



Truth To Wonder

Volume 1 Issue 10 January 2021

For God hath not
given us the spirit of
fear; but of power,
and of love, and of
a sound mind.

Editor - Jonathan Badger

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

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Welcome

Welcome everyone to the first issue of Truth To Wonder in 2021. All would agree that 2020 was a challenging year but let's not be as the world and hurriedly try to wipe out the hardships of last year and pretend as though it didn't happen. The events of the past year are brought into sharp focus as we look ahead to the coming year, as we sit quietly and see how mighty is the Lord's provision in leading us through a difficult year. Let's give thanks to God and set our petition to the Lord for what we desire 2021 to be for each of us. Let's set ourselves down humbly and praise Him truly for guiding us to this moment so that we are enabled by His righteousness to approach His throne of grace boldly as we seek calmer days in the year ahead.

Yet let us be vigilant also, for as we undoubtedly ask for days of calm and blessing, let us also pray for wisdom and the discretion of the Holy Spirit to be gifted to us all as the body of Christ which is the living church. As the world tumbles ever more into greater depths of rebellion against God's word, let's ask for wisdom to see the subtly of the dragon of old and how he moves to deceive we followers of Christ. Whilst there are visible battles in the world such as the widespread evil of abortion and the growing use of euthanasia; there are also discreet weapons of the evil one being used most effectively against the church. Examples being the slow but deliberate erosion of rights within the workplace of the Christian, or the encroachment of LGBTQ+ teaching within our schools even at infant school levels.

Such is the plethora of battles for the Christian to fight against in this age we must remember at this time of New Year, that we have a mighty God, whose power is unmatched, whose righteousness is pure and whose love is eternal. Let's go to him now in earnest prayer that He will be our portion in all things each and every day. Let's petition that we seek nothing more this year than to do His will and see His mighty name glorified in the humble work of our days.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, the might of your power is the peace of our hearts. Your eternal grace and abundant mercy unto we sinners is the rest our souls crave. Lord our hearts are yours alone, bought by your precious blood at Calvary, where the last enemy that is death was vanquished forever. Oh blessed Saviour, you are the rock we cling to in the days of trial and testing. Though the winds and waves have smashed about us, sweeping away the wicked in their pride filled rebellion against your eternal throne, you were the strength of our hands that held fast to the unmoving, unchanging presence that is your everlasting glory.

Lord, some of us weep at this time, knowing the pain of grief. Some of us cry out in weariness or suffering, tears share our days as physical struggles drain our strength. Lord, we pray that you will restore all those who suffer so. We weep with them as you wept with the mourners of Lazarus all those years ago. Lord comfort them and lead them into days of refreshment and move those around those who suffer so, to be the comfort and source of peace that you would command us to be. Oh Lord we give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let this year be a blessed year of strengthening of the bond between the faithful followers of your word. Let us be guided by your word, the Holy Scriptures, so in our journey through life we humbly and thankfully teach and correct each other according to your purposes and revealed word, and not our own thoughts, interpretations and desires.

Dear Lord, raise up mighty men of fire for your word; let them shake the sleepy of spirit from their spiritual slumber. Lord, enrich your daughters so that they will be women, wives and mothers who live to glorify you in their fulfilment of your will. Bless our children Lord, fill them with the Holy Spirit so that your church goes into future days in strength and vigour so that all the world marvels at your glory. All this we do pray in Jesus name, amen.

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain:
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all: th' Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.



History of And Can It Be

Charles Wesley's stirring hymn is one of the best loved offerings that flowed from his richly blessed pen. For some time prior to his conversion, Charles like his brother John, were already well versed in the scriptures and accomplished academics in their theological studies. Yet neither one had experienced the transformation of heart that comes from conversion unto Christ.

Wonderfully this day came for Charles Wesley on May 21st 1738, and it is reported that he straightway wrote this marvellous hymn to record the glorious experience of conversion to Christ. This bursting of joy at the realisation of redemption through the blood of Christ is clear in the opening stanza of the hymn as Charles speaks openly of his astonishment of the work of salvation.

This amazement at the mystery of the atonement for sins made by Christ for sinners in further explored in the second stanza, as Charles ends his verse in a call for wondrous praise of God's plan of eternal salvation.

The third stanza is a rich detailing in a beautifully compact verse that contains the theological depth of the work done by Christ Jesus alone in the redemption of man. Charles Wesley as noted in previous months, was always mindful that his hymns be rich in sound doctrine so as to teach as well prompt praise in the heart and mind of the singer.

The fourth and fifth stanza reflect the joyful freedom Charles and all redeemed souls feel at the falling off the chains of sins heavy burden through the shed blood of Our Lord Jesus.

A final wondrous point to share is how just three days later after writing this joyous, thankful hymn, Charles' brother John also came to know the Lord Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. The work of these two brothers would go on to shape hundreds of thousands of lives who would all share the joy of the words found within this joyful hymn.

Book of Ruth – Part Four

We rejoin the up to now tragic events of the life of Ruth and her dear mother-in-law Naomi, as they return to Naomi's home of Bethlehem, following the deaths of all the men of the household.

We pick up the text in chapter two, as we are introduced to a most remarkable man called Boaz, in verse one which reads:

“And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.”

