

Truth to Wonder

Ministries – God's truth brings wonder to the soul

A warm welcome to you and praise the Lord that He has led us to this day where we are able to come to Him as our Heavenly Father. Let us go to Him now in that sweet communion of prayer and bear our souls before the Lord Our God, giving praise to His mighty name and heart felt thanks for His constant mercies and provisions unto each of our days.

Dear Heavenly Father, your Almighty name is the beat of our hearts, the song of our voice, the breath of our lungs. The heavens resound with the worship of your glorious name and so now dear Lord, we offer our heart's joyful cry of reverence to you. Teach us dear Lord we pray, remind us daily to never dilute the purity, the might, the majesty of your holy name. Let us come unto you boldly for you have bid us to do so, but Lord, let us never forget the power of your eternal throne; let us never stray from the fear of you, for in fear of you, wisdom bound up in the blessed revelation of the Godhead in Jesus Christ is revealed fully unto us for fullness of life and satisfaction of purpose.

Let our joyful trembling before your throne be an ever present witness to a world lost in confusion as to your true nature. A world that has cheapened your mighty name to a mere semblance of our own distorted ideas of honour, truth and goodness. Oh Lord, how we thank you that you are not just this modern dilution of glory, for in what hope would our heart reside in times of great trial and distress? The fear of you is not a cruel



tyranny Lord. No, it is a loving reminder to us all in our all too constant weakness that you are the eternal strength, the rock of ages that we can cling to knowing you shall never change or falter. We praise the might of your name, we love the majesty of your name for in this power we are able to come boldly unto your throne of grace. Your power and grace are brought together so masterfully Lord in your hallowed name and in this revelation of truth is the figure of Christ Jesus. Truly Heavenly Father you have lifted up your Son's name above all others and we thank with the deepest joys of our heart that you have opened our eyes to His radiant glory. We thank also the mystery of the work of the Holy Spirit, for His tireless labour to bring ever greater love in our souls for the Son is to the glory of your eternal throne.

Now dear Heavenly Father, we come unto you seeking forgiveness for our sins, for they assault your glory, yet we rest knowing that we are righteous in your sight because of Him who bears the highest of all names, Jesus Christ. Thank you merciful Father for your eternal plan of salvation and be with us all in these coming days. In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

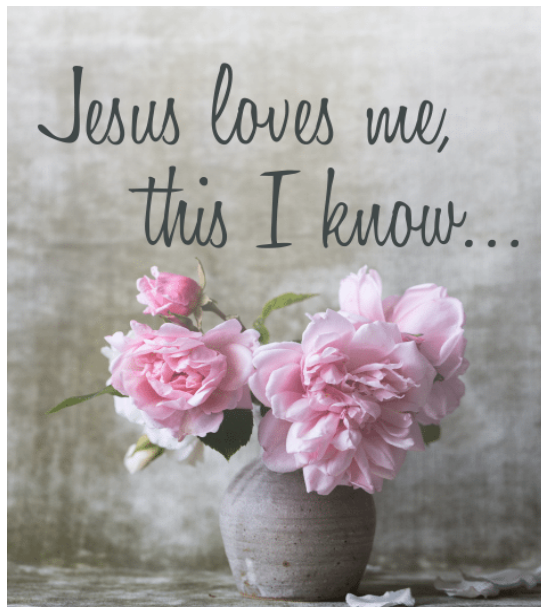
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.



A History of Jesus Loves Me

This sweet, gentle hymn, reflecting the wonderfully loving and trusting nature of a child's love for The Lord, has a special place in my heart.

As a child, I would often repeatedly ask my father if we could sing this hymn during our services as I loved its clarity and assurance that now in later years I sometimes struggle with as an adult.

Written in 1859 by Susan and Anna Warner, the talented literary daughters of a New York lawyer. The Warner sisters wrote the best selling novel *Say and Seal* in the same year, yet it is to God's glory that the piece of writing the two sisters are remembered for is this wonderful hymn.



It began as a poem in the girls novel and centred around the physical afflictions of a sickly boy named Johnny Fax. In the story, Johnny's condition becomes critical and asks Mr Linden, the father of Johnny's friend John, who was the Sunday School teacher, to gather him in his arms and comfort him. Mr Linden gladly does so and paces up and down the room carrying the feverish lad hoping to console him. Johnny suddenly pleads for Mr Linden to sing, prompting Mr Linden to sing the now famous lines of the hymn *Jesus Loves Me*.

With these precious words, Mr Linden comforts the dying boy and within a few hours, little Johnny is home with Jesus, the one who so dearly loved him. The poem came to the attention of the composer William Bradbury who in 1861 set the poem to music and added the chorus.

Looking back all those years ago, when I too was often troubled with numerous illnesses as quite a sickly boy, I now see how gently the Lord was instilling a deep knowledge of his love for me ahead of future days when greater physical ailment would trouble me. To this day when I am brought low with illness and exhaustion, I remember these sweet, comforting words and remind myself that He does indeed love me so.

