

Truth To Wonder



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Another Sunday, Another Lonely Soul?

Does the title describe you dear brother/sister? Is your heart looking to worship and your head to learn but you can't access either? Some churches you once knew may still be full, but they are different now. They may be full of noise, 'worship', hand clapping, tongues, dancing and many other 'surprises' but for you the Holy Spirit doesn't move. You would love to sing an old hymn, hear a prayer, a reading to lift the heart but you can't find 'old time religion'. Your old Bible is laughed at, and you are viewed as an old duffer from the past. Well come and worship with a few other old duffers. I mean some are nearly 30. Come and be taught the Word of God. The old Minister is at least 40, positively ancient. You will find yourselves most welcome if you have a faith that truly believes the Bible. We are not in the business of entertainment, but neither is the Holy Spirit and if any tell you He is then they are gravely deceived. So, come along, we will give thanks together for God's tender mercies. Come to Truth to Wonder Church and your wonder may be increased in the grace of God.

The Fall of Jerusalem

I used to give extensive lectures to believers on the fall of Jerusalem in 70A.D. years ago. This prophecy is so mind-blowing in detail and fulfilment that one sits in awe every time one reads it.

What I would like you to do is first read Matt23. Take particular note of v34-to the end. Then of course Matt24. Today we have endless books written on prophecy and its interpretation and so-called 'prophets' uttering forth 'celestial mysteries', of course we are not dealing with them we have done that a mind-numbing number of times in the past.

We are standing with our Lord as He looks upon the ancient city and seals its doom, now is a time of judgement not mercy. Meanwhile in Britain Titus Flavius Vespasianus sailed to take command of the entire Roman army. At his side was his 28-year-old son Titus who had 30,000 men under his command. It was spring and a 'butchers' shop' was about to be opened.

The Jews were already fighting with each other before Titus arrived, the food was low, even the granaries were destroyed in the civil war and there was Jewish dead everywhere. The 10th Legion camped on the Mt of Olives covering the eastern flank of the city, while Titus remained with the others on Mt Scopus to the North-East. Titus called for surrender but in vain.



Jerusalem consisted of four sections, each with its own wall, the most important of these being the Temple area, to the south of that was the old town, built on the spur of the steep cliffs on three sides. The new town was north of the Temple. The smaller towns were quickly overcome as the attack really centred on the Holy City.

The Romans used catapults for rocks called 'ballista' and metal bolts called 'catapulta'. The injuries in the city were truly horrific. Further, battering rams were used on the main wall. However, the Jews held on. When Titus paraded before them thousands of men so that the Jews could see their position was hopeless, they still

refused to surrender. He then ordered a Jewish captive Flavius Josephus (from whom we have an eyewitness account), to appeal to them, they still refused the request.

Eventually the Romans took the Castle of Antonia. Then they built a ramp to scale the final wall between them and the Temple, yet the Jews fought on. Some escaped through tunnels but were either killed or crucified. Hundreds died of crucifixion.

Titus now had an earthen wall built surrounding Jerusalem, cutting off escape. He was fulfilling prophecy, see Luke 19v43. The famine was awful. Human depravity saw Jews hunt for food like mad dogs killing any who tried to stop it. Parents stole food from their children, mothers cooked and ate their own babies.

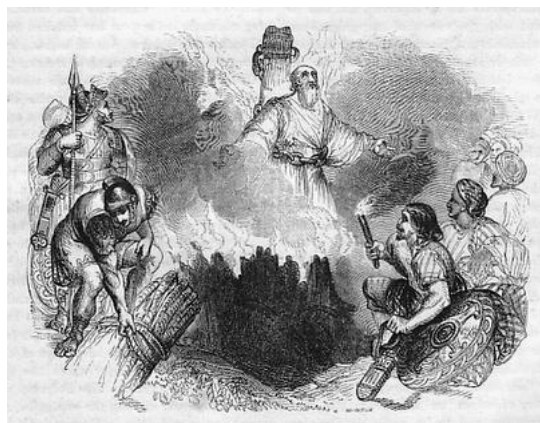
In time the Romans got to the Temple area. Here Titus faced a dilemma. The Temple had been built by Herod the Great in honour of Caesar and completed only four years after sixty-eight years being built. But Jesus had already decided the outcome in Matt 24v2. Titus did issue orders not to destroy the Temple, however, the usually highly disciplined troops set fire to the holy place. He ordered it put out, but it couldn't be stopped. Note, even Titus could not counter God's decree.

When it was eventually taken the soldiers found thousand of bodies. Tacitus, the Roman historian tells us at least half a million were trapped in the siege, 97,000 were taken as slaves and out of just one gate soldiers dragged 115,800 corpses. The number killed by other methods is not finally known but it is thought to have been massive, see Luke 21v22-24. Some scholars have argued that the number in the siege was at least three million, that I would say to be a far more accurate number. What happened to the Christians? They have gone. They went to Pella, about seventy miles away. They had remembered the words of Jesus, see Luke 21v21. This is Biblical prophecy not the drivel we hear often spoken today that is called prophecy. Biblical prophecy doesn't need 'sifting' as is so often stated today by 'Christian' leaders, if it does then its not biblical but either from your own head or the Devil. Take care who guides your thoughts, let it be the Word of God.

By Dr David Badger

Polycarp – An Witness of the Traditional Text

Polycarp was born in 70AD and is traditionally believed to have been a disciple of the Apostle John. He became Bishop of Smyrna and died a martyrs' death standing for his faith in Jesus Christ, in 155AD.



In one of his letters (*Polycarp to the Phillippians* - likely written in his closing days under arrest before his death), he makes approximately 60 citations (references to Bible verses) in the brief epistle. These citations are all in agreement with the Traditonal Text (Textus Receptus of the AV/KJV Bible). Polycarp's strong and sound profession of faith; Biblical understanding and defence of Scripture against attacks from Gnosticism (belief that Jesus became the Christ at His baptism and the Christ spirit left Him at the Crucifixion; Jesus only seemed to have a body as Gnostics believe the body to be evil, which they took from Plato, so the

Incarnation was impossible and His resurrection was not literal; there is special hidden knowledge to be

accessed outside of Holy Scripture), and so his words are a sound and reliable source of the Christian faith in the earliest of its days as a Church.

His citations from Philippians 1:3 and 2:2 both agree with the Traditional Text of the AV/KJV Bible. His citation of Romans 14:10 speaks of the “judgement seat of Christ”. This is the only passage in the New Testament that uses this term and the Alexandrian Text (basis for modern bible versions) replaces “judgement seat of Christ”, with “judgement seat of God” (removing Christ from role as Judge). For Polycarp to use this reference, speaks clearly that he had access to the words of the Traditional Text as used in the AV/KJV Bible, thus clearly indicating its ancient origins and flying in the face of those scholars who claim the Traditional Text comprises only of a few medieval manuscripts.

Polycarp uses the triune title of “Lord Jesus Christ” seven times in his brief letter (same amount as Paul in *Philippians*). This highlights that the title was in common usage in the early days of the Christian Church, as Polycarp was a contemporary of the apostles themselves and would’ve had access to the original writings or the earliest copies of them at the very least. This observation dismisses the suggestion that the title “Lord Jesus Christ” was a later addition to Scripture by Byzantine monks as completely baseless and false.

The words of Polycarp show us that as a contemporary of the apostles, he had access to the very earliest recordings of NT manuscripts, likely even the originals themselves. Given that so many profess to believe that the ‘original autographs’ are the inerrant Word of God, and if Polycarp’s citations (along with other ancient witnesses) utilise and agree with the texts witnessed in the Traditional Text, one could logical argue based on the evidence from primary historical sources, that the Traditional Text as used in the AV/KJV Bible uses the inerrant ‘original autographs’ as its base, in opposition to the Alexandrian Texts of modern Bible versions. The fact that his citations of NT texts agree with the rendering of the AV/KJV attests to the accuracy and ancientness of the Traditional Text (Textus Receptus) over the Alexandrian Text (modern bible versions), all proving a significant witness that God has preserved His Word for the generations of mankind (Psalm 12:6-7). Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Search The Scriptures

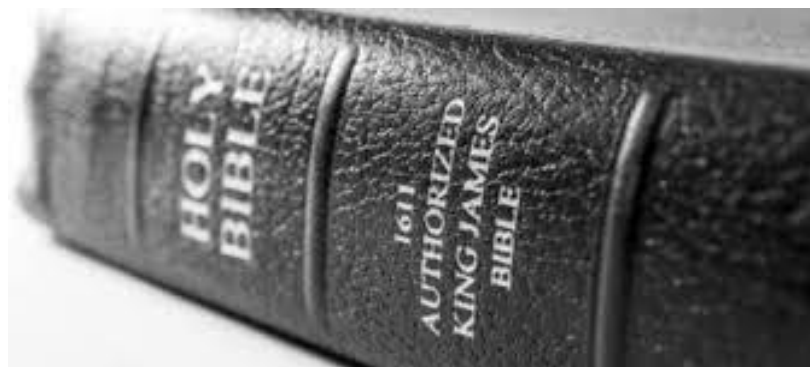
Bible revisers from 1880 to the present day (including the translators of the NKJV) have destroyed God's command to 'Search the Scriptures'. This is the kind of 'spiritual' guidance men and women who go to bible college get for their money. Further, the command to 'study' the Bible (2Tim2v15) has also gone. They have removed the only command in God's Word to 'study the Bible'. Let me tell you something else as we begin and that is, Greek scholars will often deny their own rules of Greek grammar if they can use it to undermine the Word of God and your faith in it.

'Search the Scriptures', who would not want to do that? 'Study' them, now why would the devil dislike that? In these 'latter days' you have got to wake up. After you have finished dancing, performing and having a 'spiritual' time at Church did you learn a single thing from the Bible, did the 'Pastor' even open the Bible or have one?

In the last hundred and fifty years the Bible has undergone a massive attempt at perverting its truth, is that by unbelievers? No. By so-called believers. Our training institutions are full of men who no more believe the

Bible (that they are supposed to teach) than in Rupert Bear. Your Pastors have Bible versions on their study shelves that are corrupt and take away from God's revealed Word. They defend them, argue for them and mislead believers with them and we might add will give account for it.

Do you know that countless 'bible scholars' have never read the Bible through in their lives? I would say 99% and that would probably be the same for modern day Pastors. Think of it, all the scholars and ministers today who mock, ridicule and call the A.V. Bible error filled who have never read any version through once. If it wasn't so serious it would be laughable. I wouldn't follow them round the block. Of course, I thought these men were wonderful when I went to Bible College a lifetime ago, now I know better.