After the series of tragedies that is chapter one, we bear witness to the extraordinary providence of God taking full effect in the lives of both Ruth and Naomi, as the Lord draws Boaz into their grief filled lives. Boaz, as you have read, is a relative of Naomi, in that he is of the family of Elimelech, the passed husband of Naomi. He is a free man, enslaved to no one such as being in debt, for he is an extremely wealthy man, rich in land and money, and as we will go on to see, a man rich in the spirit of God. These personal characteristics and personal circumstances are absolutely crucial in the part that Boaz will go on to play, acting as the providential hand of God by fulfilling the role of ‘Kinsman Redeemer’, a role in which he will be a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ himself. Yet before we come to this climatic stage, there is much to be learnt prior in this beautiful book before it's wonderful crescendo.

In verse two we see Ruth's strength of will, faith and humility once again as we read, **“And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.”**

It was part of Jewish law, given by God through the law giver Moses, that Israelite landowners must allow the poor to glean, or pick up the fallen grains of barley during the harvest so as to provide some food source for

the needy. As a foreigner with no income of any sort, Ruth would be eligible for this aid and was likely informed of this available help by Naomi, a native of the land.



In such an act we see a willingness to humble herself within Ruth that she doesn't fall into the trap of pride so that she refuses this available help. Instead she goes out, even in her great sorrow, seeking to find a means of sustenance for Naomi and herself. The way of the Godly life does not exclude the likelihood of hard times, in fact one could argue the trials and tests of life actually increase. Yet the Godly heart does not fall into paralysing depression during such times, though their hearts are brought low indeed, lower than many non-believers hearts (remember Naomi has expressed her brokenness to Ruth in that she feels the very hand of God is against her), they endure and walk on through the valley of the shadow of death, for they fear no evil and trust in rod and staff of the God to comfort them in their struggles.

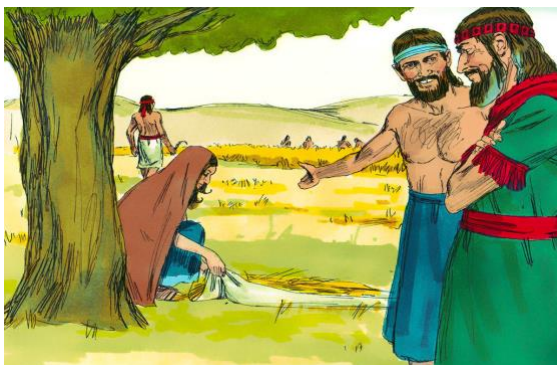
Ruth recognises her need and places herself in a position of trusting in the grace of others so that she and indeed Naomi will not starve. Such humility does not go unheeded by God, as is He is rich in mercy to the lowly of heart. Naomi responds in an equal measure of humility and trust in grace as she does not hinder Ruth in her venture. Remember that this act Ruth is about to undertake is not without dangers, as Ruth is a foreign woman, going into an unknown landowners field, amongst a group of desperate strangers, all without the protection of a man during what was the violent times of the Biblical Judges

era. Such faith in God, humility of heart and action in faith is to be earnestly sought after by all today! For in such a life, the Lord is always close by and steadying with His merciful and mighty hands.

Such provision for those of a trusting heart is now put wonderfully into place in verse three as we read, **“And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.”**

The text has a knowing smile of awe before the grace of God as it reads “and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz.” In other words, the writer is noting how by the providence of God, Ruth happens to walk into the field owned by this remarkable man of God that is Boaz. If Ruth had walked into another field, then Boaz would’ve never met Ruth, having eternal implications as from the future union of Ruth and Boaz (spoiler alert) comes the line that Jesus himself would be born from.

Such is the intricacy of God’s providence, that the seemingly innocuous, unimportant events and meetings of our lives are richly and eternally guided in His grace and wisdom. Such truth is a mighty comfort to us all when we experience times of testing or doubt for we have a sovereign Lord who intercedes for us daily.



Boaz observing Ruth gleaning barley in his fields

In verse four we see an interesting example of the depth of love and service Boaz holds in his

heart towards His Lord and God. The text notes how he greets the reapers in the field, “The LORD be with you.” A simple greeting but one that speaks mightily of the heart of Boaz, for as Jesus (Boaz’s fleshly descendant) would teach centuries later, the words are the overflow of the heart. How often have we seen powerful, wealthy individuals appear at the place of ownership and shun those who work for them, feeling as though the workers are inferior to their own lofty character. Yet Boaz displays a distinct warmth and care for all who are in his field, giving all who hear a rich blessing in the name of Almighty God. Furthermore, we are often reluctant to speak of our Lord to others unless the conversation moves towards topics of faith and the Bible, and yet even then we are often quick to run from the opportunity to speak of the Lord. Yet Boaz is so secure in his faith, so devoted to his Lord and so eager to do his will in following the laws of God with a full heart that he **opens** his speaking with a direct witness to the power and might of God. Such a wonderful quality of heart is one that brings all too many of us to shame and we should petition the Lord in prayer that He would place such a willing heart in ourselves. At such an observation we shall draw this study to a close for this month with a prayer.

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we thank you for your eternal word that are the Holy Scriptures. We marvel at it’s pages, how the words are alive and bring new harvests to the soul each time it’s opened and read with an eager heart. Lord, make us as Ruth, who in her humility and trust in your provision, did not lay cast down in fear and sadness, but arose and set out in faith to endure the times of hardship, believing that you would deliver sustenance of both body and soul. Lord, we pray that you will mould us like you made Boaz, so that we too will have hearts filled with generosity, devotion to your will and eager to speak joyfully of your glorious throne. Lord we do pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

A return to Bible burning in the British Isles?

