

# Truth to Wonder

## Ministries - God's truth brings wonder to the soul

Welcome everyone to the August issue of the *Truth to Wonder Ministries* newsletter. It is a wonderful mercy of Our Lord, that He has blessed our days in that we are able to come together again in spirit and truth, so that we may be able to worship and adore His glorious name. Let's draw near unto Our Lord in prayer.

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we give our thanks that you have brought us to this day, where we may pause the hectic nature of our days and submit our weary selves before your restoring throne of glory.

Lord, we express our souls gratitude for the intricate weaving of your grace towards we sinful beings. We sinful wretches who deserve no favour or blessing from you, yet in your abundant grace and mercy, you pour out your loving kindness unto each of us.

Lord, whilst we freely give thanks for your care and guidance where even our sin stained eyes cannot miss your providential care, we ask for your forgiveness for the array of mercies you pour out to us without us even being aware. From the warming sunlight on our cheek, to the beat of our heart and breath in our lungs; each one is a borrowed mercy from your gracious hands.

We boastful, proud and controlling breed are so often frivolous or even ignorant in our treatment of the immensity of mercies from your hand. Forgive us for this lightness of receiving of your bountiful gifts and instil in us a heart of constant thanks. In this consistency of thanks we shall feel the burden of our weakness, the heaviness and weariness of a heart aware of it's fragility and impermanence.

Lord, in this heaviness of realisation of our fleeting lives and inability to control even the least part of our lives, we gratefully run to your strong arm of power, holiness, righteousness, grace, mercy and love.

In this state of thanks, where knees are bent gladly, humbly, reverently, you lift us to a place of eternal adoration and wonder. Here, before your eternal throne, we are bonded together, a church eternal, the dream of your creation where you have lovingly restored us to the place you long desired us to be; in constant, intimate communion with you. In this blissful arena of grace, we are brought from mere gratitude of blessings from your hand, to a deepest wonder, awe, reverence and thanks that you are.

The songs of our praise will resound that beautiful name of I AM. Herein the mysteries of your wonder are brought to our hearts and we rejoice that at last we are restored to the place where we can enjoy not what you deliver, but who you are.

In this rapturous adulation, we are the delight of your eye and the crowning glory of your creation. The heavens will resound with the songs of triumph of the fulfilment of the eternal plan of salvation crafted by your knowing hands and brought into being by the atonement made by your only begotten son Christ Jesus.

In these moments of sweet communion with you Lord, we are given so tenderly, a delicate glimpse of the elation of eternity that you have purposed for us before you laid the foundations of the earth itself.

In all these truths we give thanks to you Our Lord God and in Jesus' name, amen.

## ***Who Would True Valour See***

***Who would true valour see,  
Let him come hither;  
One here will constant be,  
Come wind, come weather;  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.***

***Whoso beset him round  
With dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound;  
His strength the more is,  
No lion can him fright;  
He'll with a giant fight;  
But he will have a right  
To be a pilgrim.***

***Hobgoblin nor foul fiend  
Can daunt his spirit;  
He knows he at the end  
Shall life inherit,  
Then fancies fly away,  
He'll fear not what men say;  
He'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.***



## **A History of Who Would True Valour See**

This stirring hymn is such a powerful cry to arms to all believers and has resounded through the centuries since it was first penned by John Bunyan.

The emotive lyrics to this wonderful hymn first found their home in Part II of *Pilgrims Progress*, published in 1684.



In the tale, the character of Mr Valiant-for-Truth is found bloodied and wounded by Christiana and her four sons (the family of Christian who travel after him hoping to find the Celestial City and join him in glory) as they near their goal. After cleaning his wounds and giving him sustenance, he recounts his story of his journey to them. He had set out on the journey to the Celestial City after following Christian's example and tells Christiana and her sons of the various battles he had encountered along the way. This is where we find the powerful words of the now hymn, *Who Would True Valour See*.

Their likely first appearance in a hymn book was in the second edition of *Our Hymn Book* (1873), a compilation for the use in his church by a Congregational minister in Brighton, E. Paxton Hood.

The original text was unchanged in this compilation where Josiah Booth added the famous tune entitled *Valour*, to the text giving rise to the hymn we know today.

Bunyan's hymn is a truly stirring hymn, one that appealed greatly to me as a youth, where I loved hearing it being sung with volume and power during my Father's Bible study gatherings. It's inspirational content cannot but steel even the most disconsolate and doubtful believer that the Lord will guard and guide each of His children through to the glorious day when they enter the Celestial City.

By Jonathan Badger

## Challenging Questions of Faith

### Why doesn't God just get rid of evil?

As always, when a question is asked, one must look at the content and tone of the question. This question reveals the impatient, limited knowledge of mankind's nature and abilities. We often ask this question when we have become frustrated with the evil that fills our world and brings such tragedy and pain to our lives and then go accusingly to God that He has allowed this to happen to us.

Such a question is laced with pain and discontent and when approached with gentleness, we see the fulfilment of Our Lord's words when He says to Isaiah, "my thoughts are not your thoughts" (**Isaiah 55:9**).