It gives me no pleasure to write on this but as every day passes between now and the Return of the Lord it gets worse. The Bible version business is about money now, not Truth. Further, why is it that one Bible, the A.V. is so hated? It is not only scholars that detest it but Pastors and many simple believers, they have no solid reason to do so but do so nevertheless. So, here we have

'bible-believers' who have a particular reaction to one Book. Some really hate it and systematically labour to undermine its influence. Now this is interesting to me because there is a church in this world that truly hates the Book, she is terrified of it, she will use modern versions and loves ecumenical unity, evangelical unity, Charismatic unity and whatever other tripe you want to peddle but don't mention this book. Let me tell you something dear believer, God loves this Book and hates this Church. This Church has butchered more believers in the Lord Jesus Christ than any other system and her name is The Roman Catholic Church.

Now, this Book we are talking about has spiritual power and authority, that is why Rome hates it, but shouldn't it be a worry to you that countless Christians are being taught this same hatred? Look, the Holy Spirit held the hand of those men whose labours brought about the A.V. Bible. God blessed it and has used it for 400 years. Now we need endless versions? Every one of these new 'bibles' is built upon a corrupt set of manuscripts that the scholars have long worshipped.

'Search the Scriptures'. What an injunction that is, 'study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth'. How can you search and divide the scriptures if you don't know them? If you have 100+ bible versions on your shelf, then ask yourself which is the Word of God? They can't all be. Start asking yourself some spiritual questions, ask God's Holy Spirit to guide you to His Word. Don't run to the scholars, most of them live in a fog and don't really believe any version anyway.

Let me ask you a question, can you find God's Word on earth today? Think about it. How can you 'Search the Scriptures' if you don't have them? Did God lose His Word? Do you think that God would leave His Word in the hands of chumps who fiddle and alter it every day now? Don't be deceived into thinking

scholars are always honest in their work and as for a huge number of Pastors, remember they rely on the scholars for much they're taught and teach you. When I hear believers mock the A.V. Bible I shudder because the contempt that pours from their mouth of God's Word requires repentance on their part not acceptance on the hearers.

I know that many believers have read a booklet against the A.V. or perhaps a whole book (wow), and think that they now know something, dear friend you don't. You should also understand that there are and have been many scholars who would utterly reject modern bibles and stand firmly on the A.V. I commend the A.V. to you as one who will appear at the Throne of God and give an account for his ministry to believers.

By Dr David Badger

Giants of Science Who Believed the Bible

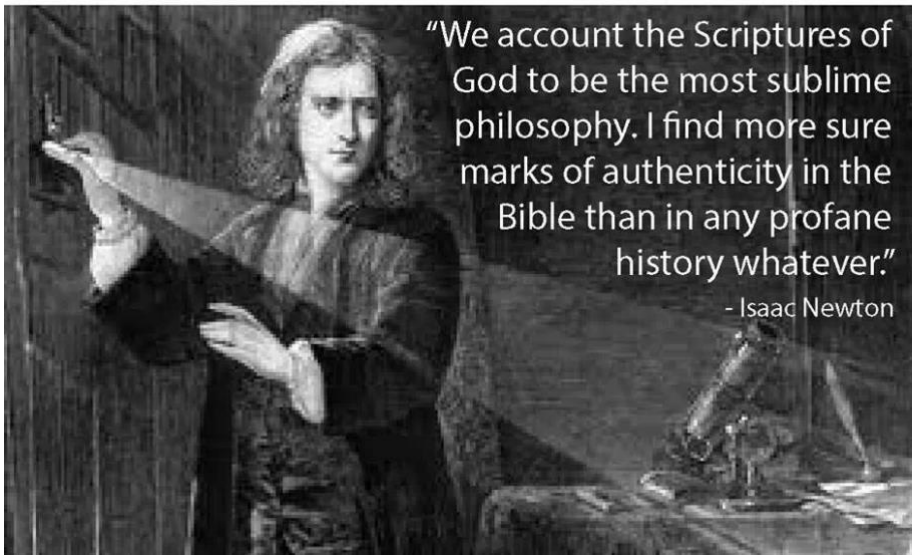
ONLY THE FOOLISH CLAIM THAT FAITH IN THE BIBLE IS FOR CHILDREN AND THE UNEDUCATED - A SMALL LIST (NOT EXHAUSTIVE!) OF SOME OF THE GIANTS OF SCIENCE WHO BELIEVED IN THE BIBLE LISTED BELOW SHOW HOW FAITH NEEDN'T BE BLIND!

Scientist	Notable inventions, Discoveries, Developments or Disciplines of Science Established
Issac Newton (1642-1727)	Reflecting telescope, Law of Gravity
Lord Kelvin (1824-1907)	Absolute temperature scale, Transatlantic Cable
Charles Babbage (1792-1871)	Actuarial Tables, Calculating Machine
Blaine Pascal ((1623-1662)	Barometer, Hydrostatics
Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)	Biogenesis Law, Vaccination and Immunisation, Pasteurisation
James Simpson (1811-1870)	Chloroform, Gynaecology
Carolus Linneaus (1707-1778)	Classification System
William Herschel (1738-1822)	Double Stars
Michael Faraday (1791-1867)	Electric Generator
Johann Kepler (1571-1630)	Ephemeris Table, Physical Astronomy
Francis Bacon (1561-1626)	Scientific Method
Robert Boyle (1626-1691)	Chemistry, Gas Dynamics
James Clark Maxwell (1831-1879)	Electrodynamics, Statistical Thermodynamics

James Ray (1627-1705)	Natural History
Henri Fabre (1823-1915)	Entomology of living insects
Matthew Maury (1806-1873)	Oceanography, Hydrography
Gregor Mendel (1822-1884)	Genetics
Louis Agassiz (1807-1873)	Glacial Geology, Ichthyology
Samuel F.B Morse (1791-1872)	Telegraph
Joseph Henry (1797-1878)	Electric Motor, Galvanometer
Ambrose Fleming (1849-1945)	Thermionic Valve
Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)	Hydraulics
Joseph Lister (1827-1912)	Antiseptic Surgery

As the Lord invited the disciples to come and handle His wounds after His resurrection from the grave, so that they might be sure of His claims, so too does God invite us through proper scientific investigation, to see the truth of His existence and glory reflected in Creation. The men listed above, along with many, many other remarkable scientists, have all come to the same conclusion, based upon solid evidence displayed throughout every layer of Creation. From the subatomic to the planetary giants, the evidence that Jesus Christ is the Creator, and the Son of the Living God is plentiful and indeed majestic, all reflective of His glorious being.

Consider how many lives have been physically saved by the work of such God-fearing men as Joseph Lister, Louis Pasteur, James Simpson and Michael Faraday alone! How the Lord has blessed mankind through the labours of faithful men such as these, and how it stands as a potent reminder of how gracious the Lord is to each of us in His loving provision for our daily needs. Let it also serve as a sobering thought as to how many more lives could have been saved if modern societies had not killed so many unborn lives in the womb. Think on the very real possibility that great discoveries by men such as Newton or Lister, Mendel or Kepler, might not have happened if they too had been aborted in the womb. How humanity would've lost such tremendous insights into the natural world given by God through such men. Think on how much more we could know of Him and how many more lives could've been saved if those innocent little ones had been allowed too simply live.



Finally note the similarities of the era lived by these men. See how so many of them lived in those blessed days after the Reformation and before the confusion of the multitude of confused Bible versions. See for yourself, how from the outpouring of the light of the Gospel that illuminated the world that was the Reformation, a gracious freeing of the message that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, mankind enjoyed the

bountiful fruits of searching after God. Wondrous new discoveries came one after the other, until the darkening skies of Evolutionary Theory, revised Bible versions and higher criticism attempted to withhold the light of the Gospel, from the late 19th century and through to our present day. There was one Bible in this glorious era, the A.V/King James Bible, a Bible that stirred up the minds of great intellects and broke free the chains of sin amongst tens of millions the world over. By the grace of God, we still possess His Pure Word today. So let us be as the great scientists listed above and be eager to learn of Our Lord and God, and then stand back and marvel at what we discover, all of it for our bettering and His glory. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Charismatic Theology – A Road to Error Continued

Let us carry on our thoughts of the qualifications required for apostleship. Well, an Apostle had to be an eyewitness of the resurrection. Turn in the Word of God and read Acts 1v22 and 1Cor9v1. In that letter to the Corinthians after the list of other appearances to individuals we read 1Cor15v7-8. See further, Acts22v6-10 and v17-21. One should point out that the verses in 1Cor15 which refer to Paul as 'abnormally born' inform us that the Risen Christ appeared to him outside the forty days of His resurrection, and he was the last called.

Continuing on, an apostle was directly called and commissioned by God. This point is clear in four ways. Peter doesn't just decide to replace Judas, he did so because God had spoken of it in the past, note Ps109v8. Then notice the drawing of lots in Acts 1v26. You might say surely the lottery is about chance, oh but dear friend, in the Old Testament the lot draws attention to the sovereign choice of God, note Prov16v33.

Another point in these opening days of the Church is that we are not told how to appoint an Apostle, but we are told how with elders and deacons. Look, where there are no instructions given its because that office has ceased. 'Charismatic apostles' are self-appointed, read Paul's words in Gal1v1. Another point is worth mentioning here, people often refer to the wonder-working church in Acts. No, wrong. Apostles, note Acts2v43. Also read, Acts5v12, Rom15v17-19, 2Cor12v12, Heb2v3-4. You can find much more if you read your Bible.

As we look at the Apostles, we see healings that take place that are truly awesome. Further, there are no stewards selecting who gets shoved forward to have a 'chance' at a cure. We don't see failures. We do not hear rubbish like if a believer doesn't receive a healing, then his/her faith is the cause. What, yours or my faith or

lack of it could hinder God? Oh, go away. Have you seen the great miracles? Seen any today? Read Acts 5v1-11, now Acts 13v8-11. These are the kinds of miracles that would terrify Charismatics. Oh, I know many make great claims today, do we ever see proof e.g. medical facts? No.

Lets look at something else. The Apostles could confer gifts. The bestowal of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was one of the signs of those who heard Him, that is the Apostles. It is interesting to see that although Philip could work 'miraculous signs', he could not by laying on of hands confer gifts as the Apostles could. Apostles had authority, there are no such men in the Church today. The incredible things they could do was a badge of their office, they were special, unique. Its long past the time to test the Charismatic Movement. Some need to speak up. The endless false prophecies pour forth, never fulfilled but who says anything?

If someone were to ask, 'Is the Charismatic Movement' the work of the Devil?' the outcry would be staggering. However, it would be equally so if one asked, 'Is the Charismatic Movement the work of the Holy Spirit?'. How do you know which parts are which? So, got an Apostle who can answer it? The only way you can know is the Bible, preferably the one Satan hates. The Charismatic Movement has led countless numbers into error. Even ministers who reject it rarely publicly declare their position. Is the Charismatic Movement the work of the Holy Spirit? Well, where it clearly contradicts the Word of God, NO.

