



**TTW**

**Truth To Wonder**  
Ministries Magazine

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# Psalm 121:7

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The LORD shall preserve  
thee from all evil: he shall  
preserve thy soul.

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## Welcome To Truth To Wonder

Welcome all to the July issue of Truth To Wonder magazine. It is always a thrill to share our work with you and an even greater delight to trust in the words of the Lord as expressed through the pen of the Psalmist, that leads our front cover. As we march on into another month following the banner of Jesus Christ into the battlefield that is life in a fallen world, we have the ultimate comfort that no matter how violently the battle rages, Our Lord God will preserve us through to eternal glory in His wondrous presence.

As Christians in an openly anti-Christian world, it is all too easy to become dismayed and even disillusioned in sharing our faith with others, even just by the example we set with our daily actions. Believers can become cold towards the world and the lost souls within it as a determined adherence to truth is sought exclusively. Yet as the apostle John showed us, truth without love is cold and harsh. For the the law of God is truth indeed, but without the love of God in His provision of a Saviour in Christ Jesus, it condemns all mankind to eternal damnation.

In our determination to declare the truth of God's Word in a Bible dismissing world, a coldness of delivery often leads the way as we are so aware of the danger we face from the evil one. Yet in this awareness, we lose a trust; a trust in the preservation of the elect that God has assured us is truth through words expressed such as those shown by the Psalmist in Psalm 121:7. Therefore in this trust we are emboldened to declare the truth, aware of the adversary that is Satan and his minions, yet not letting that alertness to become coldness to the lost and enslaved.

So we are to combine the truth of the need of salvation for fallen man with the love of God in that we seek that none should perish, but that all should come to eternal life in Jesus Christ. For as the apostle Paul notes, we were such sinners who waged war against God with each breath He so graciously blessed us with. Yet in the delivery of truth in love to us through the sharing of the Gospel by Christians before us, we had revealed to our hearts the love of God that illuminated the everlasting power, glory and grace of His eternal truth. This truth being the way, the truth and the life that is Jesus Christ.

So let us be bold and loving in our witness to a scared yet often angry world of lost sinners, knowing that when we fix our hearts and minds on the Lord, seeking to bring glory to His name in all we do, think and say, He will preserve us no matter what.

## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, how we marvel at the strength and sweetness of your assurance to we weary soldiers of your Word. How you blend the powerful with the gentle is a staggering wonder that lifts you so much higher than even the best of creation, so that we sing with full hearts that there is none like you in all heaven and earth.

Lord forgive our angry and disillusioned hearts, we fall foul of impatience and pride so often Lord that it again humbles the heart to know how patiently you correct us and lead us to greater trust and faith in you.

Father we thank you that we can be strengthened in the midst of the war against evil by the truth of your Word, knowing that you give us this truth out of an everlasting love for your children. Lord how wonderful it is to know that whilst we may stumble and fall, you are with us throughout, never leaving us in the dirt of despair and misery but lifting us up into your embrace so that we might confound the strong of this world. For in this refusal to surrender to evil, even when all seems lost, your glory bursts forth like a thousand suns as your love for the repentant heart radiates forth from our broken bodies. In this wondrous blend we present, through your preserving of us, the strength of your truth that is Christ Jesus, with the love of the Father, in the witness of the Holy Ghost.

So Lord we ask you bless us all and keep us all, preserving us through to the end so that no evil may overwhelm us. Then when our labours are through, we may stand alongside you as loving sons and daughters, resting in your provision forevermore. Amen.



# Positively Destroyed

We are consistently told in every walk of life that 'winners never quit'. To support this ideology a few sportsman, businessmen etc are lifted up as examples that if they can succeed, anyone can. They peddle the same message of 'chase your dream and never give up.' The world applauds and those who look on who have not achieved such success sink a little deeper into despair, believing that their seeming failure is their fault and they just didn't want it enough. In this doctrine of success; pride, selfishness and stubbornness are idolised, the hallmarks of Lucifer himself. These traits were the cause of his casting from heaven as he sought "to be as God". Satan has taken his own desires and mass marketed them to a duped world who aligned itself with his rebellion long ago in Eden.

So the message of 'mind over matter' and 'winners never quit' is pumped out with ever increasing regularity. So it was with great surprise that a highly successful sportswoman spoke with great conviction against this modern mantra. Alex Scott, the former Arsenal and England Ladies Football player noted with passion that she was tired of this message that 'winners never quit'. She continued by noting that "winner's know when to quit". Alex Scott observed that a real champion, a true winner knows that there are some situations where stubbornness will hinder success and not encourage it. As her fellows pundits and presenters looked on with shock that a fellow professional would dare rock the mantra boat, I couldn't help but see how true this assessment was on a level that Miss Scott has missed.

So, so many souls refuse the gift of Salvation through the atonement of sin made by Christ Jesus on the Cross at Calvary in the belief that faith is a crutch. Their fallen minds heed the lie of Satan that if they just persevere and push on in their efforts to achieve success, they can and will achieve it. Such demonic lies based on the pride of man and devil are bought hook, line and sinker a million times a day across the world. Pride refuses to accept that if we are to gain eternal life we must accept defeat. This pride filled refusal to concede to Christ was evident when Jacob wrestled God in Genesis 32. Stubbornly Jacob refused to yield to a monumentally more powerful being until he reached utter exhaustion and in so the pride was defeated. The blessing he sought from God via the worldly wisdom of conquest was only given when he conceded defeat before the source of all wisdom! It finally dawned on Jacob that to win the blessing of God, he would have to quit the fight against Him! In this concession of Jacob before God, we see how the

wisdom of God is once again at odds with the devilish doctrine that we swallow everyday that 'winners never quit'.

Mike Tyson, the fearsome boxer who was once labelled 'the baddest man on the planet' noted how sometimes "you need to surrender" to return stronger and wiser. Rio Ferdinand (former Manchester United and England footballer) builds on this observation with his comment that "failure produces self-evaluation". If the secular, non-believing world can see this, why are we as Christians so slow to encourage others to self-evaluate? You see it is through failure, often deeply painful and difficult failure, that the Holy Spirit ministers to us of our need of salvation from our sins. In this evaluation of ourself after failure before God, our hearts are illuminated by the Spirit of the victory of Jesus on the Cross and how through His abundant grace we can be partakers of His victory through the imputing of His righteousness unto us.

However the devil wants no one to sit in proper self evaluation as it leads to big questions of life being asked, such as 'Why am I here?' 'What's the purpose of my life?' Etc, etc. This point was illustrated in C.S Lewis' *Screw tape Letters*, as Lewis imagines a conversation between a lesser demon and senior one. The lesser demon is confused as to how a man he was tormenting came to Christ. As he recounts the failure to keep the soul from Jesus, he complains to the senior devil that all seem well, the man would just go for long walks to think but there was no obvious sign of his seeking for Jesus. Infuriated the senior devil scolds the demon by observing that a man should never be allowed to think deeply about himself and life as this leads to awareness of God. So the devil actively pursues man with every kind of distraction and motivation he can possibly devise so as to keep the mind of man from looking for God. Indeed it is a sign of the end times that man will 'run to and fro' (Daniel 12:4), for he will be so obsessed with achievement and distraction that he will forget all about God. In this dismissal of God, any dark and insidious imposter can sneak into the heart and mind of man that is created to worship something greater than itself.

So the devil has convinced the world that if you plow through, never surrendering your lusts and desires you can achieve everything you want, you can be as God. We haven't gone that far from the original sin of Adam and Eve have we?! So he will have you pursue and chase, even unto the point of despair and despondency. Why? Because if you succeed in your efforts you become arrogant and conceited, pride filled and boastful. If you fail, you slump into self pity

and depression. Either way you remain cut adrift from God and an eternity away from true triumph that is achieving life eternal through faith in Jesus Christ.

So the true winners in life are those whose hearts have been stirred by God to seek to win Christ and not worldly success. Furthermore, what these worldly successful individuals miss is the clear Scriptural truth that God raises up whoever He pleases to raise up and will put them down again whenever He pleases. One look at the life of King Nebuchanezzar will attest to this truth.

Yet greatest of all rebukes to this pride filled teaching is the very work of Christ Jesus on the cross. As Spurgeon noted, to the sinful world, the Cross is the epitome of shame, humiliation and defeat. Yet in the eyes of Faith, it is the site of Our Lord's greatest victory. The One who holds all power in the universe accepted what the world saw as defeat, yet in His obedience to the will of The Father, this seeming defeat was an eternity filling triumph.

