



TTW

Truth To Wonder
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REVELATION

AD 95

New Heaven and Earth

All of the images and visions of Scripture flow together in this last book of the Bible, including all the enigma and awe of God's purity and power and final triumph of good over evil. Christ is portrayed as the innocent Lamb of God who triumphs over the one who poses like a raging lion. All the metaphors and symbols throughout the whole Bible are brought down to this one book. The prophecy on Patmos is the last wonder of the revival life of God and of

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John Sivewright

Welcome

What a blessing it is from the Father of Lights, Our Heavenly Father that I am able to welcome you to another issue of Truth To Wonder Magazine. Like for many readers of these pages, the past month has been filled with many battles and trials. As each individual trial had passed, another reared it's ugly head and so brought times of a heavy heart and a weary body.

Physical illness, rapidly escalating rising 'cost of living' concerns, work strain, living in a plummeting and Godless society, all mixed with a deep awareness of the daily spiritual battle myself and my family are engaged in each day, threatened to make the spirit cold, hard and devoid of hope.

Yet as always we must fight hard to resist the urge to fixate on our worries and hardships, and cast all our burdens on the Lord, knowing that He shall sustain us (Psalm 55:22). In doing so, giving our thanks for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to our hearts, we are reminded that the toils and hardships of this world will be ended. In considering the cover page of this month's issue, we are to be hopeful in a most certain of convictions that the new heaven and earth that Our Lord will provide for us is most assuredly coming. Eternal peace and rest will be known to us and our tears shall be wiped away forever by the pierced hands of Our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

In this great hope our hearts are made joyful again and our hearts and minds are blessed with a heavenly wisdom in seeing how He makes all things beautiful in His time. You see the hard hours and troubling days are allowed to strike us as Our Father knows how easily we slip into complacency of faith; how easily we fall into the comforts of this world. Through such hard tests and trials Our Heavenly Father is guiding us through the great dangers of this life, keeping our hope fixed firmly in the promises to come; the promise of eternal life secured by the shedding of His Only Begotten Son's blood.

It is much like the alert parent who keeps a firm grip on the small child as they navigate a busy place that's packed with people. The child feels the firmness of the grip and feels the pushes and pulls of the hand of the parent, likely getting annoyed about being led in such a direct and purposeful manner. Yet if the child is trusting of the firmness and purposefulness of their parents movements, they understand that it is being done to secure their safety. They are not being led in anger but in love. So it is with Our Heavenly Father as He leads us sometimes firmly through the days of our lives. He grips us tightly, moving us according to His perfect will and knowledge and how our eternal future is to be protected and secured. Sometimes this tight but loving grip is shown in the allowing of hardship as it keeps us close to Him as we walk through the busy evil days of this life in this sin filled world.

So let us come to Our Father now in great thanks for His faithfulness and how protective He is of His children.



Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, how we thank you Lord for leading us through the frightful and wicked days of this life that we walk through each day. Lord forgive us we ask for those moments of weakness of faith, when we feel disillusioned of spirit and despairing of hope. Keep us Lord from gazing upon our moments of misery and give us wisdom to see that these moments are just that, purely moments and that they will pass. Remind us that all things pass away, save that of your Word, and that in your eternal Word you have promised us a wondrous new creation where all is set right at last. How we look forward to the day Lord when the lion will sit peacefully beside the lamb and sin and death will be no more.

Lord we thank you that you care so deeply for us that you do not spare us from suffering. For as your own Son suffered so are we to suffer, so that we may be glorified as He is now in all power and glory, sitting at your right side. This is the purpose of the hardship isn't it Lord, to shape us into the wondrous image of Christ Jesus and that as He sits in His completed work of atonement for the sins of mankind, so we shall rest also forevermore. Amen.

A Fever Of The Spirit – Part Two

Last month we considered, in light of our Lord's healing of the great fever in Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39), the tremendous spiritual fever that grips those that do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. We pondered the symptoms of a great fever and how they contrast with those stuck in a ruinous life of sin – weakness, restlessness, thirst and depression. How are people suffering from such a debilitating spiritual fever going to find a cure? Where are they to find deliverance from great illness? There is only one cure. There is only one place of deliverance, and that is at Jesus Christ and Him

crucified. The cause of the disease is sin, and the only cure for sin is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As we read in Romans chapter 6, verse 23 "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, living the sinless life that none of us are capable of, dying the death on the cross that we all deserve, and rising again on the third day, defeating death once and for all, is the cure to all in spiritual fever.

The ultimate cause of the fever is sin, and the only final cure is the One who bore our sins in his own body on the tree. The apostle Paul says in his first epistle to Timothy that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners". He saved us, and He can save others too!

As we consider each symptom of the spiritual fever, the Holy Scriptures gives us the assurance and confidence that the Lord Jesus Christ is the cure:

Weakness – Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me

Restlessness – Matthew 11:28 Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give thee rest

Thirst – John 7:37 If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink

Depression – Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted



It becomes us all as born-again brothers and sisters in Christ to do our very best to bring this cure to those we know that need it. Just as the apostles besought our Lord to heal the mother-in-law of Peter, we should pray He do the same for our friends and family that need saving, and we should witness with a fervour and a zeal to make Him known to those that need Him.

