

Truth to Wonder

Ministries - God's truth brings wonder to the soul

Let us gather together in thanksgiving and supplication before the Lord, as brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter how far removed we are from each other's presence during times of trial.

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we give our heartfelt thanks for your constant care and provision in our lives. We give thanks in awe of your grace that even before our prayers are finished you have moved all things to bring good to your children and glory to your hallowed name. As Abraham's servant prayed to you in faith and humility for your hand to lead him to the future wife of Isaac, where you brought to him Rebekah, so to do you bring us peace as the words of our humble prayer still linger on our sinful lips. In your grace and righteousness you have cleansed our stained offerings so that they bring glory to you and so that you delight in the outpouring of your blessings to your children. Blessed Lord, how we love your loving kindness, how we rest in your faithfulness, how we adore your mercy and kneel in awe at the holiness of your glorious throne. Praise the Lord God Almighty for all eternity, my blessed saviour and king. Amen.



Carmel Evangelical Church (Non-ecumenical)

**Homelands Hall, King's Avenue
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1NP
United Kingdom**

Contact
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Meeting Times

**11:00 AM Sunday Morning
6:30 PM Sunday Evening
7:30 PM Tuesday Evening
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study**

**Bible Version: Authorised Version
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns**

Hymn of praise – How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!



The Creation Of *How Great Thou Art*

In 1931, a British Methodist missionary called Stuart K. Hine, went on a mission trip to Ukraine. Here he heard the Russian translation of a German song inspired by Carl Boberg's poem "O Store Gud" (O Great God). Hine began to translate the song to English and added several verses.

The third verse was inspired by the conversion of villagers in Russia who cried out to God as they repented and saw God's love and mercy towards them, "And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in."

At the outbreak of WWII, Hine and his family left Ukraine as famine gripped the nation and settled in Somerset, Britain where he continued to serve as a missionary to Polish refugees.

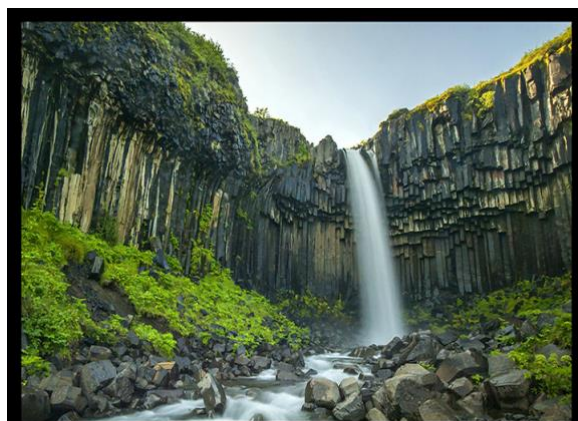
The fourth verse of "How Great Thou Art" was inspired by displaced Russians who experienced great loss and looked forward to seeing their loved ones again in heaven, "When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation to take me home, what joy shall fill my heart."

The final English version of "How Great Thou Art" was published in 1949 and quickly spread among Britain, Africa, India and America.

Protection in Christ's Purity

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

The world is beginning to experience the birth pains that Our Lord speaks of will take place prior to His glorious return. Whilst we long for our Lord's return and the commencement of His millennial reign of peace as He governs a redeemed world from the restored throne of David, we still find ourselves concerned. Even with a redeemed soul, our temporal needs often leave us worried in times of trouble in the world. Will we have health and strength to provide for our families? Will we be able to find and afford the necessary food and clothing items? Are we too experience ever worsening persecution for our love of Jesus Christ in what was once a Godly nation? So, are we to find our peace in the assurances of the politicians, the scientists, the economists that 'we'll get through this,' a message rampant in the current climate? Absolutely not. We are to find our refuge, our peace, our joy, indeed life itself, in the assurances given to us by the blessed Lord Jesus, for He is our source of true peace, He is the Prince of Peace and through Him all blessings flow.