To begin, the logical implications of this question would imply that God would have to remove all evil, every last drop from the universe in order for the request to be fulfilled. If this is not the objective within the mind and heart of the questioner, then it highlights a selfish nature that merely wants a comfortable, enjoyable existence for themselves at the expense of their fellow man. To give the questioner the benefit of the doubt and assume that they are more altruistic in the plea, then God would indeed have to remove every ounce of evil from all creation immediately. Whilst this initially sounds like a pleasant notion, ponder the ramifications of such a enormous request. Let's say that at midnight tonight, God would execute this request and remove every last drop of evil from the universe. How would you fair in such an eventuality? God, in order to fulfil the task of removing all evil, would have to wipe out everything and everyone who has any trace of impurity. We would find ourselves in dire straits indeed!

'Ah, but I am saved, a redeemed believer in the Lord Jesus so I am pure in the eyes of the God', you may say in answer to this.

Indeed you are, yet consider the words of your redeemer when He tells us of the two greatest commandments, to love the Lord your God, and to love your neighbour. With this instruction firmly in mind, our thoughts turn from our own position of sanctuary in Christ Jesus to the perilous position of those who are against Him. The billions of lost souls today, many of them sadly friends and family who do not know the loving embrace of Christ. If God we're to eradicate all evil immediately, those dear but lost souls would be condemned to eternal damnation this very day. Would you have it so? Would you ask the Lord to hurry His plans without thought for those who you were once one of, the lost souls of humanity? If we are so moved by the Holy Spirit to hope and pray for the salvation of the lost multitudes, how much more so is the desire of God that none should perish?! This is highlighted by the Apostle Peter in **2 Peter 3:9**.



God, uninhibited by the constraints of time (**2 Peter 3:8**) and not affected by human traits of impatience or indeed slackness (**2 Peter 3:9**) patiently waits for each of those He has called to come to salvation through the atonement made by His only begotten son Christ Jesus (**John 3:16**). This patience is a loving stay of execution against we wicked, sinful beings who deserve nothing more than eternal hell fire. God will indeed remove all evil forever and it shall come to pass as a thief in the night (**2 Peter 3:10**) but not a moment before the fullness of time so that our loving, merciful, gracious Lord may redeem all those He set aside for Himself in the halls of eternity.

*By Jonathan Badger*

## Letting Go Is Not Submitting

Our world is a hive of people so riddled with stress and anxiety that billions of dollars, pounds, euros, etc is eagerly spent by those so terribly afflicted in the hope that they may acquire peace.

In this digital age, the next source of stress and worry is only a click away, as troubling news is spread across the globe in seconds via TV and of course the internet. In such an onslaught of information, a sense of control for most people is so alien that sources of distraction supplied by the world are being so rampantly indulged in by individuals. Whether this be alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual promiscuity, the options available for sinful acts are plentiful for the frazzled mind desperately seeking respite from the avalanche of stress that is life today.

However, a resurgence in New Age thinking with 'mindfulness' (which is just Buddhism repackaged) fast becoming the catchphrase of Generation Z, we are becoming a nation obsessed with the notion that 'letting go' is the source of peace and control that we are clumsily striving for.

Even the children are being flagrantly brainwashed that 'letting go' is the solution to life's struggles and pains. You will struggle to find any parent of a young girl in the UK whose daughter has not loudly exclaimed with pride and defiance to 'Let it Go,' the smash hit song from Disney's Frozen.

On the surface such a notion of simply 'letting go' seems innocuous, an easily digestible route to personal acceptance and thus peace with oneself and the world. So goes the wisdom of the world. Yet the wisdom of the world is as foolishness to God (**1 Corinthians 3:19**) and this supposed wisdom leads only to judgement and damnation from a just and righteous God.

The devil inspired mantra of 'letting go' leads the heavy heart, weary with its burden of sin away from redemption of sin found in the atonement of Christ Jesus. Letting go implies that if one is to find peace (and we all long for peace, this yearning escapes no one) it is by acceptance of a sinful nature rather than a repulsion of a sinful nature.

Consider the mass media marketing of 'I am what I am' messages to a society eager to find justification for its delight in sin. One only has to look at the adverts for Skoda, where Paloma Faith defiantly



Sings "Whether I'm right, whether I'm wrong, I've gotta be free, Do it or die, I gotta be me." The pride of the sinner's father Satan, is openly, actively appealing to all here to just let go, embrace whatever you desire, chase your own will as that is the way to fulfilment and peace. Such a wicked message is diametrically opposed to God's truth that peace is found only in Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**). This peace is given, not attained or achieved by our efforts. It is a gift of His eternal grace.

Peace flows to the heart of the redeemed from the Comforter, the Holy Spirit only after a contrite heart submits to the rule of Christ Jesus as Lord, believing in His sacrificial atonement offered for the repulsive sins committed against God by the sinful life.

Personal pride, the will of self is left dead at the cross of Christ, as the newly redeemed heart joyfully submits their will to the will of God.

Control is handed from sinful self to the pure hands of God and in return a depth of peace is graciously given to the now redeemed believer in Christ Jesus.

