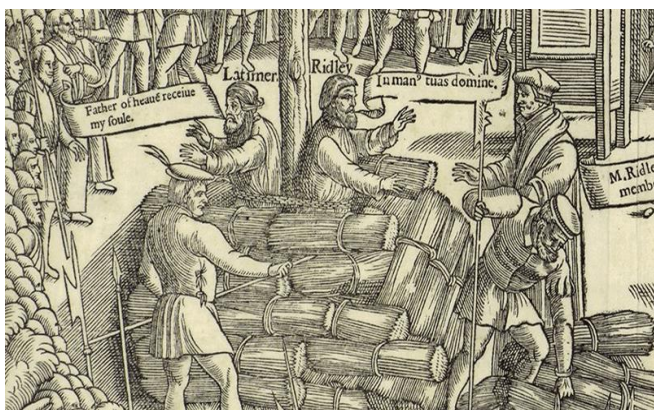
God bless.

By Dr David Badger

Forgetting the Price Paid

Recent news has been generated by two Church of England Bishops defecting to Catholicism. These Bishops clearly have either forgotten or never learnt of the faithful martyrdom of their forerunners Bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley in 1556, along with Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

These three servants of Christ refused to believe in the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation (the bread and wine offered at Holy Communion becomes the literal body and blood of Jesus) and were thus burned at the stake for the stand under the charge of heresy.



Martyrdom of Latimer

Bishop Latimer's last words were, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

Latimer was 68, Ridley was 55 and Cranmer was 66 at their deaths.

It is a great dishonour to the memory of such courageous and faithful servants of God that some current CoFE Bishops today think nothing of embracing the very same unscriptural doctrine that cause the martyrdom of such Godly men. Pray that God strengthens the faiths of those that

truly labour in His service so that they might hold firm against such perversions of Scripture, maintaining the purity of God's Word with their every breath and action.

By Jonathan Badger

A Hapaxlegomenon. A What?

Modern day 'translators' sometimes come upon a word which causes them to put a footnote at the bottom of the page stating, the meaning of this Hebrew word is uncertain, so they come up with some other rendition of it. These are men who we are often informed are superior to the A.V translators.

Well, the meaning may be uncertain to those who worked on the NAS, NIV, NKJV, etc. However, the A.V translators knew their cognate languages well. Cognate languages are sister languages related to Hebrew like Arabic, Persian, Syriac, Aramaic, Coptic etc.

Sometimes an unclear word is called a hapaxlegomenon. Hapax means 'once' and legomenon means 'spoken or written'. This particular word was used once in all the New Testament Greek or Old Testament Hebrew. It therefore may be difficult to know what these hapaxlegomena (in the plural), mean. So, they go to the other sources to try and locate a meaning.

The translators of the A.V who knew Arabic, Persian, Aramaic, Coptic, Syriac and other cognate languages and understood them well didn't have to rummage all over the place. Take for example Dr Lancelot Andrew's who knew 15 languages. Preachers today who mock the A.V translators merely display their own ignorance. Modern day translators don't know cognate languages like these men did. The ability in languages that these men had makes today's translators look like first year students. These critics of today are dwarfs intellectually compared to scholars of the past.

What many present day preachers need to do is learn some humility and stop spouting from the pulpit 'in the Greek it says', makes them look like

they know something. They keep telling people the A.V translators were inferior to today's men, you have got to be kidding. Let me leave you with just this one example to think of. How many of you could read well at the age of 5? I can take one translator who by 5 had read the entire Bible through, Oh in Hebrew. By the age of 6 he could write well in Hebrew. I won't bother you with his skill in Greek. Inferior eh?

Dr David Badger

In Memory – Rickey Baker 1989-2015

Famous last words; they are quoted in books, in editorials, in eulogies and at funerals. People seem to have a desire to know what the last words said on this planet by a person were. It's as if they expect them to suddenly become a poet, or a profoundly deep thinking philosopher; that maybe they've been holding onto some nugget, some great truth just so they can make a final statement to be remembered by.

What is sad is that most of us don't get the chance to wax lyrical on our death bed. Most of us will likely not utter a sound – or at most a gurgle. You could be asleep when you pass from this life to the next and find yourself face to face with your maker, having never uttered a final comment about anything before finding yourself face down before the Lord your God. As our Lord said in Luke 12.20, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee"



For the unbeliever this should be a terrifying thought. For those that say when they are witnessed too "I'm just not ready yet" or "I'll

think about it", the question is when will your soul be required of you? Those unbelievers that are able to speak up to the moment of their passing, should count this ability a blessing, for they have the chance to find salvation to the very end. Sadly there have been many that have ironically gone to the grave spouting hatred at the God that they have spent their lifetime professing not to have believed in. Others go to their eternity in abject terror, suddenly acutely aware of the emptiness of their own lives and the darkness that stares them in the face; the monstrous uncertainty of what lies beyond.