**"Every word of God is pure:
he is a shield unto them that
put their trust in him."**

Proverbs 30:5 (KJV)

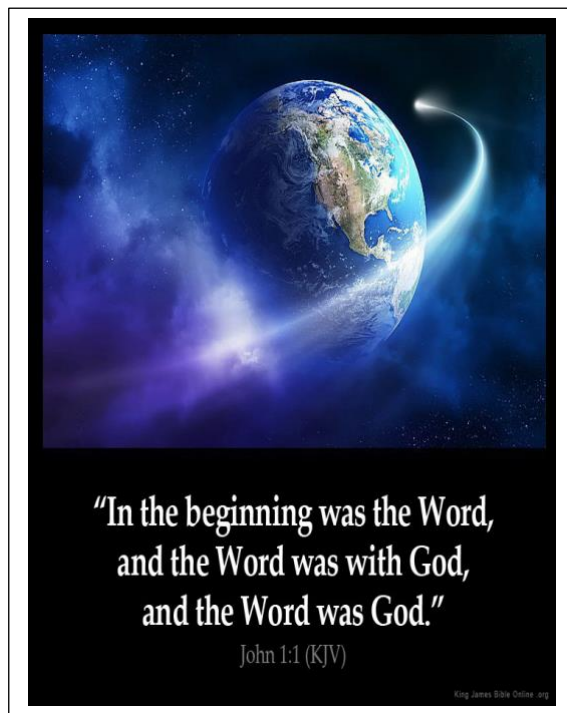
King James Bible Online .org

In Proverbs 30:5, Solomon, guided by the Holy Spirit, sees that what protects all of God's children in times of adversity is the purity of The Lord's word. It is the purity, the unblemished truth found in His word that gives it its immeasurable strength, capable of shielding those who trust Him, from every form of trial imaginable. Purity gives confidence in an items quality. As any jeweller will agree, the freer from blemish a precious stone is, the higher it's quality and in turn the more precious it is to those who possess it.

Our Lord's word is faultless, blemish free, completely trustworthy as it is God breathed, it is how our eternal Lord has revealed himself to us. Life itself is found in it's very pages. To not search it's pages daily for strength, wisdom, peace and protection is to deny our Lord glory and to embrace the painful sin of doubt in His provision for us. If we do not read His word with desire, passion and zeal, we are ignoring the very shield offered to us in times of hardship and struggle.

The scriptures are the way that God has revealed His perfect will for each one of us. Our life's purpose doesn't lay in mystic personal revelation, a belief that is so popular in modern

Charismatic Christian churches. God revealed His divine nature once and once alone in the form of His eternal Son, the Lord Jesus. All revelation of the Godhead is found in Christ Jesus and this is why He is referred to as The Word, for He speaks with all power and authority of God (see John 1:1). This is where Solomon's words resound ever sweeter in their reassurance to all of God's children. As Jesus Christ is himself The Word, we have our shield in His eternal existence as the Lord Almighty. Here, the purity of Christ's life as a man, putting aside His eternal, heavenly glory for a season but not His deity, becomes all the more incredible and awe inspiring. For in His pure, spotless life, free from the stain of sin, He fulfilled all of God's law thus rendering himself a spotless sacrificial lamb before the Father in atonement for our sins first born in the failure of Adam to fulfil God's law.



Therefore the purity of Jesus allows us to come to Him in submission and repentance of sin, knowing that He will not turn us away but instead bid us come to find eternal life in Him. Here we find our shield from our fears, troubles and indeed our sins that Solomon speaks of, for in Christ alone was God's demand for perfection of justice against the sin of man, was satisfied completely and eternally. Knowing this, we can rest in the peace that once redeemed by the blood of Christ, we are wrapped in His righteousness, spotless before God, freed from condemnation and will share in the glory given to His firstborn Son for all eternity as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Yet we can only know of the richness of our redemption if we are well versed in the word of God. We can only know The Word through his word. The scriptures give us the knowledge that He is our shield so we can take peace in this wondrous truth, giving our thanks to Him whilst He protects us from the barbs of the evil one.

Finally, let us consider the clear message given by the Holy Spirit through Solomon to all would be scriptural critics and self appointed 'scholars,' of higher criticism that became so rampant in Biblical analysis in the 19th century through the work of 'scholars' Westcott and Hort. Their textual criticism of the AV Bible attacked the purity and veracity of the Masoretic text (*Old Testament texts preserved by the Jewish people*) and the Textus Receptus (*New Testament text preserved by the Syrian churches during the corruption of texts seen in the schools of Alexandria in the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus manuscripts*) the historically accurate and meticulously preserved manuscript upon which we received our AV/KJV Bible (*indeed Textus Receptus means Received Text*).

Not caring for the Textus Receptus and instead preferring the wildly unreliable manuscripts that are the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus, *(these two corrupted manuscripts have over 5000 variations to the original texts)* Westcott and Hort built upon the Ancient Greeks desire to change the word of God according to their philosophical schools of humanistic thought so popular at this point in history. Furthermore, this skewed, man centred, historically corrupted approach to textual criticism by Westcott and Hort laid the groundwork for the proliferation of watered down bible versions we see littering the bookshelves today.