To conclude, we look at the untold heartbreak this mantra of 'winners never quit' causes to those who have not been able to force through their dreams. For every one individual who stands and boasts of their 'self made success', there are a thousand more who worked equally hard but their efforts came to little or nought. By the worlds estimation these people are weak, failures, lazy and a lost cause. So they are cut adrift, looked down on and left in their deep despair. Flawed attempts at promoting good mental health in these desperate souls are fruitless as suicide rates continue to rise all across the Western world.

Such broken hearts are longing to be of worth, to be loved, to feel fulfilled but they cannot summon anymore conviction to fight on so they sink lower and lower into depression. Friend if you are such a soul, be exceeding glad for the fight is not yours, it is God's. Christ overcame sin and death on the Cross. End this rat race of humanity you are desperately trying to take part in; it's course ends in hell! Quit this race to eternal damnation and humble yourself before Christ, cry out for a heart of repentance and believe in the risen Son of God that is Jesus Christ as your Saviour, Redeemer and King. In this gracious gift of Salvation you will see that you are now one of eternities winners, a recipient of the greatest prize of all, a crown of glory and a place in eternal paradise alongside your Lord Christ Jesus. For to be a quitter of a life of sin is to be the winner of eternity through the grace of Christ Jesus.

By Jonathan Badger

## Grace Be Unto You

Have you ever noticed that with the opening of each Pauline Epistle, Paul greets the reader with "Grace be unto you, and peace"(Ephesians 1:2)? This familiar warm greeting to the various churches and individuals whom Paul writes to is often skipped over as a mere introduction to the meat of the message. Yet if all Scripture is good for teaching (2 Timothy 3:16-17) as we are rightly taught in the Word of God, why have we raced over these wondrous sources of heavenly revelation?

Ask yourself this, why does Paul make this a consistent point of grace then peace to be extended to each of his correspondents? Could it be that in this simple greeting an incredibly deep and beautiful truth is contained?



Paul, through his greeting, is emphasising that to have peace, a peace with God, grace must have first been received. In other words, where no grace has been poured out on a regenerate heart, no peace can be established in that same individual. This is logically correct as when two sides are at war, peace can only be established when terms of peace have been put in place and ratified. Then when the terms have been fulfilled, peace is brought into effect. The terms of peace with God were given back in Genesis by God Himself. The terms were then ratified on the cross at Calvary by Jesus Christ. So by accepting the terms of peace with those who we were at war against (God Himself), namely our surrender to Him, we are gifted grace through the work of Jesus Christ in the shedding of His blood. Thereby a relationship of peace is established between God and redeemed man.

If we look at the world's wisdom however, we are led to believe that we can have peace without grace. Everyone is desperate for a peaceful existence, and we're told that this can be achieved through 'mindfulness' exercises (Buddhism repackaged), Yoga (mystical Hindu practice where people adopt positions and poses that worship false gods/demons), physical exercise ("exercise profiteth little" Philippians),

accumulation of material things, and ultimately coming together as one people (Spirit of Babel – “Let us make a name unto ourselves” – Genesis 11). A common thread begins to emerge as we see that the motivator of these alternatives is non other than Satan himself.

By promoting a false version of how to achieve peace, Satan is managing to imbed a lie within mankind that peace is achievable without God. He lusts after the praise, exaltation and adulation that only God is worthy of and so he sets out to lure away praise from the Prince of Peace that is Jesus Christ. Such is the potency of this poisonous lie that is the idea that peace can be achieved by removing God and replacing Him with man’s efforts, that we see it in the framework of the world’s last remaining superpower that is USA (although with America’s rapid decline into utter depravity this political supremacy will not be long lasting). We see in the American Constitution, drawn up by the revolutionaries such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, etc, man’s right for the “pursuit of happiness.” Here within the foundation blocks of a new independent nation, this devilish notion of peace without grace, without God is firmly established. The pursuit of happiness is fine with Satan, as it’s the mantra of the modern age, ‘do whatever makes you happy’ we are constantly being reminded by secular media. In this wicked doctrine any evil can be justified as long as the person feels happy as they do it.

The true route to peace is the pursuit of God, not happiness, for happiness is an elusive, temporary and ever changing intangible. God however is unchanging, consistent and the source of all that is good. So we are to pursue God, not happiness as this world understands it. Why? Because He is the giver of life eternal, a provider of perfect, glorious, joy filled existence that will never, ever end. This miraculous paradise is gained through...grace, His grace.

Peace then is not some mystic sense of calm, an intangible sense of being that is peddled by the lies of the world. Peace is a deep rooted satisfaction of fulfilment and purpose. It is a completeness of being that produces this glorious fruit called peace. This is why Jesus is the Prince of Peace for He lacks nothing, He encompasses all eternity, there is nothing outside of Him. It is this enormity of being that gives Him the perfect peace of utter completeness and in turn this fullness of the Godhead in revelation to man He alone fulfils. This then is the peace that passes all understanding of which the Apostle Paul speaks (Philippians 4:7). We are given this heavenly truth how? Through the giving of His grace is His salvation

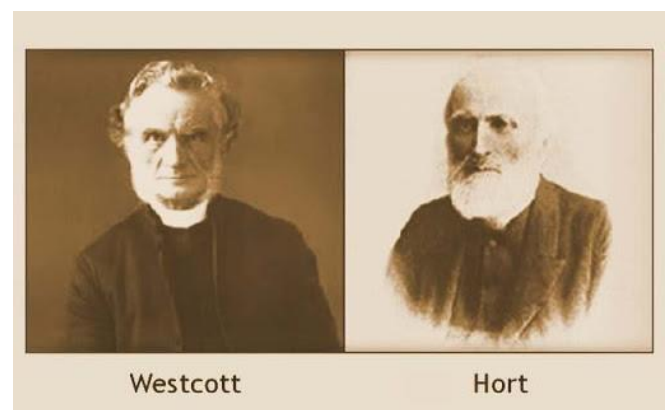
of we sinners from eternal death by the shedding of His perfect blood on the cross of Calvary.

So do not believe the lie of Satan that peace is possible without grace. If you follow such a notion then the tragic irony of this falsehood is that it will lead you to an eternity of the complete opposite of peace. It will lead you unashamedly into a lake of fire, where the worm dieth not and the condemned cry out for but one drop of water to quench their unending thirst. The screaming, wailing, the bitterness, despair, rage and heartbreak will shatter the soul in never ending agony as they feel the just wrath of God against them without end. Friend, run from this lie and pursue God instead. Cry out to God for a repentant heart, pleading for His forgiveness, trusting in His goodness and mercy, throwing yourself at the foot of the cross and acknowledge the Lord Jesus as your risen Saviour and Redeemer, and you will know peace at last.

*By Jonathan Badger*

## Ancient Briton

In our last article we saw some of the beginnings of a Great Apostasy in these Isles. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century moved on, so we see the rise of Darwinism. Here was a theory said to be able to exist without the need for God. We have the writings of atheists like Voltaire and Rousseau that could be linked with evolution and man willing his own destiny. Further, evolutionary teaching was soon tied to theology and leading German apostates like Astruc, Strauss, Semler, Eichorn, Hupfeld and Kuenein stepped forth. The ‘Standard Greek Text’, the work of Westcott and Horst was to be the bible of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was the product of apostates in the Church of England and had scholarly backing from men like Lachmann, Mill, Griesbach, Fell, Scholz, Tregelles and Tischendorf.



**The providers of corrupt modern bible translations**

However, first let's take a closer look at the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the spiritual war to destroy the pure Word of God. As the forces of darkness gathered we see God raise up a Protestant voice in the formation of the Protestant Alliance. He also sent forth the Protestant Truth Society and Kensit's Wycliffe Preachers. John Kensit was martyred in this land while preaching in the open air in 1902. Yes, 1902.



**John Kensit founder of the Wycliffe Preachers**

As Darwinism rose so men like Lamarck, Buffon, Sedgwick, Hutton, Lyle, Huxley and Alfred Russell Wallace stood forth with their evolutionary teachings. Step by step the aim was to overturn belief in the Genesis Flood. Their unscientific theories became 'fact', men accepted they had an animal past. Sin no longer existed, in fact it never had, they could be their own saviour.

Next, we witness a 'revival' of occultism spreading through Victorian England led by Madame Blavatsky. There was a huge rise in spiritism made popular by the likes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Oliver Lodge. There was also a growing denial of New Testament miracles. Then we have the establishment of the society for Psychical Research that made occultism 'respectable'. We see the foundations of the Vegetarian Society laid that plays its part in today's New Age world view. There was a huge rise in seances, the 'doctrine of devils' were abroad.