Peace is given to the believer not because they have 'let go' of their pain, their weariness of conscience made heavy by the weight of sin. It is given after the repentant heart seeks after Jesus to gain true, eternal peace from His gracious, loving hands. The hands that bear the nail marks of His love towards those who know His voice.

Those who seek peace through control of their lives will ultimately lose their lives forever (**Luke 17:33**). Those who seek peace through surrendering their life to Jesus will gain a peace the world can only dream of, along with eternal life in glory, wonderfully restored to a personal relationship with God that fulfils the purpose of our entire existence. This awesome ancient promise is the source of a true, pure peace, founded only on the power of Christ.



Yet still you may wonder, 'Why must I submit to Christ Jesus? Why cannot I not simply believe that He died to grant me eternal life?' This is the mentality of the modern liberal 'Christian'. Such is the approach of many groups such as the supposed 'Gay Christians'. They believe in such a watered down, self affirming Jesus that allows all manner of lives to be lived just as long as you love Him. To such people, Christ Jesus is not the Almighty God, whose royal train fills the entire floor space of the heavenly throne room (thus showing His sovereign power and glory), whose awesome power strikes those who see His glory in such a petrified manner they fall to the ground as though dead. He is not the King of Kings who has six Seraphim (heavenly beings with six wings created to worship God and do His bidding) surround His throne and sing "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty" (**Isaiah 6**).

Therefore such liberal 'Christians' (I use the term Christian very loosely in such instances as these individuals may have a knowledge of Christ but have never truly come to know Him as their personal Lord and Saviour) are in a deluded mindset in that they believe they are not at enmity with God (**Romans 8:5-7, James 4:4, Romans 5:10**). The Bible makes it very clear that the natural, unredeemed heart of every man, woman and child is at war with God. Hence, no peace is naturally given to anyone's heart, because we are at war with the one who breathed life into us and who gave us purpose for existence.

Peace cannot be truly effected if the reality of a raging war is not actually realised.

We are indeed at war with God but we are so blinded as to our condition of rebellion against God that we stumble around with such a deep, soul felt ache of longing for something greater, an urge to give our lives to a greater purpose, that instead of seeking peace with God, which is the only lasting source of peace, we instead fill our days with vanity of living. Hence why Solomon said, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity."

It takes a heart to be broken, a heart brought so low by the heaviness of awareness of our sin, effected by the convicting of our hearts by the Holy Spirit, that we only then seek to find some sort of resolution to repair our broken state.

This then leads to the great wrestling with God we each encounter, much like Jacob found, where we are longing for peace and safety, yet we still desperately cling to serve our own will. So, the Lord graciously steps down to meet us and wrestles with our proud hearts, never letting us go (again as with Jacob when he wrestled with God) until we openly attest to the simple fact that we will never, ever

overcome the Lord. He is truly the Lord Almighty and when in our weariness we recognise this truth and submit to His overwhelming power, the conqueror that is Christ Jesus is glorified by the tongue of the redeemed soul. In this exaltation of Christ's deity, His holiness, His power, we are brought into the brightness of His glory and finally we see our wickedness in all its terrible, disgusting reality.

In contrast, the purity and righteousness of Jesus is revealed so exquisitely by the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the will of the Father and to His eternal glory, that we see Him in His might and majesty.

Our hearts are arrested by the awareness that we have been at war with the one who loved us and we plead with broken hearts and tongues that He will forgive us and restore us to our ancient purpose, to know and love Him with the fullness of heart, mind, body and soul that He long dreamed of for us.

We see Christ in His blazing, fierce glory, as the Almighty Lord and see a God who is able to fully pay our debt before God and bring us peace that we have so long looked for in vain beforehand. Christ is able to forgive because He is Lord.

Therefore, to believe in Him but not submit to Him in an unsatisfactory existence because that person who thinks so has never seen Jesus in His magnificent glory. As they refuse to take the knee before Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, they still exist in a state of war with God yet all the while self fooled that they are at peace with Him.

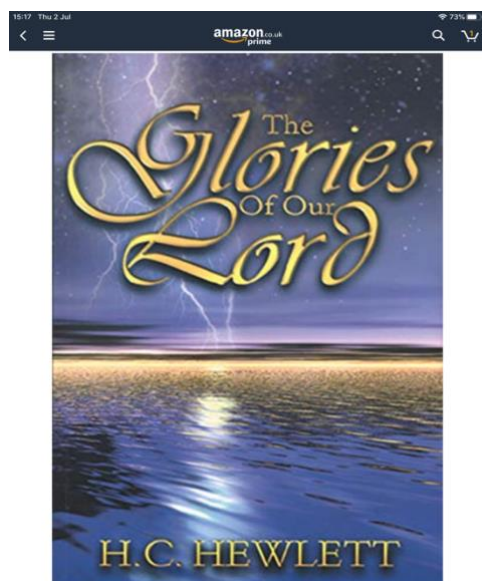
So, to find true peace, one must recognise that they are at war with God, and the proud, stubborn insistence that there is no war being fought, is actually the weapons being used against the throne of God.