But for believers, the death bed can be the place of greatest testimony. For Rickey Baker this is most certainly true. In 2015 this young man was at a bus stop in Columbia USA on his way to work, when he was set upon, beaten and then shot. As he laid alone on the pavement, his attackers having left him for dead, he managed to get out his phone and call 911, the American equivalent of 999. Laying there in his own blood as it ran from him, his body slowing going cold, he made his final testimony. As he spoke to the emergency service operator he did not cry out for his mother as many have, or sobbed uncontrollably. Neither did he panic, or his voice waver in fear. He knew he was dying yet in those final moments of his life he concisely, and ably gave the operator the Gospel. This young man's final words on this planet could not have been greater, for he was not afraid for his own life, but knew this was his last opportunity to affect a witness for his Saviour. Dying, he told the operator the greatest truth they would ever hear, because in that moment he was afraid for their soul, not his own, for he had the assurance of eternal salvation.

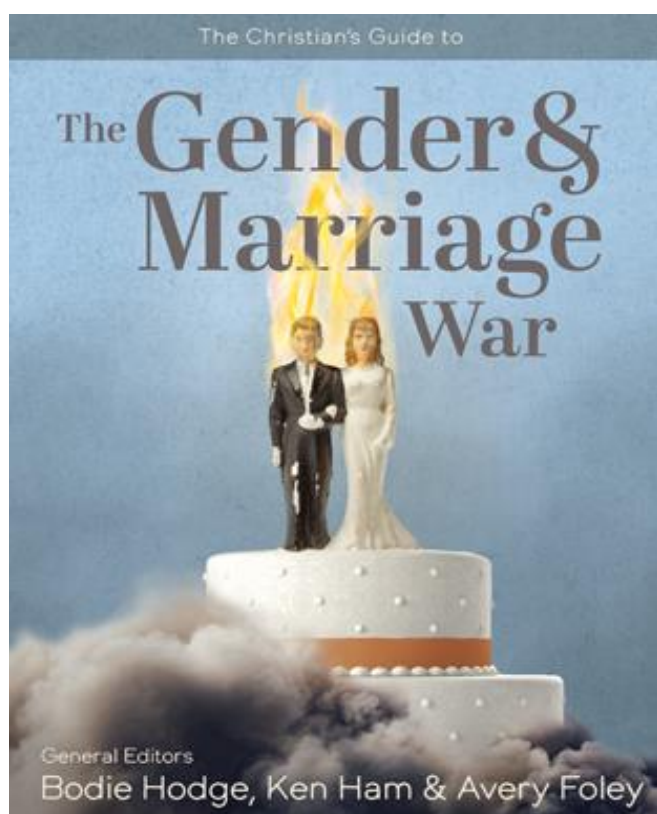
There has only been one man – the God man - who was able to give better last words than Rickey. Those words? "It is finished".

Praise the Lord for those words, for without them we would all be damned in our own unrighteousness

So the question remains; if this night your soul is required of you, what will your last words be, assuming you get any at all? Maybe you should take a long look in the mirror and see what the Lord sees, and then get on your knees whilst there is still breath in you and you can do so voluntarily and ask Him to be your Saviour. Because make no mistake, in the next life, once you've crossed from death to eternity, your time will have run out and every knee WILL bow and every tongue WILL confess him Lord of all.

By David J Badger

Resource Corner



The Gender & Marriage War

It's a war on God's design of both male and female—and marriage as one man and one woman. But God has not left us defenseless. He's equipped us with the best weapon—his Word: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." ([Hebrews 4:12](#))

Accounts of gender reassignment surgeries, drag queen story hours, and the restroom debate

dominate headlines around the world. Christians often wonder where to turn for godly answers as they struggle to engage the war raging in our culture. This book, using God's Word as the absolute standard for morality, addresses many tough questions and topics surrounding the gender and homosexual revolution that is unfolding in our society.