By Jonathan Badger

Challenging Questions of Faith

If God is good, how can He send people to Hell?

Firstly we must contend with the assumption made within the question, that God sends people to hell against their will. God does not send anyone to hell who has not chosen to be there. Those who are not saved have utilised the free will appointed to them by a loving, gracious God and chosen according to their will to not seek Him and therefore forfeit eternal life, leaving a place in hell the end point of their will.

Indeed God does not will that any should perish and desires each person to be saved (**2 Peter 3:9**) and Jesus lamented at how He longed to gather, "together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing" (**Matthew 23:37**).

Hell therefore is a selection made by the will of those who inhabit it. As C.S Lewis noted, "The door of hell is locked on the inside." He added that "there are only two kinds of people in the end; those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end 'Thy will be done.' All that are in hell, choose it." Furthermore, for those who do not love Jesus, a place in heaven would be hell. Heaven is a place of ceaseless worship and praise of God (**Revelation 4-5**) yet the non-believer cannot stomach an hour of worship for but an hour a week!

God is love (**1 John 4:16**) and love cannot be coercive as we have discussed in previous months, it can only be persuasive. Therefore, a pure, eternal love that is freely offered to all when shunned in defiance by a willingly disobedient created soul, must be justly punished. Punishment is necessary because the life of willing sinfulness is not merely a love unrequited towards the Lord, it is a love desecrated, violated and must be brought to justice. As God's love is eternal thus any violation and desecration of that love attacks this eternal nature and therefore demands an eternal punishment. Eternal hellfire is therefore a just placement for all those who have turned away from God and instead have willingly chosen to pursue a life of seeking to fulfil one's own will as opposed to the will of God.

By Jonathan Badger

The World Is On Fire

The world is on fire but I rest easy in your truth.
The nations rage and roar, yet in peace
Do I lay my head to sleep each night.
It is the peace afforded to the children of God.

The earth is convulsing in the death throes
Of generational sin, as chaos seeks
To shatter your words of eternal truth.
Yet mighty Lord, I peer through the embers
Of the wreckage of man's foolish wisdom,
As I look hopefully to the heavens
For your triumphant return.

Herein lies my peace in the tumult.
For the terrors of evil last for but a season.
The schemes of Satan shall never
Succeed to deny the glory reserved
For you my Lord, Saviour and King.
The glory reserved for your thrice holy name
Is the source of my peace.

You have etched my name in your heart,
You have called me to share
In that eternal glory and that glory,
That peace, that promise of life eternal,
Is beyond the defeated perils of evil.
Your glory is the cornerstone of the wonders
Promised to all those whose heart
Is your glimmering treasure.
The wonders that eye has not seen,
Ear has not heard yet they are reserved
For me and for all your faithful servants.

To God the glory and through His glory,
Peace eternal is brought to my heart.



By Jonathan Badger

Blessed Are The Pure in Heart

How can man know God? How can man come to see God? These fundamental questions are the source of greatest searching amongst the world's various religions. Each one failing to provide a simple, secure route to the knowledge of God, merely offering hopeful possibilities of coming to know of God through the merits of our own endeavour. Stacks of books written throughout human history, have all attempted to encapsulate this longing, this search to know God but stumble to provide any tangible, intelligible conclusion that can satisfy the human heart's innate longing to worship. Yet with one sweet verse, Our Lord Jesus gives the solution, the way, the truth to knowing God, to seeing God and having a wonderfully personal relationship with the Almighty. This teaching comes in **Matthew 5:8**, where Jesus eloquently yet so simply tells all who will listen, **'Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.'** The teaching is clear and direct, to see God, one must be pure in heart.

Yet how is any man able to say they have a pure heart? Doesn't the Bible, God's own revealed word tell us that, **'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'** (**Jeremiah 17:9**) Is God so cruel as to leave us in our wickedness and taunt us with a peace of eternal security in knowing Him through an unobtainable objective? If Biblical Christianity were like the false religions conjured up by the evil machinations of Satan, then yes, such cruelty is indeed possible. Gloriously however, God's ways are higher than our ways, His thoughts higher than our thoughts (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) and so through His inspired word we see the fullness of His plan of salvation.