The Scottish Justice Secretary, Humza Yousaf, has put forward reforms to the Scottish Government's new Hate Crime Bill, which if passed aims to extend the law on "hate crime". This would mean that behaviour or words that could be considered or deemed 'abusive' or "likely" to incite hatred would be an offence.

This reform has sparked serious concern over the limitations it places upon freedom of expression, with the Scottish Police Federation claiming it "appears to paralyse freedom of speech in Scotland.

But Catholic Church's Bishops Conference of Scotland has taken the concern a step further. They commented that "how hatred is defined is not clear which leaves it open to wide interpretation" and that "this could lead to vexatious claims having to be dealt with by the police". They further stated that "the low threshold" in the reforms set out "could render material such as the Bible....as being inflammatory under the new provision". They went on to say in their statement rightly that rights to freedom of speech and expression must also be robust enough to protect the freedom to disagree". Without such protection then biblical standpoints on issues such as gender, same sex marriage / relationships, abortion etc would constitute an offence and the Bible as the source of these beliefs would constitute inflammatory material likely to stir up hate. As a result such material could be seized and destroyed.

The Bishops went on to state that they decry so-called 'cancel culture'....expressing deep

concern at the 'hunting down' of those that disagree with the dominant cultural orthodoxies with the 'intention to expunge the non-compliant from public discourse'.

Whilst we have to remember that the Roman Catholic Church has rather had the monopoly on Bible confiscation and destruction over the course of its murderous history, never wanting the layman to have the revealed word of God in hand, lest they have their eyes opened to salvation by grace through faith and faith alone, we have to agree with their legitimate concerns.



The British public are being systematically censored so that in the name of tolerance, we become tolerant only of those who agree with the desired direction of society. Any form of disagreement immediately becomes an infringement of someone's human rights, and the social justice brigade come charging in like cavalry. And they don't do it moderately. They want the full force of the law thrown at anyone who dares stand in their way. Unless the perpetrator is utterly humiliated and removed from any and all discourse they are not happy.

So be aware. Most of these hate crime reforms are being slipped in under the radar of the general public. The above story for example barely made the news. Your freedom as British Christians to hold to your faith and

beliefs in a public forum are steadily being eroded and soon you won't be able to express your views outside of the four walls of your church, without the fear of prosecution for inciting hate. In fact a church in the south east recently had the local police tell them that they could not express their views on the regional gay pride march outside of the Church. This was despite vile abuse and repeated threats to members of the churches staff and congregation made by the homosexual community, which went utterly unencumbered. The police were not interested, and stated that no crime had been committed despite threats including burning the church to the ground. Hate speech only works one way my friends.

Is it also any surprise that it is a Muslim SNP minister that is in charge of these proposed reforms? But that question itself amounts to hate speech, and is a question we should therefore not ask and simply sit on our hands.

The Church needs to wake up to this and start making noise. Don't let us sleep walk into the gag and handcuffs that awaits in this land.

By David J Badger

Answers TV App Now Live

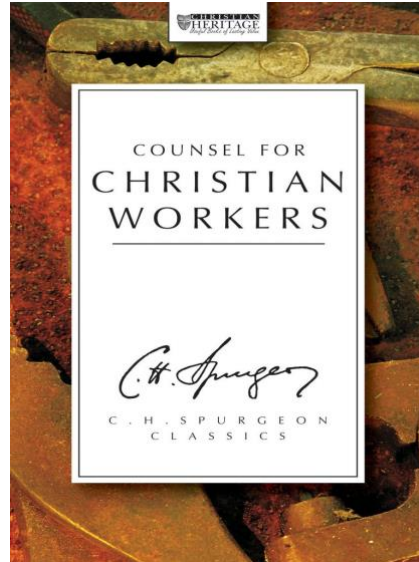
The video streaming service offered by Answers in Genesis is now available via a dedicated app for those who own a smartphone, Roku TV device, Smart TV, iPad and iPhone or Xbox console.

This app offers a wealth of Biblical resources with something for all the family and is well worth the £4 p/m or £36 annual subscription fee.

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Resource Corner

Counsel For Christian Workers – C.H Spurgeon

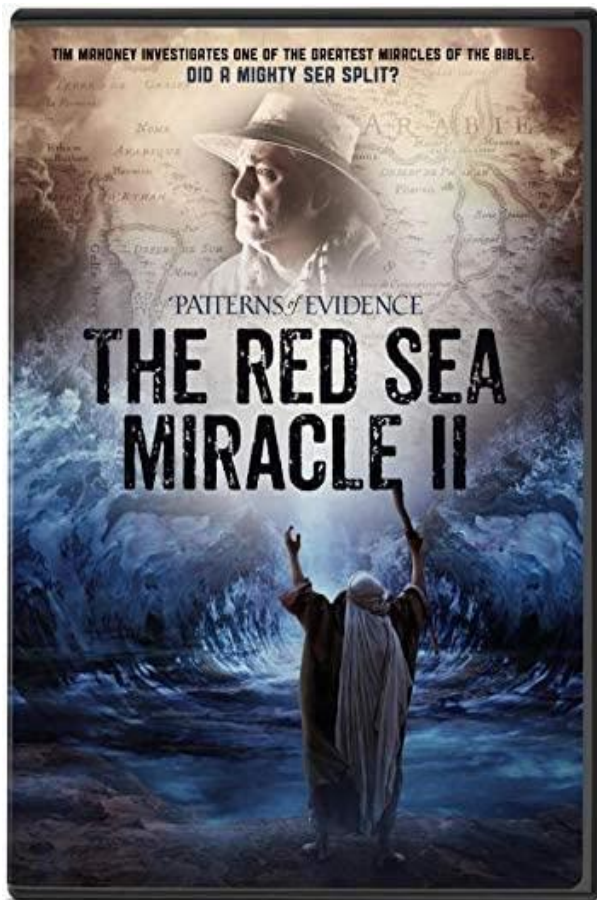


"Counsel for Christian Workers" is a heart-warming call for Christians to take their main duty seriously – that is the call to enlarge God's Kingdom on earth, and to do this with energy, enthusiasm, earnestness, zeal, and knowledge.