How incredible it is that God moved to have this warning of tampering with his words so clearly highlighted in a book of wisdom written centuries (Solomon's reign around 1000BC) before the emergence of pride filled humanistic thinking that was the hallmark of Ancient Greek philosophy.

Countering against this corruption of God's word via Greek philosophy (motivated by the scheming of Satan) in the New Testament period, was the church of Philadelphia who received particular praise from Jesus *(indeed the only church to receive praise in the Book of Revelation, as Dr Peter Ruckman observes in his commentary on Proverbs)* for keeping his word and ordinances pure and unpolluted despite possible small numbers of believers and likely persecution endured; along with spreading the Gospel so fervently throughout Asia Minor. Proverbs 30:5 sees the warning and following assurance of God being demonstrated by the Philadelphian church in the Book of Revelation 3:8.

As a church let us strive to emulate the Philadelphian church so that we may keep the word of God pure and his ordinances pure also so that we may enjoy the protection from the fear and folly of the world that only our Lord Jesus can provide as our eternal shield.

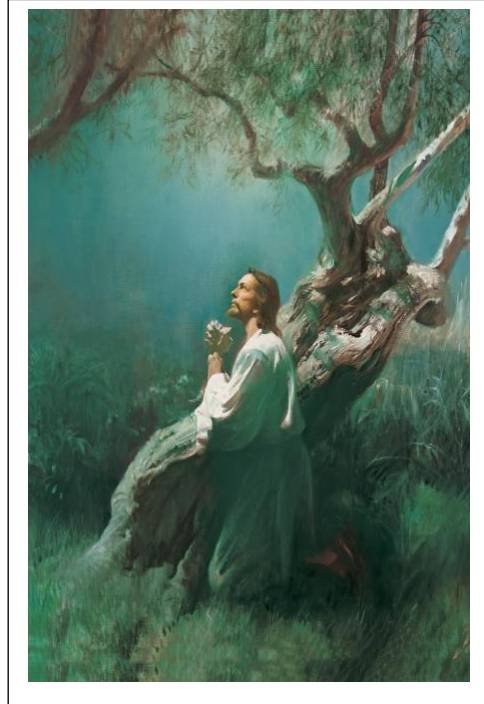
In conclusion, it should be no surprise that Satan has moved so craftily against the purity of God's word throughout history for as we have discussed, it is the purity of God's word that has moved the hearts of man to find salvation in the purity of The Word who is our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us be on our guard and be prepared to provide a strong defence of the purity of God's word that has been given to us in the AV/KJV Bible and receive our protection in the assurances of God's care and provision for us in the purity of Christ's sacrifice and sonship as the eternal Son of God. Amen.

The Agony of Gethsemane

Such a title for such a small piece as this is out of place in one sense; indeed in the greatest sense. Yet for the passage that I want to briefly look at it holds the truth of the mental and physical state which Jesus endured in the garden that night.

If we turn to Luke 22:44, we read "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." This condition is termed *hematidrosis* (or *hematohydrosis*), and is such an exceedingly rare event, where

extreme mental stress is manifested dermatologically, that the medical profession has largely been sceptical of its existence. This has not been helped by the perception that because of its record in the Gospel of Luke, it must be a form of religious symbolism or exaggeration rather than a factual account. It is interesting to note that only Luke of the Gospel writers records this detail; this could be ascribed to the fact that Luke being a physician himself and so well able to understand this as a factual phenomenon, was well suited to record it. Indeed he was no doubt familiar with the earliest known records we have of hermatidrosis as recorded by Aristotle in 3rd century BC and then again by his successor Theophrastus, who both ascribed the condition to severe bodily stress. In recent times (post 1880) there have been a number of documented cases proving once again the validity of the Gospel accounts as accurate statements of historical fact. Recorded cases exist from WWII in the Blitz of London and since 2004 28 cases have been verified. Of these 6 were people facing execution.



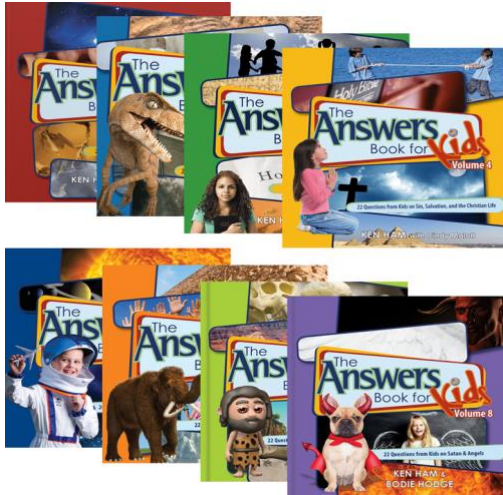
Our Lord's mental torment in Gethsemane as he wrestled with Satan, with the human fear of the torture and pain of crucifixion to come, with the overwhelming weight of sin bearing down upon Him, with the anguish of the forethought of the separation from the Father to come, we, even as believers can never begin to fathom the depths of the agony of that night as our Saviour fell to the ground in fervent prayer.