However, Satan is aware that there is still a lot of believers that wield a blood washed Book, the A.V 1611 Bible. So, his next move is, the Book must be undermined from within. How will this be done? German universities like Tubingen would supply scholars to feed their teaching to British universities and on to the pulpit. The idea? To take the 'science' of evolution and apply it to theology and religion with a particular concentration on that of ancient Israel. The plan, first weaken the supernaturalism of the Old Testament. Why? Because if the foundations were undermined it would help destroy faith in the New Testament, this would also impact on the unity of the Book. The establishment of 'scientific evolution' could be used to interpret the Bible.

Taking the theology departments was easy. Men like Astruc attacked the Mosaic authorship from which developed the multiple authorship theory which led to the Graff Wellhausen Theory. Scores of theologians were bewildered by the 'evidence' and the 'assured results of scholarship', thus their faith was undermined. Soon the liberal scholars took their 'Higher Criticism' into the ministerial colleges and men like David Straus strongly pushed an evolutionary view of the Old Testament.

As already mentioned the target was the Old Testament, especially the record of Creation. Remove this account and faith in it, call it a myth, legend, poetry and allegory and the new doctrine of evolution could win the day.

So the guns of Higher Criticism opened fire, making Abraham a myth, Joseph a legend, leaving Egypt via the miracles of Moses, false, no crossing of the Red Sea, no wilderness wanderings, no fall of Jericho, David not the sweet psalmist, Jonah a myth, Goliath a legend and countless other stories were all said to be silly superstitions.



**Higher criticism reduced miracles to myths**

If certain books were difficult to challenge as false, a later date of writing was pronounced on them, than they were said to be written after the events they recorded.

However Satan had still not removed the Book. So he had another plan. That plan was and is to undermine the genuine with a counterfeit. We now see the Revised Version of 1881 step forth. The Alexandrian Text was back in town. Westcott and Hort and the committee that met for ten years gave us the text that was to be the foundation for modern bibles. The consequences of their 'work' a corrupt, doctrinally impure and worldly 'church'.

With the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a new group of believers, ministers and scholars came through. There were still thousands of A.V users but faith in the Book

had been shaken. You may ask, if Satan wants to destroy the Bible why produce a counterfeit? He knows men are religious by nature, therefore give them a false book to go with a false religion. There will therefore always be a false and a True Bible. There always has been since the beginning of the New Testament Church.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was a time when many scientists and theologians believed man was 'coming of age', few noted the storm clouds that were to rock this 'Sceptred Isle'. The Victorian 'Age of Faith' was gone. 'Reason' was not god. The A.V Bible, 'the secret of England's greatness', was now little esteemed but there would be a price to pay and it would be paid in the trenches of World War I. The seed of unbelief had been sown, now it was 'harvest' time. You cannot discount the history and direction of a nation from it's response, whether positive or negative, to the Word of God. The Golden Age, the god of science, the god of assured scholarship were dumb stupid idols.

By the time World War II hit the church was in growing chaos and at the end of it much faith had been swept away. The voice of the prophet was almost silent and for most preachers who had imbibed the poison there was no longer an authoritative Bible. Huge parts of the church were now in love with the 'biblical' text that had existed in the Dark Ages. The A.V Bible wasn't just dumped, it was mocked, cursed, vilified, textually amended and classed as archaic. The work of the A.v translators was considered inferior, theologically a fossil, something that stood in the way of union with Rome.



### Modern translators roads lead to union with Rome

Finally for now, we cannot follow history in relation to the A.V without taking Satan into account, the truth is however, that most Christian leaders keep a low profile with regard to this Being. Why? Because they don't want to be accused of a non-scholarly, medieval outlook, they fear academic ridicule more than sin itself.

By Dr David Badger Snr

## No Matter What You Do

People pleasing is a common affliction that many of us fall into. Nobody wants to be the 'bad guy' by telling someone the necessary truth and so we duck the opportunity and say whatever we know will make the other person pleased with us. The Bible refers to this problem as a 'Fear of Man'.

Yet fearing man over God will always lead to disappointment and disillusionment as we become spineless souls who desperately look for validation from other sinful souls. This blind leading the blind tragedy has led so, so many individuals to personal despair and eventually eternal damnation if the unredeemed heart refuses to place Christ Jesus as their hearts delight over pleasing their fellow man.

Doubtless it is often difficult to tell the often uncomfortable truth, however as someone progresses through life they will inevitably come to realise that no matter what they do they will offend someone. This is the unavoidable endgame of the 'woke movement', as soon it will be a game who can claim to be the most offended by any given situation. The fruits of this descent into madness is chaos, a society paralysed by it's own poison and unable to do, say or even think the right thing. We will soon find ourselves very much in the days of Noah, where all of man's thoughts were evil before the Lord.

So how are we to break this enslavement to people pleasing and the fear of man? By standing in the truth, for as Our Lord Jesus assured us, "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Yes the truth will offend, for Christ is an offence to the lost, but you will have the peace of Christ in knowing that you have served your Heavenly Father.

Still unsure as to whether telling the truth in Christ is profitable over pleasing people? This straightforward breakdown of the options available from American preacher Spencer Smith will certainly help clear away any doubt on the issue.

"If you do the right thing, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you do the wrong thing, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you do the easy thing, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you do the hard thing, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you go left, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you go right, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you go up, someone is gonna get mad at you.

If you go down, someone is gonna get mad at you.  
If you do the will of God, someone is gonna get mad at you.  
If you don't do the will of God, someone is gonna get mad at you."

Spencer continues, "The point is that NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, someone is gonna get mad at you. So you may as well do the will of God, let the chips fall where they may, and rest knowing that at least what you are doing is pleasing God."

Ultimately though we will let God have the last word on the matter, as the writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds us that we are to, "Make perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:21)

By Jonathan Badger

## Swallowed by a Whale

Scrolling through the news stories of the day, I came across a remarkable report of a man who was swept up in the mouth of a humpback whale, spending a brief spell in the whales mouth before being spewed back out again.



**The humpback whale, common in the waters of the coast of New England and likely 'eater' of Mr Packard**

Michael Packard, a 56 year old New England lobster fisherman was diving off the coast of New England for his regularly fished harvest of expensive lobster. However not long into his dive, he felt a massive shunt as his whole aquatic world suddenly went very dark. As he desperately tried to gather himself, he began to realise he was inside the mouth of a whale. He recounted that he was very aware of the inner throat of the whale, knowing that at any point he could be swallowed into the whales digestive system. Fearing the worst, Michael began to feel the whale become aware that it had something in its mouth a little uncomfortable and strange in comparison to its

usual oceanic meal. The whale began to move its head quickly, obviously hoping to dislodge this irritating thing in it's mouth called a Michael Packard. As the whale's attempts failed, it resurfaced and aggressively spewed out the contents of its mouth, freeing Michael from his terrifying ordeal.

The Biblical parallels are clear and obvious and on reading this remarkable report we cannot help but think of the account of Jonah and the whale. This miraculous account has drawn much derision by sceptics, yet such a recent account of a man being taken into the mouth of a whale only to be spat out again and live to tell the tale is a timely reminder that the 'tales' of the Old Testament are no tales but factual accounts of actual historical events that occurred in actual time, space and individuals.

By Jonathan Badger

## Rise of New Religions

Former American President Barack Obama has recently commented on how he would not be surprised that alien life existed and that once discovered it would prompt the creation of "new religions". President Obama has made his United world government desires abundantly clear in his policies and has observed how Joe Biden's administration will "finish the job" his administration has started.

President Obama's comment on new religions rising up is looking scarily accurate as 60% of Americans now believe in extra-terrestrial intelligence, up 10% in just four years!

These comments have been sparked by a surge in UFO sightings, particularly by U.S military forces as the American public demands more information on these 'sightings'. Now it must be noted that most UFO sightings are just tricks of light and weather and have been correctly dismissed as a result.

However one must also be aware that rises in UFO sightings often come after surges of interest in occultism within a nation. The U.S has seen an explosion of interest of Occultic nature, with dozens of Satanic themed films, books, games and TV shows flood the marketplace. As a nation opens itself up to demonic influence, demonic influence will make itself more and more apparent through such things as UFO sightings.

So President Obama is partly correct in his prediction of new religions rising up with increasing 'alien



activity'. Yet he is blind to the fact that his new religions are nothing more than ancient Shamanic/Demonic and Occultic religions that we see worshipped by the Egyptians, Canaanites, Phillistines etc in the Old Testament. The devil has merely repackaged them as a new product, duping lost souls into worshipping.



