

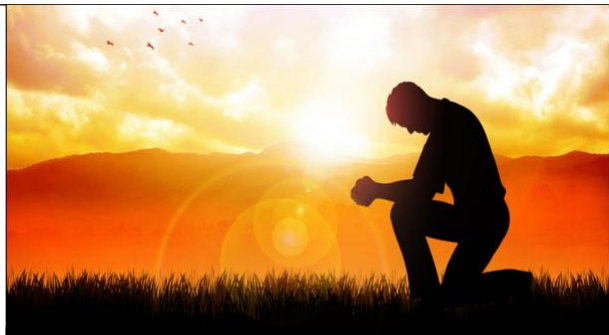
Truth to Wonder

Ministries - God's truth brings wonder to the soul

Welcome to all who have been led to read these pages and I pray the Lord blesses and keeps you all throughout these continuing days of trial. Let us draw near unto Our Lord and Heavenly Father in prayer.

Merciful Heavenly Father, we give our heartfelt thanks for your constant care and provision in bringing us to this day. Lord we are truly humbled by the ever flowing stream of your abundant blessings that give such life and joy to our days. From the warming sunlight of welcome Spring; plentiful food on our tables and shelter from the cold night air to the restoring and renewing contact enjoyed between fellow believers, it is all from your giving hand.

Yet Lord whilst we humbly bow before your throne in thanksgiving, we come to you asking that you will care for those who have felt the pain of loss in recent days. Dear Lord, you know the searing pain of grief, that depth of lamentation that grips us all so many times throughout our walk in this world. Lord, be with those who are suffering so at this hour. Let them know your peace, that wondrous peace that surpasses our understanding. Those of us who have known your peace in the hour of loss of loved ones, know how heavenly this mysterious peace truly is. Though the loss remains, the hope of restoration in



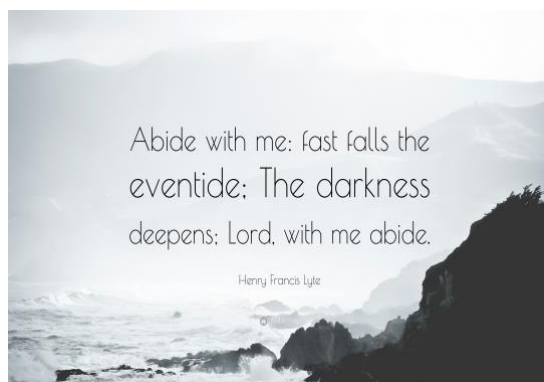
Eternity embraces our heart with complete trust so that the tears are slowed and that those that do still trouble the cheek, are broken by the sweet smile of a heart at rest in your promises.

Oh Lord, how each act of your will when studied with the eye of eternity brings such glory to your mighty name. How happily, how joyously, how fearfully we bow our knee before you. We are undone by your holiness, for you are thrice holy and we are such wicked sinners before your throne of righteousness.

Yet Lord, you bid us come to you as a dearly loved child, brought to the knowledge of your glory by the Holy Spirit and welcomed into your presence by the atonement of the blessed Lord Jesus. Such is the beauty and wonder of the eternal plan of salvation that our hearts cannot fathom the fullness of its wonder. Yet dear Lord we smile ceaselessly, even through these days of trial and tribulations that we walk through presently, knowing that through Jesus Christ, we shall see the fullness of that eternal plan of salvation, even with these weary eyes of ours. Amen.

Abide With Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts
flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away;
Change and decay in all around I see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with
me.
I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can
be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide
with me.
I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave,
thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing
eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



A History of Abide With Me

The mournful title of this Victorian hymn written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, is today most widely heard just before the FA Cup Final is played to a packed Wembley Stadium.

It is intriguing and indeed illuminating of the hearts of our forefathers for us today that what is designed to be a day of sportsmanship, community and celebration is begun with a hymn synonymous with the pain and grief of death. Sung at Wembley Stadium on FA Cup Final day since 1927, our once Christian nation had the humility to see that though there are days of joy, triumph and celebration in this life, granted to us by His grace, they are ultimately nothing but a distraction from the inevitability of death that will claim us all. This reflective hymn reminds us that it is Our Lord Jesus who gives us comfort during this tragic hour, a truth sadly dispensed with by modern day vocalists of this hymn on FA Cup Final day.

Written by Henry Francis Lyte, a pastor of twenty four years to the hardy, seafaring community of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, during the early Victorian period. The people of this fishing community would've no doubt known the perils and often tragic loss that would've come from stormy Victorian seas.

Reverend Lyte was afflicted with poor health throughout his life. A frail and sickly man, his doctors convinced him that to aid him with his affliction with tuberculosis, a move to sunnier climes in the south of France would be highly beneficial.

On his last, emotion filled sermon to his congregation before leaving for Nice, France, already in very poor health, Henry spoke to the gathering of their need to "prepare for that solemn hour which must come to us all, by a timely acquaintance with the death of Christ."

That same evening, Henry wrote these oft sung words that form Abide With Me, as he poured out his soul to The Lord onto the paper before him.