Indeed the heart of man is desperately wicked, to the point of being unable to see the glory of God, even though it surrounds Him and indeed sustains his own life each day. Such is the depravity of man that he is truly blind to the wonders of God. Yet Our merciful, gracious Lord knowing this terrible truth has also provided the means by which the blindness of a wicked heart and sinful eyes can be swept away forever and man can indeed see the Almighty God. God reveals Himself to the blind of heart and spirit through His election of His chosen children, to display His glorious attributes of grace and mercy. This was displayed in the interaction between Jesus



And His disciples where He questions them as to who they think He is? Peter answers by declaring that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus responds to Peter with the revelation that he is blessed, **'for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.'**

Matthew 16:16-17. It is the Heavenly Father who removes the scales on the eyes of the sinner and brings a knowledge of himself through the glory of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, the revelation of the Godhead. In the revealing of the nature of Jesus, the Son of God, God the Father has set an eternal plan in motion and through the work of the Holy Spirit, the unblinded sinner comes to an awareness of condition that drives him to acknowledge the sovereignty of Christ, to acknowledge His death and resurrection, taking the place reserved in judgement for himself for his many sins, so that he may be restored in a personal relationship with the eternal God he was once blind to.

At this moment of redemption, this joyous instant of salvation that Christ instils a new, pure heart within the now redeemed believer. In this new purified heart, the believer in Christ is at long last able to see God purely due to the grace of Jesus Christ.

Yet there is another delightful truth in Our Lord's words to the masses gathered at the mountainside and indeed to us today. God, knowing our continued struggles with the sins of the flesh, even with a renewed heart, has provided a challenging yet deeply rewarding instruction within this verse of **Matthew 5:8**. In many instances, believers are often brought low in their faith in their journey through life and can feel isolated from the Saviour they love. Why is this so if we are now the owners of a pure heart and enabled by the grace of God to see Him and know Him as our Lord, Master and friend?

We do have a new heart, a pure heart

yet we still carry a fleshly body in cumbered with the associated wicked lusts of the flesh. The desire of the flesh is keenly attuned to the offerings of the world, with it's plentiful pits of sin just waiting to entice and ensnare the unobservant, non-vigilant believer.

Often times we willingly wander into these traps of transgression by the activities in which we involve ourselves in. The ever increasing array of worldly distractions, seemingly innocuous in their appearance, is primed to ensnare the unaware believer. Are we not warned that the Devil walks the earth seeking whom he may devour **(1 Peter 5:8)**? When we indulge these fleshly desires with the pleasing to the eye fruits of the world, we turn our eye away from God. Whether this be frequenting pubs, even just to meet a friend, watching unsuitable TV programs and movies, listening to inappropriate music, a seemingly innocuous flutter on the lottery or sports results, reading material that degrades God and His perfect law and celebrates sin, each of these acts pulls our gaze away from our blessed Saviour and lures our heart to the pits of darkness.

It is in these instances, when the believer has wandered from the straight and narrow path of servitude to the Lord, that we are drawn away from His loving, protective embrace and left cold and isolated from His radiant face. As someone once remarked, when we feel cut off from God it's not because He left you, He's right where you left Him.

Therefore we are to be vigilant, ever watchful as to what we partake of and who we associate ourselves with for in these dalliances with evil, lies the darkening of the redeemed heart. Once this sad situation is embraced, we willingly turn away from God and we lose sight of the one who is our soul's love.

So Jesus offers us ever greater depths of communion with Him through the dedication of affection to Him in our hearts. This dedication of affection of a pure heart builds an ever greater desire to fill the heart and mind with a deeper knowledge, a greater understanding of Him and His wonderful, mighty ways. This is where Jesus, in His words of warning but also

Blessing to the attentive, that with if we strive to maintain that purity of heart so graciously gifted to ourselves by His merciful hands, we shall be blessed with ever sharpening spiritual insight and awareness of His glory through an increased hunger for His written word.

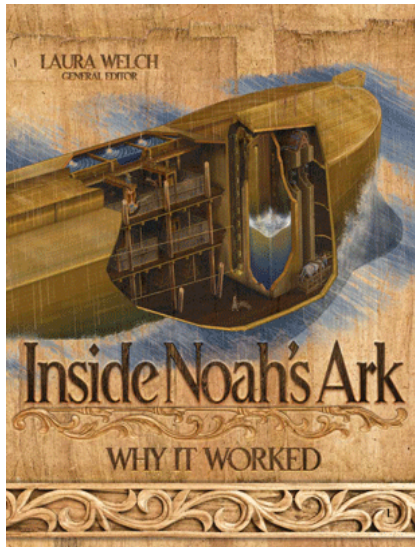


In this illumination of Him, brought by the workings deep in the heart of the believer by the Holy Spirit, we are shown ever increasing wonders of His power, grace, mercy, holiness, forgiveness, justice, peace and love. Armed with this might of knowledge of Christ Jesus, our heart's are set on fire with a ferocity of affection that with the aid of the Holy Spirit is able to resist the lures of the world with ever greater ease. Our heart's purity, grounded in the trueness of affection for Our Saviour is then the strength by which we can walk boldly through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil.

Then on that glorious day when the Lord Jesus shall resurrect all His beloved and give to us all a glorified body in the manner of His own, the purity of our reborn hearts first bought by the shedding of His pure blood at Calvary, will at long last be matched by a purity of body that shall walk with Him forevermore.