So as the Lord dealt with these foul practices within these godless nations as we see in the Old Testament, so too will He justly judge those who are falling into similar traps today. Yet the spread of this evil is not limited to America, for the demonic output of much of American media is greedily gobbled up by the world. So we see other nations quickly jump into the pit of darkness along with America. Nations such as Canada, Europe and our own lost nation.

So we are to pray for these nations, that the Lord will send men of faith to shake these wicked peoples from their foul practices and lead many souls to Jesus Christ. All the whilst though we are not to be troubled by these dark unfolding's and believe that the devil and his demons are out of control. As we see in Exodus 7 and 8, the Lord allows such powerful deception to take place, so that when He lifts His mighty hand all pretenders are cast to the wind, and all creation will know and acknowledge that He is the Lord Almighty.

By Jonathan Badger

## An Uncomfortable Reality

June 12<sup>th</sup> 2021, the day that death stared down the lens at millions of horrified viewers as the lifeless glare of Danish footballer Christian Eriksen filled the airwaves. Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest in the middle of Denmark's game against Finland at the Covid delayed Euro 2020.

He had gone to receive the ball from a throw in and instead collapsed to the floor. As medical staff rushed to his aid, his weak pulse and breathing stopped completely as CPR was started to keep him from death.

The stadium was silent, the players in tears whilst Eriksen's terrified wife ran down from the stands to see her fallen husband. All the while one camera angle lingered on the lifeless stare of Eriksen, sending a chilling reminder of the fragility of life to all onlookers.

The camera cut back to the stunned studio where the pundits were struggling to maintain composure at what they were witnessing, desperately trying to find some comforting words and news for a similarly stunned television audience. Here was the terrible truth of the Bible's words, that man is appointed once to die, and then the judgement (Hebrews 9:27).

As a man's life hang in the balance, the overriding words of those who were witnessing the awful events were 'to pray' for Eriksen. When death is at the door man suddenly finds himself praying to a God that he has denied all their life.



### The nearly tragic scene of Eriksen's collapse

Yet whilst prayers were being said, others sent complaints to the BBC for the shots of death being broadcast on their sanitised airwaves. Our western world is cleansed of the reality of death that when we are confronted with it we are grievously offended.

In this event, a powerful witness was being made to the world that no one knows the hour that God will call them for judgement and the hour of repentance of sins and belief in the Lord Jesus is now!

By the grace and mercy of God, the many prayers for Eriksen were answered and he was revived, giving him a chance of redemption in Christ before final judgment. He and all onlookers now know that death can come without warning, with no time given for final thoughts, words or prayers. So do not delay, cry out to God for a heart of repentance of sin, believe in Jesus Christ, the risen Son of God and receive His perfect grace so that when you are called for judgement, you will be greeted as a faithful servant by God and not a wicked, traitorous enemy.

By Jonathan Badger

## Your Words Can Map A Child's Path

As a teaching assistant in a junior school and having been in childcare and education (on and off because of my own children) for nearly 20 years now, I have come across hundreds and hundreds of children, some extremely challenging and needing a lot of support and guidance due to their home life, and others that have been an absolute pleasure to teach. I have learnt though through the years, indeed from the very start of my career in schools with my 1:1 child (he could be violent, ran regularly out of the classroom and needed constant supervision), that they all just want to be loved. They are young, learning (although we all are throughout the whole of our lives), do not always know right from wrong sadly because of the actions of their 'loved' ones at home, and just need guidance, teaching, correction and love.

When I was a child my parents (and their friends that we saw a lot of) drank alcohol, smoked, swore (my dad's language could often be foul) plus images around the home that were not appropriate for children. This is what my brother and I grew up in and around, not an upbringing children should be subject to. You possibly will not be surprised after what I wrote in my previous article (June's TTW mag – Look upon the Lord for love and guidance), mentioning my fathers behaviour. This is why I write this article. I came across an excellent poem the other week and it just brought to my mind the way my dad would sometimes speak to me, or not in a lot of cases as he took absolutely no interest in my schooling. It was always just my mum at parents evenings, helping me with my homework, dealing with school matters such as letters etc needing sorting for trips. My dad sadly didn't really have a clue what I did at school, the subjects I was doing etc, it was all my mum. As a parent myself to a child in secondary school now and another child just about to start her school life in September, it saddens me even more now to re-call how my dad had no involvement in my school career. However as soon as I left school and went into the work environment Monday to Friday (as now money was involved), he suddenly took interest and tried re-mapping my career (he didn't agree with me going down the childcare route and tried getting me into office work, similar to what my mum had done for over 30 years before she passed away). Anyway, this is the poem, it's called *Tale of Two Households*, and goes like this:

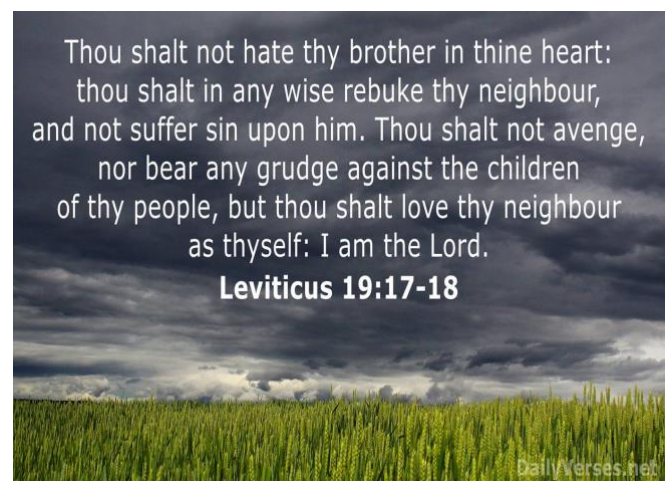
"I got two A's," the small boy said.  
His voice was filled with glee.  
His father very bluntly asked,

"Why didn't you get three?"  
"Mum, I've got the dishes done,"  
The girl called from the door.  
Her mother very calmly said,  
"Did you sweep the floor?"  
"I mowed the grass," the tall boy said,  
"And put the mower away."  
His father asked him with a shrug,  
"Did you clean off the clay?"  
The children in the house next door  
Seemed happy and content.  
The same things happened over there,  
But this is how it went.  
"I got two A's," the small boy said.  
His voice was filled with glee.  
His father proudly said, "That's great;  
I'm glad you belong to me."  
"Mum, I got the dishes done,"  
The girl called from the door.  
Her mother smiled and softly said,  
"Each day I love you more."  
"I've mowed the grass," the tall boy said.  
"And put the mower away."  
His father answered with much joy,  
"You've made my happy day!"

I am personally so very grateful for the Lord bringing me out of what was like the first half of the poem for me as a child growing up, and pray that I am giving my children the bottom half of the poem as a parent myself now.

**Leviticus 19:18, Thou shall not avenge, not bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.**

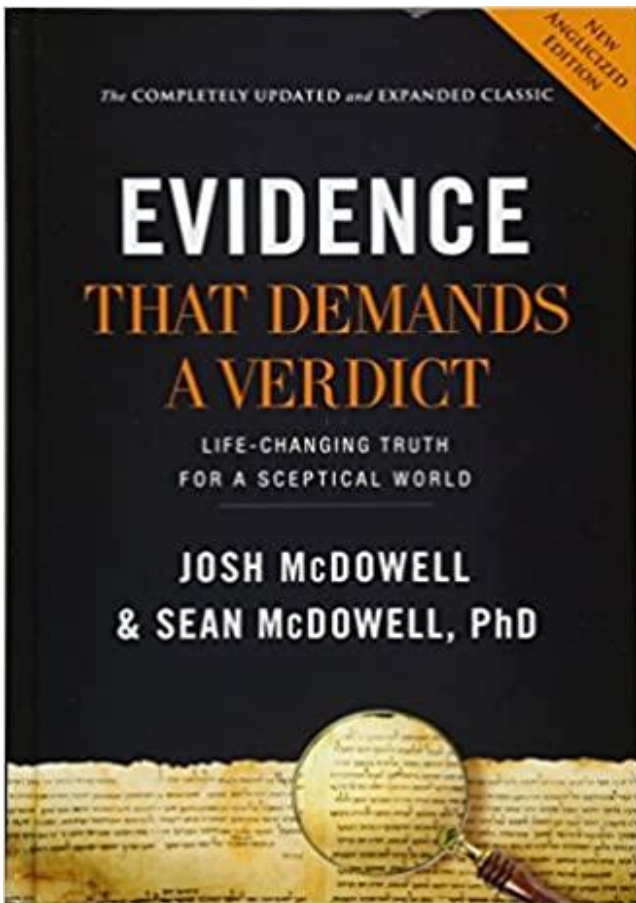
May the Lord be with you all in raising our children in this sadly sin filled world, teaching them the love and truth of Jesus. Amen.