As with other books by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers, this one is not for the faint-hearted, but for those who are devoted totally to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To those who are saying something like "How I would like to be one of these!", Spurgeon replies with a clear "Well, you don't need a large congregation, because there is a pulpit in every street in London." But Spurgeon's starting point is his readers' own salvation. He quotes, "Knowing the terrors of the Lord we persuade men", then adding "what loss would it be to you, if you did lose all the world, and gained your soul?" and then "it is the best and most convenient that each householder should sweep before his own door".

Available from Amazon

The Red Sea Miracle Part Two



THE RED SEA MIRACLE II continues to raise big questions about biblical miracles. Introducing the second film in a new two-part series by Patterns of Evidence's award-winning filmmaker, Timothy Mahoney.

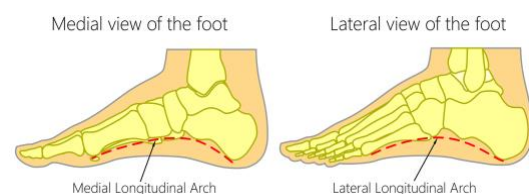
How could thousands of feet of water be parted at the Red Sea? Or was the sea merely parted by the act of wind in nature, through a shallow Egyptian lake? Mahoney investigates these locations to see if any have a pattern of evidence matching the Bible. People of faith will be inspired and skeptics will have much to think about as Mahoney reveals two decades of documentary research including if divers found the remains of Pharaoh's army on the seafloor. This cinematic journey leads him to inquire... "Do miracles still happen today?"

Available at Amazon and answersingenesis.co.uk

Body of Evidence – The Human Foot

No doubt as your reading this, your feet are resting from their daily task as you sit down comfortably to peruse these pages. You may have removed your shoes to an audible sigh of relief all the while prompting audible groans from those nearby who may now be subject to an unpleasant fragrance filling their nostrils. Yet have you ever considered brilliantly crafted your feet are so that you are able to perform numerous physical activities a day, often for long periods of time?

The human foot has a unique arched structure allowing two points of consistent contact between the foot and the floor, this being the front or ball of the foot, and the back or heel. The arch between these two points enables a consistent application of balance to be maintained as it places the centre of gravity between these two points. This central location of gravity's effect on the body is what allows you to stand upright for prolonged periods without falling over.



The human foot contains 26 bones all placed with extraordinary precision so as to makeup the aforementioned strong arch in the middle of the foot. At the very top of this arch is a wedge shaped 'key-bone' that prohibits the arch from completely collapsing. Such key bones are replicated in keystones in manmade bridges that stop them also from collapsing. Man's engineering expertise once again is a mere reflection of God's genius.

Humans are unique in that we are the only mammals that can run on two legs. This is due to our unique ability to push off from the front of our feet and our forward facing big toe.

The endurance of the human foot speaks highly of the build quality placed within us by Our Maker, as the average human will walk 100,000 miles in a lifetime. That converts to over 100 million steps! I'm not sure they make a Fitbit that stores such a wealth of activity!

We shall finish with an observation on the human foot made by the genius that was Leonardo Da Vinci. As far back as his lifetime in the 15th century, Da Vinci keenly noted that, "The human foot is a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art." For evolutionary scientists to argue that such a design came about by random chance is sheer foolishness. Only incredibly intricate design by a mastermind of engineering can possibly explain how such a range of pivotal features all come together so exquisitely and so consistently within each individual. As the Lord's word says, we are without excuse as He has left His hallmark stamped across all Creation.

By Jonathan Badger

Hallmarks of The Designer – The Horse

The horse is a much beloved animal, capturing the hearts of many a young girl who dream of owning one these magnificent creatures. Within any given horse is an array of incredible design features that shout loudly of the need for an intelligent designer.

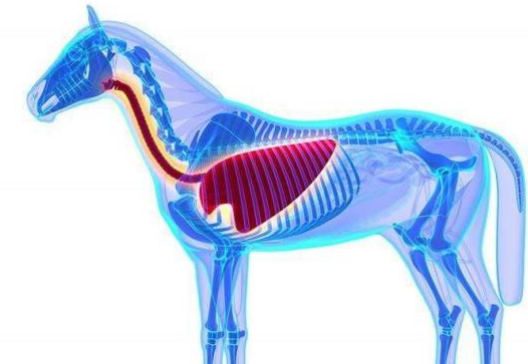
Lungs and Heart

Horses can run at great speeds, reaching up to 50 mph, doubling the speed of the finest human athletes. One of the facilitators of this incredible speed are the huge lungs and heart of the horse, enabling it to extract enormous quantities of oxygen for energy.

The large capacity of horses lungs

The lungs of a horse can inhale 15 litres of air per breath and can achieve 1,800 litres of air

inhaled per minute, in comparison to 150 litres per minute in an average adult human.



The large lungs of the horse pictured above

Complimenting the sizeable lungs is the large heart capable of pumping 50 litres of blood that the average horse holds. This enormous volume of blood allows vast quantities of oxygen to be delivered efficiently around the body so as to drive the horses muscles.

