

TTW Truth To Wonder

Ministries Magazine

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And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Exodus 3:15 KJV

Welcome to Truth To Wonder

It is always a thrill to welcome you to another issue of Truth To Wonder magazine. As we look ahead to another month of hopeful fine weather and good health, we must pause to sombrely consider the rapidly darkening times we Christians find ourselves in. Just these last few weeks we have seen the world attack our faith in ever growing brazenness. The American baker who was taken to court for refusing to bake a wedding cake for a gay marriage is once again under legal action. This time being taken to court for refusing to bake a rainbow cake to mark gay pride. The individual responsible for this unfulfilled order knew the baker would not take the order and was merely seeking to prove a point in trying to break the Christian baker's resolve.

Elsewhere a video posted on the internet has caused enormous controversy after an apostate Christian uploaded an absurd argument that Jesus was a racist! Such similarly ridiculous comments have been made by individuals for an age but the traction and support this video has received from across the globe must cause alarm for all Christians.

A New York 'artist' has seen his foul creation of a Satan inspired limited edition run of trainers adorned with Satanic symbols, a drop of human blood contained within the sole and restricted to 666 pairs made (number of the Beast depicted in the Book of Revelation) sold out within minutes of release.

Even though these events have taken place in America, the widely acknowledged point that what happens in America usually follows in Britain 5-10 years later should rouse every Christian from their spiritual slumber. Why in our own fair land, a council has been threatened with legal action after blocking the appointment of a humanist to the regions committee of Religious Education. When most humanists declare that humanism is not a religion it begs the question as to why would someone so committed to this 'ethos' be interested in joining such a committee? Surely the answer must be to undermine the teaching of Christianity to our children within the school framework.

But whilst these events are sobering indeed, we should not be surprised at all. Jesus himself warned us that we would suffer for His names sake, and Paul also reminds us that we are to expect persecution from all sides (2 Timothy 3:12). However we are to remain calm, resting in the sovereign might of God and carry

on taking the Gospel out into the world with meekness and fear (2 Corinthians 4:8-12).

Opening Prayer

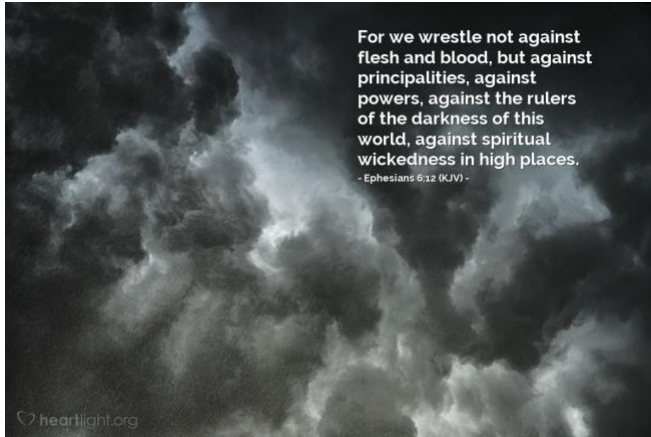
Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we see the decline of morality across the world and though we are troubled let us not be fearful, for you are the Almighty God and no force in all creation can defy your sovereign will. When we are tempted to hide ourselves from the world and speak softly of your glory in quiet circles of fellow believers in Christ, remind us of the saints who have gone before us. They did not retreat in the face of persecution, they did not compromise under the weight of opposition from the world. They were bold in their witness of your grace and glory, rejoicing in the wounds they endured in your name for they saw they were deemed worthy to suffer as Christ suffered. They lived in faith that you are a Sovereign God and that you work all things together for our good and your glory. Our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us now know the rewards of having stayed the course even in the greatest of trials. Lord be our strength we pray, so that as the world grows ever darker, we may shine the light of the Gospel ever brighter until you call us home at the last.

Though this truth my cause our hearts to stumble in fear, remind us that though you call us to suffer as Our Saviour suffered, you promise us that we shall be glorified come that hopeful day as Our Lord Jesus is now so glorified. All hope, all joy, all grace, all mercy, all peace, all wisdom and love is found in Christ Jesus, your only begotten Son. So we ask you be with us each moment of each day, pull us close to you so that we are comforted by your mighty arm and brought to rest amidst the attacks of darkness. Lord, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death every day, yet we march on in the name of Christ, knowing that through Him, we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.



We battle not against flesh and blood

As editor, I get the perk of reading people's submissions before others. After reading my father's article on his childhood years (see page 11), I thought of the well known verse of Ephesians 6:12.



How this battle takes place in each aspect of our lives then made me think of how so many areas of life we think are perfectly safe and untainted by the reaches of darkness. Yet this is a blissful fantasy, for all creation groans under the weight of sin (Romans 8:22) and as a result, we are often engaging in spiritual warfare completely unarmed.

This can be when we sit down to watch a movie after a long, busy day at work. We often select a good 'take your brain out film' so that no deep thinking is required for the desired entertainment. But in doing this, we are deliberately bypassing a tool given to us by God to protect us from the subtle assaults of Satan's wares. We are given a mind, a brain and a conscience for a purpose, to weigh all things according to the Word of God.

I have never been good at just watching a film, I have to analyse it's message and symbolisms, much to the annoyance of others who I have watched films with. As a result, I have often spoilt films for others by pointing out the seemingly innocent viewing was not so innocent after all. This is why believers are right to be extremely cautious as to what films and TV shows we sit down to enjoy. But watching sports is surely immune from the clutches of darkness?

I have long been a sports fan. Ever since I can remember I have enjoyed all manner of sports, spending much of my childhood throwing myself around the house pretending I was in goal for England, scoring a goal in the FA Cup Final or slam dunking on Michael Jordan. I often found myself sailing through the air with great grace and poise only

to see my mum coming towards me through the door with a look of impending horror at the upcoming collision. Of course I would get most upset at how my mum's entry had spoilt would've been a wonderful shot!

Even becoming unwell with M.E did not hinder my fondness of sport, as I became an armchair fan instead. So many times I have sat in exhaustion watching a game on tv as a means on restful entertainment. Yet even in this realm seemingly free from the stains of darkness, evil can lurk.

The famous American Football Quarterback Tom Brady recently won his seventh Super Bowl (Championship), making him more successful in this sport than any one team! He has been heralded as the G.O.A.T (Greatest Of All Time) as a result and it's hard to argue against this accolade given his successes. Yet within the praise and adulation sits a very concerning truth. Tom Brady acknowledged to a stunned press a few years ago that his wife, Giselle Brady (former supermodel) is a witch. He happily divulged to the disbelieving reporters that in recent years she has made him shrines to pray at, and has looked into the future to assure him of when he would win another championship. Tom, smiling the entire time, spoke of how he thought it was all a bit crazy and weird and that he went along with it sceptically at first. But as the predicted results came to be, he became less and less sceptical and more accepting of her actions. He ended the talk by laughing at his point that he was lucky that "she's a good witch."

Now coming back to this years Super Bowl game, Tom Brady's team the Tampa Bay Buccaneers we're taking on the reigning champions the Kansas City Chiefs. What transpired in the game was one of the strangest matches I have ever witnessed. Kansas have a plethora of outstanding players, a truly awesome team. Yet in this game, they played as though they had completely forgotten the basics of the sport and lacked any form of discipline. As a result, Brady's team marched to a clear win, making it his historic seventh championship at the grand old age of 43!

