



Truth To Wonder

Volume 1 Issue 11 February 2021

Editor – Jonathan Badger

Writers – Jonathan Badger, Donna Badger,
Naomi Badger, Dr David Badger Snr, David Badger Jnr,
John Sivewright

Welcome to Truth To Wonder

A warm welcome to all in this chilly month of February. As we begin to enter some degree of momentum in living through 2021, doubtless many of our well meaning plans and intentions for the new year have already been put aside, as we slip back into old traits and habits. This ease of falling away from high hopes down to accepted minimums reveals our great frailty of will when it is driven by our own strength and perseverance.

The seeming exceptions are those who are of a singular mindset in achieving some specifically personal target, such as losing weight, taking up a new sport/hobby etc and are so driven that they will add some accomplishment to their name.

Yet the life of a believer in Christ is not driven by the desire to add accomplishment to their own name. Our desire as Christians is to bring glory to the name of God by denying our own sinful desires and will and instead seek to fulfil His perfect will. This is so much harder to accomplish than even the intense regime of the most dedicated sportsman. A life lived in service of Christ and love of others is twice as hard as it involves the denial of self and then the consistent exertion of oneself for another even at great personal cost.

This is where many well meaning souls fall away after but a short while walking in the life required in service of Jesus Christ. Such sad souls based their new well meaning intentions to find God and peace on their own endeavours, their own will power, skills, works, strength or expertise. Yet such are the great demands of a life in devotion to Christ, that unless it is founded in the eternal strength and faithfulness of Christ Jesus himself, that soul will inevitably become disillusioned and fall back into sinful, worldly lusts.

So let's be sharp of mind, dedicated of spirit and humble of heart to see that our faith

endures because Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Let's give our praise to God that even though our other aspirations for the year may falter or may have already faltered, God never falters in His faithfulness to His redeemed in Christ Jesus, and that once He has begun a work in us, He shall perfect it.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the reassurance that our salvation is held tightly by your sovereign might and power, a power that no being can defy. Lord we are humbled that you, the Almighty LORD takes such care for we wretched sinners that we might have a great joy in our salvation. That joy Lord is also a knowing peace that though we may stumble in our pursuit after you, we are held graciously in your eternal mercy, so that we are never cut adrift of the atonement made for our sins in Jesus Christ.

Dear Lord, whilst we rest in this great truth, let us not fall into complacency of faith. Place in us a heart ablaze for your word so that our heart's desire each day is to come to you in humility and hunger, longing after the richness that only the wonder of your glory can satisfy.

Lord, many of us are struggling, tired with the demands, tests and trials of this life lived in a world of sin. Those days of optimism of the New Year, but a few weeks passed already feel long ago. Renew us Lord we pray, strengthen us and meet us each at our point of need.

Yet such is your abundant grace dear Lord, that even before these words have reached the halls of heaven, you have already moved to answer them with works of provision that are a constant witness to the joy you take in caring for your dear children.

Dear Lord we ask for all these things in the name of your only begotten Son, Our Saviour and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail
not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
[Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide,
strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
[Refrain]



A History of Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm's popular hymn was first penned in 1923 as Thomas thought deeply on wonderfully faithful God had been to him throughout his life.

Inspired by the words written in Lamentations 3:22-23 (see image below) Chisholm's joyful and awe filled hymn beautifully portrays the wonder of heart that is felt by the believer as they meditate on how the Almighty God has intervened for our eternal welfare so that we might be restored to him forever through the blood of Christ Jesus.

After Chisholm had written the lyrics to the hymn, he sent the work to William Runyan in Kansas, USA, where Runyan composed the now well known music that accompanies the fine verse.

Published in that same year of 1923 by Hope Publishing Company, it quickly became a firm favourite amongst church congregations. The popularity of the hymn continued to grow through its use by Dr William Henry Hughton of the Moody Bible Institute in the USA and through the crusades of Billy Graham.

The powerful refrain demands that it is sung with power and passion, a worthy rendering of the heart of praise every believer in Christ should feel when they consider the eternal faithfulness of the Lord Almighty, that never falters or alters such is His eternal greatness.

By Jonathan Badger



Challenging Questions of Faith: Predestined Freedom of Will

The seeming tension between the predestined nature of all creation, including mankind when placed against the freedom of will that man is given in either bowing the knee of worship to Christ Jesus or not, is one that many if not all believers have wrestled with at some point or another. Great volumes could be written on this question alone, but don't be concerned over a lengthy treatise here on the matter; I shall offer only an analogy of how the two apparent combatants are actually in complete harmony with one another.

Many years ago, when my wife and I decided to treat our daughter to a surprise visit to her favourite sweet shop located in a nearby town centre. We knew this was the morning's activity, yet our daughter did not as it was to be a surprise.

When we arrived opposite the shop our daughter's eyes lit up and she sweetly asked if we could go inside as she was still unaware that the sweet shop was our intended destination. Now this sweet shop was a mini Willy Wonka factory, a child's dream (and many adults as well) with every type of sweet, chocolate, sugary drink, fudge, toffee the mind could salivate over. Such was the mind boggling array of choice that it would be easy for the morning to be lost in a tear filled paralysis where my daughter would be locked in a hundred different decisions unable to fix on just one.