The move to Nice, France did not lift his health however. Within two months of arrival in Nice, Henry went to everlasting glory with the words "joy" and "peace" on his lips.

By Jonathan Badger

Challenging Questions of Faith

How Can There Be Three Persons In One God?

An often posed question that perplexes the mortal, finite mind of man. Firstly we must rule out the assertion that the concept of the Trinity is a contradiction. It would be a contradiction to venture that God has three persons in one person, that is an impossibility. However, God is rather three persons in one nature, this is not a contradiction or an impossibility. For example, a triangle has three corners and is still only one triangle. Or God is like $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$, not $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ (as this would amount to tritheism or polytheism akin to Hinduism and other Eastern Mystic religions). God is three distinct persons together in perfect union to form one God. Furthermore let us remember that in **1 John 4:16**, the Apostle John tells us that "God is love." For this to be so, there must be a lover (Father), a loved one (Son) and a spirit of love (Holy Spirit). Isn't it interesting that love itself is a tri-unity? This is why the Apostle Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 13:13**, that of faith, hope and love, love is the greatest as it is the very nature of God. Therefore any corruption and indeed degradation of the purity of love, that is so rampant in our modern world, is a direct assault on the very nature of the triune God. Another example of triune action is the unity of my mind, my ideas and my words. Each are distinct from one another yet all intrinsically tied to one another. Thousands of moments a day we commit through this triune act, are actually self condemning statements of the truth that we are truly made in the image and likeness of God (**Genesis 1:26**).

The Trinity is no doubt a mystery, a mystery we can apprehend yet not fully comprehend as Norman Geisler rightly observed (*Who Made God, Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler, 2003*). As another wise soul remarked on this question, "If we try to understand God completely, we may lose our mind, but if we do not believe in the Trinity sincerely, we will lose our soul!" (*Who Made God, Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler, 2003*).

By Jonathan Badger

A Plea Mercifully Unanswered

Dear Lord, I live in troubled days,
I carry a spirit brought low by the trials
And temptations of the flesh.
I am reviled by own heart,
Condemned by my own fleshly desires
So that I feel cut adrift of my souls healing.
My wounded soul hears the gentle
Voice of wisdom speak softly of my souls
Hope. That restoration of peace and purpose
Found in the embrace of Christ.

Yet I am smashed to rubble,
A depleted soul who cannot bear
The thrice holy throne of your eternal glory.
These sinful eyes cannot withstand
Your radiant majesty, your burning light
Only illuminates my darkest condition.
So I plead that you depart from me
Even though my heart holds me convict
To the voice of God that reveals
What I fear most is my only hope of restoration.

Mercifully Lord, you dispense with my heavy,
Troubled request and instead compel me
To come nigh unto you.
My tears are violent and soul searing,
Yet the might of your command bids me
To feel the heavy weight of the crown of pride
Bury deep into my brow, so that I cast off
It's tarnished, corrupted lustre
And throw myself at your feet in trembling
humility.

Your sweet voice speaks with eternal authority
As you say to me 'Come dear friend,
For I have known you since before I fashioned
The heavens and the earth. I have bought
You with my own blood, now freed
From judgement so that you may be my
Treasure for all eternity.
Now come dear one, be my servant
And I shall call you friend.'

My joyful, thankful heart can only find satisfaction
Of expression in one eternal song of praise,
'Hallelujah Christ Jesus, the name above every
name, my Lord, my Saviour,
My friend.'

By Jonathan Badger

The Cancer of Our Time

As Ravi Zacharias observed, the cancer of our time is the prevalent feeling of meaninglessness. Huge swathes of the youth especially are drowning in this oceanic sensation of the meaninglessness of existence leading to enormous emotional and spiritual pain and in all too many situations, suicide. This epidemic of the heart is running rampant throughout the western world as secularism has ripped the purpose of life away from service to God and reorientated it towards self service. This nature of self service, the fulfilling of oneself leads to a consistent need to experience pleasure so as to verify this purpose for existing. However with so many so called pleasures available to the developed world, so many options to indulge and distract oneself from reality, why is suicide escalating at such alarming levels that the western nations are panicked into high visibility public initiatives to support the nations mental health?

Could it be that instead of becoming weary of pain, the accusation used by many atheistic individuals in their assertion that there is no God, people have instead become weary of pleasure. When one becomes weary of pleasure, what is there left to exist for? The career has been achieved, the grand house purchased, the new car owned, the frequent holidays attended and the relationships experimented with, so what then? This is the drive to have ever more, the next conquest, the next achievement, yet at some point the realisation always comes that none of it is fulfilling the purpose of why we even exist.

I witnessed first hand this weariness of pleasure when my father in-law came into a comfortable sum of money late in life. He quickly spent his way through this money, filling his days with new cars, motorbikes, lavish holidays, caravans, frequent restaurant visits etc. In short, everything he had sort after his entire life was now within accessibility. Yet as the purchases piled up, he became more and more disillusioned with it all. The purchases became more extravagant in a failing attempt to capture that sense of fulfilment he was so desperately looking for. In the end, he lost it all, it was all just a chasing after the wind as Solomon wrote. It was all meaningless.