But let us be wary lest doubts and anxieties creep in. Perhaps we may worry that a certain person we know might have too many of these symptoms. We might think their fever be too great. They might be too deep into a sinful lifestyle, too atheistic, too far gone – never mind that, nobody is too far outside of Christ. It is an insult to our Lord to suggest that anybody is beyond his reach. “And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). When I think about the life I was living before I was saved, I know it was a miracle that God turned me around and put me on the narrow path that leads to the straight gate. Think too of the Apostle Paul, and what a terror he was to the early Church, before our Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus and changed him into the great apostle to the gentiles. Can there be a more incredible change in a life than that? So don’t worry about how hopeless a case may seem, it’s not too much for our Lord to deal with.

Perhaps we might also think our Lord is too busy, and won’t have the time for our feeble petitions. But it’s interesting to note that on the same day he healed Peter’s mother-in-law, our Lord Jesus Christ healed one possessed of a demon in the synagogue. A busy day indeed! Our Lord is never too busy to hear our prayers and turn hearts and minds to Him as he wills. We touched on Peter’s great sermon in Acts chapter 2 last month; how about at the end of the sermon when three thousand souls were added to the Church? If our Lord could deal with three thousand at once, he can certainly have time for us as we pray for the souls of others.

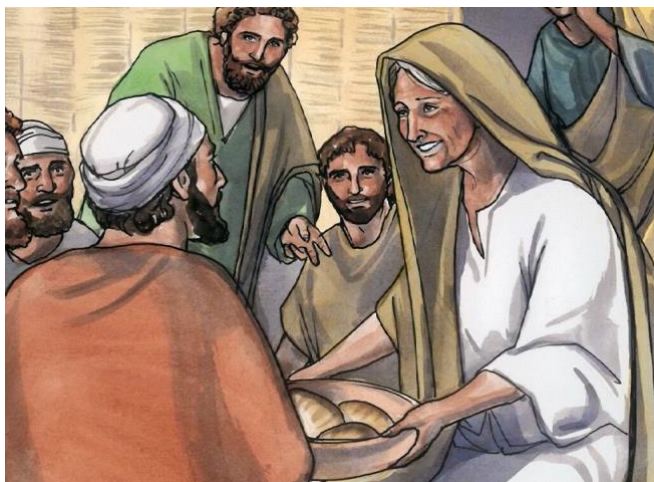
And we can have confidence that, as the Lord wills and works in his own time, he can change the heart and mind of a sinner towards the truth. We don’t know exactly how he does it. We don’t know the mechanics, or the exact procedures of the surgery, if you will, but we know that the Lord has all the skill He needs to heal any spiritual fever, however great and however far gone the patient may seem.

Consider how He worked the cure in the miracle we are considering at this time. He stood over her, He rebuked the fever, and, as recorded in Mark’s Gospel, He lifted her up. In standing over

her, she saw His face. In the rebuking of the fever, she heard His voice. And in Him lifting her, she felt His touch. Seeing His face, hearing His voice, feeling His touch. Could there ever be such a wondrous, incredible cure as this?! Further evidence that our Lord Jesus Christ was very man as well as very God, and not some apparition as some sceptics might say – the only begotten Son of God, come in the flesh. The only true cure for indwelling sin in fallen man.

A word, lastly, about the result of the cure. We read in the passage that immediately the fever left her and she ministered unto them. Have you ever wondered on the immediate cure of this great fever? There is not a doctor in the world that could bring an immediate cure to such a disease. Yes, we’ve made tremendous advancements in medicine, but still a fever takes time to recover from. Had our Lord rebuked the fever and Peter’s mother-in-law had had a short period of convalescence it would have been something. But the immediate cure is the proof of our Lord’s miraculous touch. And as he effected an immediate cure for Peter’s mother-in-law, he can do the same for the spiritual fever that grips much of mankind; He can cure with a snap of his fingers. In just an instant the foulest of sinners can have their entire character changed. The staunchest of atheists and those that revile God the most can suddenly be brought to their knees like a quivering, apologetic wretch, through the instantaneous work of our Lord. This should give us much confidence as we witness to lost sinners and pray from them, knowing that the physician of souls is as efficient as he is compassionate, and as effective as he is loving. As he dealt with us, he can deal with others.

We also read “And she ministered unto them”. No sooner was Peter’s mother-in-law cured, that she was up and about again and serving our Lord and his apostles. Isn’t it something to observe the enthusiasm and zeal of a soul newly won to Christ? Isn’t it remarkable to see oftentimes how a newly saved brother or sister throws themselves into Christian service, showing true thankfulness and gratitude to our Lord for curing them of their spiritual fever?



Peter's mother-in-law fully healed by Christ

And doesn't that sometimes put to shame those of us that have been saved for a far longer time? Do we thank God every day for saving our souls? Do we thank Him that he saved us from the life we were living and put us on the right path? Are we grateful to him for nailing our sin to the cross, and giving us newness of life? Do we go to work as we should for our Lord, with a smile and a spirit of gratitude? As we finish our consideration of this great miracle, let us be ever thankful that our Lord condescended to us when we were sick of a fever. Let us live lives of thankful and grateful service, for the new life we live through our Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We were, like Peter's mother-in-law, in a critical state, sick of a great fever, but then that fever immediately left us, so let us up and minister as we should do as born-again brethren. As James says in his epistle, "Faith without works is dead." Let us show our faith by our works, walking in the light, and showing our gratitude and wonder for our Lord and Saviour, who laid down his life for us, dying the death that we deserve, to secure our eternal salvation.