Charismatics make staggering statements every day and get away with them. At one event folk were told that the corporate prophetic word that God was going to speak was greater than anything He had ever done. WHAT. Greater than the Atonement?, the Incarnation?, the Resurrection? What about the supposed coming of the second Pentecost? Where has this delusion in theology come from?



Look, we know there are lovely people in the Movement but there are huge numbers of confused believers. Further, there are a lot of people in the Charismatic Movement which know nothing of personal faith. Get out of the play pen's they call church's and find those that believe and teach God's Word.

How many believers have ever taken the time to examine the Charismatic Movement? Do you think its something new that began in say the 1970's? What if I told you that there has been 'Charismatic Movements' in Centuries past (under different names), that have also caused confusion in the church. That they have had their 'wonders' and 'supernatural' happenings and that they have all met with a sound biblical rejection by many men of God.

It's very easy today to silence questioning by suggesting that someone is fighting the Holy Spirit or speaking blasphemy and rejection of God's work. Do you really believe that when God works (taking for the moment that the Charismatic Movement is God's work), that the Devil will have gone home. Do you really believe that among those crowds of 'believers' many are no more saved than the Pope? Let's just stop and read a few scriptures for you to ponder. Read Matt 24v23-24, 2Thess 2v9-10, Ex 7v8-13, Ex 8v6-7, 16-19, Ex 9v8-11, Deut 13v1-5, 2Cor 11v13-14.

In the Old Testament and New Testament God's people needed discernment, such is certainly the case today. You consider carefully the words of the apostle in 2Cor 11v13-14. How many 'angels of light', and 'ministers of righteousness' and 'false apostles' are in this Movement? None? Really? This Movement is full of false doctrine

and godless psychology. It's full of false miracles, false prophecy, false spirituality and the downgrading of God's Word as the final authority. Believers used to look with wide-open eyes at the Movement, there are a lot of people in it who are not saved. What of you preachers who are not Charismatics and personally reject its teaching, 'evangelism' and theology but remain silent? You are cowards who expose God's real believing servants to error and falsehood. Many of these men have lost their Churches and congregations to the Charismatic Movement because they failed as shepherds to defend their flock, they failed to stand rock solid on the Bible. What are you afraid of? The Movement is a Circus of Gimmicks.

Look, many are being given the idea that the 'signs and miracles' are being restored. Well apart from anything else this concept takes the place of the bible's hope for the return of the Lord by the unbiblical expectation of a second Pentecost. Nowhere does Jesus teach this to the church. Again, Charismatics hold a view of prophecy that it needs sifting because it is not the pure Word of God. That view is a modernistic one. One does not sift Biblical prophecy, one doesn't have to, it's not fortune telling, through there are many Charismatic 'prophesies' that are close. They have multiple possibilities of interpretation. What of Charismatic leaders who have spoken of the Holy Spirit encouraging them to build bridges with ecumenical leaders urging them not to expose their false doctrines. We hear things like doctrine doesn't matter what matters is a living experience; based on what? Countless believers are following men who themselves rely on their experiences to teach others. How dangerous is this, here the devil can have a field day. You need the Word of God soundly taught on which to base your faith, not a vision, prophecy, word of the spirit, sensation, feeling etc. This is not Christianity. Thousands are being misled by emotions, human feelings and demonic deception. Let the people of God wake up, that the ministers of God get a grasp of the field of battle. You are there to lift up the Cross of Christ, not get a medal for the biggest congregation.

What about the meetings where tongues speaking has led to greater devotion to Mary and the Pope? Biblical? No. Devilish. Listen to a brother who spent 20 years in the Apostolic Faith Mission, Full Gospel Church and Assemblies of God; 'I laid hands on the sick. I rebuked death. I prophesied. I spoke in tongues. I interpreted. I would say now, in all sincerity, that I saw and experienced nothing which would lead me to believe that Pentecostalism offers anything along the lines of the New Testament Churches' experience.' He also refers to faulty doctrine, manipulative indoctrination and charged atmosphere. You should understand brethren that seeking many of the experiences of the Charismatic Movement are never harmless.

Look, it's easy for a church to claim to have people with New Testament gifts of healing like the apostles had but when they bypass those whose situation is beyond doctors help like the corpse, Matt10v8, I will not believe them. The Charismatic Movement is full of spurious wonders.

Brethren now is a day when we need a sure and certain guide. Let's avoid pretended new revelations. Let's remember there are those right now who compare themselves with biblical prophets. They proclaim new 'revelations'. That is why God's Word is the only real protection and safe guide, and right here is the danger of new bible versions. These new bibles are full of corruption. Oh, I have used them, and they all made the dustbin years ago.

Well brothers and sisters in Christ every blessing and understand that what I have written is for your spiritual safe keeping, not to harm your soul.

By Dr David Badger

A Sappy Church?

The state of modern Christendom is a curious thing, that is if you do not subscribe to the view that the churches of the Book of Revelation correspond to the differing church ages (if so, that would place us firmly in the Laodicean church age).

To the Postmillennialist/Amillennialist, the greatly populated liberal churches are a strange paradox of popular churches yet weak application of teaching of doctrine. This observation is based upon the ever-increasing number of statements and YouTube videos released by former attendees at such liberal churches, that they felt 'misled' by such gatherings having had 'bad experiences' in such churches. Many such 'bad experiences' are based upon the sadly founded claims they were promised that life was only going to get better after accepting Christ into their lives, and all that is needed for a happy life is positivity and inclusivity. Yet when their life got harder (as any experienced Christian will know very well), when they tried to seek after God with seeming scant reward, the much-preached promises of prosperity appeared flat and empty. So, sadly many churches see many new faces arrive, but equally many faces leave not long after having arrived. In other words, a lukewarm message of Biblical doctrine, delivered out of fear of offending and alienating people from hearing the Gospel message (an understandable but Scripturally flawed viewpoint), has brought about a lukewarm Christendom.

Now, if you subscribe to the churches of the Book of Revelation being representative of the differing church ages, from the Early Church to the present day, then such a heavy but real observation as to the state of much of modern Christianity, does reflect strikingly accurately why Christ said to the Laodicean Church, that He would spew them out of His mouth for their 'lukewarmness' (Revelation 3:16).

Yet before I am accused of being bitter, negative, vitriolic, narrow minded or whatever against liberal Christians/churches, listen to what one of the world's leading atheists had to say on the state of modern Christianity. Christopher Hitchens (see picture) was a world-renowned proponent of atheism, who regularly took to strong vocal opposition against Christianity across the globe on all manner of platforms before his death in 2011. Yet in an interview not long before his passing (feel free to research this yourself), Mr Hitchens made a surprisingly acute observation on what was happening to Christianity in the modern era, particularly in the West. He commented that if Christianity wants to regain the power and influence it once held over western society, it needs to "stop being so soppy". There you have it everyone, a staunchly anti-Christian activist perfectly captured everything that is wrong with much of modern Christianity, it has become weak and pathetic in the eyes of the world. This comment was made some years ago now, and sadly Mr Hitchens observations have become more pertinent with each passing year. To compound this observation, the militant atheist Richard Dawkins recently professed to be a 'nominal Christian' (he likes the societal benefits from the Judeo/Christian worldview, just not the 'God bit') and lamented at how society is crumbling now that the Judeo/Christian ethic has been so widely eroded from western society. Be careful what you wish for in other words, you might just get it!



Consider how for centuries, the witness of the Christian faith was declared with staggering conviction and bravery by men, women and most movingly of all children, who gave their lives in steadfast adherence to the Word of God. Such acts of faith moved countless hearts to see that this was a unique faith, one that makes its followers willing to die without fear or hate in their hearts towards those who hate them, so that their love for Jesus Christ might remain undenied. Acts of quiet courage and humility, have drawn so many eyes to Christ out of a desire for an explanation as to how anyone can happily lay down their life, or suffer hardship and sacrifice in their days for the fulfilment of a promise that cannot be seen in its fullness of glory in this mortal life. It was through such astonishing acts of selfless love and sacrifice in the name of Jesus Christ, that showed a

sceptical world that this faith perfectly reflects and indeed **lives all** the commands and words of Christ Jesus throughout **all Scripture, for it all concerns Him** (Luke 24:44).

Yet sadly, what do we witness today in many churches (praise the Lord, not in all!)? A Christendom that is so fearful of becoming forgotten and irrelevant that it will affirm anything that current societal standards dictate is correct and good, even if it goes against the Holy Bible. So, either the ‘troublesome’ areas of the Bible that are ‘yikes’ to some ministers and pastors (yes, I have heard a minister use the term ‘yikes passages’ to defend their reasoning as to why they refused to read out a portion of Holy Scripture in church) are hushed away and not mentioned; or a bible translation is sought out that happily has that ‘troublesome’ passage altered or even removed.

Instead of standing against the corruption of the day (a recent *Telegraph* newspaper article cried out for the Christian Church to do this again), much of Christianity today is seeking to affirm the corruptions of the day, and so it has become weak and laughable in the eyes of secular society. Don’t believe me, read Christopher Hitchens comment again. Similarly, consider how one conservative evangelical Christian writer and podcaster noted that when he was a young student, he was an atheist, and that he found it “laughable” that he would go out to clubs and party most nights, and would regularly bump into the Youth Pastor of the church his friends attended, at these various nightclubs. This now conservative, evangelical Christian commented that seeing the Youth Pastor partying like everyone else made his preaching on Sundays completely baseless and even hypocritical. For why should anyone listen to his message of the need for a new life in Christ, when this new life that he, as a Youth Pastor was meant to be living and modelling to the world, was no different to those who believed nothing!

As Christians we are meant to stand out, to stick out like a sore thumb, for we are commanded to be as a city on a high hill, separate from the way of life that the secular, non-believing world lives. Of course this is hard, no one said it was easy, especially Jesus Christ, who made it plain to all who read His words that the world **will hate us**, because **they hated Him first**, and that because of this, we **shall be persecuted, as He was persecuted, for the servant cannot be greater than the master** (John 15:18-20). Those blessed saints who gave everything for Him knew His words to be true because they **experienced it**. So, because they **experienced it** for themselves, they knew for themselves what follows experience, **hope** (Romans 5:3-5). This certainty of hope they knew unswervingly so that they were not ashamed of the Gospel, but instead lived it with the love of God abroad in their hearts, making them a living testimony of the Holy Ghost unto all the world. This is how the Holy Ghost is experienced in the life of a Christian, through selfless adherence of **all** of His Word, not through intangible feelings and mystic experiences. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, and truth cannot argue against itself, as much of Christendom does today. Holy Scripture makes it plain how to know the hope of God and thus how to witness to the world of the power of the Gospel; through an awareness that we must live according to the Word of God and not the world, and that this will mean our lives are hard. Yet, when we do this, we will know also through the Spirit of Truth, that we need not fear all the world even, for Christ Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33).