So how do we overcome this weariness of pleasure? When we are surrounded by advertising telling us



We need to be more successful, fitter, better looking etc. How can we be free of this choking sensation of purposelessness? By returning to our true purpose, to serve Our Lord and Saviour. To remedy the ailment of weariness of pleasure we must renew ourselves with a delight of servitude. A joyous service to Christ Jesus, the one who stooped down to rescue us from the mire of our sins. In this joyful service, we experience the eternal love of God. A love that satisfies fully a deep rooted need in each of our hearts that the trappings and temporary achievements of our vain glory can never fulfil. This deep rooted need for love has been cheaply filled by our twisted modern idea of what love truly is. We have but one word to describe love, so we say we love our job, our house, our pet, Chinese food, football, our partners; yet as C.S Lewis observed, the ancient Greeks had four definitions of love. Agape, the love of God. Storge, parental, protecting love. Phileo, brotherly love. Eros, romantic love. The last three can only exist with the reference point of the first. It is the love of God that gives meaning to the following three. This removal of agape, the love of God, is why our society is sick today. The things we seem to love, we don't know why we do and therefore we don't know their value to us; it's all meaningless without a reference point. Remove God and you remove meaning.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When we fear the Lord, we receive a wisdom that illuminates the nature of love, that is the nature of God himself. When we see this most potent and powerful of truths we see that we are created out of love, His love for us. We have a purpose, we have meaning. That purpose is to return that love to Him and experience the revelation of the Godhead that is a personal relationship with the Saviour, Jesus Christ and spread this message to the ends of the earth. *By Jonathan Badger*

The Depths of God And The Needs of Man

Trials and troubles are seen as unwelcome visitors in our lives, so much so that the so called 'prosperity gospel' founded upon the deeply flawed teachings of the Charismatic church, (message asserting that God wants all his people to be rich, healthy and successful in this world, it just takes faith and any failing of success is due to a lack of faith) is sweeping across the globe at a rampant pace.

Yet why is this so? Why are such huge swathes of the population drawn to such a message of consistent earthly blessing and a life free of trials and troubles? Is this desire scriptural to be free of tests and trials in the Lord's name?

In **James 1:2**, we are told to **"count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."** Yet our natural inclination is to seek a life and indeed to pray for a life free from trials and temptations and lead a life of plenty. It is upon this deep rooted desire that this 'prosperity gospel' has flourished as it speaks to our earthly needs and wants; initially at least.

Many former members of such prosperity movements have come away from these false churches feeling empty and devoid of true peace and satisfaction whether their earthly goals have been realised or not.

Yet still these churches flourish and indeed even in the true church of Christ, we often find ourselves asking for a life free of trials and temptations. When we read verses like James 1:2, we are brought face to face with truth that is difficult to digest. However as always, God's word is only difficult to understand when it is viewed with the eye of so called human wisdom.

So why are we to be joyful when we fall into trials and temptations? Put simply, we are brought into times of testing, trial and temptation out of Our Saviours incredible grace and love towards us. How can this be so? Doesn't Jesus tell us that Our Heavenly Father delights in giving His children good gifts? Can any person stand and say that times of physical, emotionally, spiritual or financial hardship are good gifts from Our Heavenly Father? When viewed with the eye of eternity, these times are indeed good gifts from Our Gracious Lord.

When speaking to an experienced follower of Christ, they will confirm that it has been the times of their greatest struggle that has brought them closer and closer to their Lord and Master. In the times of our greatest need, our Lord reveals His power and glory to our aching bodies and hearts in such a fullness of nature that it truly assures us of

The security of our salvation in Him. God reveals the ever greater depths of His majesty in the dependency revealed in the heart of the redeemed man in the midst of great trials.

Trials are brought to our days to bring fresh illumination and revealing of God's enormity in all aspects and attributes. In stark contrast to this revealing of His glory, we are made mindful of our inadequacy and insignificance in comparison. Yet even in this truth we are given a goodness, a richness of blessing that even the angels look upon in wondrous envy. For in this starkest of contrasts, shines the radiant light that is Our Lord Jesus. It is in Christ alone that this great chasm and contrast is at last reconciled. In Christ alone is the depths of God and the needs of man fully revealed and satisfied.

Jesus knew all the sufferings and needs of man, therefore in all aspects truly man. Yet as the Son Of God, who put aside the heavenly glory but not His deity but for a season, He is truly God also.

In this reconciliation between God and man, Jesus offered himself under obedience to the will of the Father, to act as a propitiation for our sins. In His deity, Christ alone had the capacity to fulfil an eternal judgement of mankind's sin through His faultless fulfilment of the fleshly existence under the law of God so quickly defiled by Adam.

It is this good gift of the revealing of God's love for each of His children, that is brought so beautifully into view during each time of hardship, testing and suffering.

As our growing trials in life unfold, hold fast to the truth that they are there to perfect us (**James 1:3-4**).