By John Sivewright

Marvel And DC's War Against God – Part Two

Last month we began our look at how Marvel and DC comics and movies have gone to war against God is their increasingly overt use and promotion of Occultic practices. We will now focus on some popular Marvel Comic characters.

Spiderman

This superhero was a personal favourite of mine growing up. Yet sadly he is far from free of occultic story lines and blasphemous parallels. Tom Holland who plays Spiderman in the most recent outing of this franchise started to suffer from sleep paralysis after being cast as Spiderman, and his acting mentor, Robert Downy Jr encouraging him to "let your body take over" when embodying the character. We must remember that Robert Downy Jr himself has a long troubled history as a Hollywood celebrity, losing fortunes repeatedly through drug addiction. His rocketing comeback was through his casting as Iron Man, who we will discuss later. However Robert Downy Jr admits to practicing occultic rituals before a form of shrine to Iron Man in order to gain the part of the character and helping him to embody the character, and encouraged Tom Holland to do the same. Tom who had been a long time sufferer of sleepwalking and sleep undressing then started to suffer with sleep paralysis, also referred to as "Demon / Devil in my room". It is were the sufferer is awake but unable to move and can feel terrified, tight chested, physically manipulated or mentally tortured. It is common amongst those dabbling in the occult. Another famous sufferer of this is the singer Billie Eilish, who by her own admission loves the number 666 (the number of the Beast in the book of Revelation) and is frequently seen wearing upside down crosses or crucifixes – the classic symbol of Satanism. She has even given over an entire album ("When we all fall asleep where do we go?") to the experiences she has in her sleep paralysis, even stating in one song "For the debt that I owe, gotta sell my soul, cause I cant say no, no I cant say no. Then my limbs all froze and my eyes wont close, and I cant say no, no. I cant say no"

Tom Holland sought advise from his director Jon Watts to help him with this paralysis, and he introduced him to eastern and new age techniques of "Lucid dreaming" and form of "flight dreams". This is more occultic practices, layer on layer. Tom needs your prayers.

Even the character Spiderman in the canon of comic history sells his soul. In the story line where his Aunt May has been shot and in a life

threatening condition in hospital he goes to the powerful sorcerer Dr Strange to try and get help to heal her. When he is unable too, Spiderman goes to Mephisto – Marvel comics version of Satan himself, and often transforming into a serpent. Mephisto requires a price of Spiderman for the healing of Aunt May and demands that he takes his marriage to Mary Jane and also his memory so that they might never be together again. The name Mephisto is simply a shortening of Mephistopheles, a demon of German folklore and Faustian legend.



The new Spider-Man's wandering into occultism

Even the most quoted line in Spiderman history, "With great power comes great responsibility" – is a rip off paraphrase of Luke 12:48 and they readily admit it. It is interesting to note that in the film from which this line is derived there is a scene intended once again to undermine God's ability to save. Depicting Aunt May knelt by her bed reciting the Lords prayer, before she can finish the line "and deliver us from evil", the villain Green Goblin smashes through the window and surrounding Aunt May with wind and fire demands she finishes the line whilst laughing.

Iron Man

IronMan is the central character around which the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe has been built. He is the godfather of the superhero world. His alter-ego Tony Stark, has always been a troubled character; brilliant mind but flawed with alcoholism and depression, a egotistic self-centric outlook and a god complex. Yet the most shocking revelation from Marvel regarding their flagship character came in February of 2020, when the headlines read "Marvel reveals that Iron Man is actually the Anti-Christ".

In Marvel Canon, it is now stated that Tony Stark's father Howard Stark – another brilliant scientist, headed up a satanic cult in his home holding regular Satanic parties where the Devil was the "guest of honour"; the Devil in this case being Mephisto. It is implied that at one of these parties Mephisto required a price / sacrifice, and Howard Stark offered his boy Tony. Mephisto subsequently claims Tony as his son and the Anti-Christ. It is also interesting that Iron Man regularly teams up with the sorcerer Dr Strange in a parallel of the Beast with the prophet in the Book of revelation. Howard Stark's character was seemingly penned to resemble Jack Parsons, cofounder of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the USA, and picked to be leader of the Pasadena California's branch of the Ordo Templi Orientis, and occultic organisation, by Aleister Crowley. Jack Parsons then went on to work with L Ron Hubbard, the notorious founder of the Church of Scientology.

At the end of this revelatory comic pronouncing Iron Man as the son of Satan, Tony Stark states; "I know the Devil will be back for one last temptation. And if you cant beat 'em, well you know what they say.." Mephisto is then shown to be pulling the strings of all the Marvel villains and making pacts with Superheroes as he sees fit from his throne – ruling over the whole Marvel universe.

Need I say more. But there is more – a lot more than space will allow. Iron Man has developed his chest piece – the. Arc Reactor – that powers his suit from a circular light in the first film and comics to a upside down triangle which is also imprinted on the forehead of his helmet; another occultic symbol from Satanism, interestingly generally portrayed either as a symbol against the chest or the forehead.