However, knowing our daughter we were confident she would decide on a selection of traditional pick and mix so that she could walk out with a bulging bags of treats as opposed to one of the hundreds of chocolate bars or fudge slabs available. After a few minutes of drool laced, bulging eyed wonder from our daughter as she scanned the contents of the shops, she did indeed choose an array of our forethought of pick and mix.

As we exited the shop, the look on our daughter's face was one of delighted surprise over the unexpected visit to her favourite sweetshop, where her parents gave in to her request to go inside, ending up with a hand struggling to contain a delicious assortment of treats. From her perspective she was exercising her free will in noticing the shop, asking to go inside the shop, asking for a small purchase and the fulfilment of that expression of free will was the hoped for and requested bag of her favourite sweets. Here we have the expression of man's free will.

Yet all the while, unbeknownst to our daughter, the visit to the sweetshop was already decided by my wife and I. Furthermore the knowledge that even with the choice of hundreds of options, our daughter would select a certain option even before she had chosen freely herself with no interference from ourselves. We were confident of her choice as we are her parents, knowing her likes, dislikes, mannerisms, thought processes etc. Therefore, our prearranged visit and confident prediction of sweets selection was an example of God's predestination of life's unfolding steps.

God is our Heavenly Father, who moves all things according to His predetermined will. In the course of the unfolding of these determined events, we are as blissfully unaware children going along expressing our desires as though they are new information. All the while however, God knowing us intimately having made us and gifted us life, already knows our thoughts, desires and expressions before they are made and therefore does not require Him to exert obvious influence on the decision of the individual for His already determined will to come to perfect fruition. Thereby we do not enjoy a false freedom of will, a veneer of freedom as God does indeed allow us our choice, yet as the knowing parent, He has already moved to provide the choice and the fulfilment in His eternal goodness.

By Jonathan Badger

Book of Ruth – Part Five

We resume our study of the beautiful little book of Ruth by diving headfirst without delay into Chapter 2 verse 5, which reads, **“Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?”**

Choice of language must be defined and precise if it is to represent the movements and determinations of the Lord God. This careful selection of language to convey a deep truth is evident in this verse as the Holy Ghost inspires the writer of the Book of Ruth to use the term, “Whose damsel is this?” As opposed to ‘Whose that damsel?’

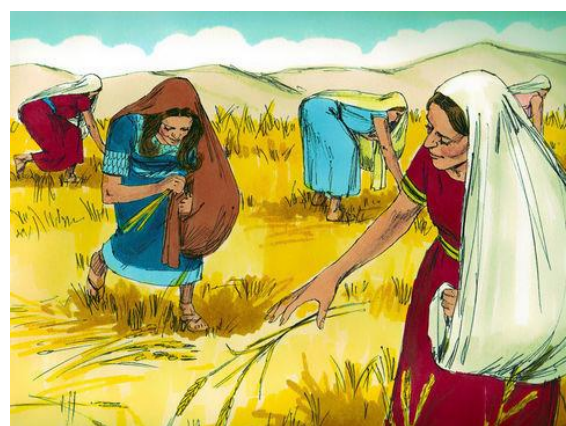
The choice of term reflects the nature and order of creation, the provision of roles and responsibilities of man and woman, and ultimately who holds the ownership of the humble and repentant of spirit.

Boaz’s words show the clear delineation of the scriptural role of the man towards a woman. Man created first by the ordination of God, is given the task of leadership and protection towards the softer of the sexes, the woman. This is not a demonstration of oppressive manhood seeking to ‘own’ the woman, in this instance Ruth. It is an awareness by Boaz that this lonely woman is not being cared for, not being provided for, nurtured or protected in what was and still remains a cruel world of sin and wickedness. Boaz reflects the Scriptural role of the man, to strive to glorify God by taking on the responsibility given to him by God in leading, protecting and nurturing the woman, ie Ruth.

This Biblical ordination of the roles of man and woman are so vital as it reflects the very nature of Christ and the church itself. This matter is spoken of by Paul in Ephesians 5. Jesus gave himself for His church and continues to provide, protect and nurture His church to this day and will continue to do so until He returns to take His bride that is the church, home to glory with Him in His Father’s house forever.

Furthermore, Jesus is the one who has bought us with His own blood and thereby we are His property. In His eternal goodness and mercy He delights in us, the ones He purchased with His own blood, by protecting, providing and nurturing us from eternity past to eternity future. This wondrous truth is reflected in Godly marriage between a man and a woman and is demonstrated here in the text by the figure of Boaz, who is very much a picture of the Lord Jesus.

As we read in verses 6 and 7 via Boaz’s servant, we again see the character of Ruth shine through in her daily task of humble gleaning, the picking up of the fallen barley grains that were left by the harvesters for the benefit of the poor, widowed and foreigners. Verses 6 and 7 highlight Ruth’s hard working nature, a work ethic that reflects the words that her great, great grandson Solomon would advise all to engage in through Ecclesiastes 9:10 (“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might”). As we have previously noted, it is all too easy to fall into depression in times of suffering, yet a heart rich in faith, whilst still feeling the hardship does not remain in bitter sadness. It’s hope is grounded in the LORD, and strength is drawn from His reassurance that when God is with us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31).