Considering John Sivewright's article last month on our need to be very careful as to what we use our spare time doing, we must be vigilant and wise to remember that no area of this world and life is untouched by evil. We must be as Christ instructed us to be as wise as the serpent, yet as gentle as the dove (Matthew 10:16) so that we do not see all our labours for the Lord undone by the subtle incursions of darkness into our lives through our judgement that certain activities and interests are free from Satanic attack. We must not lean on our own understanding,

but have our wisdom grounded in a fear of the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6), so that we weigh all things according to the purity and holiness of His Word (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We may find that some indulgences we once thought innocent are far from it and so must walk away from them. As hard as that will be, for we battle not against flesh and blood remember, if we seek the strength of the Lord we will be granted His own strength through His grace so that we are set free from a possible insidious evil.

Friends, be aware that no area of life is untouched by the stain of sin and the grasp of wickedness (Romans 8:22). Yet Our Lord is a sovereign Lord, a mighty God whose perfect will will not be denied by any foe no matter how fierce and powerful. If we look to Christ in all aspects of life, in all our ways, He will direct our paths and we shall be renewed in His strength whilst all around us faint for weariness (Isaiah 40:31). In our present stress filled world, this in itself will be a powerful witness and we shall be glorifying God through our reliance of His eternal might and love. True no area of life is untouched by darkness, but the light of the Gospel dispels all darkness, so shine that light brightly in your own heart by crying out for the fire of God to be instilled in your own heart, and you will have the light that leads to life eternal.

By Jonathan Badger

Book of Ruth – Part Seven

As we begin Chapter 3 of this rich little book, we see the wisdom of a Godly heart move within Naomi as she considers the future of her daughter in law Ruth. In verses 1-5, Naomi instructs Ruth with the objective being to bring about marriage between Ruth and Boaz. Naomi's motivation is to lead Ruth into a life of provision and protection under the care and love of kindly Boaz, showing once again her consideration lies not with herself but with Ruth. It would've been very easy for Naomi to joyfully accept the clear generosity of Boaz towards both herself and Ruth and rest in this wonderful provision. Yet her love for Ruth drives her to not rest in this blessed provision but to seek after a bond of nurturing and provision that is so beautifully enacted in Biblical marriage. Naomi's desire is not of a greedy nature, but an awareness that a true lasting source of provision and protection for the vulnerable in a wicked world must be sought daily and through a personal relationship with a gracious benefactor. How much stronger each of us would be in our faith if we were to seek ever greater provision and protection under the leadership of Christ. Yet sadly many of us are not like Naomi, as we instead rely on the small fruits of grace rather than the source of grace. Naomi

understood that the real blessing was not the barley in their hands but Boaz's kind heart. So she instructs Ruth to clean herself, dress herself in the best clothing she owns and place herself in a position of willing submission and vulnerability before Boaz by putting herself at his feet under the same blanket.



Ruth following the instructions of Naomi

Before this however, we note in verse 2 that Boaz will have been busy on the threshing floor, winnowing the barley from the chaff (that is to say separating the barley grain from the unwanted casing of the grain). This act in itself was often used as a symbol by Christ in His earthly ministry of the separation of the spiritual grain that are believers in Christ Jesus from the chaff, the non-believers. The reflection of Jesus in the life of Boaz noted in previous issues is once again shown herein.

Naomi tells Ruth to not go to Boaz until he has finished eating and drinking. Such a series of instructions may sound strange to us today but the significance of these instructions and what they represent is enormous. Boaz represents Christ, Ruth the Church, and their future union in marriage represents the consummation of the heavenly wedding between Jesus Christ and His bride the Church as depicted in the Book of Revelation. Boaz is busy separating the grain from chaff as Christ is busy separating believers in Him from non-believers. Ruth must be patient in her hopes of securing a life of protection and provision under the love of Boaz as we the Church must be patient in our wait for His return to take us into His divine protection and provision for all eternity. In the meantime Ruth is to clean herself, make herself beautiful and anoint herself ready in anticipation of her beloved. This sense of the excited, eager bride preparing for her love is also beautifully and mysteriously rendered in the often overlooked Song of Solomon. This preparation of Ruth in hopeful anticipation is again reflected in we the Church, as we are told to prepare ourselves and make

ourselves beautiful according to and in His Word so that we are ready to receive Our Lord when He returns for His Church.

By instructing Ruth to place herself at the feet of Boaz once he has finished eating and drinking, and covering herself with his own blanket, a further deep symbolism is revealed to us. As Ruth represents the Church and Boaz Christ, so too we are to place ourselves in trusting submission at the feet of our beloved Christ Jesus. The act of Ruth placing herself underneath the blanket of Boaz has been explained away by many modern preachers as a mere quirk of societal history, a relic of courtship back in ancient Israel. However what is missed is the deep significance of such a humbling act. Ruth will be placing herself in full awareness under the covering of Boaz, acknowledging that she will no longer be her own but his and if accepted by Boaz, they shall go on to become one before God under his stewardship. Again we find ourselves in the Church fulfilling the role of Ruth, as we go to Christ asking that He wraps us in His Robe of Righteousness and does not turn us away for we seek His perfect protection and stewardship, knowing that we are now subject to His beautiful, loving and gracious will and not our own.

In verse 5, we see Ruth's conviction of faith once again as she does not argue with Naomi's instructions but instead assures that she will do everything that Naomi has told her. If we today would show the same strength of faith in our own lives, how much richer in spirit and heart would each of us be, for The Lord renews the strength of all those who wait on Him (Isaiah 40:31). Remember Ruth is doing all this in the very real reality of great poverty but is trusting in the hope put before her by the hand of God himself. How many of us are too focused on the hardship to see the hope placed by God before us in the form of Our Lord Jesus Christ? Too many I fear, often including myself.

So Ruth goes to Boaz in the night as we see in verses 6-7, fulfilling the instruction of Naomi. Boaz has taken his place to sleep near the heap of corn his bountiful harvest that has been given him by our gracious Lord. What could be considered another unimportant detail here has a twofold significance once more. Boaz has decided to sleep next to his harvest in order to protect the provision from bandits who would happily steal any unguarded goods. Whilst Boaz being a wealthy man could've instructed any one of his employees to oversee this important task so that he might rest in comfort in his own home, Boaz does not shirk the responsibility and instead ensures a personal guardianship of his goods. Boaz's personal care of what is ultimately just grain reveals the great awareness of responsibility of protection and

stewardship that he holds in regards to a much needed resource. If he is prepared to place himself in such a servant orientated role in order to ensure the fulfilment of such a task, how much more care and interest would he show in providing care and protection for an actual person such as Ruth?!

Yet Boaz's nature dimly reflects Our Lord Jesus once again herein. Christ places himself near us constantly so that He can personally ensure our welfare throughout. Yet whilst Boaz sleeps during his guarding the grain through the night, Christ never grows weary in His watching over us, giving all who believe in Him a truly wonderful peace knowing that He is with us always.

Ruth now places herself at the sleeping Boaz's feet, doubtless full of hopeful anticipation that when Boaz awakes, her request that Boaz becomes hers and Naomi's kinsman redeemer through blessed union of scriptural marriage. We leave our study of this wondrous little book at this point, as we too sit in hopeful anticipation that a heartfelt request made in utmost humility, hope and trust, will be heard and granted by One so able to bring the request to pass.

Friend, if you are reading this and your heart is sitting in hopeful anticipation that Christ will hear your heartfelt plea for forgiveness of sins; that you acknowledge Him as your Lord and Saviour and that you believe He rose from the grave and now sits in power and glory at the right hand of Father, place yourself now at His feet as Ruth did unto Boaz. Trust that as Boaz was good unto Ruth so Christ will be so much more gracious unto you, and He shall remove your heavy burden of sins from you as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).