Iron-Man and the sorcerer Dr Strange

The first IronMan film also begins and ends with music by two outright satanic heavy metal / rock bands – AC/DC and Black Sabbath. Both of these bands do not hide their desire to recruit souls for Satan, and the Ghoul from the pit of Hell that is Sabbath's front man Ozzy Osbourne makes his intentions clear in the lyrics of the song "Nativity in Black".

"Now I have you with me under my power.
Our love grows stronger now with every hour
Look into my eyes you will see who I am
My name is Lucifer please take my hand".

AC/DC are similarly unashamed of their mission to drag people to Hell, as they go about glamourising it in songs such as "Highway to Hell" or simply outright stating it in "Hell's Bells". Take this example from the latter song;

I won't take no prisoners,
Won't spare no lives
Nobody's putting up a fight
I got my bell, I'm gonna take you to Hell
I'm gonna get you, Satan get you.

The Avengers

There is so much blasphemy in the latter two films in particular that it would be worthy of its own article. However one point is of particular mention and that is the repeated use of the title "I AM". Used only of God in the Bible, because only He is unchanging and outside of time and therefore capable of using I AM for himself, it is used by two characters in the Avengers films with a defined pause for emphasis. Thanos's the villain of the piece who also once again is made to be the God-like character, evil and vindictive coming to destroy humanity sat on a throne, says of himself "I am (pause) Inevitable". Then at the end of the film when Iron Man sacrifices himself to save humanity by killing Thanos (Marvel back to trying to kill god again as we shall see later), and who remember has just been revealed in Marvel canon as the Anti -Christ, he states back to Thanos, " I am (pause) Iron Man!"

There was a time when this wickedness was not tolerated by the public. By 1954, long before any of the more blatant attacks on morality and Christianity appeared in comics, the American



The Marvel character Thanos

public in particular had already grown tired of the subversive nature of comics on their children and held mass burnings across America. This, and the seminal work by psychiatrist Fredrick Wertham called "Seduction of the Innocent" led to the comic industry introducing sweeping self-policing of comic content. After a scathing enquiry – the Comic Code Authority was created and had numerous guidelines to prevent children becoming corrupted. Some of these included:

- a) Criminals shall not be presented so as to be rendered glamorous or to occupy a position which creates a desire for emulation.
- b) Crimes shall never be presented in such a way as to create sympathy for the criminal, to promote distrust of the forces of law and justice, or to inspire others with desire to imitate.
- c) Inclusion of stories dealing with evil shall be used or shall be published only where the intent is to illustrate a moral issue and in no case shall evil be presented alluringly, nor so as to injure the sensibilities of the reader.
- d) Scenes dealing with, or instruments associated with the walking dead, torture, vampires and vampirism, Ghouls, cannibalism and werewolfism are prohibited.
- e) Nudity in any form is prohibited, as is indecent or undue exposure.

Both Marvel and DC signed up to these and other guidelines at the time, but in 2001 Marvel declared they would be leaving this code behind and DC followed suit in 2011. As a result we have seen blasphemy in comics aimed at our youth on an unprecedented scale.

Garth Ennis has done more to turn our youth into God hating militants than probably any other writer. Authoring such popular comics and TV

shows as Amazons “The Boys” and “Preacher” – he has taken blasphemy to new levels. Himself a Malthiest, he admits he hates God and repeatedly portrays God as a cowardly wicked, evil, or impotent old ignorant being that needs to be destroyed. His comic “True Faith” centres around a Malthiest bent on killing God, and on his way blows up several churches, as well as murdering professing Christians. In his opening paragraph of the comic special edition he states that the comic was written from his own “obsessions and wish fulfilment”.

In his acclaimed comic Preacher, the title character is a minister possessed by a fallen angel – Genesis – with the soul purpose of – yes – finding and killing God. In this story line Jesus is not depicted as dying on the cross but rather being drugged by his disciples so that he could rise on the third day. He then takes a wife called Mary and has several children whom he hides in the desert and orders to breed incestuously to preserve the bloodline. Jesus’s descendants are presented as perverse inbreds. At the end of the series a character known as the Killer of Saints – described as a beast from the pit of hell, but presented as a cool gunslinger, murders all the heavenly host and sits down on the throne of God.

This has lead to his fans of this comic making comments like, “If I met Christ and he was like this I’d denounce him”, “I just want to punch him in his stupid face” Ennis is succeeding in in turning people from Christ and will have a terrible price to pay at the final judgement.

I have barely scratched the surface of this topic. But I hope it has the effect on you that it did on me. I on witnessing all this filth and blasphemy associated with the Marvel and DC universe have started to destroy or remove from my home anything I have that is to do with this wickedness as I find it. As a believer I have come now to feel that I cannot have anything to do with this grossly anti God culture and I pray you the reader might awaken to the evil that lays behind and has always led behind this attack on our youth.

By David J Badger

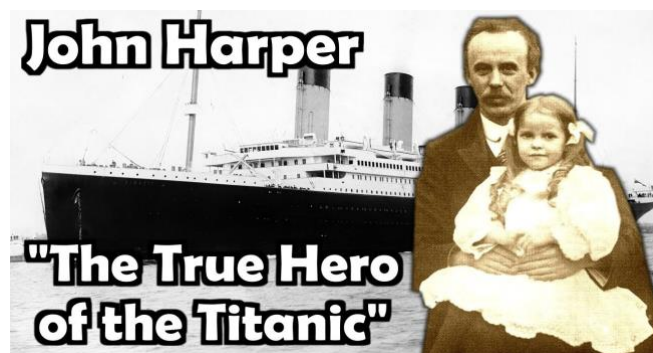
A Shepherd To The Last

Last month on the 15th April 2022, at 2.20am marked 110 years from the sinking of the Titanic- the unsinkable ship.