Let us indulge in a quick tangent here as we consider an important side note to the events of Ruth’s life. Dear Ruth did not have these wondrous words from God that bring us such welcome strengthening when we walk

through days of testing and trial. Such sources of hope as Romans 8:31 were not yet revealed to mankind in the written word. Yet such is our desire for signs or miracles in our present day, that we sometimes long for the days of the Old Testament. Days when God's power was manifest in visible signs and wonders. Yet consider how many signs and wonders came from the hand of God in correction or judgement of man's sinful nature. This is why Jesus spoke so when He said it is an evil generation that asks for signs (Matthew 16:4). The demand for signs and wonders is the expression of sinful doubt and mistrust. It reveals a heart that has misunderstood the use of signs and wonders by God. They are used to display His power, His might and validate the truth of His eternal word which is very much complete in our Holy Bible.



Yet many today ignore this sound theology as dismissing feeling and emotion within faith. Do you believe that if offered the revealed word of God or the experience of ever changing feelings during hours of hardship, Ruth would still have chosen to live in feeling over the certainty that is contained in God's word? This is why it is crucial for every believer to have a daily intake of God's word, to anchor their faith in the Word, not the sensation. In this anchoring, real, consistent hope can flow readily as it rests on the might and truth of God's unchanging word and nature, and not on the ever changing weakness and nature of man.

Returning to our study of the text, we read of the first outpouring of mercy, grace and protection from Boaz towards Ruth in verses 7 and 8. After hearing Ruth's plea that she might be allowed to continue gleaning in Boaz's fields, Boaz immediately extends mercy towards the grief stricken Ruth. The mercy is in the form of his permission for her to

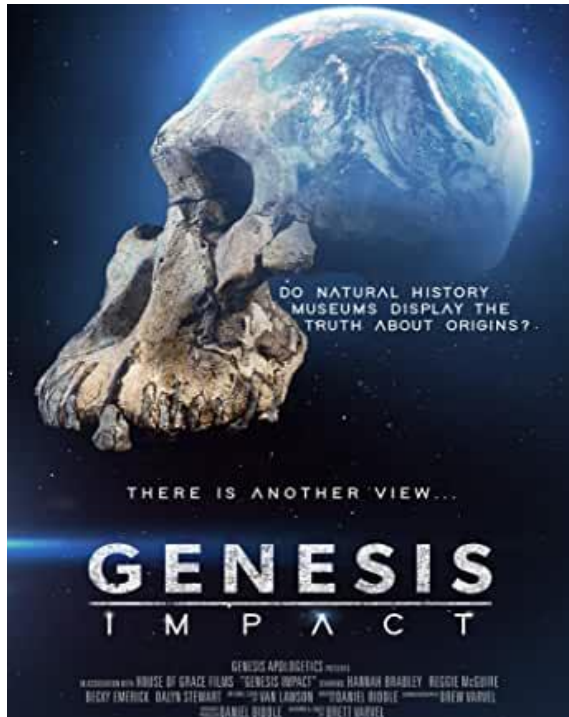
continue as requested, to glean in his fields. Yet his heart full of compassion towards this humble, hard working soul is not finished pouring out kindnesses. He extends the kindnesses by ensuring that she remains in his fields where he has ensured her protection by instructing his servants that no one lays a hand on Ruth. Further he instructs her to help herself to the water reserved for his workers. This kindness should not be diminished or overlooked, for working the length of the day in the punishing heat of Israel would've taken a significant physical toll on the workers and gleaners. So this kindness is a welcome source of physical restoration to dear Ruth.

This act of kindness by Boaz is a beautiful depiction of the difference between mercy and grace. Boaz extends his mercy to the humble Ruth who has placed herself in a position of humility and hopeful trust in the goodness of Boaz. This is supplied and then exceeded in his grace. This reflects the depth of grace that God extends towards we sinners at the moment of salvation. God not only forgives us our debt of sin through the offering of the blood of His Son Jesus Christ; He then provides a mighty measure of blessing not earned or deserved by man but very much gifted to man so that we have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us. This means that we share in the glory and righteousness of Christ so that we become redeemed children of God. This is what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus is the firstborn, the pre-eminent only begotten Son of God, but we are brought in by the grace of God to share in His eternal glory. Boaz reflects this incredible nature of God in his actions towards Ruth, and we as believers in Christ are to do likewise. Yet how many of us live so? We shall end on this important note, that those who do not extend such compassion to others when they claim to be believers in Christ are bringing great dishonour to the name of God. Therefore pray the Lord softens your heart and makes it burst with compassion towards others, so that they may see the very nature of God in your actions and expressions of the heart.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