By Jonathan Badger

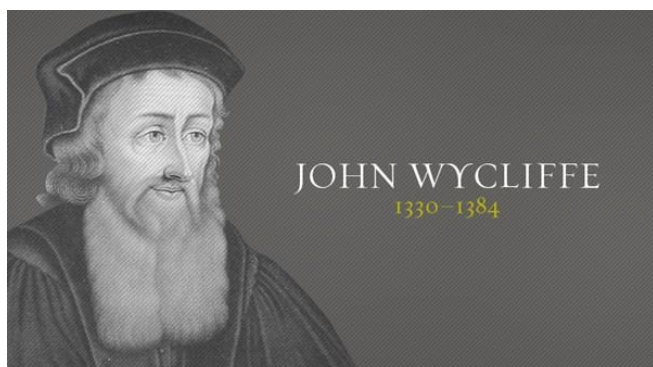
Britons Past

In the first decade of the eleventh century A.D, we meet with the great Anglo-Saxon teacher and homilist, Aelfric who wrote a summary of the Bible for a layman friend. His treatise is almost exactly contemporary with one of our four major collections of Old English poetry, the Junius Manuscript, devoted in great part to translation, or paraphrases of parts of the Old Testament.

The eleventh century A.D is an interesting time because the poems of that time often treat sacred texts it's considerable freedom. It is also an age which is often argued that not only the words, but even the word-order of the Bible might be significant, any translation at all therefore required a certain justification. It is very difficult to think that such a view of scripture grew from a Roman Catholic concept of the Bible, but it is in line with the Bible-believing view that every word is pure and therefore required minute attention. Such a view could have passed down the centuries from the original British believers who received a pure text.

If we turn to the fourteenth century A.D, even though Rome ruled and the Dark Ages progressed, yet we see that somewhere in his past the Englishman of that day had inherited a higher conception of Christian character than evidenced by Rome. They would not be cheated out of the Christ they loved and whose love had brought the Gospel to ancient Briton. Why, we can see something of the Englishman's indignation against the Church of Rome in the writings of the Piers Plowman. Rome misrepresented Christ.

There is much that witnesses to the fact that the Englishman at this time had once known in times past a pure word from heaven, now the time was at hand when God would begin the restoration of that word to England. Thus it was that when the darkness of Rome held sway and no man seemed to stand in the breach that God raised up a chosen vessel, John Wycliffe.



Wycliffe was to be 'The Morning Star of the Reformation'. England was ruled by a Church that was foreign and false, and Wycliffe knew that to break its power he had to give England the story of Jesus again in its own language. From his raising up a spirit came to life in England again which pointed the way to eternal life. Eternal life in Christ, not the Mass or the other endless mumbo-jumbo of the priests.

He denounced the Roman myth of transubstantiation, supreme authority lay in the Scriptures not the Pope. Twice Rome tried to try him for heresy but on the second occasion when an earthquake shook the land just as the court met it had a sobering effect. The bloody hand of Rome was never permitted to lay on the living Wycliffe, only his bones, which they burned. However, through Wycliffe the Gospel of Salvation was again offered to Englishman.

The Reformation was born. Not since original Britons received the Gospel had true religion stood clearer and cleaner, free from all the superstitions of Rome.

Satan must have taken great alarm at the rise of Wycliffe. Not only was the Gospel preached orally but the hated written word was unchained. The superstitions and false gospel of a Rome is no threat to Satan's kingdom. Men dying religiously but lost suites his purposes of deceit well but the Reformation teaching was a different matter.

Now, if you believe the Bible, and are not ignorant of Satan's devices, it will come as no surprise to realise that if God has His man (Wycliffe), so too will Satan. Thus it was that Ignatius Loyola the founder of the Jesuits established his Order with the purpose of thwarting the progress of the Reformation.

It is impossible to understand the battle for the Bible in this Isle without taking serious account of the Jesuits in the past and present. Secrecy has ever been their watchword and using any means of securing their end is acceptable. The subject of Jesuit intrigue in history is vast, but those familiar with English history will know of the various plots to destroy this nation. For example, the attempted murder of Elizabeth I, the invasion of the Armada and many others. A certain manuscript outlines the Jesuit policy for the ascension of a Roman Catholic Monarch. All principle positions were to be given to committed Catholics. Further, that the Inquisition should be restored, this would be known as the 'Council of Reformation'. There was to be a new Order of Religious Knights 'to fight against heretics'. Parliament was to rest on a Papal basis and there was to be a revival of the days of 'Bloody Mary'. The former work of Wycliffe and others had to be stopped. An open

read and believed Bible smashes the foundation of Rome to pieces. Now, God was about to give this land of ours a standard in the A.V Bible in 1611. This was the Bible that Rome came to fear and still does in 2021. You can use any other 'bible' you like today, that will be fine with her but you better not use this cursed Reformation Bible.

Of course it has been said that the purpose of God in allowing the Jesuits to work was eventually to cause Romanism to be viewed by generations of Englishmen as an evil menace to our National life and security. The Jesuits actively plotted the sheer extermination of Protestantism but more importantly to us, not just an 'ism' but Bible-believing New Testament Christianity.

When King James I became a Protestant king who promised to maintain the profession of the Gospel, while it calmed the fears of English Protestants, it awakened the fears of Roman Catholics. Again, the Jesuits were plotting and the Gunpowder Plot was born. If it had succeeded then humanly speaking the A.V 1611 Bible would have at least been delayed in setting England free from false religion based on a false bible taken from false manuscripts. The Holy Ghost built on Tyndale's labours, progress and martyrdom to give back to these Isles a priceless treasure.

The giving of the A.V Bible (otherwise known modernly as the KJV Bible) to these Isles was not just a matter of one more translation, it was epoch making. It is my firm belief after thirty-six years of manuscript research that the A.V Bible is God's Standard in the English language.

Now, there are many good books available on the A.V translators and their labours. That they considered themselves poor instruments passes no inference on the work they completed under the leading of the Holy Ghost. When we look at their spiritual, moral and academic qualifications we can see how the Holy Ghost worked through such vessels of clay. Poor servants they may have considered themselves to be but that was their greatest qualification. Thus it was via their hands that God returned (we believe) a pure, uncorrupted text to these Isles.

By Dr David Badger Snr

Heartbreak of the Lost Child

The popular American Evangelist John Piper has two sons, Barnabas and Abraham. Barnabas is a Pastor of an American church, the other, Abraham, is fast becoming an internet sensation for his short atheistic,

aggressively anti-evangelical videos. Abraham Piper uses concise, seemingly profound attacks on Biblical doctrines to belittle Bible believers in the common tactic of making Christians appear "stupid" to believe in 'bizarre fairy tales'.

Abraham Piper takes up the false position of open-minded liberator of people who are doubtful towards the truth of God's Word as laid out in the Scriptures. Statements such as 'I'm not here to attack or change anyone's mind', are the hypocritical foundation of all such peddlers of humanistic thinking. Such is the arrogance of these 'free-thinkers' that it seems to escape their attention that by making such aggressive anti-Biblical videos for the world to see smacks of deliberately seeking to change people's minds.

He also uses the classic tactic of taking Biblical narrative out of context so as to mock the accounts recorded. Such is the bare faced arrogance of Abraham Piper, that he acknowledges this point but instead of supporting his statement with clear reasoning, he just attacks anyone who points out that he is making a poor intellectual argument and moves on quickly (clearly a man confident in his beliefs to be so brave in his presentation).

Similarly he highlights specific events in Old Testament records that when taken out of context, seem to portray a celebration of immoral and evil behaviour by many Godly individuals. Again, what he quickly slips over in his blatant arrogance and disinterest is the simple fact that the Bible records human actions and does not promote men's wicked behaviour. If we adopt Abraham Piper's logic in everyday life to make it 'relatable' (another common attack he uses against the Bible), we should revile the evening news as it 'promotes' war, murder, rape, theft, corruption etc, etc, etc. Does he follow his own logic here? Of course not.