So let us pray that we may not be found to be lukewarm before Christ Jesus. Let us seek to serve Him as so many dear saints that have gone before Him have done, with happy, joyful and devoted hearts, knowing that hardship will be ours, but it is all for His name’s sake. Then let us pray that our labours in service of Him, whether small or great, will be seen by others and it will lay heavy on their hearts and stir up their souls so that they might seek after the strength, the purpose, the passion, the joy and the hope that we as soldiers of Christ Jesus hold at this very hour. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Who is this King of glory?

If there is one psalm that captures the condition of mankind before Almighty God, Psalm 24 is the one. Within this Messianic psalm, a powerful song of awe filled praise, David, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, gives us a strengthening and humbling insight as to the nature of the LORD of hosts that is Christ Jesus. In this striking song of a mere 10 verses, David so marvellously explores the attributes of God as made manifest in the flesh of Jesus Christ, that it would make the unfamiliar with Biblical history believe that he lived alongside the disciples themselves as they walked with the Son of God in the flesh. Such is the staggering insight into the nature of Jesus Christ, that we are gifted by the provision of God a beautiful answer as to how can God judge those who lived before the earthly life of Jesus Christ and the preaching of the Gospel? Well in this glorious psalm, we read of a man who though he lived 1000 years before the earthly walk of Christ Jesus, David knew Him far better than many believers in Christ do today!

Psalm 24 opens with a powerful declaration as to who Jesus Christ is, the Creator of all. Nothing is outside of His authority, and no one is beyond His rule, for He is both Creator and Judge of all creation. Those who insist that they are not accountable unto Him are made to be fools and hard of heart, for God's Word clearly speaks in verse 1 of Psalm 24, that all 'that dwell therein' (the earth and its fullness), that is all mankind, is answerable to Him for He made and gave life to every single last individual. Herein, David gives the perspective from which all following revelations of Jesus Christ flow, that He is the Lord God Almighty and so deserves all glory! It is a truth that should make the reader of this psalm tremble before Him, as we look upon the awesome power of the Lord Jesus. Yet this magnificent truth is shunned by many preachers today, for they



fear the people and not the King of glory. They fear the people might leave the churches if they preach of the immensity of Jesus Christ. They fear that no one wants to hear of His eternal power and might, as they speak only of His meekness and tenderness. It is a great truth for certain that He is meek and tender, and this should be joyfully preached to all. Yet to hide away the awesomeness of Jesus Christ; to stay silent on His mighty authority over all Creation

and His rightful role as Judge over all things, is to devalue both Him and His Gospel. For how much more glorious is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when we see Him in all His awesome wonder, and see how in astonishing harmony of His Godly nature, that His immense holiness and might so beautifully combines with His great grace. This eternity shaping grace that means that the Creator of all things loved the sinner so fiercely that He willingly removed from Himself His eternal glory for a season, so that He might come to us who are sick in sin and offer us eternal relief from the poison of our sins forevermore. How much more stunning is the Gospel of Jesus Christ when the preacher declares with unswerving vigour, passion and certainty that the King of kings rose from His throne to save a poor, insignificant sinner such as you and me! Let it be known to the heart that He did not rise from His throne even when Satan himself appeared in the courts of heaven (Job 1)! He did not do so for Satan was no troubling threat to His might and power, such is His eternal glory! Instead, He left His throne, for a season, to deliver the repentant sinner from death eternal. How the love of God is so clearly seen by a soul who lived 1000 years before Christ took on the flesh of man! So many who lived centuries and millennia before His earthly walk, knew Him so deeply that it shames many of us today.

This immensity of God as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ, is emphasised with stirring imagery in verse 2. David takes us back to the very first days of Creation, to the birth of our world by the hands of the Word (John 1:1-4) that is Jesus Christ. It was by the Logos, Jesus Christ, that order was established where endless

chaos reigned, for seas are frequent symbols of chaos, disorder, emptiness and even death throughout Scripture. Thus, it is by the handiwork of Christ Jesus, that physical life was established in Creation, as witnessed in Genesis 1, and indeed spiritual life, as it is by Him that we are brought out from emptiness and chaos of separation from God and brought unto bountiful days of close communion with the Father. This wondrous truth is testified to hearts when we search these words by the Holy Spirit Himself, bearing witness to our souls that it is by Christ Jesus, that we have been brought out of death and brought forth unto life eternal, all to the glory of God forevermore.

How mighty a rendering of Jesus Christ is David giving to the searching heart within this psalm of awe filled praise! Through these opening verses, we are greeted with the sight of a truly mighty LORD, one who should make every person tremble before Him. Such is the magnitude and majesty of the LORD's presence of which David speaks, that he is moved to speak in amazement at who could possibly approach such a glorious God and not be broken down under the sheer weight of His might and power?!

Verse 3 is a twofold question that has already been answered by Jesus Christ in the centuries prior to the life of David. For the first question of verse 3, 'who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?' was born out in actuality by Moses, the Law Giver, as he ascended Mount Sinai, to commune with God and receive the Ten Commandments from God's own finger. Yet Moses was not mighty enough to ascend without being summoned by God; he was not pure enough to gaze upon the full glory of God and stand before Him unashamed and see it as no robbery to be equal with God (Philippians 2:6). So, Moses was told to hide behind a rock and look only upon the backbone of God as He moved past upon that holy mountain. How these words of David were also gloriously fulfilled at Christ's ascension, as to returned unto heaven in all power and glory to assume His rightful place at the right hand of the Father.

The second question posed by David, 'who shall stand in his holy place?' was born out by the brother of Moses, namely Aaron. For Aaron was the first High Priest of the Israelites, the one who would enter into the Holy of Holies but once a year to offer a sacrifice before God for the sins of the people. The fallen nature of Aaron meant that he could not freely enter this most hallowed of spaces, his unworthiness to do so seen 364 days a year.

Now think on how both the roles of Moses (prophet) and Aaron (priest), were spoken of here in this verse by a king (David). Here, we have the three roles of prophet, priest and king. The three offices before God that no one save Jesus Christ has ever been appointed to hold. As David poses these questions of who is able to ascend the hill of the LORD, and who is able to stand in his holy place, a single figure emerges from all the pretenders of history; a strong and faithful servant steps forward to dispel the empty shadows of those who have sought to usurp Him, and yet have fallen away into the darkness of eternal damnation. This one is the one who is Prophet, Priest and King, unique in His bringing together of all the offices of heaven, and thus singularly worthy of His acclaim as the King of glory!

Yet such is the wicked heart, being deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9), that even with such awesome demands laid out to fulfil this most glorious of kingships, there will be some who still believe that they may be able to do all that is required to stand before God proudly and arrogantly. However, the humble of heart sees these arrogant stirrings in the rebellious of spirit long before they are made manifest in the flesh, and so David expounds further on the demands of God for anyone who believes they might be worthy of this glorious role of King of glory. For in verse 4 we read that this great King must have clean hands and a pure heart. In this one qualification of what is demanded of God for such an exalted position beside Him in all power and glory, every single last pretender to the throne is dismissed, for who can claim that they have never dirtied their hands with sinful actions?! Combined with this, who can dare claim that they have a pure heart, when all we do is lie, cheat, steal, murmur, argue, complain, covet, lust after, and rage unjustly, so many times even in a single

day?! Yet the qualifications required for this most blessed of kingships is not finished, for he must have not ever 'lifted up his soul unto vanity'. Oh foolish pretender before God, have not we all given our hours, our days, our years even to empty and godless pursuits? Who amongst us has not and does not squander precious hours of which we are gifted in His grace, upon fruitless activities that bring no glory to God! Think long and hard, how many hours, how many days of gifting from God have you invested in selfish indulgences that your own conscience declares to you to be wicked and fruitless!

Yet the humbling of the arrogant heart is not over, for God, through this psalm of David, ends the unmatched demands (by mortal, sinful man at least) by declaring that this most majestic of monarchs that is the King of glory, must not have 'sworn deceitfully'. Note how David speaks in the past tense with *sworn* not *swear*. The whole of the life of the King of glory must be free from lies and unfulfilled promises. Who can possibly meet this requirement?! Can you; can I?! There is but one who is able to fulfil this requirement, one begotten of God, thus equal with Him, and so unable to lie or deceive; one unable to trick or mislead; one whom when He speaks, it is done with absolute fulfilment every single time so that no promise is ever unfulfilled. This one king is no other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

To those who see Him, Christ Jesus as this King of glory of whom David speaks, to them shall the blessing of God be received (verse 5), for they shall seek after His righteousness and thus shall find salvation. This salvation shall be given unto them with rapturous love by the Lord God, as the angels of heaven sing in loud adulation of Christ Jesus, that a soul that was once blind, now sees their Saviour through tear filled eyes, and receives Him as their Lord and God.

How wondrous is it, that this verse that is verse 5 (the turning point, the midway point of this psalm interestingly) hinges on a statement that would not look out of place within any of the Pauline Epistles, such is its eloquence on the nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Though the Gospel of Jesus Christ was a mystery until His manifestation in the flesh and His triumphal rising again from the grave, it was not hidden away in total darkness in the generations before His Incarnation. No, for many humble souls sought after Him in the days of the Old Testament, and found Him so marvellously that their words on Him are no less insightful than those expressed by the New Testament saints. Look on the devotion of Enoch, one whom walked so intimately with Christ that he was not allowed to taste death; this even in the days

preceding Noah! Think on Abraham, one who spoke with God as a friend does, yet he lived some two thousand years before his Redeemer lived in the flesh. Men such as these knew Him in such a manner that so many of us crave today, and yet they did not find Him in packed mega churches, or through bellowing 'Christian' music concerts; they found Him in the quietness of their hours before God, oftentimes alone. He met them as He meets each of us, personally, individually, to show us that He is unique in the wielding of His power in that He comes mightily yes, but meekly also knowing our weakness and frailties.