You may wonder why this is important in a Christian magazine, but it actually is important as one man, John Harper, was aboard the Titanic and saved many lives that day. He preached the Gospel in those final hours to anyone who would hear it, to give everlasting life to those who accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

John Harper was born in a small village in Scotland and was raised in a Christian family. John came to Christ at age 14 and began preaching at the age of 18. In 1897 John started running his own church in Scotland.

On the 28th April 1903 John married his wife Annie. Annie was a very supportive wife to John’s growing ministry. They were blessed with a daughter named Annie Jessie Harper (known as ‘Nana’ by her father) on 1st January 1906, sadly the birth did not go well and Annie, his wife passed away 7 days after Annie was born.



John continued to preach around the UK and was called to America multiple times while Annie was young. John was due to be preaching at Moody Church in Chicago which is how he, his daughter and niece by his side ended up on the Titanic. They were 2nd class passengers and the ticket cost £33. One of the most common sayings with the Titanic was “not even God could sink this ship” People soon realised that night that this was not the case and God can do anything. This was Annie’s first time accompanying her father to America.

Many of us know the events that unveiled that tragic night so instead we are going to look directly at John's purpose that night.

We know about how they spent their time on the Titanic thanks to Annie. Even though they were 2nd class attendees, Annie made friends and they investigated the ship. Her and her friends saw things including the fire in the boiler room which remained a secret for generations and she even made friends with the owners of Macy's, so they were invited to join them for dinner that night.

Captain Smith was given 6 warnings about icebergs that night but he chose to ignore each of them. Sadly at 11.40pm the ship hit the fatal iceberg. While they were unaware of the danger they were in, Annie was awoken by banging on the door and orders to get them into lifeboats. John rushed his daughter and niece up and they were safely aboard lifeboat 11. He kissed her goodbye and he knew this would be the last time he would see his daughter. John walked away from the life boat and started shouting "women, children and unsaved into the life boats" along with quotes from the Bible.

It is common to hear about the band which continued playing until the final moments; we do not hear about John, who stayed aboard the sinking ship preaching the Word of Our Lord. Many of the rich ignored his words to start with, instead trying to buy places onto the lifeboats but when this failed, they started to listen to him. John prayed for the strength in the freezing water to help save as many lives as possible. He swam from person to person bringing multiple people to Christ - sadly the exact number is unknown. He willingly gave a stranger his life jacket his one remaining chance of survival. At first the man was not interested but their paths crossed shortly later and this man gave his life to the Lord in that moment. This gentleman John saved was one of the 6 people who were saved out of 1516 in the icy water and he was his final convert.

He continued to shout the Word of God focusing mainly on John 3:16, until his last moments when he succumbed to the icy water. His body was never recovered.

God planned a preacher to be aboard the Titanic that night as John delayed his trip by 1 week to

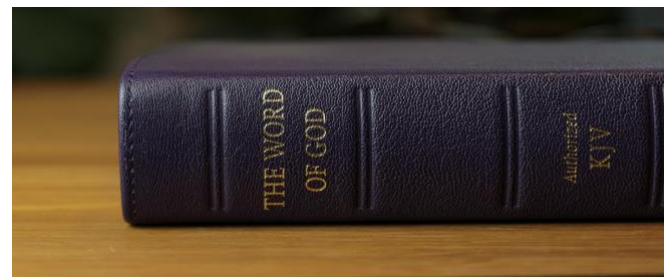
travel aboard the luxury liner and it was John's purpose. Thanks to John many gave their lives to the Lord that night. Annie lived to tell her father's story and the events from that night, she said the screams of those drowning around her never left her, but she never gave up on her faith. She married a pastor and passed away on 10th April 1986.

By Tara Badger

The Great Deception – Part 9

When we consider the A.V Bible, we might ask what influences on a human level lay behind the men that faithfully laboured on it? Well, there was a great Biblical Protestant influence. They knew of those who had died in the flames for a faithful testimony of God's Word.

Of course today we have the endless parade of competing modern bibles. It is a very basic question then to ask what influences lay behind their production? Well let me tell you. The influences behind them are corrosive, unbiblical, untruthful and of this world. Behind them lies the thinking of Evolution, modern liberalism and deceptive Textual Criticism and a huge deference to Roman Catholic Theology. All of these listed reject the Bible as the final authority.



None of these modern bibles, all of which have passed down from Westcott and Hort's work, are on a level with the A.V. Because of the Reformation, the Blood-washed Received Text was spread abroad again. Modern bibles are NOT the Word of God. You need to get a copy of the Book that God loves and Satan hates, namely an A.V Bible and May the Lord give you His light and His Word.

God bless

Dr David Badger Snr

The Purposefulness of Christ – Part 2

After looking at the immediacy and purposefulness of Christ's commencing His earthly ministry, we turn now to look at how this same certainty of purpose is reflected in the calling of the first disciples by Jesus.