What is truly interesting is that he claims that he doesn't hate 'Christianity', just 'Fundamental Evangelicals'. Why so Abraham? Again it comes from the tired excuse that it's only fundamental evangelical Christians that claim the exclusive way to eternal life through Jesus Christ. Once again this over used and ill thought out reasoning only highlights the tragic lack of understanding such people have in regards to other world religions. For instance, Muslims the world over are very clear in their assertion that there is only one God in the form of Allah and that by pleasing him alone can eternal life in paradise be granted. Exclusivity of the path to eternal life is much claimed amongst the worlds false religions, yet Abraham Piper seems to have skipped this important point, much like the rest of the world.

I draw the attention to this poor lost soul that is Abraham Piper to highlight a hard yet important point to all who read these pages. Modern churches promote the notion that Christ has come to heal all divisions. This is not scriptural. Jesus himself said that He comes “bearing the sword, to separate Father from son, mother from daughter”. It is this separation of family members from one another in the name of Christ that can bring about much heartbreak in Bible-believing families.

Many times, parents have followed the Lord’s words in Deuteronomy 6:5-7 with great energy and devotion, only to see their child walk away willingly from the God they have been taught of so lovingly. Abraham Piper is such a soul.

Such devastating developments can bring a wealth of spiritual pain to faithful, loving parents, who seeing their child leave the Lord, are thrown into a deep pit of despair believing they have failed in the duty before the Lord. Yet as with all things, in consulting the Word of God, we see that it is not a guarantee that Godly parents will produce Godly children. In the Old Testament we see this in the lives of Samuel’s and Aaron’s sons. Both were men of God, Samuel to such an extent that there is no written correction of his life in the Bible. Yet his sons were not for the Lord. Samuel’s comfort though was the rod of God’s sovereign rule (as spoken of in Psalm 23). The perfect will of God and to whom He will call is highlighted in the words “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy.” (Romans 9:15) We are offered no explicit guarantee by God that Christian parents, even the most faithful, will bring forth Godly offspring.



So are Christian parents to leave off their parental duty as outlined in Deuteronomy 6:5? As after all, if it’s all down to God’s will, God will save those whom He has long before chosen irregardless of how they are parented, right? We are freed from the responsibility of Biblical teaching and correction of child rearing if so. Absolutely not! If we are to just ‘let Jesus take the wheel’ to use a popular expression, we are lazily dispensing with a God given duty to teach our children of the Lord and His Word. In teaching our children diligently of the Lord and His Word, at each opportunity given, we are embracing a wondrous blessing from the hand of God Himself. In teaching, the teacher will often learn new information in the process of preparing good quality content for the pupil. Children enrich their parents in Christian doctrine indirectly, much how a husband will grow in his relationship with Christ when he embraces the responsibility of being the spiritual head of the family as ordained by God in the Book of Genesis. So too then the woman will grow in her personal relationship with Christ through child rearing as highlighted by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:15. Therefore in teaching children in the hope that they too will be called through the grace of God to His service, we are being drawn ever closer to God in our sincere labours.

Furthermore in teaching our children diligently of The Lord and His Pure Word, whilst fully aware that it is ultimately down to the His will whom He has chosen to have mercy on, we are living in a beautiful demonstration of faithful dependency on God, no matter where He may lead us. Consider how Christ asked the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane if there may be another way to save mankind that could avoid the horror and shame of the cross. Yet there was not, the will of the Father dictated so and so the Son lovingly obeyed, trusting in the holiness and power of The Father that after the pain and shame, glory and life would be restored to Him. We are called to suffer in Christ as He suffered, so that we may be glorified as He is glorified. For some, this suffering may come in the pain of seeing their child so lovingly and devotedly raised to honour God, walk away from the offering of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

As with all sufferings in the name of Christ, if we are to fixate on the suffering we rob ourselves of the certainty offered us that the suffering will end and the rewards will begin and continue for all eternity in the grace and power of Christ. Herein is the fount of the hope all Christian parents can rest in whilst they labour intently to honour the Lord’s command as in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. When we labour so but trust in the power and grace of God all the more, we combine beautifully in the strength and meekness of Christ both the moral power of the Law and the mighty

abundance and scope of grace. We demonstrate the very meeting point of the Law and Grace that is Christ Jesus in our lives, a mighty witness indeed! It is such a witness that speaks to both the intellect and the heart of the growing child that the way of the Lord makes moral sense and brings spiritual peace and joy. This is the very essence of the way of the Lord, to teach and demonstrate the richness of a life lived for Christ.

One comment made on Abraham Piper's videos was an interesting observation made by a Christian reflecting on a piece of parenting advice given to him by his dad. "Children are like a bar of soap. If you have too soft a grip, they slip out of the hand. If you have too tight a grip, they squirt out of the top." We Christian parents are to teach diligently, never shirking the great blessing and responsibility placed before us by God. Yet we are also to remain humble and meek so as to show and rest in also, the truth that it is all in the grace of God on whom He will have mercy. Then we shall teach but not strangle, love but not become weak, and all the while we shall be moulded ever closer into the wondrous manner of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

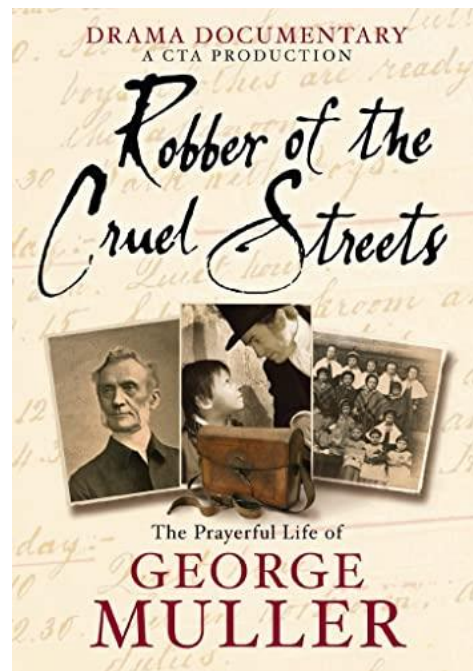
We shall close on one hopeful example of this difficult topic. A devoted 19th century preacher had a son whose life was a pit of unrepentant sin. The son's debauched life brought no end of heartbreak to the faithful father. Yet the father remained hopeful that in Christ all things are possible, and so he wrote his son a heartfelt letter. This letter explained the pain the father felt over his son, the need for the son's repentance of sin, and the hope the father had in the power of the Gospel to free his wicked son from the grip of eternal death. The father died not long after, still seeing his son live a terribly evil life. Yet some years later, the son read the letter again and was wonderfully moved by the Holy Ghost to come to Christ. The same son went on to become a great preacher also and remarked, "my father will be very surprised to see me in heaven."