If peace is ever to be found in its truest, purest, most beautiful form, it is to be found in the form of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace. However, one must realise that if any blessings of peace are to be enjoyed from an angered king, one must bow the knee, plead for forgiveness and submit to His rule as King and sovereign. Any attempts otherwise is merely lip service when in the presence of the king, and acts of treason incessantly when believing to be out of his sight.

The problem however, is that the eternal King of Kings, Jesus Christ, knows the contents of heart, and sees all treasonous acts. Are you truly at peace with God, or is your love of Him just lip service with the heart still too proud and in love with its self to truly submit to His rule and will? Decide quickly, a righteous King does not wait for long for his worthy exaltation and is swift to crush treason.

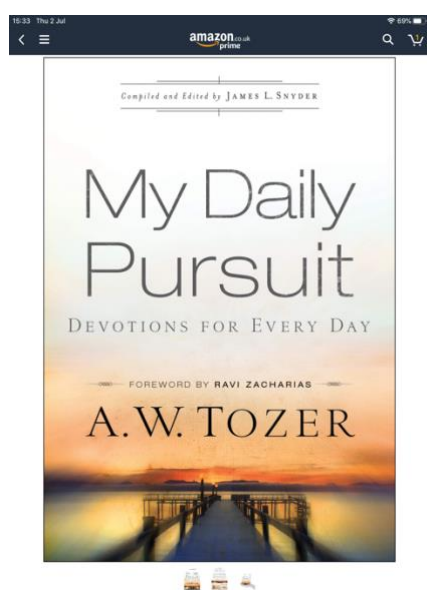
*By Jonathan Badger*

## Resource Corner - Build Your Defences in God's Word



This masterful little book is a must own for all those who long to know their Lord all the greater and deeper. H.C Hewlett takes the reader through the Lord's Old Testament appearances: his incarnation, transfiguration, crucifixion and exaltation. The brevity yet detail of this rich, concise book captures the heart and mind and leads the reader to see the Lord's deity, eternal nature and his humanity, if but from a distance incurred by our sinful existence of this world.

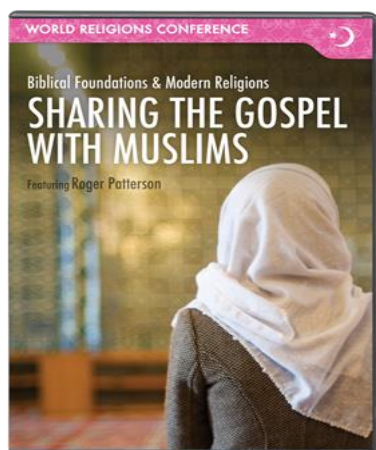
Available from Amazon through differing second hand book shops, it can be purchased from a mere £3:50 depending upon the condition of the book and the seller. This delightful, eye opening book is a must own for all believers.



Spend an entire year strengthening your daily walk with God thanks to a treasure trove of writings from A.W Tozer, one of the great Christian voices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Each daily devotion includes a passage of Scripture, a short reading from Tozer, a hymn verse and a prayer. For 365 days, let this great man of faith challenge your heart and mind to truer worship, greater faith, deeper prayer and greater passion for Christ.

My Daily Pursuit is an invitation to spend a few minutes every day in the presence of Jesus, guided by one of His most trustworthy servants.

Available via Amazon costing around £10 (depending on seller) this is a worthy addition to ones daily studies in the word of God.



Are you ready to share the gospel with Muslims?

Rather than seeing Muslims as a people to fear, God wants us to reach out to them with the love and hope of Christ. While they believe that there is one true God, they reject Jesus as the Saviour that can bring them eternal life and rest from their striving. Join Roger Patterson as he explains the essentials of Islamic teaching so that you can confidently share the gospel with Muslims.

Available from [answersingenesis.co.uk/store](https://answersingenesis.co.uk/store)

## Body of Evidence – Sodom and Gomorrah

As we have seen in previous months, the historicity of Genesis is under constant attack from secular historians whose ambition is the remove the foundations of God's written word. As Ken Ham (Founder and President of Answers in Genesis) has rightly preached vocally for 40 years, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (**Psalm 11:3**) So man, whose at enmity with God and after their father the devil (**John 8:44-45**) will consistently seek to destroy the word of God and we have seen, the surest way to achieve this is to attack the foundations of the Scriptures; namely Genesis.

Within Genesis, we find the account of Sodom and Gomorrah. Long held as the epitome of God's righteous anger against mankind's depravity, with homosexuality in particular the object of God's divine wrath; this account furiously campaigned against as being a mere myth, a legend and should not be held as a true, historical account of how God destroys the wicked in righteous judgement (**Psalm 9:5, Psalm 37:38**).

Secular historians are quick to observe that no archaeological discoveries have been made as to the Biblically asserted reality of the existence of Sodom and Gomorrah, thus holding to the notion that they are purely myths.

However, as always, secular history is quick to dispense with and flat out ignore discoveries that do support the Bible's historicity.