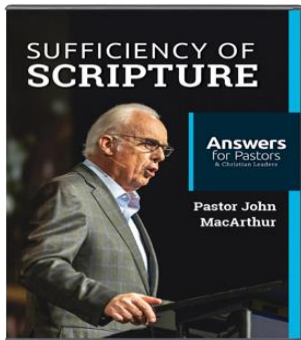
They are brought about to make you holy as He is holy. For in growing awareness of dependency upon Jesus carved into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, we are brought ever closer into His bosom, where all peace, glory, wisdom and love are revealed.

Therefore dear brethren, a life without trials is an understandable desire but it should not be pursued, especially at the expense of pursuing Christ. A life without trials is a life left in blindness to the majesty, the glory and the love of God. All that is left is the empty, vapid nature of man's conceited foolishness which leads only to eternal hell fire.

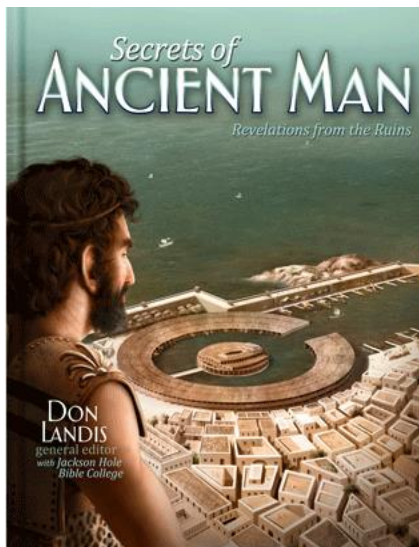
So do indeed count it joy when times of temptation and trial befall you because Christ is highlighting your weaknesses, your needs and showing you that He is your portion, your daily sufficiency in all things and that He has chosen to condescend Himself to you, a sinful wretch of a being, so that you may know the richness of His love that not even the heavenly hosts know. Let us give thanks that we are counted as worthy then brothers and sisters, worthy to suffer in Christ's Jesus' name. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner – all available from answersingenesis.co.uk



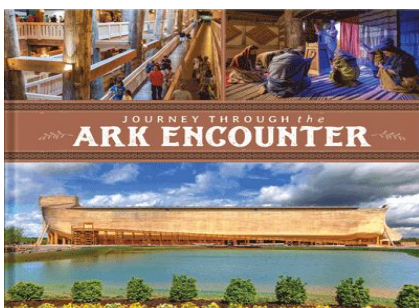
Is the Bible enough? In this DVD, recorded live at the recent Answers for Pastors conference, Dr. John MacArthur teaches on the sufficiency of Scripture. Pastor MacArthur shows the names of Scripture, the attributes of Scripture, and benefits of Scripture that “restores the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, endures forever, and produces comprehensive righteousness.”



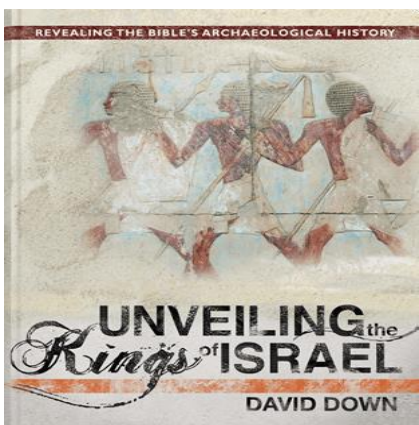
Mankind has always yearned for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. We find ourselves enthralled with secrets, mysteries, and riddles. Man is seduced by the unknown and enticed by the offer of revelation. Perhaps this is why we pursue science so passionately and we seek desperately to unearth the remnants of our ancestors. We have this innate impression that there is something we don't know, something important that we must discover.

With this book you can learn:

- More details about the most advanced ancient technology we've ever seen, including Roman nanotechnology.
- Identify the counterfeit religion of Babel mirrored in every pagan religion through time.
- Why the Tower of Babel incident was about a rebellion that has continued throughout history into the present day!



This massive re-creation of Noah's Ark built in Kentucky is an architectural and engineering marvel that contains three decks of amazing world class exhibits. This book will guide you step-by-step through this faith affirming wonder.



The historical records of Egypt and Israel show a remarkable consistency with the biblical record. Rightly interpreted, they are both inspiring and entirely reliable. Far from being a book of myths, the Bible is an amazing historical record. Each year more archaeological discoveries continue to confirm its validity and significance. Follow the intriguing clues found buried in ancient cities, on the walls of early monuments, and in the written records of our world's oldest civilizations. Unearth the compelling history that continues to resonate with the world today!

Is Goliath Too Tall?

I am sure we are all familiar with the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. Of course while the events are straight forward for Sunday school children, the NIV translators still have their problems working out who killed Goliath. However, we are more concerned with the giant's height at the moment than the slayer.

For years the height of Goliath, six cubits and a span, has sent peels of laughter through the ranks of modernistic scholars. As it would appear that Goliath was over 9ft tall. This is considered ridiculous and just one more Old Testament 'mistake'. I wonder what some of you would think if I said I could give you a pretty good argument to suggest that David could have been 6ft10 – 7ft tall?