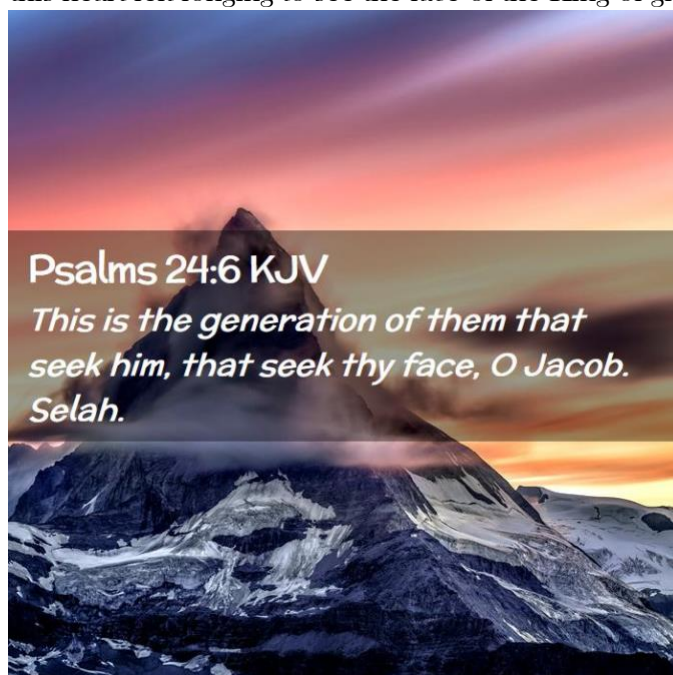
How abounding is the grace of God, that this awesome Gospel message, delivered unto mankind 1000 years before His Incarnation, is given to those who seek His face, those such as Jacob (verse 6). Of the Patriarchs, Jacob is the most like many of us. He was a scheming, coveting (happily partook in deceiving his father and brother for a blessing), stubborn (wrestled with God), rash (easily tricked by Laban to work seven years to



marry the wrong woman) and cowardly (sent the women and children ahead of himself to meet with his brother whom he believed to still be vengeful against him). It is to such a pathetic individual as Jacob that this promise of those who seek after this King of glory that is Jesus Christ, they shall find Him. How magnificent is that! How glorious is the grace of God that this eternity shaping hope is offered to the weakest of the characters in this verse, all so that we might see that **none are beyond hope**, for all that dwell therein the earth are His!

What a joyful declaration this is truly, and a pause must be taken to sing the praises of God for such a mighty message delivered unto sinful mankind by such a mighty King of glory! Hallelujah! Yet such is the abundance of goodness that flows as an eternal river from the very throne of God (Revelation 21), that this hope is known to 'the generation of them that seek him' (verse 6). This is not a generation isolated in time, one that we today are locked out of. Far from it! It is a generation brought together under the Sonship of Jesus Christ, for once we were born of the flesh in Adam, and thus partakers of his sin and ripe unto the just judgement of God; but now we are born of the Spirit, adopted into the heavenly family and made sons and daughters of God through the blood of the Firstborn, the Lord Jesus Christ! Through Him we are bonded through all the generations of history and joined together with the great congregation in heaven that awaits us eagerly to join them forever as part of this most happy of generations, born of the Spirit of God!

So, within this generation born of the Spirit, there is a similar hope, a united desire first glimpsed in the earliest days of the Church. In those infant days following the great outpouring of the Spirit that was Pentecost, those who loved the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and Redeemer, came to together in 'one accord' (Acts 2). How glorious it is that we are of this same generation before God, though not in the flesh of time but in the eternity of the Spirit through the blood of Christ. For we have been united with those that have gone on before through this heart felt longing to see the face of the King of glory. This deepest of longings known throughout the



millennia by every true believer in Christ, from Job through to our present day, hopes for that blessed day when at long last they will see with their own eyes the one who has loved them with an everlasting love. Those that have known love know this longing well. That deep ache to gaze upon the one whom their soul loves. This was this ache of the young bride in the Song of Solomon, a longing for peace as held in the fairness of her beloved that no other could offer her. How her longing is mirrored in the soul of the redeemed in Christ. They yearn, they ache, they long to see His face at last, for by the witness of the Spirit to them, they know that when that day comes, they shall never lose sight of Him again and peace shall reign forever.

Yet how often do we think on this coming day? How often do we as believers in Jesus Christ, seek to see His face? Likely it is little. The intensity of modern life, combined with its many, many comforts and indulgences, distracts the soul from seeking after the one it truly loves. Thus, it is by suffering and hardship, the preciousness of His love is stirred up again in our hearts, for we so easily forget the magnitude of what He has accomplished for us, in bringing us from death everlasting to life eternal.

Those who seek His face with continued earnestness, devotion and humility will share in the happy declaration that David makes in verse 7 of this joyful psalm. David animates the very gates and doors of

heaven to be troubled by the sadness of spirit that all Creation felt when Adam Fell in Eden. How those great and mighty gates of heaven, once tall and full of ceaseless joy, seeing only the communion between God and man as He walked with Adam in the garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 2), have long held their heads heavy in despair at the plight of humanity. How low their heads hung, for they could offer no entry to a humanity that lives in rebellion against a thrice holy God. 'Ah but lift up your heads', is the cry from David, lift up your heads because one shall enter who is able to satisfy all the requirements of God to be able to stand before Him in all His great power and majesty. One has come who is strong and mighty, one uniquely able to push open these heavy doors of heaven and declare that by His power and authority, He bids all to enter who would hear His call. This is the beautiful image that David paints in this happy verse. A picture of grief turned to triumph; a picture of death vanquished by the one who is the way, the truth and the life. A triumph sealed forever by the King of glory that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, David is no fool, as no believer in Christ Jesus is a fool, for the Spirit teaches the humble of heart that the fallen nature resists even the most joyful and free of gifts given so unreservedly by the giver of good gifts that is the Lord Almighty. And so it is in verse 8 of Psalm 24, that we witness David again ask this question of who this King of glory may be? It is not that he disbelieves and needs convincing, no, that is the state of the



hard of heart towards God, and so this repeated question bears as evidence against such proud and arrogant of nature that He extends His hand many times over before it is removed in heavy acceptance. David speaks in a manner that befits the redeemed in Christ, with an adoring tone of awe and worship. A calm and reflective sense of amazement and reverence that witnesses to his and our own hearts, that such a King is unheard of outside of Jesus Christ.

So, in this hour of awe-filled wonder of his Saviour, David has sought the face of the King of glory and has seen Him. He has seen his King's true nature, one 'strong and mighty', one truly worthy of adoring worship each hour of each day into the halls of eternity. For how could He be anything less than such a great warrior? How could Christ Jesus be anything less than the most fearless of soldiers, the most galant of leaders? For He took on the weight of the sins of the world **alone**; He fought and overcame death itself **alone**. What manner of King outside of Christ Jesus has ever done such a wonder?! Could Alexander the Great? Could Charlemagne? Could Napoleon, Wellington, Montgomery, Patton or Eisenhower? Of course not, for they were but fallen men, disqualified from any claim to kingship by the impurity of both their actions and their thoughts. The Lord Jesus Christ is truly mighty in battle, for He gave His life for you and me, knowing all the wounds and sufferings He would take for us long in advance of their fulfilment, and yet He did not shrink from the battle. No, He stood silently, courageously, meekly and mightily, enduring all things for Godly love that is charity, for charity bears and endures all things, and befits the awesomeness of the Living God.

So again, David implores the doors of heaven to weep no more, for the King is coming! How certain is this declaration from one who is a king himself no less; but David does not speak of himself. His heart is to humble, and he knew with certainty that he was no match for the perfection required by God. And so, he bowed happily before the majesty of Christ Jesus, proclaiming unto God, that here in the flesh of man is my Lord and God, He is the one whom I follow through the gates of heaven so as to take my place in our Father's house. So again, the instruction is bold by David unto those once heartbroken doors and gates of heaven, for though some 1000 years of history would need to unfold before David's King would enter through the gates of heaven with all power and glory, having conquered death itself. David knew through experience of his own

days, that God would fulfil all that He had decreed to be. This certainty of heart was verified in David's own heart by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who loves to point all eyes and adoration of Creation unto the Son.

As the psalm closes after a mere 10 verses, we pause to note something glorious displayed on the nature of this King of glory that is Jesus Christ, even within the structure of this mighty psalm. In verse 3, we have a revealing of the one who is uniquely able in His holiness to fulfil the three offices of prophet, priest and king. For what does the number 3 represent in Scripture but the holiness of the triune God. So, here we have a declaration in the very structure of the psalm that Christ Jesus is the full revelation of the Godhead.

Next, consider how the first plea by David to the imagery of the heartbroken doors to lift up their heads and be joyful for the King of glory is coming, comes to us in verse 7. What does 7 represent Scripturally but the perfection of God. Only one perfect in all ways could open the gates of heaven to a fallen humanity through the offering of His precious blood for the sins of the world.

Then think on how at the close of the psalm in verse 10, we have a repetition of David the psalmist, questioning and then swiftly and happily acknowledging who this King of glory is, no other than Jesus Christ. Think on how the number 10 depicts God's judgement and His fulfilment of time. For Christ shall judge all souls at His judgement seat, knowing all the inner most thoughts of every heart. This all transpiring in the fullness of time that He shall enact in obedience of the will of the Father. Isn't such a powerful king reflective of the God of the Bible in all it's entirety of revelation? Christ Jesus is no weak and apologetic man, riddled with timidity and affirmation of wicked and fallen desires and acts. No! He is pure and just, the full revelation of the holiness of God, without blemish. He is strong and mighty, uniquely able to deliver sinful mankind from the wages of its sin, that is death. Yet He is also, tender and gracious, uniquely able and eager to push wide the doors of heaven to all who would but hear His loving invitation to come in unto Him, and dwell with Him in peace and safety forevermore.

To those who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, treasure this psalm. It speaks of the full glory of God as revealed in Christ Jesus. Its words soothe a troubled soul when we feel overwhelmed with doubt, fear and worry by witnessing to us of the might and power of our Redeemer. In this remembrance of His glory, we can lift our heads high, even in the bleakest of days, and know that by His faithfulness, we shall stride boldly through the gates of heaven, and in His provision, take our place in our Father's house.

To those whom Jesus Christ is but a stranger at this hour, I implore you, seek Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, this King of glory of whom David speaks, with the uttermost urgency! Give no thought to the tasks of the day, for who do you think enables you in His awesome grace to fulfil any task of any day but He! Seek Him while He may yet be found. Call out to Him for deliverance from your sins and see Him as so, so many happy souls do at this very hour, as your Lord and your God. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Mosh pits of Worship

Churches across the land are seeing a rapid decline in attendance numbers. A national report released in April 2024, noted how **8 churches a week are closing their doors permanently**. Of the 42,000 churches in existence 20 years ago, 7,000 have shut permanently, with the number rising by the week. Yet rather than listening to the giants of the Christian faith, men like Charles Spurgeon, who boldly asserted that all the Word of God needs

to succeed is to be “let off the leash” so that sinners may be brought to salvation and life eternal through Jesus Christ; many churches are turning to ever more worldly means of attracting ‘new demographics’.