Before we look at some of the evidence of the actual existence of Sodom and Gomorrah, let's consider the most obvious problem when looking for the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah. This being the utter devastation of destruction brought down upon them in judgement by God (**Deuteronomy 29:23**) would make finding any substantial remains of the cities extremely difficult indeed. Similarly, how the cities were never rebuilt and inhabited, a common feature of history, which again makes locating its ruins all the more problematic (**Jeremiah 49:18**).

This being said there are some interesting clues as to the possible location of the infamous cities.

At the northern end of the Dead Sea on the Jordanian side east of Bethel and Ai, is a site called Tall el-Hammam. This location has been recently put forward as a possible site for Sodom and Gomorrah for the following, interesting points.

Firstly, when we consult **Genesis 13:3**, we read

That Lot chose the best land in the region when he and Abraham decided to split their families so as to provide for the respective families. This superior land was located between Bethel and Ai, the region of Tall el-Hammam.

In Genesis 13:10, the word 'plain' in Hebrew is kikkar and means disk shaped. In this same region of Tall el-Hammam, a disk shaped plain matching the Genesis account in Genesis 13:10 and is indeed still a highly fertile area today.

On this plain, a 100 acre mound has been located that contains the remains of a large, fortified city dated to the Middle Bronze Age, the era of Abraham and Lot.

The pottery remains at this site have been found to have experienced temperatures of around 2000 degrees Fahrenheit, whilst scorched walls and floors laid beneath three feet of dark grey ash. The destruction incurred by this city is akin to locations that have experienced violent volcanic eruptions, however remarkably there is no geological evidence of any kind of volcanic activity in this region.

Finally, archaeologists are confident in their assertions that this area of Tall el-Hammam was left completely abandoned for approximately 700 years.



*Tall el-Hammam excavation site*

The evidence discovered in this region is indeed very interesting and blends well with the historical account of Sodom and Gomorrah found within Genesis. Whilst the excavations continue in Tall el-Hammam, we can rest assured that given the evidence already discovered in the region, any further evidence uncovered that links with the Biblical narrative will be quietly released with little to no fanfare, before being swept away by secular historians so as to further their agenda of undermining the historical veracity of the Biblical record.

*By Jonathan Badger*

## Provision for a Nation -Part One

Most of us as Christians know the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Once upon a time it was a staple of Primary and Sunday schools reading or activities. Even non-Christians have been exposed to it through the popular West End musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* which has packed theatres for decades.

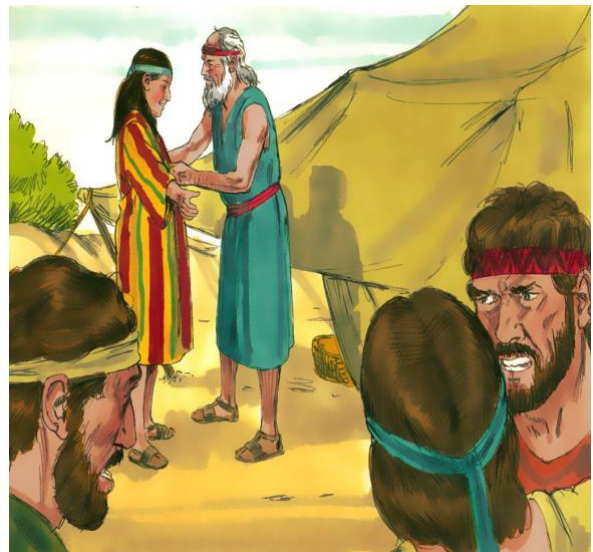
But how many of us have actually picked up our Bibles and read the events of this mans life for ourselves? Have we read with page turning anticipation the dramatic twists and turns of the last 13 chapters of the book of Genesis? Because drama filled they are and in places you couldn't make it up. But Moses as the author of Genesis through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was writing about historical events that actually took place. He didn't need to embellish the history he was writing about. These characters existed and the scenarios that befall Joseph were as real as our life right here and now. This is something we must remember as it is all too easy and popular to fall into the trap of moralising or allegorising the great events of the Old Testament.

As the son of Jacob and Rachel (along with Benjamin his full brother), he was one of the 12 sons of Jacob (the others being born to Leah – Jacobs first wife, though she was not the one he'd planned on- and the two handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah) which would go on to form the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob already favoured Joseph (**Genesis 37:3**) being the son of his old age, but I suspect also as the first born child with the woman he fell in love with originally, and wanted to be with so badly that he was prepared to work 14 years to get her hand from Laban, despite Laban's deception. But Josephs story is not one of fatherly favouritism, for Joseph spends a large part of his life away from his father's house in a foreign land among foreign people in Egypt. And whilst his successes as an outsider amongst the Egyptian hierarchy are unparalleled in history, they were not of his own making but formed from the step by step divine providence of God watching over His people and preparing a way for this chosen nation that was to be on the brink of national enslavement.

Yet the amazing aspects of God's out working of history does not end there. Such are his ways that in Joseph's life we see the most incredible foreshadowing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Previous to Joseph in the Old Testament, we have seen

foreshadowings of our Lord and Saviour most notably in his Grandfather and Great-Grandfather Isaac and Abraham respectively; Abraham portraying the Heavenly Fathers love, willing to give up his only begotten son as a sacrifice, and Isaac as the Son willingly and without complaint passively, meekly allowing himself to be offered up. But in the life of Joseph we get greater 'detail' to the foreshadowing.