However, for now we will return to Goliath. Of course anyone familiar with the Guinness Book of Records will know there are men today over 8ft tall. When I was at Bible college we had a visiting lecturer who was 7ft.

Very few are aware that the tallest man of whom we have a definite record outside the Bible was a Russian called Fedor Machnow (pictured below).



This gentleman stood at a mighty 9ft 3ins and visited London in 1905. An Englishman named John Middleton (pictured below), born in Lancashire about 1572 was also 9ft 3ins. There is a portrait of him in Braesnoe College, Oxford.



Other giants include Charles O'Brien (8ft 4ins), whose skeleton was in the Royal College of Surgeons, and Patrick Cotler (8ft 7ins), who died in 1802: he used to light his pipe by lifting the top off a street lamp at night. A Russian girl, Elizabeth Lyska, when 12 years old was already 6ft 8ins. The argument then that it is not possible for Goliath to have been between 9ft and 9ft 6ins is not credible. It is possible that a human being could attain that height biologically. In fact the Old Testament speaks of races of giants.

By Dr David Badger Ph.D

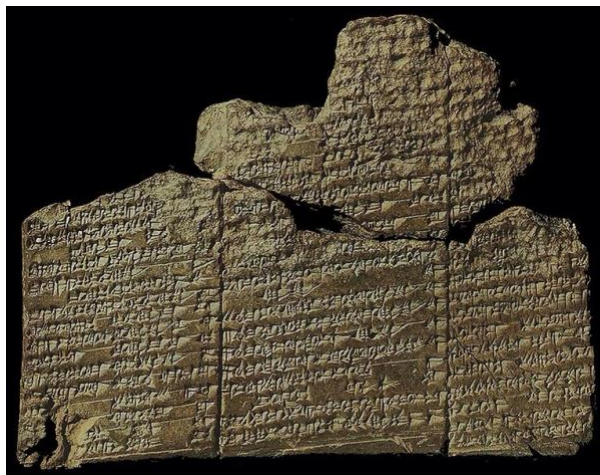
Body of Evidence – The Flood: Part Two

As we saw last month, the ancient world, not far removed from the cataclysmic events of Noah's flood and spread across the globe following the upheaval by God at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, shared common sources of knowledge of a world encompassing flood that destroyed all life bar one family and a representation of animal life aboard a floating ark.

The Epic of Gilgamesh is far from an isolated account of an ancient people holding to a history of a worldwide cataclysm as we shall see.

The Sumerian Myth comes to us as a fragmentary clay tablet, discovered in Nippur, Iraq, and dated to circa 2150 BC, and is now stored in the Pennsylvania Museum, USA.

The tablet details how Ziusudra, informed by an assembly of the gods of their decision 'to destroy the seed of mankind'. A flood is sent and continues for seven days and nights. However, despite this enormous destruction, Ziusudra continues to worship the gods and is granted 'breath eternal' by them. The reason for the flood is sadly lost along with the details of the arks construction, yet even in this fragment we see a familiar core akin to the actual events recorded in Genesis.



The Sumerian Myth clay tablet

In the Atrahasis Epic, we have another tablet detailing events similar to the Genesis account of a world wide flood. It was discovered in 1888 by Professor Alan Millard and is now displayed at The British Museum, is dated at 1635 BC. Predating the Epic of Gilgamesh by as much as a thousand years, this tablet was written by the Akkadians.

The Akkadians are accredited by many historians as being the first great empire of Mesopotamia, with its seat of power in the region of Akkad, present day Central/Northern Iraq.

The Akkadians got their name from the city of Agade, which was founded by Sargon (an ancient King listed in the Old Testament but derided by historians as only a myth until massive twin stone sculptures of Sargon as a winged lion was discovered by archaeologists, thus confirming the accuracy of the Bible once again), a Semitic conqueror from about 2300 BC according to secular dating.

The language developed by this people group under the Sargonic dynasty became known as Akkadian and its written form remains the oldest cuneiform Semitic language known. Indeed it could have been the predominant language used by Abraham and his family, especially as the Hebrew written language has its roots in cuneiform.



Atrahasis Epic Tablet

Returning to the Atrahasis Epic, the tablet details how Anu is the god who rules in heaven whilst Enril presided over an assembly of minor gods on earth. When the minor gods refuse to labour any further, man is created out of blood and clay. The volume of noise created by this new, rapidly multiplying race irritates Enril as he states 'the clamour of mankind has become oppressive' and he elects to flood the earth. Atrahasis, who is warned in advance of the impending flood, escapes in a boat with his family, the craftsmen and various animals. When the flood recedes, Atrahasis offers a sacrifice to the gods. Yet again we see how the ancient peoples of earth, share a common knowledge of a cataclysmic event in earth's history lending support to the assertion of the actuality of the Genesis record. *By Jonathan Badger*

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

‘Familiarity breeds contempt’ is a statement that never finds more accuracy than in many of our relationships with our bodies. For the majority of us without a detailed knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, we go through each day rarely considering how incredibly intricate each individual action of our bodies truly is. Even worse though is the notion that the the immense intricacy and interaction that combines numerous parts during each physical action has purely come about by random chance. The human body is a constant witness to the incredible power and creativity of Our Lord and Maker. Any study of the detail each part of the human body contains is an unanswerable declaration against the lunacy of evolutionary thinking.