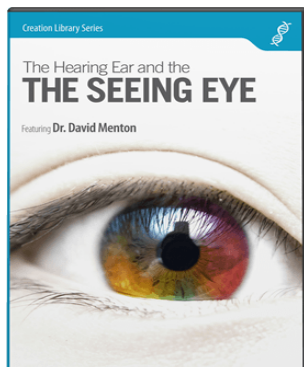
By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner – all available from answersingenesis.co.uk

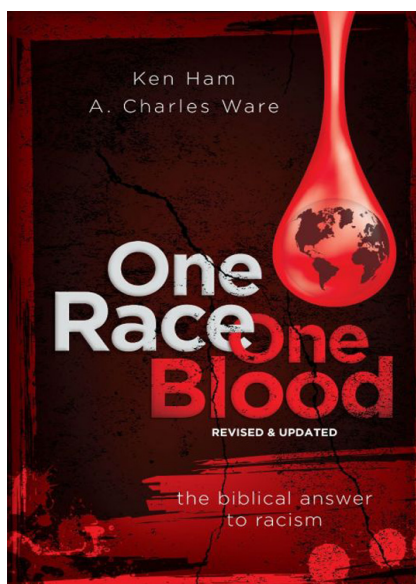


The Ark Encounter represents more than just a giant wooden ship — it reveals important details on how the systems within the Ark could have worked. Refuting the most common arguments against the viability of the Ark, we learn how ancient knowledge of bamboo pipes, cisterns, gears, ropes and pulleys, animal-powered machines, and more show how the ship was not just seaworthy, but an actual working vessel. The book also explores how a crew of just eight people could have housed, fed, and watered all of the representatives of the animal kinds.

What details are actually revealed in the Bible concerning Noah's Ark? What do we know of the pre-Flood world? Did the skills exist during Noah's time for a boat like the Ark to be built? Discover the answers to these and many other questions about one of the most amazing accounts in history, and realize God's Word regarding the history of God's world is true!



This unique talk received a standing ovation at Creation 2003. Anatomist Dr. David Menton takes you on a journey into the marvelous intricacies of the human eye, which has the clear stamp of the Creator and leaves skeptics speechless.



One Race, One Blood reveals the origins of the horrors of discrimination, the biblical truth of "interracial" marriage, as well as the proof revealed in the Bible that God created only one race. Explore the science of genetics, melanin and skin tone, affected by the history of the Tower of Babel and the origin of people groups around the world.

Within these compelling pages, Dr. A. Charles Ware, founder of Grace Relations, a ministry of The College of Biblical Studies, and Ken Ham, CEO of Answers in Genesis - US, examine the historical roots of racism that have permeated evolutionary thought, and the Bible's powerful response to this disturbing issue. Together they address the Christian worldview regarding "race" from a compassionate and uniquely compelling biblical and scientific perspective and reveal the most empowering answers to bridging "racial" divisions.

Body of Evidence – The History of Abraham

The ancient history of Israel is another area of common attack from Biblical sceptics as they argue the narratives of the patriarchs are nothing but mythology.

The most frequented assertion to the supposed mythological status of the narratives of Abraham, Issac and Jacob is the suggestion that these narratives were written as a history for the Jewish people in the reign of Josiah in the mid-7th century BC.

However, this flimsy accusation against the veracity of Biblical history has since been dispelled as detailed study of the legal, political, social and domestic culture reflected in the Genesis records, highlights an accuracy of correlation we see with secular knowledge of the first half of the second millennium BC.

Let's look at some particular evidences that show the correlation between Biblical records of the patriarchs and archaeological discoveries.



Cylinder seal 1800-1650 BC

The Cylinder Seal pictured above, was discovered in the 1960's by Manfred Bietak. The seal from the Syriac region, dated between 1800-1650 BC, depicts domesticated camels being used by the people's of this region at this ancient time of history. The problem for the Biblical sceptic however, is that for years a popular attack against the Genesis record of Abraham was the writing of the usage of camels by the patriarchs. It was argued that during this period of history allotted with the patriarchs (first half of the second millennium BC) camels had not been domesticated and that as a result, the Genesis record must have been written at a later date when camels had been domesticated.

Yet as this cylindrical seal shows, this assertion is completely baseless as archaeology has shown that domesticated camels in the Near East during the patriarchal era were indeed commonplace.

The names listed in Genesis 14: 1-4, often labelled mythology again by secular historians and Bible critics, have also been shown by archaeological discoveries to have been known names from this region at this point in ancient history. Similarly, the location of the Tower of Babel being in the plain of Shinar, is not historical error on the Bible's part. Shinar was merely an early name for Babylon. Hence the scriptural relevance of the prophecies in the Book of Revelation of *Mystery Babylon* being the false religion of the Antichrist who brings to the fore the ancient mystery religions of Ancient Babylon (now contained in the dogmas/practices of the Roman Catholic religion), where they were first practised by those who sought to build the Tower of Babel and attempt to rise up to and usurp the throne of God. The history of the Genesis account is the foundation of the future prophecies of the end times and the rise of Antichrist. It is no wonder therefore that Satan seeks to undermine this narrative so as to remove awareness amongst God's children as to the identity of the coming culmination of Satan's plot against God in the form of the already mentioned Antichrist.