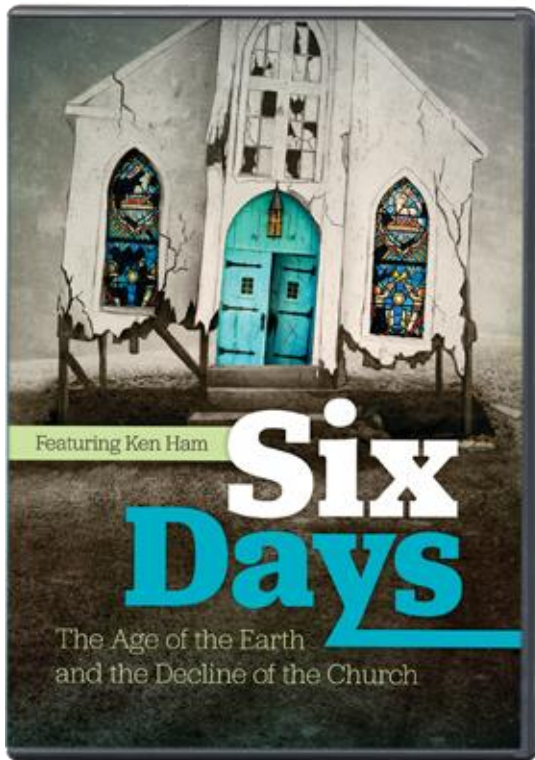
Available from Answers in Genesis



Formed To Fly – Created Not Evolved (DVD)

Evolutionists have long argued that birds evolved by chance from reptiles. However, in this lecture, you will see that no two classes of vertebrates differ more dramatically than do reptiles and birds. Unlike the dinosaurs, from which birds are said to have evolved, birds are truly “formed to fly.” With the aid of a scanning electron microscope, Dr. Menton examines the feathers of

birds and compares them to reptile scales. Contrary to the claims of evolutionists, feathers are profoundly different from scales in every respect. It is biological nonsense to claim that one evolved from the other by chance.



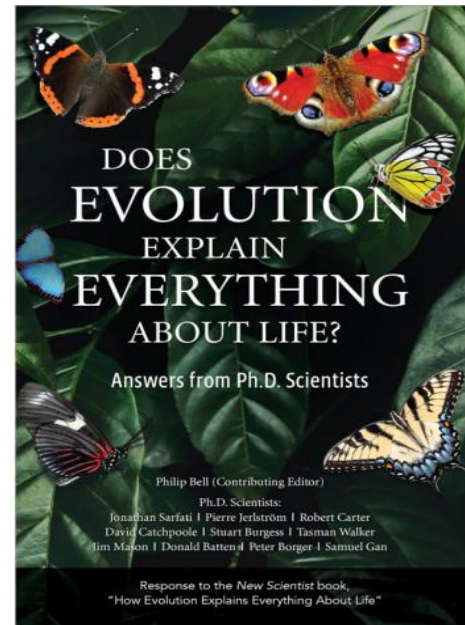
Six Days (DVD)

Many Christians believe it is, wondering what difference it makes if the earth is a just few thousand or several billion years old. But it has immense implications for the gospel, so it's far from a side issue!

This question of the age of the earth is central to the issue of biblical authority; will we trust God's Word, or will we trust man? Who or what is our ultimate authority? Be encouraged to stand

boldly on the authority of God's Word from the very beginning through Ken Ham's illustrated lecture presentation.

Available from Answers in Genesis



Does Evolution Explain Everything About Life?

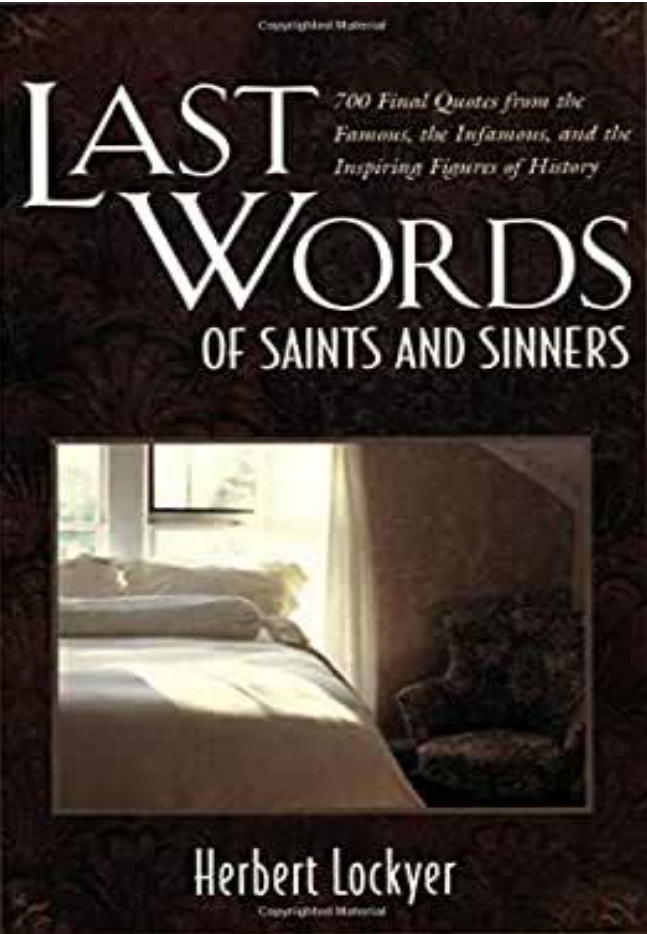
Is big-picture, molecules-to-man evolution as well attested scientifically as the sphericity of the Earth? Are the first fossils 3.4 billion years old, with life just a matter of basic chemistry? What about 'RNA world', parasitic DNA, Darwin's 'Tree of Life', or claims that blind evolution is innovative and creative?