Over the next few months we will have an extremely brief look at some of these wonders that are taking place in your own body at this current instant. After seeing just some of these basic level intricacies, we will be left astounded by the vision and craft of Our Lord God and render our voices in praise to Him.

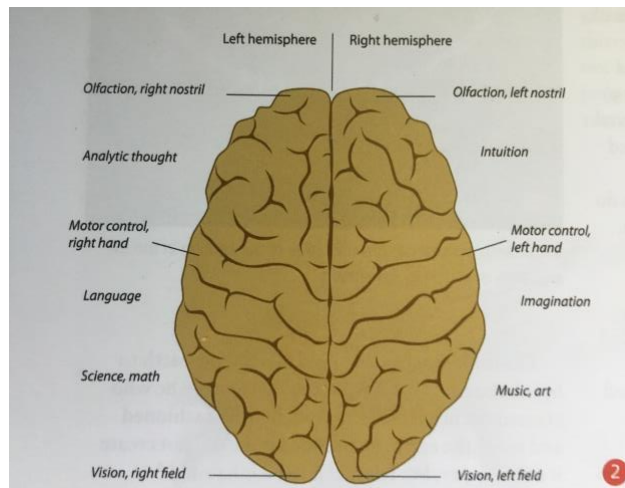
Let us commence with the organ you are currently using, probably to varying degrees depending on your interest in human anatomy, namely the brain.

Weighing only 3lbs or 1.4kg in an average adult human, the brain uses 20% of the bodies oxygen, 25% of the body’s glucose and 15% of the blood supply. The amount of energy used by this comparatively small part of the body is reflective of the enormous computational power residing in each and every human brain.

The typical adult human has a large brain weight to body weight ratio, averaging approximately 1.8%. Significantly this is larger than any animal in creation and in comparison to an apes brain, is actually five times larger showing a clear separation in mankind from animal kind in this vital organs makeup.

Our brain shows other unique features which separates us from the animal kingdom in the sphere of its physical construction. The cerebral cortex, the source of human abilities such as thinking and planning, is noticeably larger in humans than in any animal. The right hemisphere of the brain generally controls the left side of the body, with the left hemisphere

controlling the right side of the body. As you will see from the diagram below, different areas of the cerebral cortex are responsible for differing functions such as vision, analytic thought, language etc.



This masterful separation of skills and abilities to regions makes a mockery of the notion of random chance as the likelihood of each ability organising itself into distinct regions, fully utilising the real estate of the physical tissue available is plausibly impossible in itself. It is amazing to watch neural scans take place highlighting the activity in the varying regions of the brain when it is tasked with the corresponding activity (region responsible for music can be seen as activating during a neural scan when the individual is listening to music). How each region separates information yet cooperates within milliseconds along miles of neural pathways is a testament to the almighty power of God.

What is also incredible to consider is the brains ability to repair itself if one of these regions is damaged due to injury or illness. There have been numerous occurrences of patients who have lost the ability to walk or talk due to a brain injury, yet through rehabilitation, they recovered these lost skills even though the area of the brain originally damaged remains physically damaged. Indeed, in 1996, 8 year old Christina Santhouse had half her brain removed due to the advancement of the rare disease Rasmussen’s Encephalitis. If left untreated the increasing amount of seizures Christina suffered from (up to 150 per day) would eventually kill her, leaving drastic surgery the only option left to her. The operation is performed only around 100 times a year and takes around 14 hours to complete. Fearing an enormous change in what physical capabilities Christina would be left with post-op,

The Santhouse family were terrified at what life for their child would be like with only half her brain remaining. Mercifully, the operation was successful and through Christina's incredible determination to succeed and Our Lord's providential care, Christina is now 28 years old, able to drive, happily married and a successful speech pathologist with a bachelor's degree and a Masters degree.

This staggering ability for the brain to take over abilities associated with other regions due to damage incurred, demonstrates the incredible engineering skills that God utilised to construct this delicate yet resilient organ.

It also shows the providential fail safes that He placed in our bodies physical makeup so that we could survive the various hardships of living in a cursed world. Such is the immeasurable love of the Creator for His creation.

By Jonathan Badger

Answers TV now live in the UK

In exciting news from Answers in Genesis, a new TV streaming service was unveiled in late April brought to you by AiG themselves.

Priced at a pocket friendly £4 per month or £38 per year, the new streaming service has a true wealth of material available ranging from apologetics, creation vs evolution, current events, astronomy, archaeology, a variety of science disciplines and even a healthy content dedicated to the children in the family. There are a selection of very informative conferences held by AiG on topics such as World Religions, Answers for Pastors and an annual conference dedicated to questions posed to the woman of God.

I encourage you all to sign up for the weeks free pass available to all new customers and try out some of the material on offer. Praise the Lord that this fantastic resource has been made available at a time when churches across the land have been closed due to the ravages of Covid-19.