Capable Suspension

Many will be familiar with the jumping prowess of the horse. Equestrian events and indeed horse racing events contain often high barriers that a horse can leap over at high speed and suffer no ill effects upon take off or landing. This is due to the incredible suspension designed within the horse enabling this staggering performance. The rear legs are bent at the perfect angle on standing that means any shock load is displaced through the bent joint rather than jarring the leg and therefore sending the shock of the impact up through the leg.



Complex suspension system within each horse

The front legs, whilst straight, do not attach directly to the spine (horses have no collar bone) but are instead suspended by a series of muscles and tendons. This means that the powerful body of the horse is held elastically between the two pillar like legs rendering an extraordinarily efficient suspension system. Such a feature is crucial given the high impact loads a horse takes upon landing from a jump, with one leg sometimes having to support 1000lbs of pressure. Any horse with an partly evolved front 'suspension system' would've quickly come a cropper after just one significant jump!

Multipurpose Hooves

The humble hoof is anything but humble with a wonderful combination of parts combining to form a whole capable of differing abilities. The foot bones provide rigidity and strength, thereby enabling a single leg to take great weight. The horny hoof protects the foot from knocks and scratches via its tough, hard surface. The heel is sometimes referred to as a 'frog' given its elasticity thereby providing soft cushioning for the foot on impact. The frog also aids grip and blood circulation within the foot. Such a beautifully designed interweaving of parts to form one efficient whole is the dream of any shoe designer; yet within the humble hoof, God has already delivered this amazing feat.

Top Gear

The horse has four different types of walking and running. These are commonly known as walking, trotting, cantering and galloping. These 'gears' if you will, are smoothly interchanged as a horse can go from a gentle walk to a full gallop with incredible smoothness and explosiveness, catching many inexperienced riders out in the process!

Staggering Endurance

All of these amazing features combine to form an animal capable of staggering endurance levels, able to traverse enormous distances of often rough terrain. Some endurance events,



such as the Tevis Cup on the West Coast of America's, require a horse to cover 100 miles in a single day.

Horses are a truly amazing piece of engineering and speak highly of the engineering and design brilliance of Almighty God. For anyone to suggest that such an array of perfectly designed elements can come together so flawlessly by random chance boggles the mind. So when you are struggling to witness to someone who is set on evolutionary principle, draw their attention to the incredible array of irreducibly complex parts that comprises of the whole that is the humble horse.

By Jonathan Badger

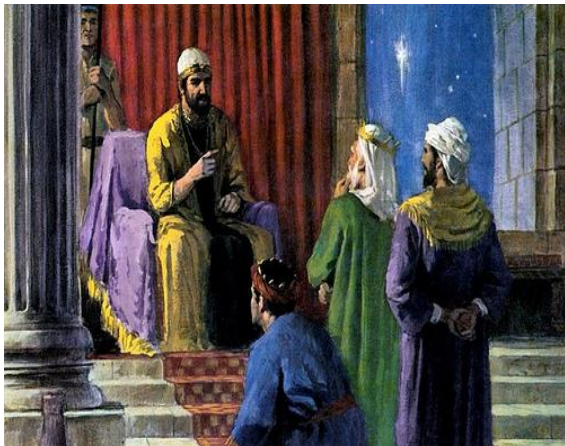
Late On The Scene

As we embark into a New Year by the grace and mercy of the Lord, we often look back on the Christmas season and remark at how long ago it feels even when a mere week or two has passed. The considerations of the season are all too quickly moved on from and as a result a clear scriptural event is often wrongly assessed as part of the events of the birth of Our Lord Jesus. This event being the arrival of the Wise Men to give their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus.

Many base their Nativity knowledge on the mass produced Nativity scenes that adorn ornaments, cards, wrapping paper and so on, and so wrongly come to the conclusion that

the Wise Men were present at the birth of Christ, along with the shepherds.

To correct this falsehood we turn to Matthew Chapter Two. There are a series of points to note in the text that render the image of the Wise Men stood alongside the shepherds beside the infant Jesus asleep in the manger as incorrect. Firstly we turn to verse two and observe that the Wise Men ask of Herod, "Where is he that born King of the Jews?" A clear observation to make is the use of the past tense by the Wise Men, in using the term 'born' as opposed to 'who is to be' or 'shall be born.' This would indicate that Jesus has indeed already come amongst man in the flesh as a babe before the Wise Men have come before him.



The wise men before Herod

Secondly, see how Herod responds in verse seven by asking the Wise Men when they saw the star appear. He has at this point ascertained the prophetic text from his scribes that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and so now inquires as to how long the Wise Men had been following the new star in their quest to worship the King of the Jews. Obviously the Wise Men were without the efficient means of transport we enjoy today, instead relying on far slower animal transportation. As the text does not tell us exactly where the Wise Men were from, merely that they were from the East, they may have been travelling months before they arrived in Jerusalem (some scholars believe they may have been from a similar region as Abraham was born in the Chaldees,

given that regions rich history of mathematics and astrological study, as discussed in past issues, making them excellent candidates to note the emergence of a new star in the sky), making Jesus no longer a newborn when they stand before Herod.

Next we come to the crucial verse in verse eleven, as we read "And when they were come into the house," clearly showing that Joseph, Mary and Jesus were no longer at the place of Jesus' birth, where the shepherds came to pledge their hearts to the newborn King. This verse alone dismisses the typical Nativity scene depicted in shops windows, school plays and Christmas decorations with which we are all familiar.