Maybe it was the tears of the father, the sharing of a broken heart that moved the sinful son's own heart. Such is the mastery of the handiwork of God, that He will often use the pain of this life to build for the joy and glory of eternity to come. Remember that no time or action spent in service of the Lord is ever spent in vain and that He will wipe away all tears at the last. Trust in Christ, teach your children of Him, live as a testament of His wondrous grace to sinners such as we, and pray that if it so be His will, He will bring those you have lovingly raised into His own heavenly family.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

George Muller – Robber of the Cruel Streets



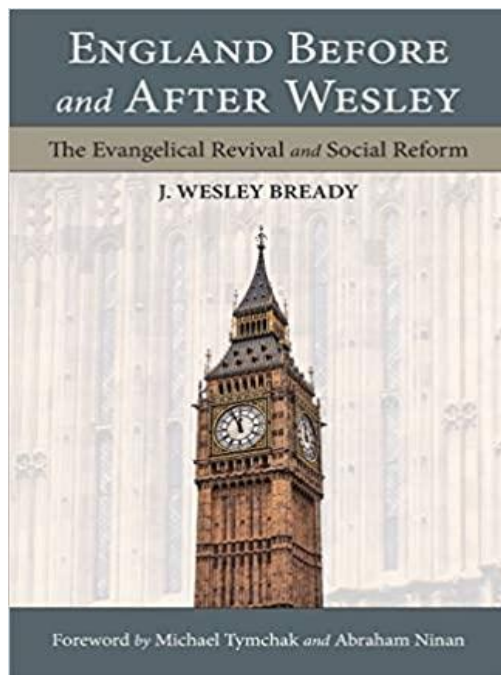
He began life as a thief, a cheat and a drunkard, but an encounter as a student with Jesus Christ changed all that. Today he is remembered as the man who, in his lifetime, raised in today's money a staggering one hundred million pounds and used it to provide homes and welfare for the 120,000 orphans he 'robbed' from Bristol's cruel streets. This he did without making any appeals or using fundraising techniques, but simply by prayer. George Muller was a nineteenth-century pioneer who took God at His Word. The work he began continues today. His message is still as powerful and as relevant now as it was two centuries ago; that God is real and can be trusted.

This fantastic docu-drama is a powerful witness of the importance and power of prayer. When watching this dvd inevitable tears will form in the eye for all those who trust in God, as we are shown through Muller's remarkable life that the Lord can do truly staggering things with a heart that clings to Him for all things.

With that being said, this historical account of one individual's stunning work in the name of God is a great confounding of the pride-filled heart. In a world where we are told constantly 'you can get your dreams', George Muller's life shows that in devotion and reliance on God, His plans are always better than our dreams.

Available from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

England Before and After Wesley

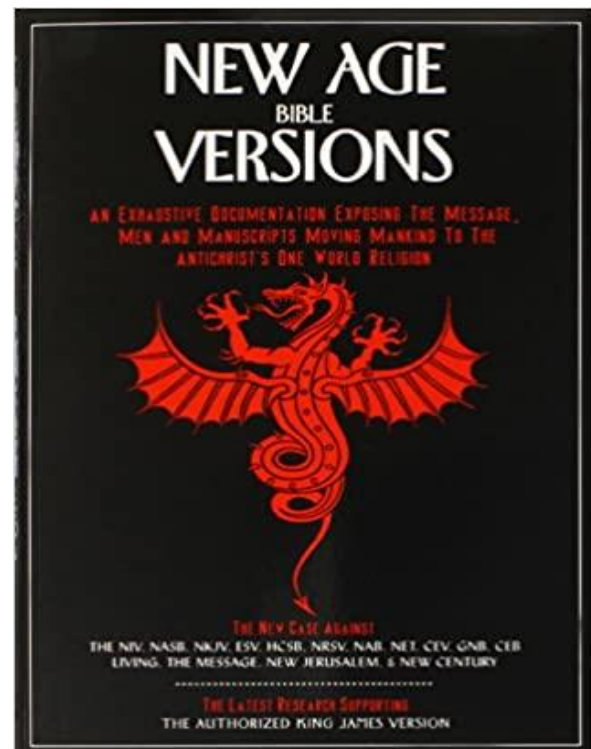


"John Wesley and Karl Marx, unmistakably, are the two most influential characters of all modern history." So argues J. Wesley Bready in this classic statement on the social significance of the original evangelical movement in Great Britain. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, at least, evangelical religion-as found in the life and teaching of John Wesley-had profound consequences that were anything but an opiate of the people (contra the teachings of Karl Marx). Instead, "vital religion" proved itself to be powerfully transformative, not only in the personal lives of its converts, but also in the deepest fibre of their social and political lives.

J. Wesley Bready's careful documentation of the profound social and political influence of John Wesley's preaching and teaching will, for many readers today, prove to be a convincing demonstration of the transformative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The power and scope of this evangelical Christian influence was extraordinary: from education to health care; from the needs of the poor and orphans, to prison reform and the founding of democratic institutions; from the promotion of good reading to an end to cruelty to animals (and founding of the RSPCA). All of these, and more, are the hallmarks and outward manifestations of a vital Christian faith. Nothing could illustrate more convincingly that "faith without works is dead" and, contrary to Marx, that the gospel of Jesus Christ more typically serves as a sharp awakening rather than an opiate of the people.

Available from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

New Age Bible Versions



This book is the result of an exhaustive six year collation of new bible versions, their underlying Greek manuscripts, editions, and editors. It objectively and methodically documents the hidden alliance between new versions and the New Age Movement's One World Religion. The emerging 'new' Christianity - with its substitution of riches for righteousness, a crown for a cross, and an imitation for a new creation - is shown to be a direct result of the wording in new versions. Documented are the thousands of words, verses, and doctrines by which new versions will prepare the apostate churches of these last days to accept the religion of the Antichrist - even his mark, image, and Lucifer worship. The Greek manuscripts, critical editions, lexicons and dictionaries behind the new versions are examined, revealing their occult origins, contents, and yet unreleased material - a blueprint for the Antichrist's One World Religion and government. Presented also is the latest research proving the Authorised King James Version represents not only Christianity's earliest and most widely used Greek text, but is the easiest version to read according to computer analysis based formulas from the Flesch-Kincaid research firm. Each page opens a door exposing new version editors - in agreement with Luciferians, occultists, and New Age philosophy - in mental institutions, seance parlours, prison cells, and court rooms for heresy trials - and most shocking of all - denying that salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Available from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Jesus is LORD

In September this year it will be fifty years ago that I stood on an East Coast railway station with a suitcase to begin a new life. I was heading to college to study three years of theology. Now, that may not seem very strange but if you knew the whole story then you might change your mind. Let me tell you a little of what brought me to catch that train.

Mrs Horton entered the room and sat down, a lady strained and stressed with the cares of life which included two wild daughters – she was a regular visitor to our home. As a young child, I soon realised that she only ever seemed to come with one desire, to have her fortune told by my mother. Mrs Horton's life was guided by the tea-leaves and the lines on her hand.

A journey home one wild winters night brings my mother and I (aged 7) up the dark back path to our house. Suddenly I see it and freeze; there by the side of the house is the apparition of a skeleton. Mother had seen it before me, I later learnt. The next day a guest dropped dead at the top of our stairs.

Mother sits and stares into the embers of the fire, seeking to read the future. She is called to the home of a relative because a phantom has appeared to strike fear in them. To some it seems she possesses strange powers. She speaks of her death to a friend and describes her funeral, but the lady, perhaps out of fear, doesn't wish to elaborate on this shared secret.

At the age of seven, her son (myself) develops a deep desire to be a Roman Catholic priest; darkness is added to darkness, the 'spiritual' to the 'spiritual'. My father sees the Romish longing in his boy, he (my father) seems to know things about Rome, but says little. However, I think he engineered the 'loss' of a rosary I was given by a Polish guest. My mother appears to have no objection to Rome, the spirit of Satan is at home in religion.

The years pass and mother dies of cancer. Her son, aged 14, is left with dad now. Two months later (now 15) father lies beside mother in the cemetery. The darkness of the years between their deaths and standing on the railway station were nailed to His Cross and washed by His Blood. Jesus is Lord and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess (including Satan), to the glory of God.

By Dr David Badger Snr

Spotted Zebra?!