In Mark 2:16-20, we read of Jesus walking by the Sea and Galilee, calling to Simon (Peter), his brother Andrew and then John and his brother James to become "fishers of men" and to follow Him. We know from the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John that Simon, Andrew, John and James did not just simply down tools and abandon all because they had been called to serve a complete stranger. We know from Scripture that John and Andrew were previously disciples of John the Baptist and had heard John declare to all the world that Jesus was the Lamb of God when Jesus went to John the Baptist for His baptism in the River Jordan. They then shared this wondrous news of the arrival of their Messiah and Redeemer with their respective brothers Simon (Peter) and James. So when Jesus called to them to follow Him, they knew the voice of their Shepherd and eagerly followed Him. This was not a blind leap of faith, this was the assurance of the Holy Spirit confirming to their hearts what they had been told to be true in the faithful preaching of John the Baptist. This simple but glorious fact is the source of strength that was gifted unto them by God so that they could leave the world behind and follow Christ because they were called by the Creator of all Creation to do so. We would do well to mind this strength of faith and its source, for many times we may be tempted to say we cannot follow the Lord for the cost is too great and our faith is too weak. Ah yes, but the Lord is great in faithfulness, and in His faithfulness He supplies all the joyful strength that is required to leave behind the things of the world so that we might follow His loving call.

Now let us consider the nature of the men called by Jesus, those He selects to become the foundation stones of His Church. These are not highly educated men; they are not influencers of society; they hold no great financial wealth. These men are simple fisherman, used to long hours of hard work often in harsh conditions and

many times this work yielding little in terms of product for such is the work of the fisherman.

Yet the purposefulness of Christ cannot be denied. He has chosen these simple men upon which He will build His Church and this shall confound the wisdom of the world. The world would seek the approval of the rich, the influential to seal the strength of its new enterprise. Governors, Caesars, Generals, wealthy merchants would be sought out by those looking to bring a new church to the world lead by the strength of man. Yet the Church of Christ is lead by the head of the Church, Jesus Christ Himself and He in His perfect wisdom and counsel within the eternal Godhead, selected the unremarkable, the rejected of the world upon which to craft His eternal congregation. For Christ's kingdom is not of this world and so the champions of this world are not desired by His Holy will. Instead He desired the simple and humble of heart; those who would seek no glory beyond knowing they had served their Lord and Saviour. For God will not share His glory with those who seek glory in the pride filled arrogance and greed. Yet in His love He delights to lift up those who long only to adore Him and His mighty name.



The hard life of the fisherman/preacher

Now let us return to the consideration of the employment of these fisherman and how apt it was for such a calling as becoming foundation stones within Christ's eternal ministry. The Galilean fisherman of the 1st century A.D would be used to working in hard and draining circumstances. Much of the fishing done in this region is accomplished at night during the long cold dark hours on the often volatile waters of the Sea of Galilee. Fisherman in this region, such

as the disciples called here by Jesus, would be all too familiar with gruelling nights spent toiling in the darkness only to find that when the welcome morning light arose, little would be found within their nets. Being used to such hard labour would suit Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John well as the life of a “fisher of men”, being a preacher is so strikingly similar in it’s labours. The preacher works hard, labouring through their physical and emotional exhaustion as they battle to bring the Word of God to a world that is deep in spiritual darkness. Much of their labours are spent with seemingly little return and demands a great deal of daily perseverance and great hope that the next venture may prove more fruitful.

Thus Our Lord called those who were well equipped for such a mighty task, one that no man can fulfil in all it’s great demands. Such heaviness of task was felt by the Apostle Paul, who noted on the calling of the minister of God that, “who is sufficient for these things?” Truly no man is, it is to be the herald of the King of Kings, a thrice Holy God who holds all power and glory within His mighty hand. Yet we are weak, sinful beings as the worm, prone to crawl within the dirt of which we were created, miring ourselves willingly within the filth of sin. On such an awareness of the gulf between we and He, the prophet Isaiah threw himself down before a vision of the enthroned Lord God and cried, “Woe is me, I am undone.” It is this great heaviness of task that is placed upon the preacher, the minister, the pastor so pray for them as this humble title of being a “fisher of men” is the oldest term for this most heavenly of offices that can be bestowed upon a man (note man, not woman).

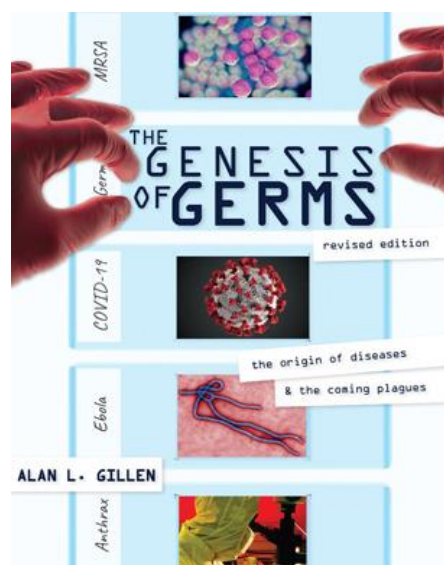
Yet Our Lord is so very tender to our frailties for He is a gracious and gentle High Priest, praying for us daily before The Father that such humble men as these called to labour in His name, might be granted all provisions needed so as to fulfil His divine will. Only the humble of heart can receive such wondrous supplies of heavenly provision, for the proud resist anything that is not crafted from their own endeavours. Such is the spirit of Cain that still dwells within sinful man and for this reason God calls the lowly to His work. The lowly know their weakness and frailties and care not for pride; they care only to serve a God who is so mighty yet so personable that though He created

the stars also, He calls the lowly of heart by name to be His eternal friend. If your heart is not stirred by this transcendent grace then friend I implore you to come and know the Lord Jesus better, for He would have you come and learn of Him.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