Another accusation levelled against the historicity of the patriarchal narrative is the suggestion that people of that era were not literate to a common degree so the likelihood of records of the history of the patriarchs being accurately passed down through the generations to Moses would be remote.

However during the 1920's, Sir Leonard Woolley excavating at Ur of the Chaldeans (birthplace of Abraham), found that one fifth of every home contained writing materials 500 years before the time of Abraham. It was also discovered that this people group were very skilled in algebra, geometry and quadratic equations.

Clearly the people's of the patriarchal era were an advanced people with skills and abilities that match the historical narrative revealed in the Genesis record.

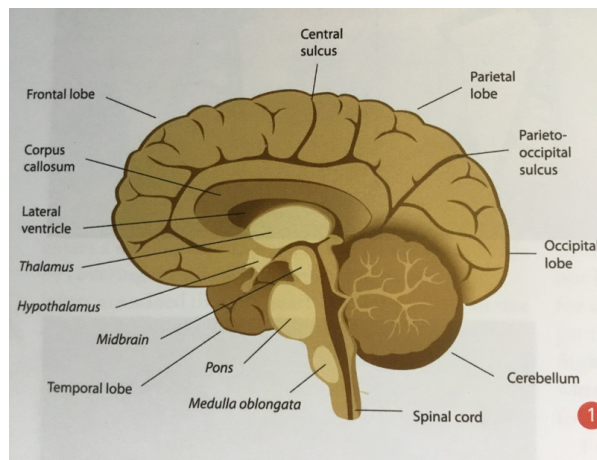
Let's finish with the Lord's thought on the historicity of Abraham. In **John 8:56**, we see an exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees where Jesus highlights His eternal nature as the Son of God by observing He knew and knows Abraham personally. Jesus himself attests to the historical veracity of the Genesis record.

By Jonathan Badger

Wonders of the Human Body – The Brain (Part Two)

As we saw last month, the human brain is a masterpiece of creation unmatched by the feats of human engineering and computing. Let's continue with our basic yet incredible look at some of these staggering facts that the Lord has placed within our own bodies.

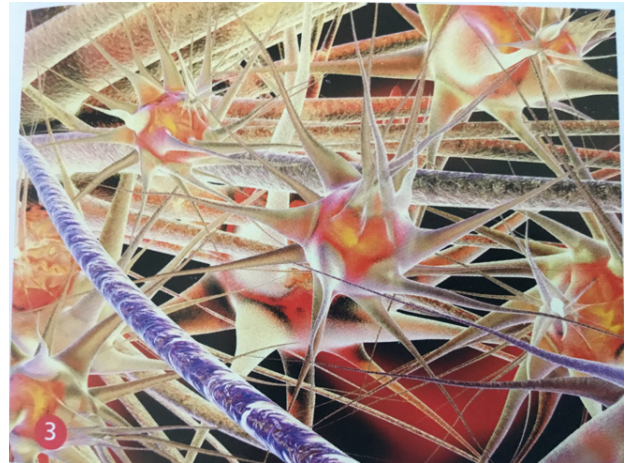
The medulla, placed at the base of the brain as shown in the diagram below, along with the



Spinal column, controls a plethora of involuntary motor functions such as the digestive process and our heart rates. These essential functions for the continuation of life are wonderfully designed by Our Lord to automatically function without the need for conscious effort on the owners part. It's a wonderful representation of how we are indeed gifted life by the Creator and given individuality by His gracious hands yet we are constantly sustained by a process that although takes place in our unique bodies, are at the mercy of His overriding care and direction. The **pons** (located slightly upwards of the medulla as shown in the diagram above) contains neurones (a neuron is the basic working unit of the brain, a specific type of cell designed to transmit information to other nerve cells, muscles, or gland cells across the body) that are responsible for controlling voluntary acts such as respiration, sleep, eye movement, facial expressions and swallowing.

The hypothalamus (located north east of the pons) is tasked with a combination of involuntary and partially voluntary body functions such as eating and drinking and hormone release. The likelihood of such intricate and cooperative regions of the brain evolving by random chance

Is zero. The exactitude required to ensure that each area such as the medulla is able to function at a level to sustain life is beyond irreducible complexity. In other words, the qualities needed for the unit to work at the level required for it to be a useful, viable component cannot be reduced to a level of simplicity proposed by evolutionists. If it were to be so, it would cease to fulfil its purpose and offer no beneficial impact to the incumbent. Clearly the Creator has imbued such complexity in His creation to thwart the rambling attempts of man to explain away the need for a Creator. An average human brain contains approximately 100 billion nerve cells (called neurones as discussed earlier) which communicate together through synapses (connections of neurones in the brain – see image below for an example).