By Donna Badger

## Resource Corner

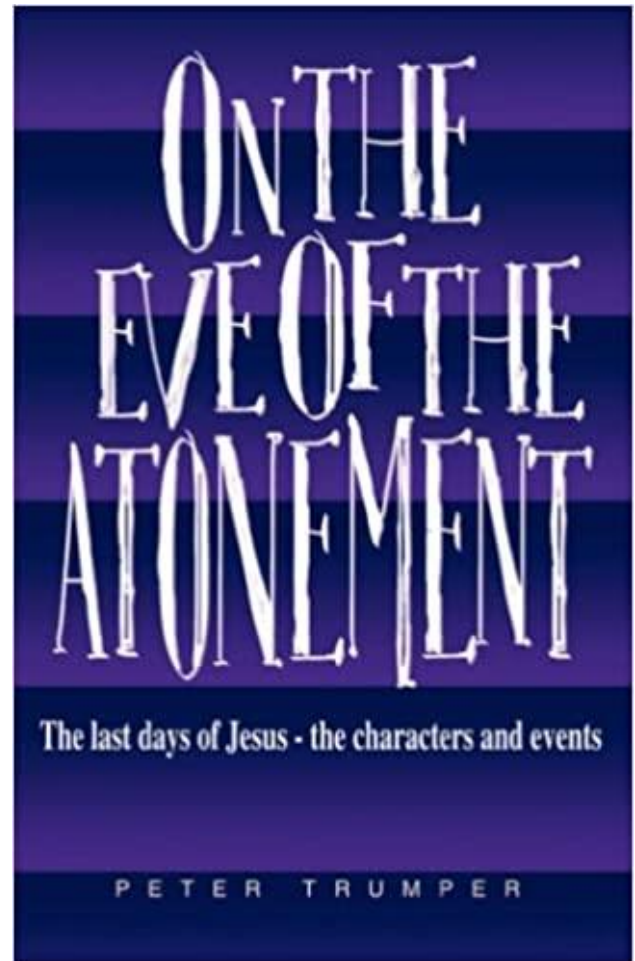
### Evidence That Demands A Verdict



God's Word tells us we must "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). This updated classic from Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell will give you the tools you need to do just that. The modern apologetics classic that started it all is now completely revised and updated-because the truth of the Bible doesn't change, but its critics do. With the original Evidence That Demands a Verdict, bestselling author Josh McDowell gave Christian readers the answers they needed to defend their faith against the harshest critics and sceptics. Since that time, Evidence has remained a trusted resource for believers young and old. Bringing historical documentation and the best modern scholarship to bear on the trustworthiness of the Bible and its teachings, this extensive volume has encouraged and strengthened millions. Now, with his son Sean McDowell, Josh McDowell has updated and expanded this classic resource for a new generation. This is a book that invites readers to bring their doubts and doesn't shy away from the tough questions.

Available from Amazon

### On The Eve Of The Atonement



In tracing the events of Passover week from the time when Jesus wept over Jerusalem to the crucifixion and resurrection, Peter Trumper clearly shows that all that took place had been foreordained by God and stresses its eternal significance, while at the same time portraying with great sensitivity the rebellion of wicked men, the sinful failings of the disciples and the agonies of the man Christ Jesus. Scenes such as the gathering in the upper room, the garden of Gethsemane, the route to Calvary and, above all, the actual crucifixion are vividly described. We are given insight into the characters and role of such diverse participants in the action as Judas, Peter, Pilate, Herod, Barabas, Simon of Cyrene and the thief on the cross. The author's aim throughout is to draw out the reader's heart in love and adoration of the Saviour who underwent such suffering on behalf of totally undeserving sinners.

A fascinating read that brings into focus the intricacy and awesomeness of God's eternal plan for the redemption of man.

Available from Amazon

## Book of Ruth – Part Nine

We mirror Boaz's earnestness by swiftly resuming our look at the final chapter of this incredible little book. Following Ruth's submission and request to Boaz that he become her's and Naomi's Kinsman Redeemer, Boaz sets off the next day to assemble the elders in the hope of fulfilling the request of his beloved Ruth.

We see in verse 2 of chapter 4, that Boaz is eager to settle the matter, so he calls together ten elders of Bethlehem and instructs them to listen to the situation at hand. Boaz has not hesitated or delayed by waiting for the next allotted convening of the elders. He is not enslaved to adherence of men's clerical tradition as his concern is the welfare of his dear Ruth and old Naomi. As we have seen time and again, the character of Boaz foreshadows the Lord Jesus as we see consistently in the ministry of Jesus as He walked amongst man, His concern was not mindless adherence to man's self righteousness (see His numerous interactions with the pompous religious leaders of Israel), but to seek out and redeem the weak and weary of both body and soul.



**Boaz gathering the elders**

Boaz's speed of thought and action is motivated by His awareness and love of the character of Ruth. Remember that in chapter 3, Boaz had commented on how all the city knew that Ruth was a virtuous woman. Such a woman is a gift of God indeed and to any hesitant Christian man reading this who is certain of the Godly, virtuous nature of a woman whom he is thoughtful to marry, I say to you linger no longer and secure this rare treasure with which God has greatly blessed you. Christ does not dither when a repentant heart cries out to Him for redemption. No, He straightway becomes that souls Kinsman Redeemer and creates in them a new heart, giving them His own righteousness.

As we enter verses 3 and 4, we see the gentle wisdom of Boaz begin to shine through. He sets out a business advertisement highlighting the sound deal that is available to a closer relative of Naomi by buying the

land belonging to the house of Elimelech, Naomi's deceased husband. Seeing the potential profit, the closer relative of Naomi than Boaz happily says he will buy the land by stating "I will redeem it." This unknown relative is keen to 'redeem' a clearly profitable piece of land, for he is obviously a noble and charitable man (said with tongue in cheek).

Yet in verse 5, Boaz makes it clear that with the redeeming of the land the relative would also have to take Ruth as his wife and raise a child to the name of her deceased husband Mahlon. This was established law within Israel during this time of the Judges as it would ensure provision for the widow and the continuation of the line of the deceased husband.

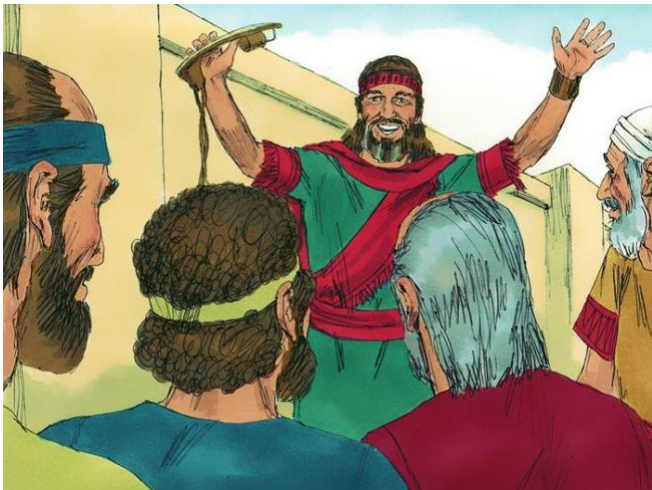
Boaz calm approach to the matter ensured that all legal frameworks were accurately followed but that also the moral bankruptcy of this unknown relative of Naomi was exposed in front of several witnesses. It would've been very easy for Boaz to try and cut a deal for Ruth and the land behind closed doors. Yet such an approach is sinful, and as a descendant of Boaz, namely Solomon, would later observe with the heavenly insight of the Holy Spirit, those who try to hide a sin will not prosper (Proverbs 28:13).

So in verse 6 we see a quick reversal of decision by the other relative of Naomi, as he firmly declines the offer and then adds insult to injury by calling a marriage to Ruth as a 'mar to his own inheritance'. Yet what the world sees as ugly and unwanted, the Lord sees great beauty and value. For this apparent 'smear' of an inheritance according to man, God elevates to become part of the lineage of Jesus Himself. So the cast off of the world should not be troubled, instead pray the Lord will have on pity on you and extend to you entrance into the Kingdom of God through the perfect blood of Christ Jesus.

So with the disgusted dismissal by the unknown relative, Boaz instead is invited and joyfully accepts to buy the land and take Ruth as his wife as he is the next closest relative. We see in verses 7 and 8 that the custom of this period to signify the completion of estate law was for the surrendering party (the one passing on the deal which in this case was the unknown relative) to remove their shoe and give it to the successful party, in this case Boaz. This acted as a symbolic gesture that any right to tread on the land involved in the matter, had been passed over to the other individual involved in the agreement.