A recent article in the *Observer* newspaper by James Tapper on 6th April 2024, covered the alarming clamour that has taken place amongst church leaders to secure doom metal bands to perform alongside their organ player during church services. This is not a joke. This is real ‘outreach’ work being conducted by church leaders in England today, in the hope that it will bring “a new audience into church”. This observation was made by Mark Mynett, a senior lecturer in music production at Huddersfield University, who thought churches would find it “heretical” to entertain the possibility of hosting doom metal bands in church services. However, he was greeted with excited acceptance by numerous church leaders, eager to utilise bands such as *Pantheist* and *Aro* (two doom metal bands), prompting him in a staggered manner to comment on how churches are desperate to bring people in by any means necessary.

Doom metal is a sub-genre of heavy metal. Its style is slower tempos, with a thicker, lower sound than traditional heavy metal. The lyrics focus on a message of despair, helplessness and well, doom. It was pioneered by the hellish band *Black Sabbath*, whose openly Satanic music had led countless souls to everlasting despair and torment. Other bands that have followed this death filled trajectory are *Anathema*, *Pentagram*, *Paradise Lost* and *My Dying Bride*. It doesn’t take a highly trained theologian to recognise that these band names inform you that these groups are Satanic in their origins and goals and thus have absolutely **no place** anywhere near a church of God!

‘A bonkers gig’: how heavy metal bands are helping keep UK church organs alive

Surprise musical pairing lets ancient instrument reach new audiences in concerts with heavy rock bands



📷 Pipe organist David Pipe, left, and Dr Mark Mynett, senior lecturer in music and technology at the University of Huddersfield. Photograph: Richard Saker/The Guardian

We’ve had rock’n’roll, rhythm and blues and drum’n’bass. Now the latest pairing to shake the music scene is heavy metal and church organs.

Two doom metal bands, *Aro* and *Pantheist*, recently performed at

Yet in Leeds in August 2023, the bands *Pathesist* and *Aro* performed alongside organist David Pipe (cathedral organist at the Diocese of Leeds), with coverage of the performance delivered to the nation by Radio 4’s *Sunday Worship*. The outpouring of interest from churches following this performance was so immense, that a whole new genre of doom metal has formed called “organic metal”. How far has the Christendom fallen in this nation, for churches to be actively seeking collaboration with bands that have openly God -hating, Satanic and Occultic messages and performances?!

Along with this has been a growth in ‘silent discos’ in churches also. One such event at Canterbury Cathedral no less, was dubbed the “rave in the nave”. Campaigners fought against the event, rightly noting that a church was no place for lead dancing, sexual promiscuity and

alcohol consumption to be indulged. However, the campaign was ignored by the church officials who argued that dancing had taken place in the cathedral for hundreds of years.

Such events are taking place within Christendom with ever increasing frequency as the unavoidable consequences of being *seeker sensitive* (chasing after non-believers by changing church services and the Gospel to suit worldly appetites and sensitivities) are taking root. As crowds were encouraged in with promises of a nicer, friendlier church with a non-offensive sermon delivered, in a manner that was new, bold and exciting, they became bored soon after and left the churches. It is human nature, just consider how film sequels have to be ‘bigger and better’ than the original so that the audience remains entertained. This is the way of the world. So churches have to constantly reinvent themselves to remain relevant, and this has led to a

state of existence today where the country laughs at Christianity for being weak and “soppy” (words of famous atheist Christopher Hitchens).

What is the answer then to this marked decline of the Christian faith within our society? By returning to the Word of God and by listening to the words contained therein, namely that we are to **contend for the faith**. We are to fight for it, recognising it as the Pure Word of God and so thus rightly protecting it against those who seek to devalue it or undermine it, whether they mean to do this with ‘good intentions’ or with evil malice.

Let us be thankful unto God that this same Pure Gospel of Jesus Christ that was once delivered unto the saints, remains with us today in all it’s power and truth. It has been preserved so by the blood of the martyrs, who recognised its words of life and gave their own lives for it so that we might be able to know God in all His wondrous and glorious ways. Such a stunning treasure should be guarded at all costs, with steadfastness and determination. Yet so much of the time, modern Christendom itself seemed determined to let this most wonderful of gifts become forgotten, neglected, devalued and corrupted.

We should seek the Lord’s forgiveness for such tardy stewardship of His Word. For to neglect it or corrupt it is to do the same to the embodiment of His Word that is The Word Jesus Christ.

By Jonathan Badger

The Coverdale Bible

The AV/KJV Bible did not just appear out of the mists of history with no footprints left in the mud of time. This monarch of books was led by God as a text from the apostolic days through many centuries of persecution, through to us today through a consistent and purposeful series of steps that speak of His glorious faithfulness in seeing to it that we are able to hold our Bibles tightly and treasure them as the words of life themselves.

The AV/KJV Bible, is a Bible purified in the fires of time and persecution, a Bible befitting the words of the psalmist when he wrote that His word is like silver, purified seven times over so that it might last unto all generations of men (Psalm 12:6). One of these movements of God in the purifying of His Word unto the English-speaking world, was the publication of the Coverdale Bible in October 1535.

This great work in the step towards the producing of the kingly AV/KJV Bible, was conducted by a certain Miles Coverdale (1488-1569 – see picture on next page). Miles was a more than competent scholar, held in great esteem by both Anne Boleyn, the then wife of Henry VIII, and Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was Thomas Cranmer who encouraged Miles in the enterprise of producing an English Holy Bible.



Miles was used by God in a remarkable manner, for Miles worked on three different translations of the Holy Scriptures in his lifetime. The first, his own, the Coverdale Bible of 1535. The second, the Great Bible of 1539. Thirdly, the Geneva Bible of 1560. Along with this impressive output, Miles also indirectly helped with the production of the Matthew's Bible (1537) and the Bishops' Bible (1568). All of these works, each one another step towards the production of the AV/KJV Bible, were translations of the Traditional Text as used by the contemporary of the apostles themselves that was Polycarp.

Miles was a Yorkshireman, educated at Cambridge University before becoming an Augustinian friar. In 1528, he came across the teachings of Martin Luther and soon left the priesthood, before soon being hounded out of England for his adherence to the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith. Having left

England, Miles became a student of William Tyndale and joined him in the work of translating the Bible into the English language. His first translation of the Old Testament was written from the German and Latin language of the Traditional Texts, as he was unfamiliar with Hebrew at the time. His New Testament was a revision of the work of Tyndale, and thus when both works were combined in October of 1535, the Coverdale Bible was published.

Miles' work in the name of the Lord, was not done in isolation of time, for it was the continuation of the Lord's provision unto mankind through the work of many brave and diligent men throughout the centuries, going all the way back to the time of the apostles themselves. The Lord would use further works such as the Matthew's Bible, the Geneva Bible and the Bishops' Bible to further purify His words as rendered in the English tongue, until a version was brought unto the world that had both the weight of history behind it, along with the shimmering splendour of academic excellence of an era unmatched in the pantheon of English language, the Elizabethan/Jacobean period. Through this marriage of history (I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Issac, and the God of Jacob, as we read so many times in Holy Scripture) and excellence of intellect and expression, God gifted unto the world a translation that shone the light of Gospel more piercingly than any that was seen either before its pages were compiled, or since its words were first humbly offered up to God in humble reverence by the translators of the AV/KJV Bible.

Glory to God in the highest for His provision for each generation of mankind. That He might oversee the deliverance of His Pure Word through the ages of time, as He did too with the careful planning and provision of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, at a unique point in history. In this wonder of God, the Gospel of Christ Jesus would resound throughout all the generations of humanity, so that none might be lost that sought after Him. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Thinking With God's Evidence That He Exists

It has long been known that the human brain is the most complex machine in the known universe. It's staggering complexity of neural pathways alone, makes an absolute mockery of the notion that it's immense intricacy of being came about by random chance over billions of years of uncoordinated and chaotic trial and error of nothingness (theory of Evolution).

The level of complexity that is held within everyone's brain has just been taken up a notch however, to make the thought that it all came about by evolution even more ludicrous than before. A team of Harvard researchers recently teamed up with Google to analyse a tiny tissue sample from a healthy 45 year-olds cortex during surgery for epilepsy. The sample was a mere cubic millimetre in size, yet what greeted the researchers upon study of the minute sample was a wiring network of 57,000 individual cells, 150m of neural connections and 23cm of blood vessels. These astonishing findings were made by the team after they managed to slice the tiny tissue sample into 5,000 slices, each the equivalent to 1,000 times thinner than the width of a human hair (known as *nanoscale*). Such was the minuteness of the slices that an electron microscope was required to be able to study the huge wiring network contained within this tiny tissue sample.

Next, up stepped Google with their machine-learning algorithm that traced the neural pathways (something that would've taken scientists years to achieve without computer assistance). The images gained by the algorithm of its neural tracings comprised of 1.4 petabytes of data, roughly approximating to 14,000 full length, 4K resolution movies!

This amazing array of neurological wiring is not a tangled mess of stunningly minute threads, knotted together with no deliberate pathways laid out. Not at all! The Harvard researchers were 'baffled' (quoted from *The Guardian* newspaper article, May 9th 2024) at how pyramidal neurons were seen, each with large branches called *dendrites* emerging from their bases. These incredible structures, acting as travel hubs for arrays of differing pathways ingoing and outgoing, all displayed a 'curious symmetry', with some facing backwards and some forwards. It's as though these microscopic junctions had a designer who knew what He was doing!



Furthermore, different images gathered showed tight whirls of *axons* (thin fibres that carry signals from brain to one another) behaving as if they had become stuck on a roundabout before **identifying the right exit and carrying on their journey**. Even at the most intricate and microscopic level within your **own brain**, God has placed a witness **within you** that everything that makes up you consists of ordered complexity.

Thus, with such amazing discoveries, anyone who is defiantly operating against the belief in the existence of God (which still is a proof that He exists when it is logically taken apart piece by piece), cannot fail but see that God has given abundant evidence both all around us and indeed within us, that He very much exists. It's just another level to a wise observation made by one of the greatest scientists to ever live, Issac Newton. He noted that all man needs to see that God exists, is to look at his own hand and consider the astonishing level of design and intricacy contained therein. Such a wise observation is a good reminder of the Biblical truth that it is a fool who says in their heart there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

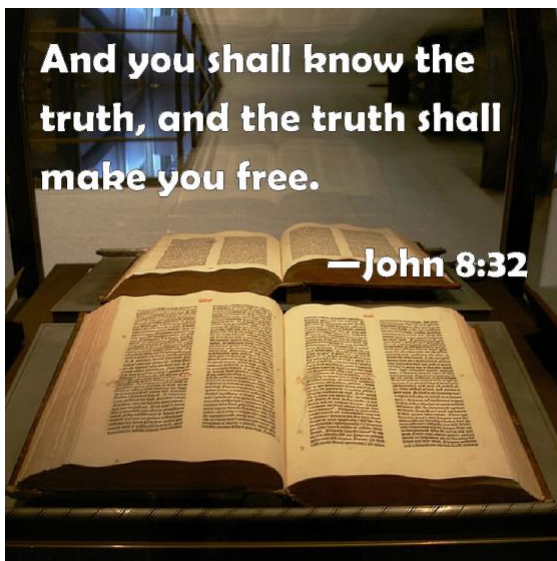
By Jonathan Badger

Numbers or Truth? Which one do you want?