<https://www.answers.tv/> for more information

A Question of Authorship

Attacks on the veracity of the Bible have taken place for millennia. One popular assault on the truth and accuracy of the Bible is whether Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote their respective gospels?

Firstly it must be acknowledged that in actuality the gospels are anonymous; however the uniform testimony of the early church is that the four gospels were indeed written by their namesakes. As Craig L Blomberg P.hd observed during an interview with Lee Strobel for the book *The Case For Christ*, 'There are no known competitors for these three gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke)...apparently it was just not in dispute.'



Dr Blomberg asserts that there would be little reason to attribute the gospels to these men if it were indeed a lie. For instance, Mark and Luke weren't part of the twelve disciples and Matthew was a hated tax collector, so why would you select these men as the false writers when more famous, closer members of Jesus' inner circle would be favourable to lend an air of authenticity? Indeed, the fictitious Apocryphal books have claimed that the authors of these books are individuals such as Peter, James, Philip and Mary. These false gospels have attempted to use the trust imbued in the closer proximity of these individuals to Jesus and their less contentious professions (in the case of Matthew) to gain validation for their deceitful assertions.

The exception, John, being the disciple whom Jesus loved, is the only one of the four gospel writers where there is any modicum of dispute of authorship. This is due to the testimony of Papias in around 125 A.D, where he refers to John the Apostle and John the elder and it's unclear from

the surrounding context as to whether Papias is referring to one person from two perspectives or to two different individuals.

However apart from this exception, the sum of the early church testimony is unequivocal that it was John the Apostle, son of Zebedee, who wrote the gospel of John.

The testimony of Papias, specifically attests to the authorship of Mark for his gospel and credits him for making 'no mistake' in his documenting of events at the knee of his companion and associate the Apostle Peter, and that he also did not include 'any false statement'. Equally Papias affirms the accuracy of the recordings made by Matthew also. Furthermore, in about 180 A.D, Ireneas lent his support to the authorship of the gospels by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John respectively. Ireneas declared, *'Matthew published his own Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel in Rome and founding the church there. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the Gospel preached by his teacher. Then John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned on his breast, himself produced his Gospel while he was living at Ephesus in Asia'*. (Quotes from *The Case For Christ*, Lee Strobel, 1998)



Therefore, we can be confident on the accuracy of the recordings made by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and that they did indeed pen their respective gospels. Once again, the faltering attempts of the Bible's critics has been disproved by the Lord who has blessed us with accurate, direct recordings of Our Saviours words and deeds from those who walked with Him and those who worked alongside His appointed apostles.

By Jonathan Badger

In Memoriam – Ravi Zacharias

On Tuesday 19th May, the Lord called home His good and faithful servant Ravi Zacharias. Ravi was diagnosed with bone cancer 2 months prior and on May 8th the cancer was deemed untreatable. He retired to his home in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, to live out his final days with his wife Margaret and his three children before going to sleep finally on May 19th aged 74.

Ravi was born in Chennai, India. He often recounted how he was converted on a bed of suicide at the age of 17. At the age of 20, he immigrated to Canada.

Ravi started his ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) after graduating from Ontario Bible College (now Tyndall University) and Trinity International University. He was commissioned as a national evangelist for the USA in 1977 and then ordained in the CMA in 1980. In 1984, Ravi founded RZIM (Ravi Zacharias International Ministries), with the organisation now holding 16 international offices with around 200 employees and 70 itinerant speakers. Ravi preached and gave lectures on apologetics in more than 70 countries throughout his 48 year ministry, also authoring 30 books. His most recent book, *The Logic of God: 52 Christian Essentials for the Heart and Mind*, won the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's 2020 Christian book award in the Bible study field.

Ravi's brilliantly incisive and logical mind was used by God as both a consistent challenge through Biblical apologetics to the heart and mind of the unbeliever, yet also as a tremendous source of spiritual wisdom for believers regardless of the spiritual maturity of the follower of Christ. Whilst we mourn the loss of so faithful a servant of Our Lord, we give our thanks to the Lord that He raised up such a man as Ravi and that one day, thanks to the grace of Our Lord Jesus, we will have the opportunity to sit with Ravi as we listen intently to words of Our Lord and Saviour.



Biblical Quiz Challenges

- 1: What did God make on the fifth day?
- 2: Where was the Tower of Babel?
- 3: What was Abraham's name before he was renamed by God?
- 4) Did Lot live in Sodom or Gomorrah?
- 5: Was Laban, Abraham's brother?
- 6: Who was born first Jacob or Esau?
- 7: How many children did Leah bear Jacob?
- 8: How much money was Joseph sold as a slave for?
- 9: Which of Joseph's brothers offered to take Benjamin's place as hostage after Joseph's accusation of theft and spy activity against his brothers?
- 10: Who was older Ephraim or Manasseh?