Frank Liu caught a strange sight in his photo lens when capturing the herds of Zebras in the Kenyan plains. As seen below, what he photographed was a spotted Zebra.



Mr Liu initially thought it was a different species of Zebra outside of the known three types (*Equus quagga*, *Equus grevyi*, *Equus zebra*), but it fast becomes apparent that this was not a new species but a variation within a species. Whilst very rare, spotted Zebras have also been seen in places such as Botswana. The unusual patterning is believed to come from a form of pseudomelanism, a rare genetic mutation that affects the production of melanin, often resulting in disruption to the striping pattern.

This mutation comes from a genetic fault, a break in the sequencing or loss of information within the genetic code that has brought about such a strange colouration. Evolutionists must take note once again of this crucial point as all known mutations come from a corruption or loss of information, not the acquiring of new information (an absolutely vital component of evolutionary theory). Zoologists believe that these spotted Zebras may die earlier than their striped relations due to predators being able to pick them out easier in a herd, or through disease carried by flies (it is thought the stripes of Zebras make it harder for flies etc to judge its landing of the Zebra hide). Hardly improvements for the poor Zebra!

However if the spotted Zebra were to survive and procreate with other spotted Zebras so as to create a new species, this species would still be a Zebra and nothing more. It would demonstrate a rapid variation within a kind that would have taken place in the animal kingdom in the post-flood world, highlighting once again the accuracy of the Genesis account. Science, as per usual, is playing catch-up with the Bible.

By Jonathan Badger

Simulation Theory

Billionaire owner of the Tesla Corporation, Elon Musk is a believer in the theory that our existence is merely a 'simulation'. In other words our lives are only an elaborate computer programme being played out by some highly intelligent alien being somewhere in the universe. Our existence is therefore an electronic fabrication. Amazingly this bizarre theory is gaining traction in academia, with others similarly believing that the rise of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is actually the rise of a new god and that this god should be worshipped.

These strange beliefs only shine a light on the Scriptural teaching that when man stops worshipping God, they do not become non-worshippers, they simply find something else to worship. Every human soul has an innate need to worship something greater than itself (Ecclesiastes 3:11). It is a desire programmed by God himself to make us all innately aware that we are created beings that must by rightful homage to Him as the Almighty God. In this deep knowledge of God, we are all held in judgement by Him for suppressing and rebelling against this God given awareness in favour of serving our own sinful desires and lusts. Thus every soul falls short of the glory of God and no man is ignorant of the existence of God (Romans 1:20 and 3:23).

Romans 1:20-26

King James Version Bible

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Becau...

Mr Musk, and others of course, are no different in this God given awareness of the existence of God. Yet as we have seen, to acknowledge God as He truly is, is to acknowledge our own lack before His holiness. Instead of seeking forgiveness and peace with such a mighty, holy God, we instead run from Him, defying Him, believing we can simply ignore Him into non-existence. Such is the arrogance of man's rebellion that ultimately such a denial, when mixed with an innate need to worship, leads to the adoption of bizarre theories to explain our own existence without the need of an Almighty God.

Whilst we may marvel at the foolishness of such men and their beliefs, we should be stirred with compassion towards them. Such lost souls need to

hear the truth of the Gospel, for it is the light of the Gospel alone that can remove the scales on the eyes of the spiritually blind (Isaiah 35:5, Acts 9:18).

By Jonathan Badger

Help Wanted

Schools are governed by many well meaning but unequipped individuals who simply do not understand the policies they ratify each board meeting. School governors who at the end of a busy day in their own workplace, are convened to put in place liberal, humanistic policies that are buried under a mountain of legal terminology that would befuddle even accomplished lawyers. This is not an overstatement, I know all too well these issues firsthand. As a former Chair of Governors and Schools Trustee, I have attended many of these meetings where even highly accomplished and skilled professionals are gripped by embarrassment of looking out of their depth and confusion at the raft of paperwork placed before them. They are required to read through these policies, interpret them as they often contain numerous grammatical errors and inconsistencies of purpose, before giving their stamp of approval.

As noted, many times these meetings come at the end of a busy day where governors are understandably eager to get through the necessities as quickly as possible so they may get home. So this potent mix of tiredness, disinterest, desires to avoid embarrassment of looking stupid in front of peers and eagerness to not stand out by asking uncomfortable questions has created a governance system where subtly unpopular policies are ingrained without any real meaningful consideration.

Furthermore most governors are professionals with no real knowledge of the education sector and so put into place unknowingly policies that hinder teachers ability to teach effectively and often make teachers jobs harder, longer and more convoluted than needed.

The enemy that is Satan has long been aware of these weaknesses in our fallen state and has used them to attack the school system so as to subtly install humanistic, anti-Biblical teaching in schools. Where Christians have failed is that we have been blind to this attack, not recognising that Satan works craftily so as not to draw attention to his work. Furthermore many Christians have sadly given up on the school system as a lost cause. If we are to abandon the millions of children in our country's education system to the teaching of anti-Christian ideology, then we

have grieved the Spirit. Are we not told in Matthew 5:46 by Jesus, “**For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?**” This Godly love is the same as the love depicted in 1 Corinthians 13, where Godly love is beautifully rendered as charity, an act of bettering another even at cost to yourself. To withhold such Godly, eternal charitable love towards another’s child out of concern for your own and/or yourself is to surely go against Our Lord’s instruction. To teach our children to love the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:5-7) is good indeed, but to wash our hands of the millions of others and say ‘well it’s sad of course but what can be done’, is a tragedy of an eternal scale. Isn’t it a blessed thing that the Reformers didn’t hold such a standpoint! Indeed, Martin Luther rightly observed that if the Gospel is not taught to children then preaching is in vain as it will be lost in but one generation.

In Deuteronomy 6:7 we read of the LORD’s instruction to teach children in the love of the LORD at every opportunity. As the passage continues, the Israelites are instructed to write the commands of the LORD as “a sign upon thine hands, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” These words of the devotion of the love of God with all the heart, soul and strength are to be visible in each interaction with the world, they are to be a visual witness to all. How can we strive to honour this instruction given to the Israelites as they were entering Canaan, if we are not prepared to make this same declaration for all the world to see? We are a city set on a high hill (Matthew 5:14) and so we are to offer the hope of security and rest in Christ that all weary travellers are desperately searching for. Believe me friend, so many children in this broken world are so very weary and are desperate for someone to show them the way to a visible source of security and provision. How can we deny them this by our spiritual cowardice?!

Christians are needed in the school system, whether working directly or through school governance so as to be a light in the ever increasing darkness and show the next generation that truth in Christ is logical, rational and real amidst the ever changing alternative of man’s supposed wisdom that is nothing more than damnable foolishness.

Our Lord may return at any given moment, especially so given the signs of the times in a rapidly unravelling world. And yes we are commanded to watch for His return, but I cannot stand by and watch so many lost souls fall into eternal damnation out of my fear, reluctance or self concern. Did not Noah preach until

the last of the offering of sanctuary within the ark to any who would enter? And if we are as in the days of Noah, then aren’t we also to work busily, tirelessly, bravely, unselfishly to shine the light of the Gospel according to God’s clear instruction and to His eternal glory?! I earnestly pray that you are of the same heart and cannot sit by and rest in the safety of quietness of spiritual hiding. Teach your household to love the LORD; but to teach effectively it must be demonstrated, lived with fullness of joy and enthusiasm. That is how a passion is transferred as any teacher knows. It is the passion that sparks a flame, a passion born in the hands of Christ Himself. Then set out to bring that same passion, that same joy, hope, peace, rest, security, to as many as possible and to the children especially, for as Christ said himself to the disciples who were trying to remove the children from His presence, believing them to be an irritant, “do not forbid them, for such is the kingdom of God”. (Luke 18:16).