Joseph as a son much beloved by Jacob, is sent by his Father to his brothers, who on seeing his arrival immediately plan his removal. Sold for 20 pieces of silver by his brethren, they betrayed him, and in so doing unwittingly made him their saviour and lord, and also the saviour of a foreign nation. Sound familiar? Christ betrayed and humiliated by His people only to become the ultimate salvation from death, to the Jew first and then the Gentile (**Romans 1:16**).



And without their rejection of Joseph they would have suffered horrifically in the times of famine that were to come and likely have all been lost to the hunger. Just as we without Christ are lost to the famine of this world with no hope of appeasing the hunger within us.

But not only this; later in the story when Joseph as we will come to see, finds himself in prison, between two criminals, just as Jesus was crucified between two criminals. And just as the two men in the prison with Joseph appeared alike in that they had both offended Pharaoh, so the thieves crucified either side of Jesus had offended in the same manner.



Yet in both scenes, one is saved and the other dies in his condemnation. Finally there is a request of remembrance in both scenes. Joseph asks the prisoner who is saved from death and released, to remember him before Pharaoh when he is re-instated to his former honour and of course this is also seen in the thief that asks Jesus to remember him on Christ's return to glory at the right hand of God the Father.



Quite incredible isn't it? But then why should we be surprised? The whole Old Testament from the curse in Eden is the build up to the coming Messiah. It is all "His Story" and if you approach it in this way you will see it in a fresh light- He is everywhere! The God of the Old Testament is not different to that of the New – He is not the war mongering angry infantile imagining of a human authors pen, befitting their stage of civilisation and understanding as modern scholars and sceptics would have us believe, with the God of the New Testament being a more enlightened, peaceable and civilized God. Jesus Christ is found all over the Old Testament, and is one and the same for He is unchangeable and I pray your eyes may be blessed and opened to see Him.

So going forward over the next issues I hope we can look together at the life of this man Joseph and the incredible preservation and providence on display from God for His people.

By David J Badger

## Social Justice

### Where should the Christian Stand?

Social Justice, is better termed the "victim mentality" and it is those that perceive themselves to be in groups belonging to the oppressed minority that wave this banner of Social Justice the highest and the loudest. But these minorities are collectively becoming the majority, and it should be of grave concern to the Christian. This is especially true where the church in its post modern quest to be popular and fit in with the secular world, is striving to be seen as part of this Social Justice movement and even more terrifyingly trying to incorporate Social Justice into the Gospel itself. Some of the most vocal proponents of this message in the modern church go so far as to state that without Social Justice, we have never understood or indeed never had the true Gospel. Brothers and sisters, this needs to stir your voice to the contrary.

Today's evangelical church is so intent on getting large congregations that it has to jump on every social and cultural band wagon going, tweak it a little to squeeze it into the Bible somewhere and find some well twisted verses in an attempt to support and prop up these worldly affirmations. And from the churches point of view Social Justice is a good one. It can use the term Justice 'which is in the Bible' and draw in the "victims", the minorities, the disenfranchised, to swell the numbers in the pews (or sofas, lazy boys or any other gimmick to make everyone feel comfortable – physically and metaphorically).

But Social Justice is nothing like Biblical Justice. It is the blossoming tips from the roots of Marxism, a movement that drove Communism and that has attempted to wipe out the true church across the globe for decades. Biblical Justice does not belong to a preceding adjective, and in this form it is found no-where in the Bible.

Social Justice demands equality for gender, race, or any other group that feels somehow victimised in society at large. But the kicker here is that equality is not what these people are after, it never is. They want superiority. Whatever the group they want to achieve status, position and preferential treatment – not equality. As an example here is a quote by Thomas Sowell, a leading economist in North America; "Once, when I was teaching at an

institution that bent over backwards for foreign students, I was asked in class one day: 'What is your policy towards foreign students?' My reply was: 'To me, all students are the same, I treat them all the same and hold them all to the same standards.' The next semester there was an organised boycott of my classes by foreign students. When people get used to preferential treatment, equal treatment seems like discrimination."

I would also point out that Thomas Sowell is a man of colour, black, African American or whatever the racially correct phrasing is these days.

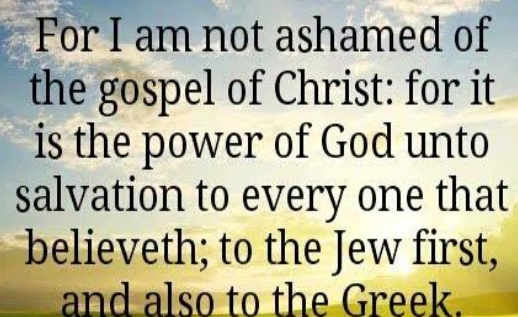
It also seems that the more victim groups you fall into the more authority you have to speak on the issues you personally face. We have seen this recently with the "Black Lives Matter" campaign. Until the George Floyd incident, racism had been overshadowed by the demands of the LGBTQ+ community. They had had the monopoly on the minority oppressed podium for quite some time, but did you notice that within a fortnight of the George Floyd's death, the protests had gone from Black Lives Matter to "Black Transsexual Lives matter" or "Black LGBTQ Lives Matter". No supposedly oppressed groups want to lose their position in the media or limelight generally as it is in and of itself a position of power, superiority and privilege. The more groups you belong to the more your opinion counts – so if you are an unemployed black transsexual lesbian feminist everyone else might as well sit down shut up and go home because you win.