Yet in that vision of our Lord, see too the mighty power of His love; and with this I will leave you with a thought from Issac Ambrose. He wrote that the sap that bleeds from the tree without cutting is always the sweetest and the best. May we always remember that before a nail or a thorn ever pierced our precious Saviour, he bled for us in the garden. Amen.

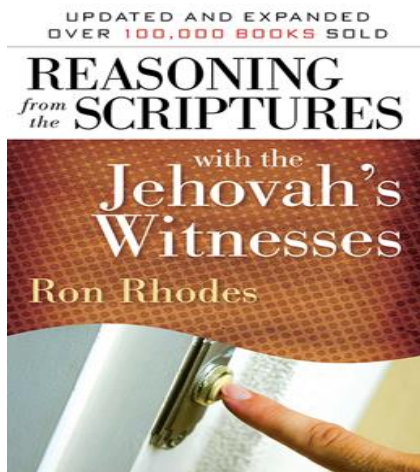
By David Badger Jnr

There's a fantastic range of Biblical resources available from Answers in Genesis UK store. Their website is answersingenesis.co.uk and currently they are offering 20% off everything by using the code MATTHEW6 at the online checkout.

A very small selection of some of their fantastic resources are seen on the next page and we thoroughly recommend investigating their range and signing up for their regular newsletter. This newsletter contains a monthly article, details on new resources and sale items, along with information on national conferences and local meetings that are open to all.

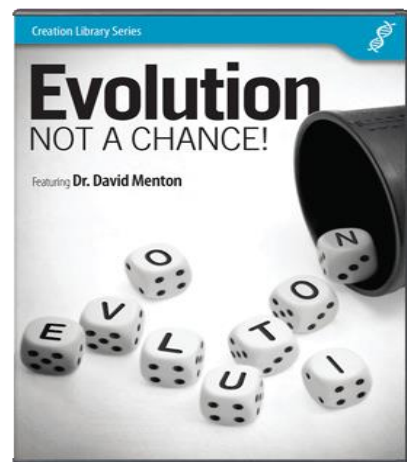


Answers are important. If children aren't given answers to their questions about the Bible and the history it reveals, they cannot defend their faith against a fallen world. The Answers Book for Kids series is a unique collection of question-answer books from Ken Ham and the creative team at Answers in Genesis that meet this need.



This powerful book is a complete hands-on guide to sharing the truth of God's Word to Jehovah's Witnesses in a loving and gracious way. Learn the strategic and penetrating questions that will help you effectively respond with confidence to Witnesses who try to lead you astray.

Popular scientist Dr. David Menton captivates viewers with fascinating illusions as he explains that evolution doesn't stand a chance when compared to the truth of science, and most importantly, God's Word. This celebrated instructor uses practical illustrations to demonstrate the "integrated complexity" that would be necessary for evolution to be true. His warm teaching style and enjoyable wit make this DVD fun to follow and easy to understand. In a respectful way, Menton demonstrates why it is true that a person must have a sizeable amount of credulity in order to buy into the tale of evolution. And don't worry, it's okay to laugh as you learn!



A Final Thought

As we come to the end of our first week of enforced isolation, social media platforms are awash with positivity. Whether it's a selfie, a Snapchat or a meme, many attempt to lift each other's spirits with uplifting messages. A particularly popular phrase that has come to the fore is, "we got this!" Like something out of an overblown Hollywood action movie, the phrase captures well the mood in the contemporary world of people leaning on each other when the times get tough.

Yes, we can help and support each other, as we are instructed by our Lord to do so, but never forget the importance of leaning on the Lord above all else and bring your troubles to Him. We are called to take our refuge in Him ahead of our fellow man (Psalm 118:8) and while our friends and family can lift us, nothing profits more than drawing close in prayer to the one who loved us enough to die for us (John 15:13).

Psalm 55:22 – Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

We got this? Not quite. He's got this.

By John Sivewright

Truth to Wonder Ministries

Newsletter April 2020

Written and compiled by Jonathan Badger

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John Sivewright***