Therefore with the surrendering of a shoe signifying the transfer of ownership of the land and responsibility of dear Ruth, Boaz seals his position as kinsman redeemer of Ruth and Naomi. Remember

that to be a Kinsman Redeemer, the man in question must be a free man, not bound in slavery to anyone and be free from all debt, owning his property fully. Boaz fulfils these requirements and so has the power and capacity to aid Ruth and Naomi. As Boaz foreshadows in his saving act, Christ fulfils perfectly in the Redeeming of sinful mankind from righteous judgement and damnation. Jesus alone is free from all bondage to sin and answerable to no man or created being. Jesus alone holds all creation as His own, having formed it by His Word, so being in debt to no one. Hence why Satan's tempting of Jesus in the wilderness that Satan would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship Satan, were quickly rebuffed by Christ, for Satan had no such authority to offer the world in any deal. Therefore Jesus fulfils the criteria of Kinsman Redeemer perfectly for a sinful mankind, who in the granting of redemption by the grace of God, we pass from ownership of death to ownership of life in Christ Jesus.



#### **A joyful Boaz agrees to become Kinsman Redeemer**

A joyous scene erupts in verses 9 and 10 as Boaz happily calls all who are gathered to act as witnesses to his becoming Kinsman Redeemer of Ruth and Naomi. Far from the shame of that the unknown relative believed he would incur in marrying Ruth the Moabitess, Boaz declares it with to all with a bold and joyful song. This unbridled joy and celebration of redemption gives but a pale glimmer of the heavenly joy released as the all the angels sing at the redeeming of but one lost soul to Christ. Such a momentous act cannot be hidden away in shame, for all of heaven acts as witness to the grace of Christ towards a repentant heart as He becomes our eternal Kinsman Redeemer.

Boaz continues in his embrace of the seemingly shameful (according to the world's estimation) by announcing to the no doubt celebratory crowd (remember how all the city acknowledged Ruth as a

virtuous woman in chapter 3) that he would raise up a child with Ruth in the name of Mahlon, her deceased husband. Boaz declares the purpose of this noble venture to all to highlight how he would seek to ensure the name of the house of Elimelech would not be "cut off from his brethren, and from the gate of his place". In so doing Boaz fulfils the Mosaic law that protected the lineage of a deceased man's family name in he had not fathered children, whilst also ensuring the care of the grieving widow.

This restoration of the deceased's position within the people, fulfilled by Boaz, is a stunning reflection of how Jesus restores the dead in sin unto the heavenly fold, establishing the once shamed name into the Book of Life itself. Furthermore it is a brilliant microcosm of how the Lord will re-establish Israel in the last days, even though the people had wandered from the Lord as the house of Elimelech had done when they left Bethlehem for Moab. The Book of Ezekiel shares a powerful picture of this same miraculous event yet to come with the 'valley of the dry bones being restored to life' (Ezekiel 37:1-4).

Yet as this wilful drift from God brought tragedy indeed to Elimelech and his family, God drew blessing out of the rebellion by bringing the virtuous Ruth into the chosen people of God, making her part of the lineage of Jesus Himself. So too has God crafted blessing from the wilful ignorance of the Jews so that in their rejection of Jesus and the Gospel, it was then given unto we, the Gentiles. Furthermore the embracing of Ruth the Moabitess into the people of God by the Lord was a clear reminder to the Israelites that they weren't a special people because of what they could offer to God; they were and are a special people to God purely by His will and good pleasure. This pompousness of heritage was revealed routinely by the Pharisees in Jesus' earthly walk as He consistently warned them to not elevate themselves just because they were descendants of Abraham. Indeed Christ spoke against this self righteousness by stating that He could easily raise up children of Abraham from the stones on the floor.

Even in this pomposity, God has not abandoned His people. He will restore them when they cry out in realisation in the final hours of time that Jesus is their Messiah and Kinsman Redeemer. Herein Christ will deliver His people so that they might also not be "cut off from their brethren, and from the gate of his place", thereby fulfilling Ezekiel 37:1-4.

Verse 11 opens with the acknowledgment by the elders of their witness to this happy event as all the city look on in delight at the union of a Godly man and his virtuous bride. A beautiful day it will be indeed,

when all heaven shall witness the Marriage Supper of the Lamb when Christ and His bride the Church are united in glory together forever in the Fathers house.

It is clear from verse 11 and 12 of chapter 4, that given the rich blessings poured out onto Boaz and Ruth by the elders of the city, (that they would have many children together like Rachel and Leah bared for Jacob) that both Boaz and Ruth were greatly respected by the people. So whilst Ruth had suffered so greatly in recent years, her commitment to virtue before the Lord had been noticed and was about to be rewarded richly. Let this be a comforting reminder to us all that there will be long, hard days of loss, sadness and even despair; but when we commit to the Lord, hold fast to faith in Him, our labours in His name never go unnoticed and we shall be rewarded so graciously by Him.

An amazing historical detail is woven into the blessings uttered by the elders unto Boaz and Ruth, as they pray for a Godly line of men to come from this union. The line spoken of begins with Pharez, the son of Judah born of a sinful relationship between Judah and his daughter in law Tamar. This morally stained generation is not skipped by the elders as they give their blessing, but why not? Because it exalts the name of God for in His wondrous grace He ordained that the very line of Christ would flow through such sin rooted men. In this act, God highlights how His Son would be sent for such sinful souls and it is a physical reminder of Romans 5:20 where we are told, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound".

So at long last we see the wedding of Boaz and Ruth arrive in verse 13 of chapter 4. Shortly after a son is born to Boaz and Ruth, highlighting the flowing blessings of God on this union.

In this happy news the women of city celebrate with the once broken hearted Naomi, as they all give thanks to God for the delivery of so loving a redeemer as Boaz. Note how the praise is fixed firmly on the LORD and how all these wonderful events that had taken place are solely because of Him and no other. How slow we are today to give full praise to God for the wonderful blessings He graciously gives us. Yet as the women sing these praises, highlighting the grace of God in bringing one such as Boaz to Naomi, the song is so sweet, the words so heavenly it would not be amiss to believe they are singing of the Redeemer of Israel Jesus Christ. This is seen exquisitely in verse 15 as the women note to Naomi, "he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life". Yes they are speaking of the dear little one who will be called Obed, as Naomi nurses him through his early life, but who else is a restorer of life but Jesus Christ?



### **Boaz and Ruth married before the Lord God**

Verse 15 also makes a fantastic stand against the deeply flawed argument that the Bible is sexist towards women. The blessing and thanks given by the women to God with Naomi observes that the love of Ruth towards Naomi is worth more than seven sons. Remember Naomi has buried her two sons back in Moab, yet in her faith in God, He has blessed her with a love so deep, pure and true as witnessed in Ruth towards Naomi, it is clear even to strangers that it is of more worth than even many sons. How precious the love of one virtuous woman is towards another individual according to Scripture is absolutely huge and should never be underestimated. Ladies bear this in mind, the heavenly love of God that you can reflect in your life is so momentous it can drastically alter many lives for the better. It is wondrous gift that has been cruelly robbed off women by the modern feminist movement, as women have become cold, distant, aggressive, controlling, opinionated and greedy; all hallmarks of the Father of Lies that is Satan, the author of such modern movements.

We close this beautiful little book with the genealogy that flows from this providential union of Boaz and Ruth. In but three generations the mighty King David will rise to the throne of Israel. Though a sinner, a king whose heart was after the Lord's own and one so dearly loved by God that he would be promised that from this same bloodline, one would come who would sit on the same throne with all power and glory forever. This same King would be the King of Kings and Israel's future Kinsman Redeemer, the LORD Almighty and a personal Saviour for all who believe in Him. The one who drew Boaz and Ruth together through the tears of sadness and loss, through to glorious union in Him; the Word, the Lamb of God, Our Wonderful Lord Jesus. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

## Fragile Shoots of Resistance

St. Paul's Private Girls Schools in West London hit the headlines recently after announcing that the role of Head Girl was 'too binary' and was being renamed to 'Head of School'. The 'woke' brigade clapped and applauded of course but a BBC news report on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 detailed a criticism against St Paul's decision from Ofsted's Chief Inspector no less.

Amanda Spielman (a former pupil of the school in question) speaking on the issue on Radio 4's Woman Hour programme, commented, "I just hope that St Paul's Girls' School and every girl's school can carry on encouraging most of their girls....let's hope that girls can carry on being proud of being girls."