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. *John 8:32*

The task of leading a church or engaging in evangelism is one that should be entered into with great fear and trembling. Many hurry into such roles and activities with excited enthusiasm in the infant days of their faith, and so they are easily swept up in bad teaching and false doctrines, when challenges come to their new love for Christ Jesus. These challenges are numerous, but here we shall be considering just one area of attack that the devil frequently utilises against the immature of faith. That challenge is the notion that a God blessed church or ministry, is one that is clearly 'bringing souls to Christ'. By this I mean that people see supposed physical evidence of God's blessing on a work just because it has attracted a lot of people. Such a notion is unbiblical and as a result can do enormous damage to a young servant of Christ. This damage is the heavy but unfounded wound inflicted on many young, faithful preachers (whether this be in a church or out in the street) that as they look at their small congregation that is showing no signs of any impending growth on the horizon, they question whether they are doing a good job for God.

Such a thought is commonplace and is not helped by the frivolity with which many Christians today treat church attendance. More and more Christians I speak to say how they've been to one church for 6 months, then they tried another for 6 months and then another, and so on. Yet at no point do they ever stop and think the impact such a carefree attitude has upon the men leading a church. Any preacher worth his weight is wounded when a member leaves for a frivolous reason. Why? Because they have invested their time, their devotion, their energy, their health and their love to someone, all in great selflessness. Then when that investment is tossed away with abandon, the poor man is left emptied of himself with no clear reason as to why that individual has walked away.

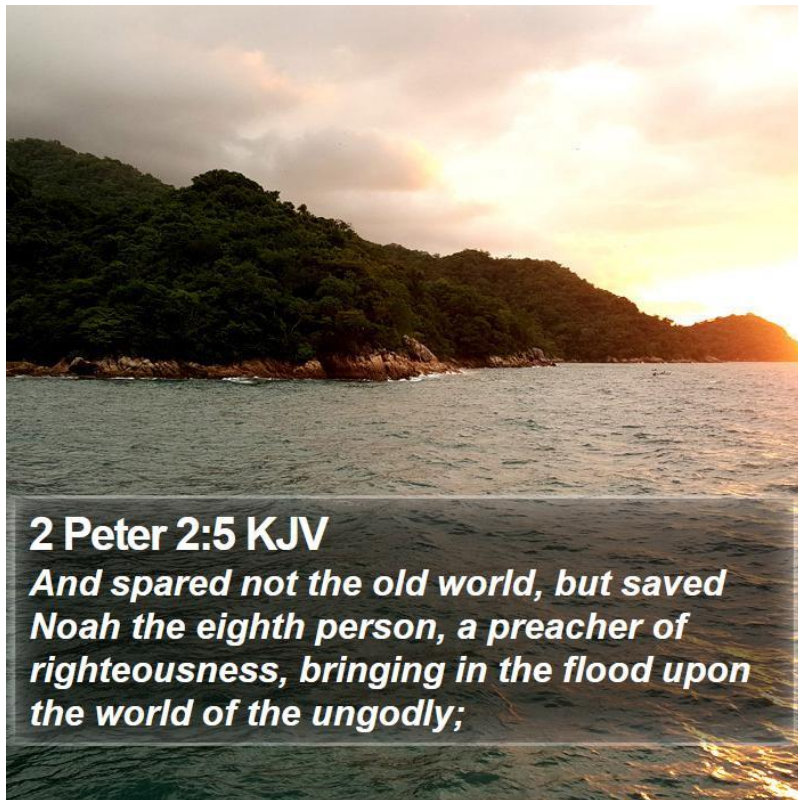


For a Christendom that is rightly concerned with treating people with great care and individuality, it's remarkable how many do not extend this requirement to their leaders. I know this pain very well. It plagues you every hour as the devil seizes on the wound and prompts you think that you have failed the Lord and that you must change so as to 'reach people more'. Granted, this can be the case, but herein we must be extremely cautious, as it's at this crucial point, that the devil is eager to lead the wounded preacher to change his message, to alter the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that 'more people can hear the good news'. On initial inspection such an assertion makes sense, as any preacher wants to reach more people so as to deliver the good news of the Gospel. However, this is why we are encouraged by Scripture to be **sober and vigilant** (1 Peter 5:8), for in this thought deception

lurks craftily as the serpent of old did in Eden. As when this course of thinking is pursued by the well-meaning preacher, he will begin to adapt his message and invariably soften his style so as to appeal to people. After all, in the vast majority of cases, it was his passion and intensity of delivering the Gospel, that first caused many to be offended and thus made them leave his church.

So, seeking to lose no more congregants and instead reach more and thereby gain more congregants, he will alter and dilute his delivery of the Gospel. This change will be small at first. A hiding away from 'troublesome passages' so as not to stir up anyone. Then, an embracing of positivity, as an awareness grips the preacher that

people today want constant affirming and encouragement. So, this line is pursued, and unsurprisingly, people join the gathering, as who doesn't want to be affirmed weekly and constantly encouraged?!



Next, as the church fills slowly with 'fair-weather Christians', the preacher soon finds himself surrounded by a gathering that has no desire for challenge or correction, thus eliminating a huge swathe of Holy Scripture. As a result, the repulsiveness of sin before God is not taught. The consistent Biblical truth that the heart is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9) is neglected or hidden away. In its place, a celebration of humanity, an adoring of 'community' is lifted up as the hope of a Christian, instead of being absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Little by little, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being compromised.

Yet he has become enamoured with the fruits of his well-intended, but misguided labours. He does not see that such a weak Gospel, where the depravity of man is rarely or even

never spoken of. Where the self-righteous works of a soul are as filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6), is never proclaimed. Where Christ Jesus is Judge of all Creation (2 Corinthians 5:10) and will judge all the works and thoughts of every person in perfect exactitude; this is never preached. And so, without this weight of truth to point towards the immensity of God's grace that was displayed to all the world at Calvary, the Gospel has become superfluous. For if the sinner is not alerted boldly to their condition before God, then what need have they of a Saviour?!

Soon, a critical point is arrived at. The busy and buzzing church that was the hope and dream of the preacher, has come, but it is not a church that delights in the truth of God as revealed in His Pure Word. It is a gathering of souls that have come together for affirmation of themselves via others; a spirit of Babel is emerging. The praise is of the body of Christ, not the head of the body of Christ, that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, the preacher is held captive not by the Word of God, but instead by the whims of the congregation. For he knows in his heart of hearts that if he were to return to boldly declaring the unadulterated truth of the Holy Scriptures in all its content and power, those filled seats would soon become empty. This is a fear he cannot bear, because still he believes that it is by visible numbers that we measure the blessing of God. Tragically then, the thing he sought after, the blessing of God, he has lost, because his desire is not to speak the truth ashamedly (Romans 1:16), but to retain the numbers and thereby approval of man. He has lost his God, the love of his youth that the Song of Solomon so eloquently speaks of. His once great and Almighty God, has now become weak and timid. Such a tragedy has been seen time and time again; just research the sad life of Edward Irving, a once great preacher who faded away from history after years of embracing and inviting blind souls to leadership positions within his church.

God's blessing does not pour out on those men who have obtained packed halls and churches through fear of man. It does not flow to those street preachers and evangelists who invite people to 'accept Christ into their hearts' but refuse to speak on the necessity for the repentance of sin. The world blesses such figures, God does

not. How do I know this? By the truth of Holy Scripture. In 2 Peter 2:5, Noah is declared by God for all generations of mankind to see him as a ‘preacher of righteousness’. Quite the accolade given to Noah by God for all eternity. Yet how many people followed him into the Ark having heard his preaching? If Christians today judged Noah by his ‘output’ and ‘numbers brought into the Kingdom’, he would be at the very bottom of the list of any declaration as being a ‘preacher of righteousness’. Yet God’s ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His blessing is given to those who guard His Word and deliver it as He desires it to be delivered, in its entirety, without alteration, addition or subtraction.

Remember all our works done in His name, He will try by fire (1 Corinthians 3:13). So, it will be on that great day, that the poor, downtrodden man who preached faithfully without any obvious fruit for the world to approve of, will see his works come through the testing of God’s fire. Thus, he will be richly rewarded by Christ Jesus, as He shall speak approvingly that the humble man has ‘been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things’ (Matthew 25:21). Whereas the empty works of the worldly preacher, shall be consumed by the fire of Christ, and his reward will be small, for he had the acclaim of the world for season which he desired more than the acclaim of God for eternity.

So, my beleaguered brothers, labour on in the name of Christ, and do not count the number of souls in your care. Instead, count the richness of the hearts of those that have been entrusted to you by the Lord God. For in such a measuring, who is actually the more profitable servant of God? Stand fast and contend for the faith (Jude 3-4), and always remember that it is by the truth that we are made free. Take that truth and wield it, trust in its weight and power, and you shall be rewarded in the fullness of time.

By Jonathan Badger

John Overall – Biography of an AV/KJV translator

John was born 1559 in Hadley, England. He was entered as a scholar at St John’s College, Cambridge, before he swiftly rose to the position of Fellow of Trinity College due to his exceptional skill and ability. In 1596, he was appointed King’s Professor of Divinity, at the same time of taking his doctorate, all at the age of 37. His knowledge of the Early Church Fathers was unsurpassed, and he soon found himself elevated again this time to position of Master of Catherine Hall, a role directly from the mandate of Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1601, on recommendation of Lord Brooke, Dr Overall was made Dean of St Paul’s in London. However, he did not overly enjoy the role as he was a more studious man than a preacher, as he remarked that he found it ‘troublesome to speak in English in a continued oration’ such was his astonishing proficiency with ancient languages such as Latin (who he directly conversed in with Queen Elizabeth I herself). This should give the reader a sense of the astonishing capabilities of the translators brought together by the Hand of God to work on this most wondrous of Bible translations.

This daily familiarity to extraordinary levels of detail and execution of ancient languages such as Latin meant that John Overall was ‘better fitted to discern the sense of the sacred original’ (*Translators Revived*, Alexander McClure). John was highly respected amongst some of the greatest minds this land has ever seen, and it was this agreement amongst the intelligentsia of the age that led him to be appointed *prolocutor* or ‘speaker’ of the lower house of Convocation (the group summoned and brought together by King James I, himself a highly learned man, which gave rise to the commencement of the KJV translation).