Friends, do not be of the thought that what can one person do in such a setting as school governance? Wasn’t Moses one person? Or David? Or Deborah? Wasn’t Luther or Tyndale? In these dark days we have become so fixated on the power of Satan and his effect on the world, that we are in danger of retreating so far we become ineffective for Christ. We have forgotten the simple truth that Satan is a conquered foe, defeated at Calvary! Christ is an Almighty Lord and His Church will prevail against the gates of Hell and He is a Sovereign God who moves all things to His glory. We can by the grace and power of God do great things for Him by standing as a light in the darkness in such an important field as our children’s education. By taking such a stand we shall show the children that the way of the Lord is upheld by the power and strength of same God who kept Daniel from the lions. Such boldness is a great tool for Christ and should be used joyfully by all Christians daily no matter what their employ.

As we have discussed, many school boards are actually run with confusion, tiredness, fear, doubt, fear of embarrassment and so manipulated by Satan to support damaging policies. Christians have a unique wisdom from the fount of all wisdom that is Jesus Christ in which we can help dispel such grave issues. No you may not be a successful lawyer, doctor etc, but believe me, I have seen the wisdom of the world in action and there is not much to be intimidated by. Seek out opportunities to change the lives of children everywhere and share the Gospel with them. Always ensure that you stand for Christ and His Word, and you will be amazed at what the Lord can do with one person.

By Jonathan Badger

Provision for a Nation

Part 7

Last time, we left Joseph having arrived in Egypt, and sold as a servant to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaohs guard. Chapter 38 is a departure in the narration from the events of Joseph's life, but this break in the continuity serves a purpose and it is of value to look at this as part of the whole – just as it is the rest of Scripture.

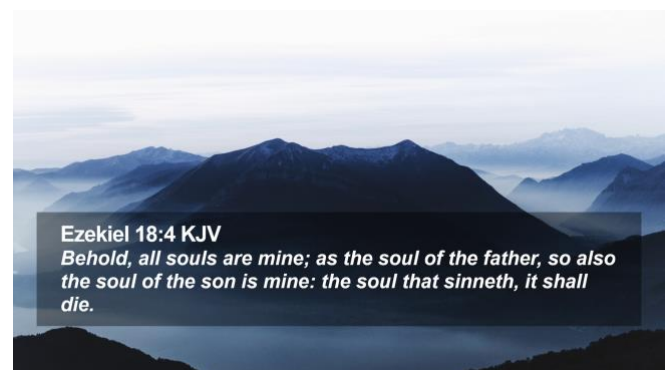
I don't intend to go through this chapter verse by verse as previously but rather to draw out some of the points that are important in our study over the next couple of articles. As a result I would suggest you take the time to read through the chapter before going any further.

At a very basic level this chapter helps to give a sense of the passage of time. Whilst things are occurring in Egypt for Joseph, the rest of the world hasn't stopped, so that by the time we return to Joseph in Chapter 39, we can have an appreciation that for everyone else things have moved on.

Judah it seems has taken himself away from his brothers, for what reason we are not told. He ends up living close to a Canaanite family and marrying the daughter of this family, Shua, with whom he has 3 sons (Er, Onan and Shelah). In this alone we see several points arise. Jacobs family were very much a minority group in this land, and whilst they already stood out from the surrounding peoples they were in significant danger of being drowned out by the Canaanite families through intermarriage. As with all marriages where Gods people are unequally yoked with the unbeliever, life becomes difficult at best and the godly ideals become submerged under the waves of humanism. The Canaanites were apparently not unwilling in the intermarriage with other people groups, and Jacobs family was fair game. Taking this into the thoughts of our study it becomes obvious why Gods plan for Israel was a period of sojourn in Egypt. Egypt was notoriously xenophobic and certainly would not have wished to intermingle or intermarry with a Semitic people group. This time in Egypt to

come saved the nation of Israel from being swallowed up by the dominant peoples of Canaan.

Judah goes on to procure a wife for his eldest son when he comes of age. This was the custom as we know, the father would seek out a woman good in his estimation (and with God's council – See Abraham / Isaac and Rebecca) to marry his son. However it appears that this is not how Judah gained his own wife Shua, as Jacob is recorded as being consulted. Judah selects Tamar for Er, but Er is recorded as being a grossly wicked man before the sight of the Lord. As a result Er died. God so disapproved of Er's lifestyle that he withdrew his divine life support, without which we would all die, and it is a thought that we should all take regular occasion to contemplate. For all creation including us, is upheld by the will of God. We also see in this event that fact which runs throughout scripture – that the wages of sin is death. As it is recorded in Ezekiel 18 v 4 – "the soul that sinneth, it shall die".



Judah goes on to give Tamar to Onan, the second eldest of his sons. This custom known as Levirate marriage was not uncommon in the ancient world among many nations. It implied that if a man died without first bearing a son with his wife, then the next eldest brother, if he himself was unmarried would take the widow of his brother as his wife and should this union result in a son, then that son would carry on the line of the dead brother. All other resultant children would take the line of the living brother. We see this become divine law in Deuteronomy chapter 25 v 5. Onan is fully aware of this custom and decides selfishly that it's not for him. So whilst he takes Tamar as his wife, the sexual union is unfruitful because Onan takes deliberate measures to ensure this. The fact that this arrangement of brother taking

the deceased's widow as his wife was good in God's eyes is further seen by God being displeased with the behaviour of Onan, and his punishment of this with Onan's death. Onan had perverted one of the primary purposes of a marriage, to be fruitful and multiply, by the gift of God.

Judah must by this point have been concerned. Whether he knew of his sons behaviour that had displeased the Lord is unknown, but he appears not to have equated the two things and seems to blame Tamar, as a bearer of bad luck on his family. As a result he tells Tamar to go and stay a widow in her fathers home. As Tamar's father in law he had the ability to decide what Tamar was to do with her life going forward. He appears to have not wanted her around, and although he made the pretence of this move to staying with her father to allow time for the third son to become old enough to marry, Judah really had no intention of letting this woman be the cause of the loss of his last son. In this he displays a superstitious element to his thoughts that suit the Canaanite peoples with which he has mingled. He certainly hasn't attributed his own son's sinfulness to their deaths.

Verses 12-14 show us another passage of time. Shua, Judah's wife dies, and Judah has sufficient time to grieve her death and recover from this. During this time Tamar is dwelling in her fathers home, twiddling her thumbs, with her biological clock ticking, wondering when on earth Judah is going to call for her to marry Shelah. She hears that Judah has gone with his friend Hirah to a place called Timnah in order to shear sheep. The shearing of sheep was a time of general celebration and jubilation. Tamar has grown somewhat desperate by now and decides to take matters into her own hands but in the most twisted way. She wants children and by this time has started to blame Judah for not having any. She appears to want some level of revenge on Judah that will potentially sully his character, should it ever be discovered but gain her desired outcome and save her life in the process. Not only is her thought perverted but she makes a decision that at best appear to have a chance in a million of actually succeeding in her intent. She seems to decide that the sheep shearing

festivities will result in Judah drinking too much and then being susceptible to the carnal desires of the flesh. So she abandons the typical attire of the widower and puts on the garment of the harlot – a veil – and placed herself where she believed Judah would see her.