In this short but scientifically-detailed book (illustrated in full colour), 10 Ph.D. scientists with biblical creationist convictions tackle the assertions of ten of their evolutionary counterparts, in their own areas of specialism: Jonathan Sarfati, Pierre Jerlström, Robert Carter, David Catchpoole, Stuart Burgess, Tasman Walker, Jim Mason, Donald Batten, Peter Borger, and Samuel Gan.

This makes for an intriguing and thought-provoking read. Lofty evolutionary claims are carefully assessed scientifically, enabling readers

to draw their own conclusions about the claimed power of evolution to explain all of life. Is the bravado of evolutionary popularisers justified, or just a cover-up for science-denial? You be the judge. After the in-depth scientific discussion, Philip Bell concludes with a discussion of life's big questions and the challenge of the Gospel.

Available from Creation Ministries International



Last Words of Saints and Sinners

The last words of the dying have fascinated readers throughout history. They reveal the fears, hopes, courage, and legacies of both the famous and not-so-famous. This collection of seven hundred quotes includes the last words of commoners, atheists, poets, and politicians along with noted Christians and martyrs. Excellent for casual reading and as a ready reference source for the pastor or public speaker.

Available from Amazon

Biblical Quiz Corner

S	A	A	L	P	H	A	T	A	E
I	I	T	I	R	Y	T	R	A	M
O	N	N	O	T	C	R	N	G	A
M	P	T	N	H	L	N	A	I	R
A	H	I	G	E	L	O	G	D	R
G	A	L	T	A	R	I	E	E	I
S	A	N	R	T	Y	G	M	O	A
E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	G
M	A	R	I	A	G	Y	U	I	E
A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	A

Words to find:

Alpha, Omega, Saint, Sinner, Martyr, Authority, Marriage, Creation, Gideon, Altar

What Am I?

- 1) I was on Mt Moriah
- 2) Hiram furnished me.
- 3) No hammer was heard.
- 4) I took seven years to be built.
- 5) David helped prepare me.
- 6) Joash repaired me.
- 7) The king dedicated me.
- 8) A cloud filled me.
- 9) God is not contained here.
- 10) Solomon built me.



Answer: I am Solomon's Temple

Family Bible Quiz

- 1) What did Simon of Cyrene carry for Jesus?
- 2) What once stood in present day Haram each-Sharif?
- 3) Which brother tried to rescue Joseph from the pit after Joseph's brothers betrayal?
- 4) What drink did John the Baptist never touch?
- 5) Which High Priest died when the Ark of the Covenant was captured?
- 6) Which book and chapter are the 10 commandments given?
- 7) Over which cities did Abraham plead for before God?
- 8) Which king of Israel reigned for 42 years?
- 9) On which mountain was the burning bush?
- 10) What famous sea is near Baal Zephon?



Answers

- 1) The cross, 2) Solomon's Temple 3) Reuben
- 4) Wine – Alcohol 5) Eli 6) Exodus 20 7) Sodom and Gomorrah 8) Saul 9) Mt Horeb
- 10) Red Sea

A Final Thought

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

As we find ourselves blessed of the Lord to approach another calendar year, many of us might be sitting down to write our New Year's Resolution. No doubt we will have plans that involve personal growth (e.g. taking up a new hobby), or perhaps we'll be looking to spend more time with our loved ones, maybe planning that holiday we've longed to go on. But as we consider our ambitions for the year ahead, let us not forget to put God first in our thinking. And as we do so, why not begin our resolution list with some targets that are God-centred? Be it a desire to increase our study of scripture, regularity of prayer or church attendance, putting the Lord first in our lives is to live in a manner that is scripturally and spiritually befitting of our position as His children, and makes us well equipped to reach our other goals too. The Lord Jesus Christ's declaration of the greatest commandment starts with God, before going on to how we are to treat our fellow men. Similarly, the Ten Commandments themselves begin with our Heavenly Father, before covering our standards of behaviour towards our earthly contemporaries (Exodus 20:2-17). Paying due reverence to the Lord, having no other idols, not taking His name in vain, and loving Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength will put us in just the right mindset to go on and achieve our other, at times lofty, ambitions. So, if you're anything like me and you enjoy putting together a New Year's Resolution, make sure you start with God, for He loves you enough to have put you first when He sent His only begotten Son to the cross to die for you; make sure you put Him first when you plan for 2022.

By John Sivewright