Genesis Impact

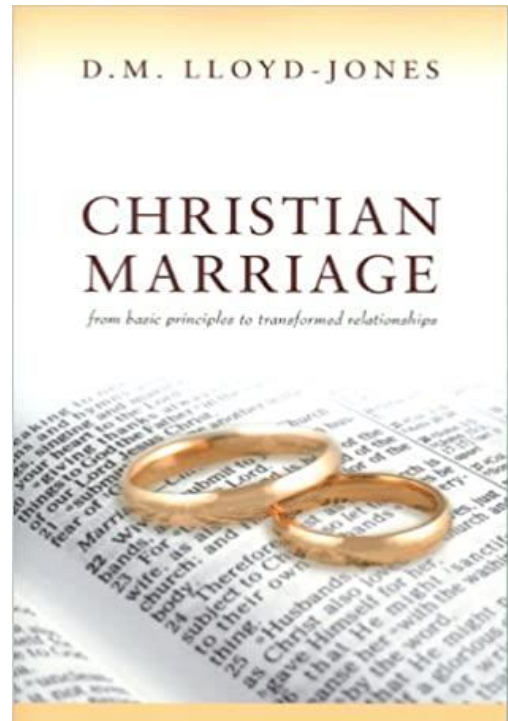


This fascinating documentary-drama centres around a lecture hall filled with young students being taught the theory of Evolution as though it is an unquestionable fact of science. The lecturer reveals a series of 'factual evidences' that purportedly support the claim of evolution as scientific fact. Yet one student dares to challenge the accepted science and begins cross examine the evidence with startlingly results.

I thoroughly recommend giving this film a view as it's interesting layout and excellence of content makes it a powerful witness to the false claims of evolution being indisputable scientific fact.

If you have an Amazon Prime account then this excellent film is available to view for free via Amazon Prime video. Otherwise it can be rented or purchased for viewing online again via Amazon.

Christian Marriage



In an age which has seen an almost total collapse of marriage and when, in many cases, marriages end in divorce with children being raised in 'broken homes', Dr. Lloyd-Jones' words speak powerfully into our present situation. It is a situation which may be seen as giving Christians, and especially Christian marriages, a valuable opportunity to bear witness to biblical truth. The way in which Dr. Lloyd-Jones, like the Apostle Paul, deals with marriage relationship, is extremely important - to attempt to deal with Christian practice apart from Christian doctrine is to tread a dangerous path. As these chapters on Ephesians make clear, the only Christianity powerful enough to penetrate and change society is that which is derived from the work of the Spirit of God.

Available from Amazon, Eden.co.uk and Keithjones.co.uk

Who Am I Today?

The demands of life often require us to assume numerous different roles throughout a solitary day. For instance in the past I have been Jonathan the husband, father, son, brother, friend, work colleague and Mr Badger the school teacher, all on one given day. I would switch between seven different 'hats', assuming different roles with each hat swap, often leaving myself exhausted and confused as to who Jonathan actually was underneath it all at the end of the day.

Such separation of character is not healthy or indeed correct, as when we take on such thinking, such an approach to the varying tasks of life, we are saying that we are the source of the strength required to fulfil all these roles. Inevitably we crack under the pressure as one character role bleeds into another. For example, my role as Mr Badger the school teacher would be tired at the end of the work day and I would forget that my family did not want or need that same character to care, lead and nurture them as they needed something different from me.



Even the thought of such constant character switching is exhausting, yet so many of us do it so regularly it's often hard to see just how deeply ingrained it has become into our characters. What we need desperately is consistency, a constancy of character so that no matter who we come across, we are able to share the warmth of our love, the strength of our faith and the application of our compassion every time.

Such lofty goals can be sustained only by the removal of all the different 'hats' we wear in life and the assuming of the focal point of our

lives that is the robe of righteousness that Christ wraps us in in His eternal grace. When our character is anchored firmly in His unchanging glory and we strive to ensure that our character is moulded as unto His own nature, then this wonderful hope of existence can and will be realised.

I cannot faithfully be husband, father, son, brother, friend, colleague etc etc without confusion and exhaustion on my own strength. It takes a deep humility to see that it is the robe of righteousness of Jesus Christ himself, that allows us to stand before the Father free of the burden of sin. This glorious truth is the fount of all desired attributes as Jesus always perfectly fills whatever need you require at any point anywhere at anytime in your life. By focusing on Christ and desiring to be moulded into His wonderful image, we are graciously gifted a source of heavenly strength, wisdom, love, mercy, compassion, hope, joy, thanksgiving that does not alter no matter who you meet or in what circumstances you meet them. Jesus is the same with me as He is with you as He is with our dear brothers and sisters in Africa, Asia, America etc. He is the same with us as He was with Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc.

So delight in Christ, revel in the grace of His sharing of His robe of righteousness with you. Herein you are safe forever and gifted the source of all heavenly love that flows abundantly from the King of Kings himself. Then your character will be consistent in its existence and application, and each soul you meet will see the glory of God burn brightly in your eyes, and hear the majesty of His word from your tongue, and feel the compassion of His grace through your deeds.

As the great American evangelist D.L Moody said, "Character is what you are in the dark." When Christ Jesus is the delight of your heart and the focus of your character, then you will have a joyous consistency of being that reflects Our Lord even in the greatest darkness.