As an individual neuron can have thousands of differing connections, it means that the average human brain can contain hundreds of trillions of neural connections or synapses. The synapse operates like a microprocessor within a computer, holding information processing and memory storage capabilities. As you can see, God had Charles Babbage (credited with inventing the modern computer system) beaten in the race to the design the optimum information processing and computing system by a narrow 6000 years. A neuron actively generates electrical signals that are transmitted to other neurones. As a said signal or pulse reaches a synapse, a neurotransmitter chemical is released so that the signal or pulse is transmitted onto to the next neuron. Neural activities such as thinking and learning require the involvement of literally millions of electrical pulses travelling between networks of interconnected neuron cells all simultaneously. What is even more staggering is each time an individual develops a

Memory or learns something new, new neural connections are created within the brain. As you read this article, either the new information you are learning or the familiarity of its content and it's recalling memories of past science lessons, are actively creating new neural pathways in your brain. Consider then the next time you read your Bible and the Lord illuminates His word to you afresh, leaving you equipped with new knowledge of your gracious Lord, that new, tangible neural pathways, crafted in pursuit of the Lord have been formed in your brain.



Such is the incredible complexity of the human brain, that researchers at Stanford University, USA, have discovered that one human brain has more neural switches than all the computers in the world combined.

This is the reason why any life matters, because you are an incredibly, intricately crafted being, shaped in the image and likeness of God, displaying His awe-inspiring handiwork each time you think, feel, move, breath etc. You are fearfully and wonderfully made, gifted life by the Almighty Creator and offered salvation so that this wonderfully designed yet sin corrupted body may be restored to it's intended glory, and utilise it's staggering abilities to glorify Our Lord God forevermore in peace and glory.

By Jonathan Badger



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From The Mouth Of Babes

As a mother to an eleven year old and a not long turned three year old, my biblical teaching to my children varies from near adult interactions with my eldest, to reading toddler books with my youngest. However even though they vary hugely, I find both of them so very rewarding and educating to even myself as an adult.

We hear our youngest (who has not long been talking in longer sentences) repeating her books that we read to her. Her favourite is *Mary and Martha* when Jesus comes to visit them in their home at Bethany, where Martha cleans and cleans whilst Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to His every word. Oh how we could learn from Jesus' dear friend Mary. Of course we need to do our necessary jobs around our homes, but what we really need to do, and what *should* be the most important thing, is to put our thoughts to our Lord, talk with Him and give our lives over to Him completely (**Psalms 37:3**).

We should focus on our Lord, put Him at the front thoughts of our mind, completely intrust Him with our lives, and pass all things over to Him, (**Psalms 23:3**). Of course this is hard to do every minute of everyday with work etc, but the Lord knows we need to work and that it is indeed good to labour for His glory.



However, we need to remember (and know) that things of this world (and people of this world) will not get us to heaven and give us eternity with our Saviour (**Psalms 118:8**). Loving our Lord, following our Lord and putting our complete trust in Him should be our priority in life so we can be called home to Him when He says our time is done here on Earth (as this is just our temporary home) (**Proverbs 3:5**).

By Donna Badger

Marriage = Sacrifice = Peace and Joy of God

As Mary sacrificed her time, heart, mind and soul to listen at the feet of Jesus whilst Martha busied herself with the tasks of the day, the correlation between the two approaches within marriage is subtle yet striking once observed. Martha's fault was not in doing much needed daily chores, as these are the necessary jobs of life that the Lord knows we must complete. The fault laid in the frantic desire of Martha that she would win approval of others, particularly of Jesus by the visibly noticeable efforts of her time spent. Appearance of order, beauty and cleanliness were paramount to Martha whilst Mary desired to know how to be ordered, beautiful and clean inwardly. This was gifted to her by sacrificing her understanding and will to the will and knowledge of Christ Jesus. In return she was gifted a deepness of affection to Christ that is well known to us two thousand years later, whilst Martha's hard work in cleaning was swept away mere hours after her initial efforts. Marriage is much the same. The will of self must be sacrificed in order to serve the one in whom vows of marriage have been made before Almighty God. So many times, married couples are understandably distracted by the tasks of life, often well meaning motivations to serve the other by presenting an ordered, tidy home that will please the other half and earn praise and thanksgiving from that other half.

Yet a marriage that shows the wisdom of Mary is one where both the man and the woman sit at Christ's feet to listen intently to His eternal words of truth and wisdom. Here, the sanctification of each soul is brought on together in a unity bonded by the hands of God to bring glory to God who first ordained the act of marriage to reflect the mysterious yet beautiful nature of the Trinity itself. Herein the hearts of both the man and the woman will be so affected by the loveliness of Christ, that they will inevitably engage in the tiring daily tasks of life with a lightness of spirit that yields such wondrous results. The results are a deep rooted joy in each other's company, in each other's bonding in Christ, not in the outwardly product and usefulness of the other. In this rich blessing, the love of a Godly marriage bubbles forth like a refreshing spring and it's openness of trust, contentedness and joy honours God each day.