Tamar luring Judah to her

Judah, as planned walks by where she has placed herself on the way to Timnah, and takes her to be a harlot, the veil doing its job of disguising her identity. Judah now screws up big style. Rather than walking on by, he decides to entertain the "harlot" and requests she lay with him. Tamar was not stupid, and had thought this plan out several steps ahead. On asking for payment of this service as would have been expected, she is given the promise of a kid from Judah's flock of livestock. She knows however that this will not get her out of trouble at a later date. So rather than appear greedy and risk losing Judah as her "client" she accepts but asks for a pledge, a guarantee that she can hold on to, person to him until he makes payment. This would no doubt have seemed reasonable to Judah at the time and he had no issues when she asks for his seal and his staff. Both of these would have been highly personal items, the seal in particular as it was the primary form of identification in the ancient world. Seals were a literal stamp of a persons authority and signature, and took the form of a ring or a cylinder, carried at all times. The seal was often suspended by a cord. The staff would also have been a highly personal item to a head shepherd. With these items in Tamar's possession, there would have been zero doubt as to the identity of the person who had given them to her.

The text tell us straight away that Tamar conceived as a result of this union, and that after she took up the garments of a widow again returning to her fathers house, as if nothing had happened. Judah mean while

makes good on his promise to send the “harlot” a kid from his flock, but does so via his friend Hirah the Adullamite. Judah doesn’t appear to wish to make this transaction in person, and a sense of shame is likely to have been the reason. Hirah however being a man of the world appears to have had no such inhibition or shame, and probably took it as an act of friendship to act as the courier. Hirah however cannot locate the “harlot” in the location which Judah left her. Knowing that he cant really return empty handed without the seal cord and staff, he asks about as to her whereabouts. Tamar’s timing in meeting Judah must have been pretty much perfect as no one in the locale remembers seeing her. She cant have been sat there for hours waiting for him, but rather arrived shortly before, and left rapidly after.

Judah on hearing this decides to let the matter slide. He has no taste for kicking up more dust looking for the harlot to regain his items, feels his duty has been done in sending the kid even if it wasn’t delivered, and decides the disgrace of the situation is more than his requirement for his personal affects.

3 months pass, just long enough for Tamar to start to show her pregnancy. It gets back to Judah that his daughter in law has besmirched not only her own but also his name by acting the harlot and conceiving a child out of wedlock. Infuriated he called Tamar to him with the full intent of putting her to death by fire. Remember as her father in law she come under his rule, not her own father. But his conscience may have already been pricked as this situation would not have necessarily occurred if he had just kept his word and given her to Shelah; but on the other hand it probably seemed a welcome release from ever having to give Tamar to Shelah and risk his death.

Before Tamar is dragged before him she manages to ensure she has Judah’s personal affects on her person and sends them on to Judah with the advise to examine them carefully as their owner is the child’s father.

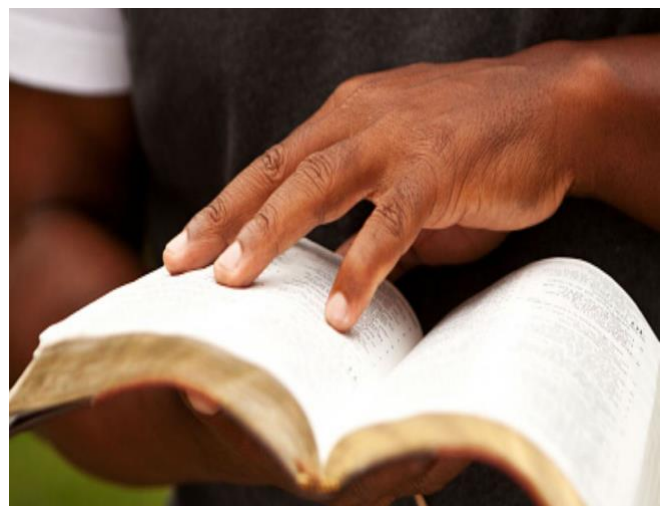
One can only imagine Judah’s jaw hitting the ground with echoing clunk as the blood drained from his face. I would imagine there was a fairly heavy silence. For a

while. Judah’s escape from this situation is now impossible. Judah does not dismiss Tamar’s part in this, but realises that his guilt is greater in that he has not only not kept his word in giving Tamar to Shelah but has given up himself into a position of gross sin. He cannot rightfully put Tamar to death as his sin is the greater, he being both responsible for tempting Tamar into her behaviour and then becoming part of the sin himself and he confesses as such.

Never again does he lay with Tamar. When we truly repent of our sins we hate them and do not repeat them.

The chapter ends with the expansion of the tribe of Judah by two – Tamar giving birth to twins (Pharez and Zarah) and in the most unusual of ways. The birth appears to have been hard, which we know from earlier in Genesis at the fall, was part of the consequences of sin. The first child puts out a hand and a scarlet cord is wrapped around his wrist. This was to mark the first born in a multiple birth. However before this child has been fully delivered, the infants swap positions in the womb and the brother is born first. This must have been utterly excruciating for Tamar, but a fitting consequence of her own sin. Pharez obtained the birth right, and from him is descended Christ.

Next time we return to Josephs story. May this month bring you all blessings and safe keeping through Christ our Lord, Amen.



By David J Badger Jnr

Biblical Quiz Time

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

Words to Find:

Judah Boaz Ruth Tyndale Tamar Proverbs
Sovereign Egypt Grace Faith Godhead

Who Am I?

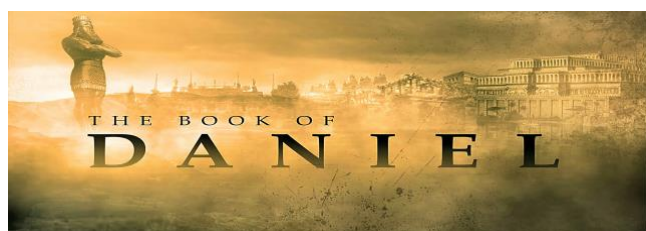
See how many questions it takes for you to work out which Biblical figure I am!

- 1: I lived 110 years.
- 2: My wife's name was Asenath.
- 3: My less known other name is Zaphenath-Paneah.
- 4: I had two sons.
- 5: My 17th year wasn't very good.
- 6: My 30th was very good.
- 7: I was framed.
- 8: I was sold for silver
- 9: My mother was Rachel.
- 10: I had a colourful coat.

Answer: I am Joseph (Genesis)

Lightning Round

Quick fire question: What books come before and after the Book of Daniel?



Answer: Ezekiel and Hosea

A Final Thought

Genesis 1:16 - And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; ***he made the stars also.***



Isn't it fascinating how the writers of the scriptures, as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit, were often able to convey so much in so few words? Just days before this newsletter was issued, Nasa flew a small helicopter on Mars, an achievement that was heralded as a great step for man in his efforts to further explore space. Yet with our Lord, the creation of all the stars in the Universe, the size and scope of which simply dazzles the minds of ordinary men, is covered in a mere five words by Moses in the book of Genesis, almost seemingly a throwaway at the end of a subsection of the creation account. Nasa's efforts on Mars were undoubtedly the result of decades of research by men at the top of their profession and cost many millions of dollars; yet the highest efforts of man in space pale in significance when compared with the power, will and creative force of God. These things should bring us to a humble position of prayer and reverence before our Lord. Yet perhaps even more amazing than God's power as a creator is the interest that he takes in every one of us. While we live in a secular, largely atheistic western world, in which we are told that we are little more than blobs of matter that came about by random, mindless chance, we should never lose sight of the fact that, however small and insignificant we may sometimes feel when compared with the seemingly endless number of stars in the heavens, we are created in God's image and he takes a personal interest in us all. And he loves us so much that he sent his Son to the cross for us, to die the death we deserve, in order to give us a path back to him through saving faith. As wondrous as the sky can look on a clear night, it is indeed a throwaway when compared with the wonder and amazement that comes through knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and reflecting on the love God showed for us on that hill 2,000 years ago at Calvary.

By John Sivewright