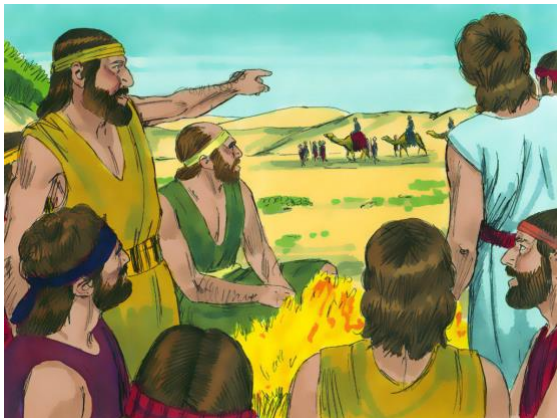
By Jonathan Badger

Provision for a Nation

Part 5

A couple of months ago we left the scene of Joseph in a pit somewhere in the land of Dothan. Reuben had managed to dissuade his brothers from the act of immediate murder, with the intent of rescuing Joseph at some later point, possibly in order to regain favour with his father Jacob.

Verse 25: And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.



Apparently the brothers hadn't lost their appetite despite their distasteful actions. Sitting to eat bread is a phrase synonymous to eating a meal, as bread was the staple of all meals partaken of. One would have imagined that Joseph was languishing in a pit some distance off as listening to his pleading for help (which one has to humanly imagine was the case) would have been somewhat off putting to even the hardest of hearts. They didn't like the sight or sound of him.

It is whilst this meal is underway that they notice a caravan of traders. They were seemingly camped within view of a main trade route to Egypt and saw the approaching company with sufficient time to have a conversation about selling Joseph rather than leaving him to die.

Gilead was a place noted for its gums and balsams as is seen in Jeremiah 8:22 – "Is there no balm in Gilead?" Myrrh was a particularly sort after product in ancient Egypt due to their advanced use of medicine and in the embalming process. Myrrh was used in embalming due to its scent but also due to its ability to slow decay through its antibacterial effect. It also had multiple uses in medicine, being used in the ancient east as a cure for indigestion, ulcers, coughs and colds, sore throats, arthritis, all the way to leprosy and syphilis. On a lighter note it would also be used to flavour foods.

Verse 26-28: And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Judah suddenly decides that there is a profit to be gained here from the black swan of the family, and the rest agree that monetary profit is decidedly more preferable. If a man can sell something of no use to him then you will generally find him glad of the option. However monetary gain is not the only reason

for Judah deciding against murder in favour of this now available recourse. He also mentions the covering or concealing of a brother's blood. Since the days of Cain the spilt blood of an innocent life was regarded as it crying out to heaven and so the act of covering was not just to conceal the human act of murder from those that may discover the scene but also to conceal it from the Almighty as well. Oh how poorly we as humans perceived the omniscience of the Lord. But guilt was already pricking the conscience of Judah and he wanted a cleaner way out. He doesn't however come to the aid of Joseph and defend him, but rather looks to soothe his conscience at the same time as retaining his standing with his brethren.

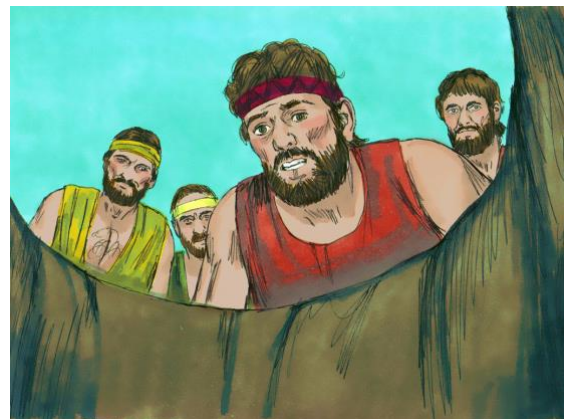
Now we come to the issue of the use of both the terms Ishmaelites and Midianites to refer to the company of men. Some contend this is an inconsistency. But why? Both the Ishmaelites and the Midianites have the same ancestor – Abraham. In Judges 8:24, Midianites are called Ishmaelites. There is no reason to assume that these are not one and the same, just different ways of referring to the same group of people.

The twenty pieces of silver was the going rate for a male of Joseph's age. In Leviticus chapter 27:5, Moses fixed this amount as the value of a boy between the ages of 5 and 20 years old. The price of a slave of full physical maturity was 30 pieces of silver or shekels (Exodus 31:32).

And so we find out the ultimate end of Joseph's rather eventful journey after leaving his father in Hebron on a simple errand - Egypt, the greatest land humanly speaking of the ancient near east. It is entirely feasible that unbeknown to Jacob,

Joseph now sold into slavery may well have passed closed by to his father on his way from Dothan to Egypt as trade routes went close to Hebron. Joseph would also have been well aware of the binding nature of the transaction, which had just occurred involving his person being procured as a servant. He was not naïve enough to think this was all a misunderstanding and it would be ironed out in the near future. There must have been tremendous distress and confusion on his behalf. He was also unaware of Reuben's plans to save him from his plight in the pit, and as we shall see it appears Reuben was unaware of the events that unfolded on the arrival of the Midianite caravan.

Verse 29-30: And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?



The statement that Reuben returned to the pit is sufficient evidence that he was not present at the time of Joseph's sale. This has come as quite a blood running cold moment for Reuben, who was, as we surmised earlier in our study, hoping that his act as Joseph's saviour would return his standing in the family. He expresses his gut wrenching grief

and distress in the traditional manner of rending his garment – done by grasping the inner garment of dress at the level of the neck with both hands and tearing downwards a few inches. Filled with alarm and panic, probably also partly due to the fact that if Joseph had somehow escaped of his own achievement and was now headed back to Hebron to Jacob, then they were all in deep trouble, he runs into the gathering of the rest of his brethren and cries out that Joseph has gone.