She continued with, "I'd just like to make sure that the power and strength of girls and being a woman – growing into being a woman - doesn't get lost in our society, it's so important."

Ofsted's Chief Inspector also observed that it's important to talk about children in natural language. She was referring to demands from the LGBT group Stonewall that boys and girls are referred to as 'learners' and not as boys and girls. Amanda Spielman correctly noted that "the more we shift away from the kinds of words that mothers, fathers, children, teachers naturally use, the more remote things get and the harder it is for people to think about them."

Yet this is exactly the goal of groups such as Stonewall as their objective is to dismantle the God given roles of men and women as laid out in the Book of Genesis. Such open attacks on God's ordination of the family unit are a common theme in liberal, 'woke' groups such as Black Lives Matter, as they aim to undermine the traditional, nuclear family. Why so? Satan has long understood that if he can destroy the Biblical family unit then he can effectively undermine the spread of the Gospel, thereby leading more and more souls away from saving grace in Christ.

In destroying the common language used by mums, dads, teachers etc in reference to children we are seeing a deliberate attempt at demon inspired brainwashing of society. Satan can't stop boys and girls being born, the biological difference is evident from as early as the 20 week scan given to expectant mothers. So he has to resort to corrupting language (he's good at corrupting language so as to undermine Biblical truths, just look at the ridiculous amount of modern bible translations there are!) to achieve his goal of bringing about a gender fluid society. In doing this he will have brought about the end of God's

decree that men and women are equal but different in their roles as ordained by God Himself. So far from it being a mere 'evolution' of language used in regards to children, it is a determined subversive attack on the Lord's will and creation.

A similar line of attack for Satan is to destroy the Biblical role of the woman. Ever since the Garden of Eden, Satan has gone after the woman, subverting the God appointed role of spiritual leadership and protection given to the man. So with the dramatic rise of Feminism in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we are seeing a society deal with a completely twisted, perverted and chaotic view of what a woman should be. Far from lifting up women, all Feminism has done is make woman a hyper sexualised object shorn of the wonderful love, nurturing and warmth imbued in them by the hand of God. The awareness of this failure towards women and femininity is beginning to dawn on some such as Amanda Spielman. She is clearly aware that girls need to be protected and encouraged to be secure in their gender and sexuality but she has no reference point to explain why this self evident necessity is necessary. This is where the Bible believer must speak up boldly to explain that the God appointed importance and indeed beauty of the role of woman is to be keenly protected and nurtured amongst young girls.

Yet the encouraging aspect of this development is that when Amanda Spielman made her comment, St Paul's Girls Schools came out and timidly explained that it's not their intention to harm anyone in their decision (it never is but that doesn't excuse anyone from the consequences of sinful actions) and that they were actually honouring their history by using the term 'Head of School', as that was the original title used years ago.

They also tried to justify their decision by saying that they came to the decision after consultation with the 17 and 18 year old girls in their school who felt the term 'girl' didn't really fit them anymore. Well guess what St Paul's, any 17/18 year old doesn't want to be seen as being a girl or boy any more, they want to be an adult. They are in that awkward stage of wanting the role of being a grown man or woman without the responsibility that comes with the title. Yet instead of supporting the students in this often challenging period of life by nurturing and protecting their God given gender, they threw the baby out with the bath water and abandoned gender all together as a quick fix. Clearly someone on the board of the school has been influenced by 'woke' culture and pushed their opinion on an entire school populace.



**St Paul's Girls School, West London**

The Church has been far too quiet on this liberal revolution that is sweeping this land and has once again been shown up by opposing secular circles who have been braver in taking up the fight. Yet this noble attempt by conscience led individuals to speak against the wave of wickedness that is upon us misses the foundational point that resolves this seeming societal dilemma. Without the clear directive of God's Word to give an absolute standard on all aspects of life, no peace, no resolution can be attained, only ever increasing extremes of policy that plays into the hands of hell.

So fellow Christians, stop being slack and scared of the world and the overly vocal few who are bullying society into accepting devilish doctrines as truth. Stand up, be counted and speak the truth of God's Word on all areas of life in truth and love and without fear. Ultimately it all comes down to who do we fear more when such confrontations arise, man or God? The Scriptural answer comes from Jesus Himself, "fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

By Jonathan Badger

## **A Star Is Born...Well Not Quite**

Blue Stars are spaces giants. These huge stars dwarf our sun in terms of both size and brightness, with some visible with the naked eye in our night sky. These massive stars pose a significant problem for evolutionists as even secular astronomers and astrophysicists acknowledge that these gigantic structures could not possibly exist past even 1 billion years in age. As these massive stars consume their own mass in huge amounts as they burn extremely brightly in comparison to our sun; such stars should have burnt themselves long ago. Given that evolutionary theory teaches that the known universe

came into existence over 14 billion years ago, the existence of Blue Stars is extremely problematic.

So a fantastic theory is presented as 'fact' to all to handily explain away this sizeable problem.

Evolutionists contend that Blue Stars make up part of 'stellar nurseries'. These cosmic crèches, we are led to believe, contain newly formed stars such as Blue Stars, conveniently explaining how these short lived masses are still in existence in a universe that's supposed to be several billion years old.



However no star 'birth' has ever been observed, making the whole premise of stellar nurseries highly dubious at best. Furthermore, there is no known accepted process as to how are star could even form organically given the very specific cosmological conditions stars need to even exist. Again at best we have unproven theories as to how stars could be 'born' but these are considered hopeful in the extreme even within secular science.

So how do we explain these massive yet youthful entities? Genesis 1:14-15 explains it all very neatly and concisely. God made the stars on day four of creation week approximately 6000 years ago according to Biblical history. This timeframe is ideal for the massive Blue Stars to still exist given how much of their own mass they consume to sustain themselves. The young Earth creationist once again has sound scientific evidence for their position, which is hardly surprising given that the only eye witness account we have of the beginning of the universe is God's revealed Word, other Bible.

## **Provision for a Nation**

In the second half of our look at chapter 39 of Genesis, we come to study the false accusation that led to Joseph's imprisonment. How often in life do we find the innocent falsely accused by the wicked in order to see the innocent fall. Sin wants to bring us all down, by hook or by crook, and it will drag us there by any means. Yet Joseph is a shining example to us all in remaining steadfast in his righteousness and honour despite a most powerful temptation to sin. By the end



of this chapter Joseph, like his saviour Jesus Christ, is numbered with the transgressors. Yet from this position he shines forth in the darkness.

**Verse 7 - And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.**

His masters wife's interest in Joseph was not immediate, but took time to develop. But note that the sin began with the lust of the eyes. Our eyes are a tremendous source of temptation into sin especially that of lust. Does not the Lord say it is better for us to pluck out an eye that offends than have both and be in Hell (Matthew 18.9).

The mistress of the house had already committed adultery of the heart before she ever said a word or tried to lay a hand on Joseph. (Matthew 5:28). But when she finally does make her move it is with no attempt at subtlety. Given her brazenness in her outright request to lay with her it should be of little surprise that she has no issues in falsely accusing him later. No doubt she was an attractive women, and no doubt that being the wife of the captain of the guard she felt that she was difficult to turn down in her requests whatever they may have been. Clearly the fact that she had a husband did not act as the cover to her eyes that protected her thoughts of lust from all others. She had a focus of her attention and was quite set on getting her way. She was, one would suspect, not expecting the response that came from Joseph.

**Verses 8-9 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;**

**There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**

Joseph remains steadfast and upright before God. Though he is young, the head of all in his masters home and single, he does not entertain this advance for a moment. In fact his refusal is a three pronged one, attempting to prick the conscience of Potiphar's wife enough to put

the breaks on the situation. Firstly he states that his master holds him in the highest esteem, and with the highest trust and respect that any man could in his own household. And this is a very good first reason for denying the request. The greater the trust placed the greater the betrayal and baser the act if the trust is broken. Secondly, Joseph points out that whilst Potiphar had committed everything into Josephs hand, that did not include his wife, for she belonged to Potiphar alone, and Joseph recognised the marriage covenant as one taken before God. As such his third point is the most important. To accept the request is to directly break a covenant taken before God and as such is a great wickedness. He calls a spade a spade, and spells out the sin for what it is.

**Verse 10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.**

All of this appears to have gone completely over the mistress of the homes head. Or at least in one ear and out the other. She is fixated on Joseph as a prize she must conquer, and his concerns that he would be breaking his masters trust, or indeed that she was Potiphar's wife were not concerns she shared. It is likely that in Egypt adultery was not uncommon and therefore more easily shrugged off as a sin. That is not to say that it did not come without the harshest of penalties. Indeed for the accusation later to be levelled at Joseph, Potiphar could have had him executed. But my point here is sins are always easier to commit if the culture at large does not find them abhorrent but tolerates or perhaps even embraces them. We are certainly seeing this in the culture at large today are we not.