By Jonathan Badger

Children's Book Of The Month

The nominees and winner of the book of the month have been reviewed and selected by Naomi Badger, aged 11.

July's Book of the Month Nominees:

- 1: The Action Bible, Sergio Carrielo**
- 2: Michael Faraday – Spiritual Dynamo, Deririck Bingham**
- 3: Answers in Genesis Museum Guide**

3rd Place: Michael Faraday – Spiritual Dynamo

A great read with some very informative content but it does celebrate Michael Faraday as a man a little too highly and doesn't relate much content to the word of God.

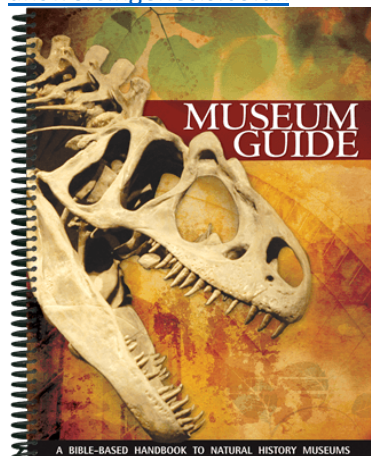
2nd Place: The Action Bible

The Action Bible gets third place for being a fun to read comic style retelling of major Biblical events full of colourful illustrations. However to keep the book a size to not put off children, the author has sadly had to skip lesser known but still important scriptural events.

1st Place: AiG Museum Guide

July's Book Of The Month is the AiG Museum Guide. It takes you around the museum and explains the exhibits with short but helpful information. It is very quick to point out the errors in evolution and fully summarises this mistakes making it a useful tool. This book is great for people that love to explore and for scientific minds. As well as covering topics on nature, it also covers history, biology and astronomy.

Our July Winner – available at answersingenesis.co.uk



Biblical Quiz Challenges

- 1: Name Moses' parents?
- 2: Who nursed Moses after the Egyptian Princess found him?
- 3: Is Moses an Egyptian or Hebrew name?
- 4: Where did Moses flee to after he killed an Egyptian?
- 5: Who was Moses' wife?
- 6: What were the first three plagues God sent against the Egyptians?
- 7: What is the ninth commandment?
- 8: Who was the first high priest of Israel?
- 9: Who was Moses' Father-in-law?
- 10: Was Joshua's father Ai or Nun?
- 11: True or false, badger skins were used in the construction of the tabernacle?
- 12: What did Moses make the people do as a punishment for worshipping the golden calf:



Answers: 1: Amram and Jochebed, 2: Jochebed, 3: Egyptian, 4: Midian, 5: Zipporah, 6: Rivers of blood, frogs, lice, 7: Do not bear false witness, 8: Aaron, 9: Jethro, 10: Nun, 11: True, 12: He made the people drink water containing the ground up gold of the calf idol.

By Naomi Badger

Complete the Verse Challenge

- 1: Put off thy shoes from off thy feet for the place where you....
- 2: Who am I that I should....
- 3: I am slow of speech and of
- 4: Bring the children of Israel out of the....
- 5: Take thy rod and cast it before Pharaoh and it shall...
- 6: The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall....(Exodus 14:14)



Answers: 1: standers is holy ground, 2: go unto Pharaoh, 3: a slow tongue, 4: land of Egypt, 5: become a serpent, 6: hold your peace

By Naomi Badger

What Would Jesus Do?

This question (often abbreviated to W.W.J.D), has become one of the iconic catchphrases of modern Christianity and indeed with those in secular society who wish to somehow utilise the teaching of the 'gifted Rabbi'. The phrase adorns armbands, t-shirts, necklaces, phone cases and posters and there has even been a board game and film entitled 'W.W.J.D'.

It is put forward as the starting point of thought, especially for the Christian youth, as a means to navigate the social and ethical mine field of today. Even in the very recent past with the events of the George Floyd case in the United States, local pastors were asking this very question as an attempt to stir thought and temper the riotous behaviour.

"Wonderful" comes the United cry of Ecumenism; we should all unite in the thought of 'What would Jesus do?' in every given situation that is troubling us before acting. Well what's so wrong with that I hear you say. Shouldn't this be applauded as Christ focused, New Testament centres, Gospel grounded means of getting our misguided youth into the shoes of Our Lord?

In a word, no. The question we should be asking is 'What DID Jesus do?' This is the question that will have us searching the scriptures for our answers which is the only place we should be going in our moral dilemma. And if we can't remember or don't have a Bible to hand in that particular moment then a secondary question that my mother would pose is also useful: If Jesus appeared in front of you right now, would you still go ahead with what you are about to do? Our God given conscience is well equipped to bring us to a screeching halt in many instances.