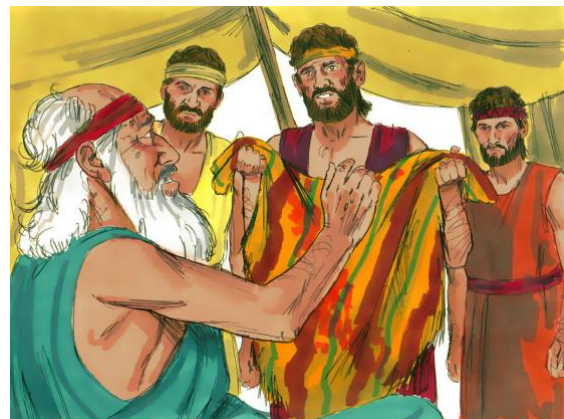
Their lack of surprise would have been immediately informative! And his further cry of “whither shall I go?” shows his own great distress, to the point of he has no idea what to do with himself. Does he mount a rescue? Does he go home? How can he face Jacob? His plans for personal glory have vaporised and now all he sees is yet further shame heaped on his head even more than the others as the eldest.

And so another plan has to be concocted. This is the nature of sin, it piles itself up one on top of another until you are thoroughly buried.

Verses 31-34: And they took Josephs coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son’s coat or no. And he knew it, and said, It is my son’s coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Forensic science was not a feature of this time and blood was blood. The brothers in their plan to cover they’re guilt did what we all do

as sinners and pass the buck. As a crude analogy it was the “it was like this when I got here” ploy. They are denying all knowledge that Joseph ever reached them and that they have found a coat that looks similar to Josephs – but they cant be sure, ‘so what do you think dad since you gave it to him?’ The brothers are cruel, they know Jacob’s love for Joseph and they know the effect this will have upon him. They may have even felt a sense of revenge upon their father for the favouritism that he had bestowed on Joseph. The text says that they sent the coat; someone acted as messenger, as they are all too gutless to stand before Jacob, and even the message was cruel and blunt – “found this, doesn’t look good – is it Joseph’s or not?”



Jacob immediately recognises it and comes to the desired conclusion; his beloved son has been attacked and mauled to death by some wild beast. In the land at this time shepherds would have been on guard for lions and bears and wolves. They were accustomed to dangerous animals and indeed fighting them. In retrospect this is easy to say but, if Jacob had controlled his grief and taken a look at the coat as it was presented to him, it appears that the brothers did not tear or rip it. This might have struck him as a little odd and maybe even brought suspicion given that he

had assumed that Joseph had been rent in pieces. Seeming the wild beast had undressed Joseph of his coat first!

But we are all blinded by grief. We rarely act rationally when faced with the loss of a loved one. Jacob is no exception.

So we will leave the story here for now – Sin layered upon sin to achieve an end. Jealousy enacting revenge. A parent's heart-breaking grief the consequence of the worldly desires of the offspring. How often in our youth have our sins brought grief of untold pain to our parents. How much do we find ourselves unaware of this until we too as parents find ourselves feeling it also.

As my father said to me once – the way of sin is hard. May we all keep this in mind and be eternally grateful that we have been washed white before the Lord. Amen.

By David J Badger

Ancient Briton and the Word of God – Part Two

Ancient Briton, a province of Ancient Rome but also an island with a far more ancient history. An island you may be astonished to know whose past was earlier than when Daniel the prophet saw the vision of a kingdom that would crush all before it.

Many authors writing of pre-Roman times will present you with a picture of Briton steeped in an ancient religion called Druidism (which still exists today). This abomination, akin to Old Testament religions was one of sorcery, magic, and divination. In this land necromancers, wizards, charmers and soothsayers practised a religion whose origins lie back in Old Testament Baalism.

However, are these this isles original history? There are evidences (never mentioned in

academic halls), that there are links between the people of ancient Briton and the Post-Flood world. We do indeed find paganism in ancient Briton as modern historians relate but they lead us to believe this was it's original state. There are records (utterly rejected and ridiculed), that give us 2000 years of history in these isles before Rome. These details were taken from a rare book whose language was almost extinct, the contents were translated into Latin. There are also other records in Welsh literature, indeed some sixty manuscripts.

Why then, did scholars of our ancient past stop recording our history? Well, some of the later ones witnessed the horrible slaughter of some of their best minds at Bangor. What brought this event about? In a word, Augustine. This Roman Catholic Bishop who at the close of the sixth century was sent to these isles by the Pope was told to 'convert' the Britons. What he did was bring about the murder of some 1200 (some say 2000) of their finest scholars. Time and again Rome (Papal), when taking over a land has destroyed or removed records.



If the reader finds the idea of removing historical data regarding history hard to believe then let me offer you this challenge. Go to as many libraries as you wish and bookshops and compile a detailed record of all available public information on the Roman Catholic Inquisition. Go and see how much public knowledge is available in this land today on a holocaust that lasted hundreds of years.

Dear reader, religions and scholars hide things, don't let anyone ever kid you that scholars are unbiased. There are records that demonstrate a link between O.T figures and our British ancestors. Those evidences devastate the evolutionary idea of history.