In verse twelve, we read that God warns the Wise Men of Herod's evil intention towards Jesus and so warns them to go back to their home another way so as to avoid reporting the exact location of Jesus to Herod. This they do and depart from Bethlehem and return to their homeland via a different route, escaping the notice of Herod and thereby protecting the young life of the child Jesus.

At this realisation that the Wise Men have left Judea without reporting to Herod the exact location of Jesus, Herod is furious and demands the killing of all children under two years old in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. Again crucially the text informs us of his reasoning for this allowance in age as it reads at the end of verse sixteen, "according to the time he had diligently enquired of the wise men."

Given the amount of time that would have to pass for Herod to realise the Wise Men were not returning to speak with him of the location of Jesus, and when combined with the months previously mentioned due to the travel of the Wise Men to get to Jerusalem initially, Herod gives an allowance of age to ensure he sweeps up this threat to his throne.

The question must be asked if the events of the Nativity were compacted and the Wise Men were indeed at the birth of Christ along

with the shepherds, why would Herod make such a sweeping decree of killing all two year olds and under? Clearly a significant portion of time had passed to demand such horrific measures to be taken by Herod.

Only a literal, accurate rendering of the text gives a clear interpretation of its rich historical recording of actual events surrounding the birth and infant days of Jesus.

Yet we do not conclude here. As Spurgeon once noted, a reading of the text without seeking the spiritual truth is to miss it's richness. By having the Wise Men come later to pay homage unto Jesus, secondary to the shepherds who are present at his birth, God is making a wonderful point to us all.

It is the shepherd, the humble, carer of vulnerable sheep, that is consistently depicted throughout the Bible as the representation of the nature of Christ himself, for He refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. The shepherds are called to give witness to the birth of Christ, to see the glory that is Jesus Christ, as men of God today are called in the enacting of the will of the Father through the Holy Spirit, to see that same heavenly glory of the King of Kings. They are then to spread the wonderful news of Jesus and act as shepherds in guiding, protecting and caring for the resultant flock of those who would believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Furthermore, the Lord delights in flipping the accepted wisdom of the world. Does he not say that those who are last, shall be first? This He beautifully enacts by having those of a high worldly status arrive late to the revealing of God in the flesh. Wise Men though they were, it is the humble and those who subject themselves to hardship, as the ancient shepherd would've done each day and night, in the service of God that are to see the glory of God first, so as to lead others to adoration of Christ, to the eternal glory of the Father.

By Jonathan Badger

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Let us be direct from the onset as to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory to the Son of God in the hearts of man. His (yes He is very much a He and not some mystical force as commonly thought) aim can be seen as threefold, to convict, to correct, to comfort.

The Holy Spirit comes to the sinners heart and troubles him/her deeply, making the heart heavy with an awareness of their own sin and the guilt they carry every second of every day. He is like a hall of mirrors, no matter which way the sinful soul turns, it's putrid reflection of sin is inescapable from the mirrored glass. He is tenacious in that once He has begun this conviction of sin within the heart, He never gives up. As the bulldog whose jaws lock when it clamps down on its desired item, so does the Holy Spirit lock onto the heart of the one chosen by God to be His own.

In this conviction of sin, the sinner inevitably wrestles against the Holy Spirit, tugging away violently hoping to rid themselves of this burden that crushes them daily within their own soul. Yet with each tug, the Holy Spirit locks His grip ever tighter, making the weight of sin become so exhausting and unbearable that the sinner cries out for salvation from its heavy load.

So the Holy Spirit takes the broken sinner and brings them assuredly to the cross of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit seeks to bring glory to the name of Jesus by showing the lost sheep to the Good Shepherd as the determined sheepdog does to the stubborn, lost sheep who have wandered into great danger. Here is the correction afforded by the Holy Spirit. In being part of the Triune Godhead, He is powerful in drawing the reluctant sinner to the feet of Christ, yet humble to ensure that the glory of salvation of the sinner is placed solely on the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This correction is crafted by the gracious hands of Jesus and instilled into the heart by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the will of the Father, within the new heart of the

redeemed. Where He once convicted sin, He now sets to correct sinful lusts of the flesh by determining new desires in the reborn heart of the saved individual.

Now the Holy Spirit becomes the Comforter, the great hope in the heart of the redeemed that is sorely needed for an often lonely walk in a world headed swiftly for destruction. In His eternal wisdom, the Holy Spirit, now guards the saved soul, bearing His teeth at those who would mean it harm, correcting the lustful desires of the flesh, convicting the soul of the need to desire heavenly things and stay true in our service to the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Yet as the Comforter, He also stays tenderly by our side when He knows we are troubled, when we are brought low by times of testing and trial. When all the world fails to see the pain we may be enduring in the name of Christ, He abides with us, comforting us so that we have a companion who will guide us in our walk to eternal glory, where our suffering and tears will be wiped away by the glory, grace and power of the Lord Jesus.

The Holy Spirit delights in leading the lost to Lord Jesus in the power of His purity of conviction. He delights in humility so that the name of Jesus will be exalted amongst all the heavens and all the earth to the eternal glory of The Father. He delights in fulfilling the will of God by ensuring that those who have taken up arms in the name of Jesus Christ, are convicted, corrected and comforted in their faith throughout every battle. He shall delight in all those who will walk the streets of heaven, as we sing the praises of God forever.