But to return to a biblical perspective, where does this socio-political agenda fit into the Gospel as so many liberal evangelicals feel it does? Well the short answer is it doesn't. At all. The Gospel however does render us all equal. We are at base level all damnable sinners in need of repentance and justification through faith in Christ Jesus. We are all equal in that, and as Pastor John MacArthur said, 'Fair would be to send every one to Hell. You don't want fair, you want mercy'.

But the church is so busy trying not to offend and make the gospel palatable that it avoids this truth, and indeed the fact that it has the answers to hand. Racial injustice – we are all one blood, all descended from Adam and Eve, all made in God's image. Male –Female equality issues and feminism, read Genesis 3. LGBTQ+ issue - read Genesis 1 and 2, Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:26-27.

I could go on but what the church needs to remember is it doesn't get an opinion on these issues, especially ones condemned as a sins and abominations. These are Gods moral laws and they were given because they are the highest standards. We ignore them at our own destruction, which is what we are seeing all round us. And instead of trying to incorporate social justice into the gospel to make it palatable and get people into ineffectual churches at best, and out right false churches at worst, we need to recognise that by accepting the concept of social justice as part of the gospel we are giving credence to sectors of society involved in outright sin. That is a blasphemy to the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. The church is not bringing these people to Christ in this manner, it is damning them to eternal Hell fires in an attempt to not offend. Church - start preaching the true Good News. The news that offends us as sinners that our souls might be made new. And why should we worry about offending when we are telling people the Gospel? Are we not through the power of the Holy Spirit giving them no excuse? Indeed these groups mentioned above especially spend their whole lives grievously offending Christ, why shouldn't they be uncomfortable for a while, for God may use it to save their souls.

As Paul says in his opening to the Epistle to the Romans – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth". So should we all feel the same.



For I am not ashamed of  
the gospel of Christ: for it  
is the power of God unto  
salvation to every one that  
believeth; to the Jew first,  
and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

By David J Badger

## Body of Evidence – Blood

On average adult human has around 5 litres (8.7 pints) of blood within their body. Every minute, the blood circulates the entire body, meaning that within a 24 hour period the blood travels around the body 1,500 times.

Blood is an incredible fluid that enables and performs multiple functions such as, forming clots to prevent bleeding after injury, transporting nutrients to cells, cooling and healing, dealing with infection and carrying waste from cells. With such an array of tasks to complete it is little surprise that is deemed that “the life of all flesh is the blood”, within

### **Leviticus 17:14.**

Every cell requires glucose and oxygen for the production of energy with blood being the supply line of this vital physiological function. Blood also carries sugars, fatty acids and amino acids that are all linked with digestion, along with waste products such as urea and carbon dioxide as well as many hormones.

Red blood cells are small and very flexible enabling them to flow easily through what are often small, narrow capillaries. These red blood cells carry oxygen to cells and take away carbon dioxide as a waste product.

White blood cells primarily protect our bodies against illness/disease. The cells act like a Pac Man character and engulf or ‘swallow up’ the intruding bacteria/virus thereby producing antibodies that identify and neutralise the threat.

Platelets are small fragments of cells which are designed to commence the mechanism of blood clotting. When a break in a blood vessel wall occurs, the platelets stick to the break and incredibly change shape to fill the gap and suppress the blood loss.

Clearly the source of life is found within the blood and even Our Lord’s word attests to this truth. This is how our life has been restored to us by the shedding of Christ’s blood in atonement for our sin, where death was the just punishment. It is in the purity of the blood of Christ where salvation is found and how we are able to go boldly to the throne of grace and say with fullness of heart and sweetness of song, “Abba Father.”

By Jonathan Badger

## Children’s Book of the Month

This month’s Book of the Month Award goes to Lee Strobel’s *Case for Christ for Kids*.

Lee Strobel’s fantastic book answers those familiar, often asked questions and queries against the New Testament and Jesus Christ in particular. Wonderfully worded for the inquisitive young mind, Strobel asks questions like, “Was Jesus really born in a stable?” And “Did he really come back from the dead?”

Case for Christ for Kids is brilliant for detailed, precise answers to commonly asked questions about the life of Jesus. However, as well as featuring information on the life of Jesus when He walked among us as a man, Strobel also looks at the Old Testament prophecies and how Jesus fulfilled all of them.

This great book was selected as August Children’s Book of the Month for its well researched and written answers. It’s easy style means that anyone can learn fantastic information about Jesus no matter how old they are and it’s fantastic as a revision source for those already familiar with the life of Jesus and His claims in being the only Son of God.