It was during his time as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, that John Overall joined the commission on that most noble and indeed humbling of missions, that was the publication of the A.V/KJV Bible. Not long after his labours in the Lord's name on the A.V/KJV Bible translation, John was made Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (1614). Four years later he was transferred to the see of Norwich, where a few months later, he went home to glory aged 60.

John Overall's fame as a linguist and highly respected scholar saw him become a regular correspondent with Vossius and Grotius (along with other distinguished European scholars), two of the most noted academics of the era, who both held John in high regard. Part of the reason for his widespread acclaim as both a true genius and indeed as a fruitful man of God, was his earnestness in sharing his addiction to scholastic theology. John was not a mere intellect who approached the task of Bible translation as a mere linguistic task (as many modern translators have done, recorded within their own notes on their efforts - I encourage the reader to thoroughly research the **actual**



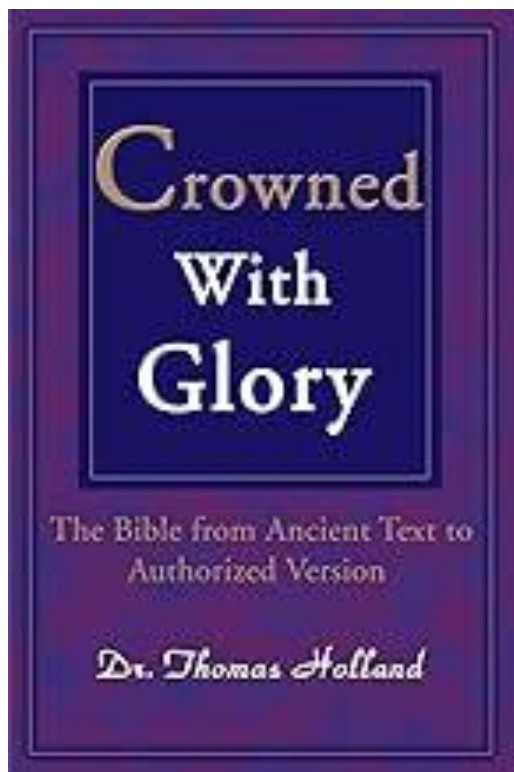
faith of many modern Bible translators). Instead, the very animation of John's daily efforts was to search the lengths and depths of God's Word, and then teach others of the wonders contained therein. His aptitude for debate along with his mastery of logic, meant that his intense study was not confined to draughty classrooms, but was regularly engaged in evangelistic enterprises as he sought to share his passion for the Word of God with others.

Thus, in John Overall, as with all the A.V/KJV Bible translators, we can see through diligent historical research, how God moved to bring together the nations finest minds, to scrupulously test and challenge the veracity and purity of a truly extraordinary plethora of manuscripts dating back to the very days of the Apostles themselves (see earlier article on Polycarp), so as to lead to the publication of a Bible that truly reflects the very nature of God. Yet, as mighty as the minds of these men were, God in His wisdom ensured that they were all humble men who held themselves in low esteem, guarding against pride and arrogance that can easily lead a man to seek to correct the Word of God that He has preserved throughout the generations of mankind. Then combined with this humility of heart, the moving of God ensured that these translators were men of great faith; men whose great passion each day was to pursue God and obtain His blessing in their labours for the glory of His name. Thus, with this coming together of ability, humility and faith, God had gifted the world a Bible that would change the course of history the world over. Praise the Lord God Almighty forevermore. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

Crowned With Glory: The Bible From Ancient Text To Authorized Version Paperback



Crowned With Glory is an insightful look at the history of the Traditional Text and its impact on the crown jewel of English translations, the Authorized Version. Approaching the issue from a scriptural and scholarly perspective, Dr. Holland explores the science of textual criticism in light of biblical preservation. From the rich history of the early English versions to the modern discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, this book takes the reader on a captivating journey through the translation and transmission of Scripture. Differences between the Traditional and Critical Texts are examined, "mistranslations" and debated passages are explained, corrupting forces in the transmission of Scripture are exposed, and the testimonies and sacrifices that paved the way for the Authorized Version are exalted. Regardless of one's view on this controversial issue, *Crowned With Glory* is a must-read for the scholar, pastor, or layperson who seeks a greater understanding of the translational debate.

Available from Amazon

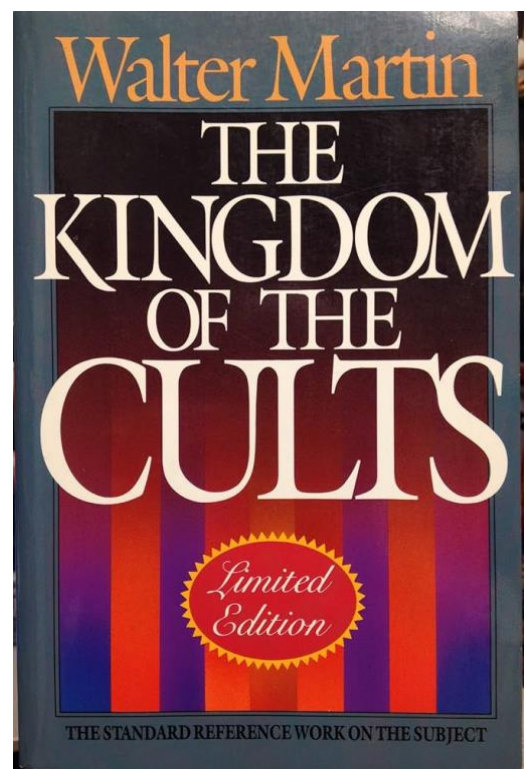
The Kingdom of the Cults: The Definitive Work on the Subject

In an era of rapid growth of false religions worldwide, Christians need information they can trust. This comprehensive new edition of the leading book on cults will equip you--no matter your background--to understand and use biblical truth to counter false religions, including many that masquerade as mainstream Christianity.

Reflecting the developments in cults and world religions in recent years, this edition, updated by expert Jill Martin Rische (daughter of Walter Martin), gives you the authoritative information you need to know. As our culture becomes less and less outwardly Christian, awareness of the belief systems of those around us has never been more vital.

Readable and reliable for everyone, whether you're a teacher, a pastor, or a regular church attender, *The Kingdom of the Cults* remains the go-to reference book on this crucial topic.

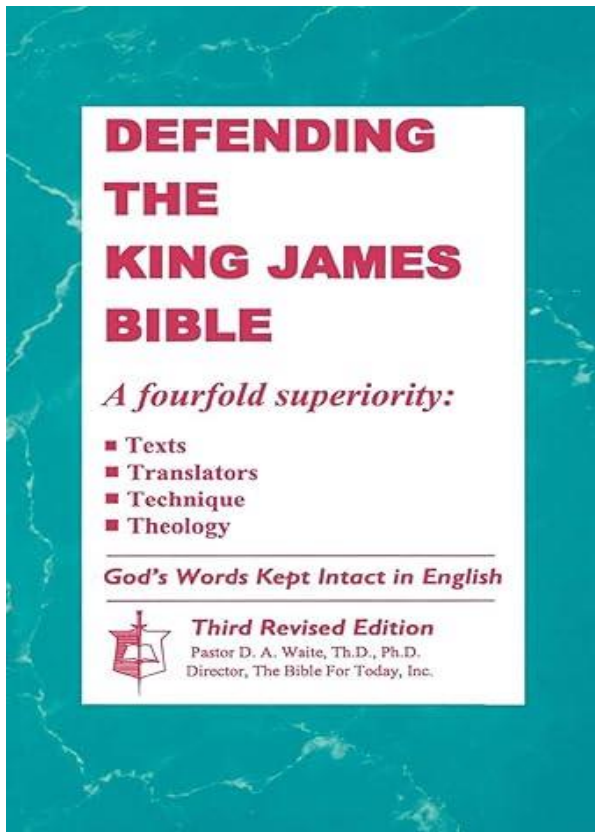
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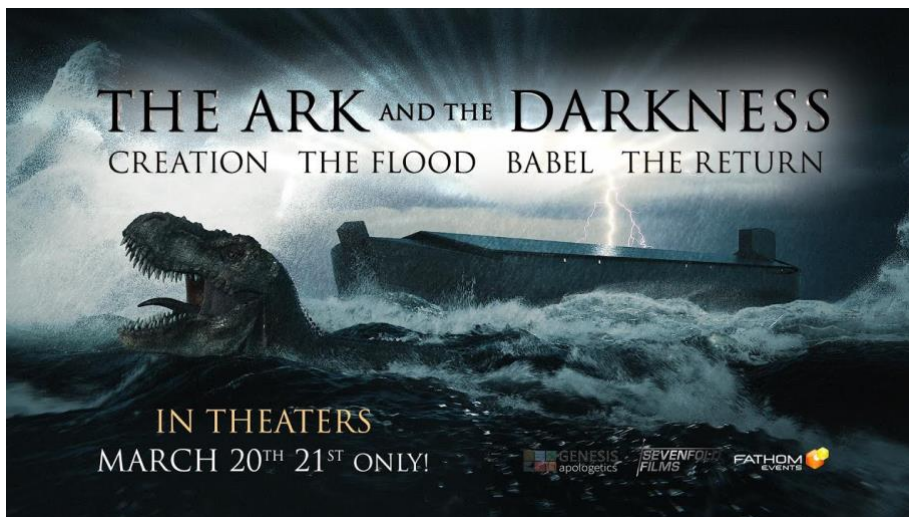
Defending The King James Bible Paperback

This book is now a classic. It has been printed ten times through two editions. It should be in every library, school, seminary, and home. Dr. Waite's work answer's two questions: (1) Which English Bible are we to read, study, memorize, preach from, and use today? (2) Which English Bible can we hold in our hands and say with great confidence, "These are the WORDS OF GOD in English"? He examine's the KING JAMES BIBLE, proving its superiority in four areas: (1) its superior TEXTS; (2) its superior TRANSLATORS; (3) its superior TECHNIQUES; and (4) its superior THEOLOGY.

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The Ark and the Darkness – feature length documentary



There is a tale over 4,000 years old, preserved in ancient writings from every major culture around the world. Many thought it was only a myth, but recent discoveries confirm what the Bible has said all along. From the Director of Genesis: Paradise Lost, Sevenfold films and Genesis Apologetics present The Ark and the Darkness. Geology, paleontology, the fossil record, ancient history, volcanism, earth

science--all of these scientific fields converge on one simple truth: Noah's Flood actually happened. Join our team of scientists from Answers in Genesis and Liberty University as we reveal the truth about Noah's Flood.

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Thank you for reading TTW Magazine – Numbers 6:24-26

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