So let us thank the Lord for the glory, strength, majesty, mercy and grace of the Triune God. Let us be humbled in knowing that full glory of God is unknowable to we sinful beings, whose minds are corrupted by sin; yet the full revelation of God has been given to us in the Lord Jesus, who is truly worthy of all blessing and honour and glory forever. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Miracles In Our Midst

If we turn to the Gospel of Mark, chapter 2 verses 22-43, we read of two amazing miracles conducted by Jesus. One being the healing of the woman with the “issue of blood twelve years”, (verse 25-34). The other being the restoring of life to the deceased daughter of Jairus. For the purpose of this piece we shall focus on verse 39, which reads,

“And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.”



Jesus' words must have stunned the grief stricken onlookers at this tragic scene. Whilst Jesus had performed many mighty miracles, surely the grip of death was too mighty for this miracle man to overcome. Hence the heartbroken notice to Jairus in verse 35, as he is told of his daughters death and why he should therefore no longer, “troublest thou the Master any further?”

Yet such is the power of Jesus, who whilst fully man, is also fully God, in so that even the last enemy that is death holds no strength over the might of His arm. So in His sovereign power Jesus restores to life the dear daughter of Jairus, performing that great miracle of overpowering death itself.

In our clamour for wonders, our desire to witness the miraculous today, we sadly miss

or even dismiss an even greater miracle being performed thousands of times over each day across the world. What is this miracle? Why it is the quickening of the dead spirit of man into eternal life itself through belief in the Lord Jesus.

Let us be under no illusion, the soul of the sinner is dead before God, unable to breathe life into itself and under the judgement of Adam in being born unto death, for all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Yet in the forgiveness of sin gifted by the grace of Christ Jesus, the dead in sin are restored to life eternal that was lost by the treachery of Adam back in Genesis Chapter 3. However the scale of the miracle does not end here. Once brought to life in Christ, the redeemed soul enjoys a fullness of love in Christ that Adam did not know even whilst in the perfection of Eden. For Adam knew God as his creator, but not as his redeemer. Adam knew nothing of the forgiveness of God, the grace of God, the mercy of God, the patience of God, the righteousness of God, the justice of God. How blessed are we brothers and sisters to know Our Lord in a fullness of heart that not even the angels are privy to, such is the enormity of this most marvellous of miracles.

Such a boundless miracle is performed all over our world each and every day, as the eternal death afforded to man in our eternal sin against an eternal God, is swept away by the eternal grace of an eternal Redeemer who loved us each eternally so that we might have life abundantly in Him (John 10:10).

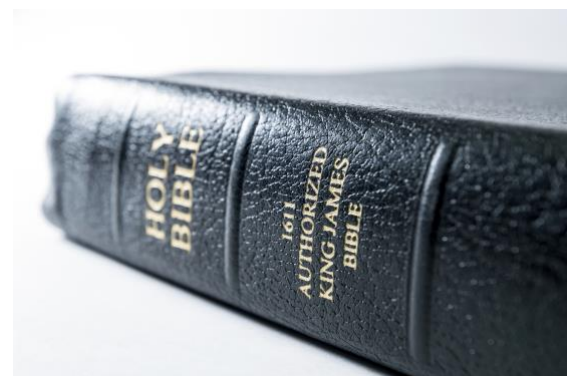
If you have not known this miracle of the gifting of life through the blood of Christ, cry out to Him that you may know of it's joy, it's peace, it's promise and you shall be as Jairus' daughter, restored to life eternal and peace in paradise forevermore with The Lamb, the one who triumphed over death so that you may have life abundantly.

By Jonathan Badger

Ancient Britain and the Word of God – Part One

My fascination with history began early in childhood and I was blessed to have one of those fathers who would take the time to read to his son. From these beginnings then, reading became a passion that consumed me and has continued all through my life because I was always one of those students who liked to dig deeper. I was never entirely happy with books that merely turned out the 'party line' and left a host of unanswered questions.

It is hard perhaps for the average reader and even students to realise that some of the greatest white-washes of history and suppression of factual material took place in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Much evidence, both historical, literary, biblical, archaeological and scientific has not reached the public. If such material had, then this generation could well have a different view of the Bible than it presently holds. Often hidden away in old libraries, museum cellars and other academic places of internment, lie proofs that would cause many a doubter and indeed many a weak believer to realise that the old Book (the Bible) is true.



Now, we need to look at how the hand of God began to work in the ancient history of Briton in laying biblical foundations for this 'Sceptured Isle'. There is a growing myth presented to this generation that Christianity began in our land with the arrival of Augustine, the so-called 'Apostle of the English' in A.D 597. Let me say categorically that only a people who have lost contact with

their historical foundations could believe this. It is nonsense, indeed it is a complete FALLACY.

About a century separated the Romans first probe into Briton under Julius Caesar and the Emperor Claudius ordering the conquest of Briton in A.D 43. Claudius was to become known as Emperor Britannicus. Briton was now one of 45 provinces of the Roman Empire and remained so for nearly 400 years. Within that 400 year occupation, the British Christian Church arose, we know it sent Bishops to some of the early Church Councils. The idea then that Augustine brought Christianity to these shores is historical religio-political Roman Catholic propaganda. Augustine brought not Christianity but Catholicism.



The popular notion of Augustine bringing Christianity to Briton

However, there is evidence to suggest that a pure form of Biblical Christianity came to these isles before the Roman occupation, possibly even directly from Pentecost. Now, the main events of the Lord's life fall between two historical points of British and Roman history. These are, the landing of Julius Caesar and the later invasion by Claudius.