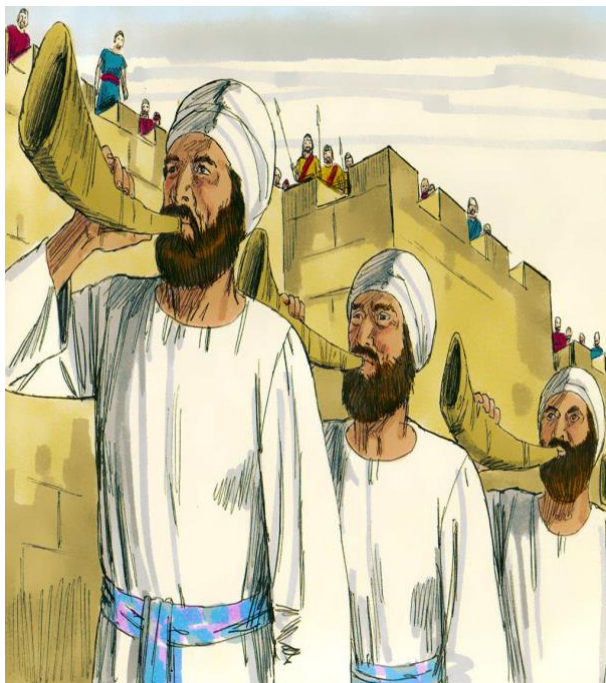
By Naomi Badger – age 11





## Complete the Verse Challenge

- 1: Every place that the ... shall tread upon, that I have given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (Joshua 1:3)
- 2: And the ... ye shall compass they city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. (Joshua 6:4)
- 3: So the ... Joshua and his... was noised throughout all the country. (Joshua 6:27)
- 4: For the Lord... into your hand. (Joshua 8:7)
- 5: These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of...(Joshua 19:51)
- 6: Take good need therefore unto yourselves...(Joshua 23:11)



**Answers:** 1: sole of your foot, 2: seventh day  
3: Lord was with – fame, 4: your God will deliver it  
5: Nun, 6: that ye love the Lord your God

*By Naomi Badger*

## Biblical Quiz Challenges

- 1: Did Joshua send two spies to...  
A) Jericho B) Ai C) Bethlehem
- 2: Who was the only righteous person in Jericho?
- 3: Name one of the two spies Joshua sent?
- 4: True or False - One of the spies sent went on to become leader of Israel?
- 5: How many days did the Israelites march around Jericho for?
- 6: Where was the Ark of the Covenant during the March?
- 7: Was Rahab the only person who survived the destruction of Jericho?
- 8: Name the man that stole an item from the ruins of Jericho?
- 9: What people did the Israelites ambush in Canaan?
- 10: True or false- Joshua failed to conquer Makkedah?
- 11: Why were the Israelites afraid of going into Canaan?
- 12: How many kings are listed in Joshua 12?  
A) 19 B) 26 C) 31

## Answers

- 1: A 2: Rahab 3: Caleb, the name of the other spy is not given 4: True 5: Seven  
6: With the priests who carried it with the people 7: No, her family also were spared  
8: Achan 9: Ai 10: False 11: Because there were giants in Canaan and mighty cities  
12: C

*By Naomi Badger*



## Biblical Verses Of God's Power

**Colossians 1:16** - For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

**1 Chronicles 29:11** - Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

**Exodus 14:14** - The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 Timothy 1:17** | KJV

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

**Jeremiah 32:27** | KJV

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

**Luke 1:37** | KJV

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

**Revelation 1:8** | KJV

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

**Psalms 145:3** | KJV

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

**Psalms 145:3** | KJV

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

**Mark 14:36** | KJV

## A Final Thought

We are now into the second half of the year and a common practise, particularly on social media, is for people to write off 2020 as an aberration. "Why did we say, 'Happy New Year'?" and "Go away, 2020" have become popular phrases online to dismiss this year as an incongruity. And while 2020 has certainly brought about its surprises, challenges and, in some cases, hardships, are not such dismissive statements an affront to our Lord and his providence? After all, as it is written in Paul's epistle to the **Romans, chapter 11, verse 36**, "for of him, and through him, are all things." We have a great, merciful and loving Father who wills all things to pass. Should we dare to question his righteousness and holy providence? Interestingly, the verse does not end there. After Paul reminds us of God's omnipotence, he concludes, "to whom be glory forever. Amen." We should not bemoan recent events. Nay; we should rejoice in them. Take joy in the events of the times, because our God in heaven is working out his great plan. We may not understand it. But we don't have to; as long as we place our trust in the Lord, he will make right our paths (**Proverbs 3:5-6**). The year may not have gone as man would expect or plan, but God's ways are not our ways, nor his plans our plans; his are infinitely better (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). We must not be perturbed or bitter when we meet with the unexpected and the unfortunate; rather, we ought to praise and thank our Lord for exercising his holy, righteous and omnipotent will.

**Romans 8:28** – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. *By John Sivewright*

## Truth To Wonder Ministries – Volume 1 Issue 5

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