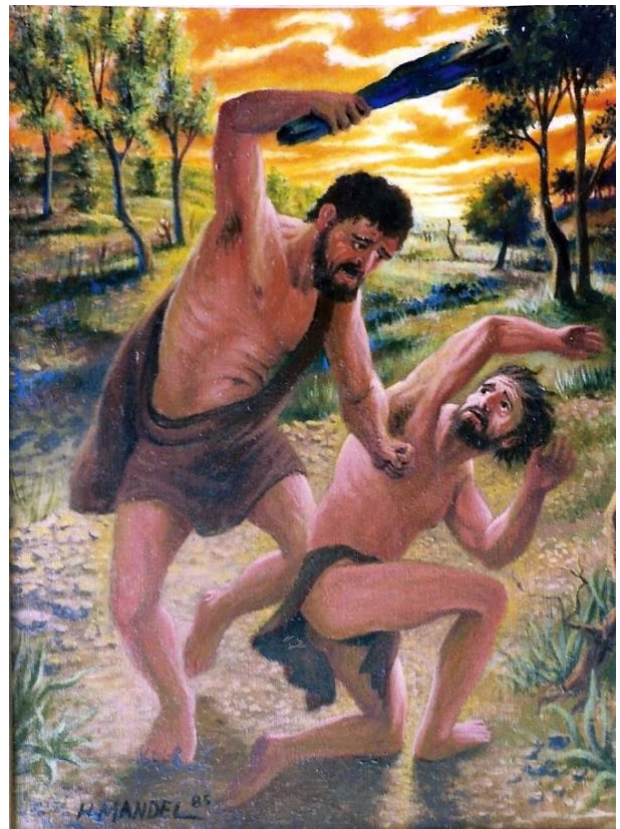


Answers: 1- Sea creatures and flying creatures
2- Plain of Shinar. 3- Abram. 4- Sodom.
5- No, he was his nephew. 6- Esau. 7- Seven
8- 20 pieces of silver. 9- Simeon. 10-
Manasseh

By Naomi Badger

Complete the Verse Challenge

- 1: In the beginning God created....
- 2: Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not. Am I.....
- 3: The voice of crieth unto me from the ground.
- 4: Be and replenish the Earth.
- 5: So the Lord scattered them abroad thence upon.....



Answers: 1- heavens and the Earth. 2- my brothers keeper. 3- thy brothers blood. 4- fruitful and multiply. 5- face of all the earth

By Naomi Badger

Biblical Verses To Strengthen The Heart

But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31 | KJV

When thou passest through the waters,
I will be with thee;
and through the rivers,
they shall not overflow thee:
when thou walkest through the fire,
thou shalt not be burned;
neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.
Isaiah 43:2 | KJV

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of
a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou
dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee
whithersoever thou goest.
Joshua 1:9 | KJV

And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee;
he will be with thee, he will not fail thee,
neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be
dismayed.
Deuteronomy 31:8 | KJV

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy
laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28 | KJV

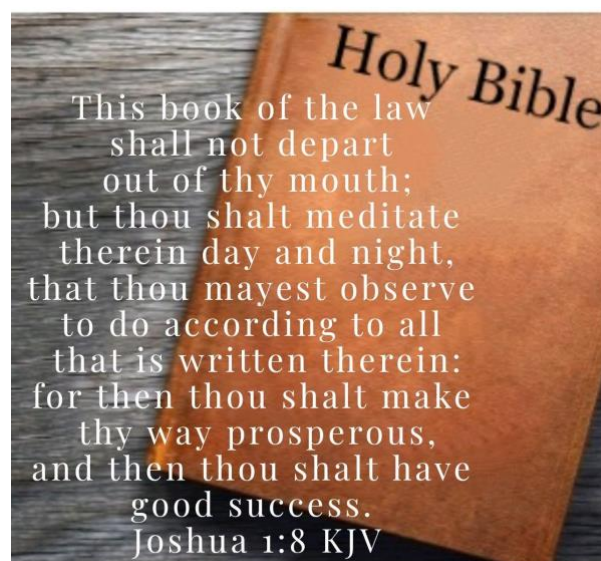
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
which made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2 | KJV

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen
your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord.
Psalm 31:24 | KJV

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.
John 16:33 | KJV

A Final Thought

These last couple of months have seen many of us spend more time at home than we have perhaps ever done before. This brings with it various challenges, not least how to fill the time when we've done seemingly every domestic task possible – I'm sure we've all got attics that have never been tidier! While it's hard to doubt the merit of getting those household jobs done that have long been on our "to-do list", perhaps this unique time can provide us with an opportunity to engage in deeper daily study of our bibles?



While we are called to meditate on the Lord's Word daily (**Joshua 1:8**), the scriptures can never be studied and prayerfully considered enough. We may be familiar with certain sections of the Book, we might even have some of our favourite passages memorised, but all 66 books, from Genesis to Revelation, are divinely inspired and profitable to us (**2 Timothy 3:16**). In those passages of scripture that you may have only seldom read might dwell the words of encouragement and enrichment that you have needed the most. While you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find looking through your attic, the discoveries you'll make while searching the scriptures will prove of inestimably more value.

Proverbs 30:5 – Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

By John Sivewright

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