If we consider the Crucifixion about A.D 33, then we have approximately the years between the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost and Claudius becoming Emperor Britannicus. Further, it is of interest to note that even while Jesus was alive and preaching, colonists and traders from Gaul were trading with Briton and even moving here to live. It is entirely possible that some of those

converted at Pentecost could have been from Briton and returned here with their new faith.

We know that there had been believers in Rome some years by the time Paul had completed one of his missionary journeys, we also know that the faith of the Roman Christians had spread extensively, Romans 1v8. The Church at Antioch was in existence before Claudius conquered these isles. Further, after Acts 16v6-8 we know the Gospel went westwards. Some believe Paul went on to Spain even and Eusebius (A.D 260-340) writes, 'The apostles passed beyond the ocean to the isles called the Britannicus Isles'.

With complete certainty we shall state one thing and that is that Christianity was born here in Briton very early indeed. When Winston Churchill wrote his History of the English Speaking Peoples, his researchers could not pin down when Christianity arrived because the further they went back it already seemed to be here. At this point let me plant the seed to germinate in the back of your mind. If apostolic Christianity was brought from Pentecost under the hand of God to these shores, would not our God also see to it that these isles received a Pure Text? Further, in closing, if He did would that text not still exist? Do we still have a pure Word available to us today or are we truly at the mercy of an endless pile of perverted wish-washy 'bibles'?

By Dr David Badger Snr

The Euthyphro Dilemma.

A week or so ago, whilst recovering from an unexpected bout of viral meningitis, I came across a You Tube video of a student question and answer session that occurred after an evangelists talk to a student union at a large American university.

The talk had been on moral values and duties. One student at the end of the talk approached the microphone and posed this question.

“Is something good because God wills it? Or does God will something because it is good?”

She followed this with the statement / question of – “If God changed his mind and decided murder was good are we morally obliged to commit murder”

Firstly the premise of the second part to her question was flawed but was not picked up on by the evangelist, in that God cannot change His mind. He is eternal and unchanging. Therefore the second part of the girls question / statement was mute. However the first part is a common argument posed by the “enlightened” and needs a response.

The first part of the question is known as the Euthyphro Dilemma, from Plato’s dialogue Euthyphro. In this conversation Socrates asks Euthyphro;

“Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods”.



This question is designed to stump the Christian, as it would appear there is no good answer. If we agree that something is good because God wills it then what is good becomes arbitrary. God could have willed murder good then we would be morally obligated to murder one another. On the other hand if God wills something because it is good then this means that what is good or indeed bad is independent of God.

However this dilemma is in fact not a dilemma at all. It is a trick question, because it leaves out a third option, which removes the dilemma entirely. Option three is that God wills something because HE IS GOOD. Gods nature is the standard of goodness, and therefore what he commands man to do are expressions of His nature. His own character is the definition of goodness. His nature is the standard, and his commands reflect his moral nature. The result is that those commands are therefore not arbitrary.

So the student posing the question, “If God willed murder to be good then we would be obligated to commit murder”, is asking something which is a logical impossibility. As William Lane Craig puts it, its like asking if there were a square circle would the area of the shape be the square of one of its sides? It’s a logically impossible supposition.

So don’t be tricked by the Euthyphro dilemma. It is no dilemma at all, God wills something because HE IS GOOD and something is good because he wills it.

By David J Badger

Family Bible Quiz

- 1: True or False: Saul is from the family of Kish?
- 2: How many years had Saul been king in 1 Samuel 13:1?
- 3: Did Jonathan have an armour bearer?
- 4: Who anointed Saul, King of Israel?
- 5: Did Saul kill Agag?
- 6: Did Samuel anoint David when Saul was still king?
- 7: How many of Jesse's children are named?
- 8: How many brothers did David have?
- 9: Name the brothers that are named?
- 10: Where was Goliath from?
- 11: How tall was he according to 1 Samuel 17:4?
- 12: What did David use to kill Goliath?
- 13: Why did David fight Goliath?
- 14: What did the Philistines do when they saw that Goliath was dead?
- 15: What city was Jesse from?



Answers

1: True, 2: Two, 3: Yes, 4: Samuel, 5: No, Samuel did when Saul did not obey God's command that he should kill Agag, 6: Yes, 7: Four, 8: Seven, 9: David, Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, 10: Gath, 11: Six cubits and a span, 12: Slingshot and smooth stone, 13: Goliath defied God and no one else would fight him in the Jewish army, 14: They fled, 15: Bethlehem

By Naomi Badger

A Final Thought

As a new year is upon us, if you're anything like me, you might sit down to write a New Year's Resolution. Be it that new diet we've been meaning to go on, that promotion at work or that new hobby we've been meaning to take up, I'm sure we've all a short list of goals we'd like to accomplish in 2021. But I would beseech you ensure that, before you write down a single resolution, you start your list with "if the Lord wills". While we can rattle off all kinds of aspirations for the year ahead, we must remember that it is the Lord that wills things to pass. The Lord knows us intimately (Psalms 139:1), our wants and needs, and the events that unfold as the months progress will be according to his sovereign will. We are instructed to pray daily for his will to be done, *on earth* as in heaven (Matthew 6:10). If we ask in daily prayer for the Lord's sovereign will to guide us through our daily life, it is only fitting that we should do the same as we take a view of the full year ahead. It is easy to get over-excited and puffed up as we set our goals for the coming twelve months; remember to come with humbleness and reverence to the Lord in loving faith, trusting that his sovereign will shall guide you through the year ahead (Romans 8:28).

James 5:15 – For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

By John Sivewright