Potiphar's wife therefore, with singleness of mind continues her pursuit and repeated attempts at solicitation of Joseph. Joseph however does what we should all do with the strength of God by our side. He goes out of his way to avoid the temptation. Not only does he refuse her but he goes out of his way to avoid being in situations in the home where he is with her, especially alone presumably. However it is almost inevitable that this could not be maintained forever, especially were one of the parties is so determined to

get their way. Yet we should take note that when faced with a situation where we know that sin and temptation lies in wait, we should actively seek to avoid these situations.

Verses 11 and 12. **And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.**

**And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.**



Whether this was a setup we will never know. Given her brazen attitude and her stature as an important woman, it would not be beyond possibility that she could have asked all the other servants to leave the house. Joseph subsequently finds himself in the position that he has tried so hard to avoid. This time however she physically lays hold of him, certainly at least his outer coat. One can imagine her sneaking up behind him, and from this position it would be easier for Joseph to quickly shrug off the outer garment and escape. This is not the first time that Joseph's garment has gotten him in trouble and then been used as evidence in a deceit. Joseph again represents the model we should all follow. When presented with a situation where the temptation to sin was front and centre he didn't simply move to another room. He fled! He got himself completely out of the whole house!

Verses 13-15 **And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:**

**And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.**

Joseph left with such pace that it seems to have even taken the mistress of the house by surprise. Now a woman scorned she decides that since she can't have her way she will exact revenge on Joseph. How dare he turn her down! If she couldn't embroil him in sin, she has a great intent to accuse him of it. Here we see an example of lustful wanton "love" all too rapidly converting to hatred when spurned. We can see a similar example in Amnon and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13-15. This is in contrast to holy God ordained and blessed love that continues even when spurned or slighted, and for a wonderful example of this see Hosea.

The first thing she does is to round up the other men of the house, the other servants presumably who themselves may have harboured some jealousy and resentment towards Joseph and the favour shown to him by the master of the home. This feels like a rather familiar situation.

We also see further evidence of the lack of respect for her husband in that she doesn't refer to him as her husband, master or even lord, but rather simply just "he". She continues by making sure that everyone knows that she cried out for help and this was what had caused Joseph to flee. By doing so she impresses on all her innocence in the scene. Indeed later in the book of Deuteronomy, such a cry for help is used to help determine the innocence of the women in such matters. She wants and needs a sympathetic audience. Whilst a 'he said she said' situation here would carry much weight in her favour given her position in the home, its even better if she can persuade others in the home of the authenticity of her story. The more people that believe her story the better chance she has of exacting revenge, because these are people that may have genuinely wished to believe evil of Joseph.

Verse 16-19 **And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with**

**me, and fled out. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.**

Her dramatisation takes the next step in waiting with the coat by her side for the Master of the house to return. One can almost imagine her laying on the bed or on the couch with Josephs coat laying with her as a proof positive image of her story. She certainly sells it effectively as Potiphar, despite the esteem with which he held Joseph, takes his wife side. To be fair to Potiphar, I suspect unless you were utterly certain of your wife’s infidelity , you would make the same judgement. It is natural to favour the loved one over the servant.

**Verses 20-23: And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.**

In what plays out next we see the grace of God towards Joseph once again. Being cast into prison was a relatively light sentence. God intervenes here and puts his hand of restraint on Potiphar’s anger which could have justifiably led to Josephs execution, should he have so wished. But being captain of the guard he had access to the Pharaoh’s prison and this is where he decided to incarcerate Joseph to rot away the rest of his existence. This was also God’s hand in that had he been slung into any old prison in a far flung location within Egypt’s borders, Joseph would have likely never come into contact with those that would be able to bring him to the attention of Pharaoh.

And so once again Joseph finds himself in a ‘hole’ a long way from home and with no comfort from those he knows and loves. And yet God does not abandon him. Prison bars are no barrier to Christ. How many

stories have we read and heard of dear brothers and sisters in Christ, imprisoned for righteousness sake, who tell of how in this location, within prison walls they never felt closer to God. A wonderful example of this in modern times would be the life of Rev Richard Wurmbbrand, tortured mercilessly by the Soviets for his faith, but who felt Christ ever more clearly with him, the harder they tried to break him.

But for Joseph even within this setting, his love for his God, and the blessings God bestows in return are evident to the prison authorities. A good man will do good wherever he finds himself because by the fruits ye shall know them. Good works are the fruits of salvation here in the old testament also, such that God raised up a ‘friend’ in the most unlikely of individuals – the keeper of the prison.

May we as believers all follow this pattern and strive by the grace and will of God to do good whatever situation we find ourselves in, such that those around us may see Christ in us. Amen.

By David Badger Jnr

## Family Bible Challenges

K	N	F	M	P	B	H	O	E	N
F	I	G	T	R	E	E	L	C	I
E	J	N	G	N	I	D	D	E	W
L	H	O	S	A	B	E	A	J	C
P	E	A	P	M	H	N	O	D	R
I	C	H	H	F	A	B	E	L	O
C	B	D	A	C	I	N	K	G	S
S	F	O	R	T	Y	D	A	Y	S
I	A	M	E	L	A	I	R	T	K
D	G	L	Z	E	B	J	O	D	P

Abel, cross, disciple, Eden, fig tree, forty days, Job, Kinsman, Noah, Pharez, trial, wedding.

## Bible Quiz

- 1) Who was Bathsheba’s husband before David?
- 2) How did Uriah die?

- 3) Why did David and Bathsheba's first baby die so young?
- 4) How long did the baby live for?
- 5) What was their second baby's name?
- 6) Who set Joab's field on fire?
- 7) What place did Absalom make himself king of?
- 8) What did David pray for on top of Mount Olivet?
- 9) How did Ahithophel die?
- 10) Who's hair got caught in an oak tree?
- 11) How did Absalom die?
- 12) What is the relation between Dan and Beersheba?

#### Answers

1) Uriah, 2 Samuel 11:3. 2) He was sent to the thick of the battle to be killed, 2 Samuel 11:15. 3) As a punishment to David for sending Uriah to get killed just to marry his wife, 2 Samuel 12:15. 4) Seven days, 2 Samuel 12:18. 5) Solomon, 2 Samuel 12:24. 6) Absalom's servants (on his command), 2 Samuel 14:30. 7) Hebron, 2 Samuel 15:10. 8) That Ahithophel might speak foolishness to Absalom, 2 Samuel 15:31. 9) He hung himself, 2 Samuel 16: 23. 10) Absalom, 2 Samuel 18:9. 11) He was thrust through his heart with 3 darts, 2 Samuel 18:14. 12) None, they are both cities, 2 Samuel 24:15

By Naomi Badger

#### Biblical Who Am I?

- 1: 4 kings captured me.
- 2: I lived in a cave for a while.
- 3: I'm in the Book of Genesis.
- 4: I had 2 daughters.
- 5: I'm the father of Moab.
- 6: I set out for Canaan.
- 7: I never looked back.
- 8: I lived in a very sinful city.



Answer: I am Lot

## A Final Thought

At this time of writing, the UEFA European Football Championship has entered the knockout phase, and a lot of football has already been played. Top of the individual goal charts, having found the net five times already, is Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. His performances have garnered praise from all quarters; however, it was gushing comments from a pundit from our shores that caught my attention recently. After one of Portugal's early games, in which Ronaldo scored a penalty and put in a noteworthy performance, former player Chris Sutton declared, "To stay motivated at his age is so special. Ronaldo walks on water, doesn't he?" One could initially be angered upon hearing this comment; who are we to compare any man, however blessed he may be of the Lord with certain gifts and talents, with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? In what way is any human achievement, however commendable, even remotely comparable with a miracle performed by the Son of God? What could make one utter such blasphemy off-the-cuff, perhaps not even giving thought to the implications of such a statement? While this is all true, perhaps it should lead us to inward reflections on ourselves. Are there elements of Christ's life, ministry, and passion that we sometimes take for granted? Do we ever use precious teachings and incidents from scripture in our everyday hyperbole, or in superlatives to exalt what may seem exceptional, but are ultimately flawed and sinful, fellow men? If we find ourselves, or indeed others, giving credit to others that should be due to Christ, let us rebuke them (or ourselves!) from a position of love, compassion and a desire to spread the Gospel of our blessed Lord and Saviour.

*Philippians 2:9-10 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*

By John Sivewright

## Thank you to our contributors

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