Genesis of Germs



As the world waits in fear, the CDC and world health organisations race to minimise the current pandemic — a looming threat that has forced international, federal, and local governments to deal with COVID19 and other future epidemics, and the widespread death and devastation which would follow. Will the world find the answers in time? Or will we see a deadly threat ravage populations as others have before in 1918 with influenza, in the late 18th century with yellow fever, or the horrific “black death” or bubonic plague in 1347 AD?

Are these [viruses] examples of evolution? ...Did God make microbes by mistake? Are they accidents of evolution, out of the primordial soup? These timely questions are examined throughout this book. -from chapter 1

It seems that a new and more terrible disease is touted on the news almost daily. The spread of these scary diseases from avian flu to SARS to

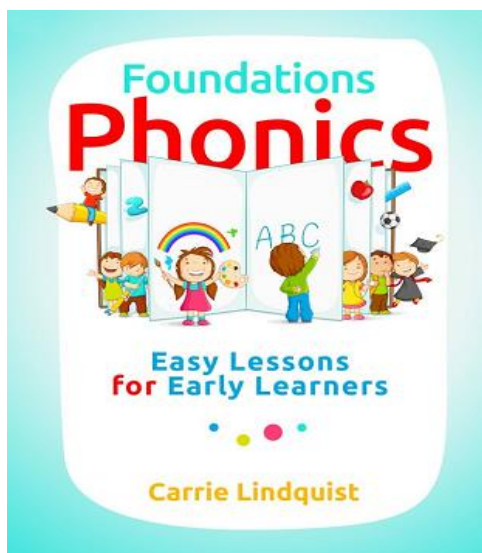
AIDS is a cause for concern and leads to questions, such as:

- Where did all these germs come from?
- How do they fit into a biblical world view?
- What kind of function did these microbes have before the Fall?
- Does antibiotic resistance in bacteria prove evolution?
- How can something so small have such a huge, deadly impact on the world around us?

Professor Alan Gillen sheds light on these and many other questions in this revealing and detailed book. He shows how these constantly mutating diseases are proof for devolution rather than evolution and how all of these germs fit into a biblical world view. Dr. Gillen shows how germs are symptomatic of the literal Fall and Curse of creation as a result of man's sin, and the hope we have in the coming of Jesus Christ.

Available from Answers in Genesis

Foundations Phonics



Foundations Phonics is a delightfully easy and fun approach to teaching your child to read! Through short, interactive lessons, engaging worksheets, and fun hands-on activities students will learn to read words, sentences, and paragraphs as they learn Biblical truths.

As your student learns to read, they'll experience an adventure through history from Creation to the Resurrection of Christ as they trace God's plan of Salvation through the pages of the very best book—the Bible!

- Interactive 3-5 minute lesson narratives teaching a letter & sound or blend through a Biblical story or concept
- Reading practice through words, sentences, Bible verses, and the lines to Jesus Loves Me
- Engaging worksheets featuring colouring, reading, problem-solving, writing, and activities
- Suggested hands-on activities for each lesson that utilize common household items such as crayons, rice, flour, etc.

As your child learns to read in Foundations Phonics they'll embark on an exciting adventure through the pages of the very best book, the Bible! Young students will develop a strong Biblical foundation as they trace God's plan of Salvation from Creation to the Resurrection of Christ. Along the way, students will discover God's grand design in nature, meet Biblical men and women who followed God, encounter Jesus, learn why God's plan of salvation was necessary and how the Gospel applies to their individual life.

Foundations Phonics includes:

- Suggested Daily Schedule—saving you time!

Materials List

- Lesson Narratives & Helpful Hints
- Student Worksheets

Course Features:

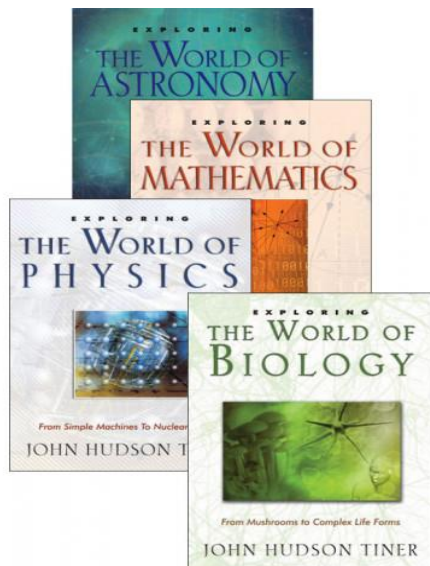
- 20-30 minutes per lesson, 3-5 x per week

Recommended for ages 2 - 6 years old

Perforated, 3-hole punched

Available from Answers in Genesis

Exploring The World Of....