Asking the question of "what did Jesus do?" gives the asker no wriggle room where creative thought can be employed. None of the things Jesus did or said relating to issues we encounter day by day Leave any room to doubt His meaning or to stretch it to allow the exception "just this time".

The question "what would Jesus do?" doesn't lead us to the scripture for an answer at all. It assumes we can put an answer into Our Lord's mouth and speak for Him. It leaves the door of humanistic, self serving interpretative thought flung wide open, so that anything that "sounds righteous" and morally rooted on the high ground as we perceive it can be said to answer the question. But it leaves enough flexibility to still get what we want, affectively excusing it in the name of Jesus. It allows us to fashion to an extent our own version of Jesus to meet our own needs. We tread on a dangerously thin line of beginning to create a god in our own image, and that is idolatry.

So how does the Jesus of "what would He do?" look like when compared to the Jesus of "what did He do?" For that we simply compare the modern, liberal, higher criticism interpretation of Jesus verses the Biblical record of Jesus.

Biblical Jesus	W.W.J.D Jesus
Born as God incarnate, fully God and fully man (John 1:1-14)	Emphasis on Him as a man by the use of terms like 'teacher' and 'rabbi'
Loves us enough to speak the truth (John 4:1-38)	Waters down the truth in order to avoid offending anyone
Points us towards eternal treasures	Promises us earthly treasures – more immediate tangible gains, 'you deserve to have these things'
Warns of sin, judgement and hell (Matthew 5:29)	Sends all to heaven, dismissed hell as something no 'loving God would do'

Commands repentance of sin (Matthew 4:17)	Minimises as much as possible the needs for repentance
Gives you salvation, hope, peace and joy (John 15:9-17, John 14:1-4,27)	Gives you health, wealth and prosperity gospel
Hated and despised by all the world (John 15:18)	Loved and accepted by all the world
Hates and exposes sin (John 3:18-21)	Overlooks you're sin, never corrects you, tells you it's ok it really doesn't matter
Commands with Divine authority (Mark 5:1-20)	Gives suggestions not commandments as the latter would remove 'freedom of choice'
Says to expect persecution in His name (Matthew 10:22)	Promises our best life now
Brings division where and when necessary (Luke 12:49-56)	Promotes unity and tolerance at all costs
Exalts God the Father's will (John 6:38)	Serves your will first and foremost
Warns of false signs and wonders: God's word is the ultimate authority (Matthew 24:24)	Exalts signs and wonders and mysticism above God's word
Demands that the emotional experience and opinion conform to sound teaching (Matthew 23:1-29)	Exalts experiences, emotion and opinion above sound doctrine
Commands self denial and to be willing to lay down life for God (Matthew 16:24)	Encourages self love and to gratify and satisfy all our desires to achieve this end

See the difference? Striking isn't it! See how radically different the answers to the questions "what would Jesus do?" and "what did Jesus do?" can be?

This is a rotten Devil inspired motto that is not encouraging our young Christians to be more like Christ at all. If we go with this motto and not to scripture to look directly at the life and teaching of Christ, we will in our sinful human, fallen nature inevitably answer the question with the secular all loving, all tolerating Jesus of mankind's own imagining, formed from our own sinful thought. We will not become more like our Saviour but more like our own image of our own personal god that fits our lives and doesn't get in the way of our desires or gratification, and this is false worship and idolatry.

There is only one safe answer to the question "What would Jesus do?" He would point you to the Bible and tell you to search it's pages for that is where you will find all the answers you will ever need to convict your soul of any action you might make.

By David J Badger

Biblical Verses To Bring Peace

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

1 Peter 3:11 - Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Romans 15:13 - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 4:8 - I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Proverbs 12:20 - Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.

1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

A Final Thought

It has been a trying month across the western world, with news of George Floyd's death and the resulting fallout, including race-related protests, counter-protests and emotionally charged media coverage causing much division and tension. It's during such times when it is more important than ever to turn to our Lord in prayer and to search the scriptures for guidance, strength and encouragement. When considering the physical and social traits that divide us as a people, they pale into insignificance against that fact that we are one through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and joint heirs in the Lord's promise to Abraham (**Galatians 3:26-29**). A kindly and loving disposition to our neighbours, regardless of colour, creed or differences of opinion, is not just about "being a good person", it's a requirement set forward by the Lord Jesus Christ as being the greatest commandment (**Matthew 22:35-40**). On loving your neighbour "hangs all the law and the prophets"; a requirement given with such tremendous weight and emphasis by our Lord and Saviour, that it should be at the forefront as we witness to wayward souls during these times. Division, tension and anger should be tempered with sound gospel preaching, focusing on repentance, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and putting on the new man.

John 13:34 – A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By John Sivewright

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