Thus it is, that certain records of early British history are consigned to oblivion. As Rome's (Papal) controlling hand eventually fell on this information, then the view expounded by 'authorities' was that either such records never existed or they were forgeries.

As mentioned then, there is data that connects our forebears in these isles that traces back to very early O.T records. Now, the O.T being one of my post-graduate fields, has been under attack by scholars for a long time. Countless liberal theologians and O.T critics strive to undermine faith in the reliability of the O.T books. Sadly many have fallen for their theories, this is tragic because you can drive a horse and cart through their 'evidences'. Any suggestion then of accuracy with regard to say Genesis 10 from extra-biblical sources would have to be suppressed, ridiculed or ignored.

If one reason alone was chosen why Satan would not want the early history of Briton known it would have to be it's links to an O.T origin. Pre-Christian ancient Briton believed in an O.T Biblical foundation. Foundations were laid here by God for His Word centuries before either Rome Pagan or Papal existed.

However, the attempt to destroy such a foundation in these isles lies back in the mists of time with the establishment of Druidism. Satan will always seek to undermine God's purposes, yet we rejoice in a Pure Word today due to the fact God's purpose cannot be overthrown by either Druidism, Rome Pagan, Rome Papal or even the Prince of Darkness.

By Dr David Badger Snr

Hallmarks of Design – Kangaroos

Kangaroos are a marvel of design being the only land animal that hops for the majority of it's travelling movements. Living in the dry open landscape of Australia and some of the surrounding islands, Kangaroos require a great ability to travel long distances to obtain food and water. The legs of the kangaroo operate as springs, with the tendons within the hind legs stretching like elastic bands on landing from a hop. Then at the point of initiating the next hop, the stored potential energy within the tendons is released in a great burst of kinetic energy, powering the next sizeable hop. Such a method of movement is highly efficient making it excellent for traversing the great barren stretches of the Australian outback. Furthermore the hopping mechanism also aids the breathing efficiency of the Kangaroos lungs, making the whole system combine beautifully to form one very effective design. Such design has been replicated by brilliant robot engineers, although their best efforts pale in comparison to the amazing efficiency of the Creators design contained within the Kangaroo.



Strength of tail enabling kicking action

The large tail acts as a brilliant counterbalance during the hopping movement, preventing the kangaroo from constantly jumping headfirst into the ground. The strong tail also operates effectively with the large rear feet forming a stable tripod stance for the kangaroo to stand thereby allowing kangaroos greater visibility and the ability to box one another. The strength of the tail is so notable that it can be

used by the kangaroo to support it's full body weight for short bursts allowing it to kick it's opponent (see photo on previous page).

Being a marsupial mammal, the kangaroos young live in a pouch after their birth. When the young kangaroo or 'joey' is born, it climbs into the mothers pouch locating the teat for nourishment and remains in the said pouch for the first nine months of it's life. The joey will then start to leave the pouch on occasions as it is weaned. Whilst the joey is out of the pouch and being weaned, the mother can have another joey attached to the teat, whilst carrying an unborn embryo. This is parenting multitasking at its finest and shows how truly incredible God's design is in it's care and productivity.



The incredible pouch in action

Furthermore the mother is able to delay the development of the embryo in case the existing joey has not been fully weaned yet or if there are drought conditions being experienced meaning a lack of suitable nourishment for herself and the offspring. When the time is suitable, her body sends hormones to restart the embryo development in her womb. Such is the grace of God that He has allowed for such a staggering piece of design so that the kangaroo kind can live and reproduce effectively even in a sin cursed world that shows itself harshly in the barren landscape of the Australian Bush.

Kangaroos have an amazing ability to withstand temperatures of up to 50 degrees celsius! They remain cool by licking their legs where the water evaporates cooling the stored heat within the body. This is boosted

by the large network of blood vessels contained within the legs of the kangaroo making a highly effective cooling mechanism. This is further heightened by the fact that when temperatures do rise, the blood of the kangaroo flows in greater quantity to the legs, the cooling centre for the kangaroo. They also remove heat by sweating and panting similar to dogs.



Keeping himself cool by licking his legs

Kangaroos have an enzyme that repairs DNA in its skin that may have been damaged by the exposure to the intense sunlight of Australia. This means that their risk of getting skin cancer is greatly reduced. It is unsurprising therefore that research is being carried out as to whether this special enzyme could be used by humans to reduce skin cancer levels.

All these features are beautifully engineered by God's hand to create an animal perfectly suited for the often harsh environment of Australia. How the Lord stored such abilities within the kangaroo knowing that these features would be needed for the post-flood world shows His amazing care and provision for all creation long in advance of it's actual need. When we feel worried about hard times and situations, remember the kangaroo. God moved long before the time of its necessity to ensure the care of the kangaroo. Aren't you worth more to God than the kangaroo? So fear not, for God cares for you.

By Jonathan Badger

You got all of that from a tooth?

We're all sadly familiar with images of 'ape-men', those imaginatively rendered pictures of lumbering creatures who are supposed to be our ancient ancestors. One offering of evolution theory regarding ape-men is the much celebrated Nebraska Man (pictured below).