Pack includes the four books from the Exploring series ...

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From Simple Machines to Nuclear Energy

120 page book by John Hudson Tiner [10-1-501]

This book offers a clear understanding of a subject often seen as intimidating. With study questions and a teacher/student-friendly format, this is perfect for school settings.

Exploring the World of Astronomy

From the Center of the Sun to the Edge of the Universe

176 page book by John Hudson Tiner [10-1-570]

Explore the heavens in a uniquely fun and informative way. Students of several different ages and skill levels can use Exploring the World of Astronomy. Middle school students can read the book independently and quickly test their understanding and comprehension by the challenge of answering questions at the end of each chapter. High school students can revisit the

book as a refresher course. You will find additional questions, discussion ideas, and research for students to develop a greater understanding of astronomy.

Exploring the World of Biology

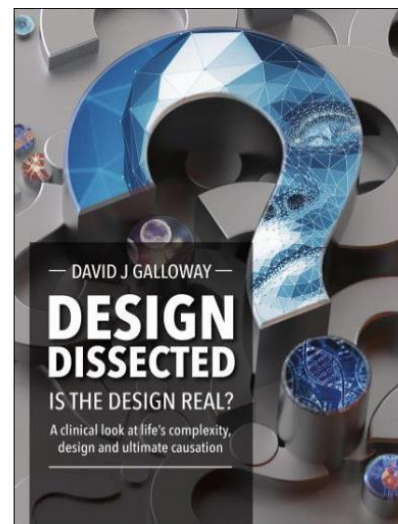
From Mushrooms to Complex Life Forms

160 page book by John Hudson Tiner [10-1-535]

The field of biology focuses on living things, from the smallest microscopic protozoa to the largest mammal. In this book you will read and explore the life of plants, insects, spiders and other arachnids, life in water, reptiles, birds, and mammals, highlighting God's amazing creation.

Available from creation.com

Design Dissected



This attractively produced book (with a good number of colour illustrations) provides a clinician's perspective on the evidence for design in living things. Specific scenarios are dissected from examples of real cases in clinical medicine and surgery, as well as descriptions of some of the amazing integrated systems that exist in human physiology. Read about the critical processes that must be successfully navigated at the time of birth for every individual to have any prospect of survival. Beyond that, think about the nature of thinking itself.

This book is a powerful challenge to the belief that the universe, life, and conscious experience can result only from unguided, natural processes. It is written from an Intelligent Design perspective, so there are no biblical references; nevertheless, it strongly affirms that an

ingenious, powerful God is the only sensible explanation for the incredible design we observe.

Available from creation.com

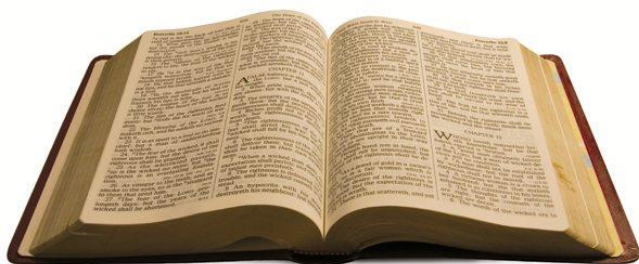
Family Bible Quiz Corner

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

John, James, Simon Peter, Healed, Spirit, Faith, Service, Glory, Peace, Grace

Who Am I?

- 1) I'm related to Jehoshaphat and Zerubbabel
- 2) My grandfather was Jacob
- 3) Another grandfather was Heli
- 4) I have many famous relatives
- 5) I spoke about the Queen of the South
- 6) I predicted famines and earthquakes
- 7) My name means "the Lord Saves"
- 8) I spoke of death as if it were only sleep
- 9) I talked with Elijah and Moses
- 10) I wept
- 11) I'm the Alpha and Omega
- 12) I died for your sins



Answer: I am Jesus

A Final Thought

Isaiah 33: 22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.

The book of the prophet Isaiah, with all of its foreshadowing of the life, ministry and eternal glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ perhaps no better captures all of His astonishing characteristics than it does in the above verse. As we pray to Christ, as we consider Him and as we read of Him in the Gospels, do we fully appreciate his array of titles and offices? He is our judge – there will be a day of judgment, in which we all will have to give an account of how we have lived during our earthly walk. Will we be able to show we've made good use of our gifts and laboured to spread the good news, or will we be like the slothful servant who hid his talent in the earth (Matthew 25:14-30)? The Lord Jesus is our lawgiver. Do the faithful obeying of the ten commandments have a prominent place in our lives? Do we love our neighbours as ourselves? Do we live by the clear instructions in the Sermon on the Mount? The Lord is our king; now sat on the right hand of God and for evermore when he will reign in a new heaven and a new earth. Do we serve our Lord Jesus Christ as King as, after all, we can not serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)? Lastly, and most importantly, He is our Saviour. If you've not done so already, come to our Lord in humble prayer, confessing your sins with a repentant heart. Plead with him for deliverance from your sins and for everlasting life, as he will cast out nobody that earnestly seeks Him (John 6:37). When we consider our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let us do so in all his glory, and take great joy and wonder in the fact that he cares enough about each of us to offer us eternal salvation freely; it'll cost us nothing, but gain us ever-much.

By John Sivewright

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