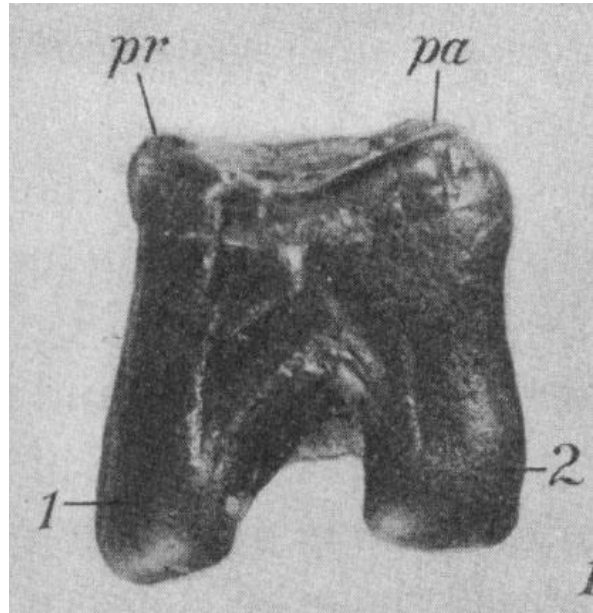
Staggering detail gained from a tooth!

Judging by the picture above with its rich detail including even the tools this supposed intermediary ape-man used, you would be forgiven for thinking that the anthropologists who discovered this creature, dug up a remarkably intact skeleton surrounded by the ancient tools the creature once used.

This couldn't be further from the truth however. What was actually dug up was a single tooth as you will see from the image below.

This meagre offering was the great discovery that brought the world the wonderfully imaginative creation that is Nebraska Man. Evolutionary scientists, so determined to interpret literally any find as 'factual evidence'

as proof of their already subscribed to bias, over zealously claimed this tooth was proof of a fully fledged ape-men. Their grand idea was that at long last, the missing link between ape and man was no longer missing and Nebraska Man was the great discovery of evolutionary anthropology.



The infamous Nebraska Man tooth

However, acutely aware that the actual fossil evidence for this claim revolved around a mere tooth, artists were commissioned to create a creature that blended characteristics of both ape and human. The result was a detailed 'recreation' of an entire species based solely on a single tooth, and this Dr Seuss level of imagination was quickly embraced by the scientific community and school textbooks as proof positive of ape to man evolution.

Yet after further study, it was revealed that the tooth, this rich source of artistic license that not even Roald Dahl could rival, actually belonged to a type of extinct pig. That's right, a pig, not even an ape! Nebraska Man went from being the great hope of evolutionary theory to a great source of embarrassment. Sadly though whilst the initial discovery of the tooth was greeted with much fanfare, the subsequent revelation that it was actually a pig's tooth slipped quietly out into the world in

the effort to not draw attention to the paper thin case of evolutionary theory.

What is truly saddening however, is that Nebraska Man is still very much being promoted in our school textbooks as factual proof of evolution. So the reassuring truth from this case is that do not fret when science apparently has new 'iron proof evidence of evolution as fact'. There will come a time in future study that will reveal that science is not in conflict with the Bible and the creation account, but that good science reveals the inescapable truth that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

By Jonathan Badger

The heavens declare the Glory of God

The BBC's great promoter of evolutionary theory Professor Brian Cox, will be familiar to many through his much publicised TV shows on Astronomy and Astro Physics. Doubtless a very intelligent man, Professor Cox lives in tragic blindness to the gloriously simple truth that the same universe he studies so intently, wonderfully declares the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).



Yet in a recent interview with the Daily Express, Professor Cox who whilst rejecting the label of atheist professes no specific personal faith, acknowledged that science leaves many sizeable questions unanswered. Questions such as where did the laws of

nature come from? Why did the universe come into existence? Why did our universe begin so ordered and now continues into greater disorder with each passing day? These burning questions cannot be answered by science, an observation Stephen Hawking famously wrestled with in his book *A Brief History of Time*, leading Professor Cox to say that these questions leave space for the existence of God.

Whilst this allowance by Professor Cox is very noble and generous, and I'm sure that God is very relieved that such a learned man as Professor Cox has granted Him the possibility of existence; such an admission shows that no man is without excuse in knowing the truth of God's existence (Romans 1:20). As believers in Christ Jesus, we must pray for such brilliant but blind men and women, as it is by divine revelation that God's truth is given to the heart, not by the efforts and intellect of man (Matthew 16:17).

By Jonathan Badger

Do we just expect?

We wake up in the morning to the sound of our alarm, expecting it to do its job; we jump in the shower and expect to have hot water; we get into our cars and expect it to start, and this is far from all the things we expect to just happen in only maybe just the first hour of our day.

But do we stop and give thanks to the Lord for all these blessings? Do we thank Him for getting us to work safely; for having hot showers, food to eat, clothes to wear, or even allowing us to wake up in the mornings? How many times do we give Him thanks? There are many verse in the Bible that address this important issue of giving thanks, such as:

O give thanks unto the Lord; for his mercy endure the forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

And say he, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise. (1 Chronicles 16:35)

Rejoice in the Lord, He is righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness (Psalm 97:12)

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Do not take the things in your life (that He has blessed you with) for granted, they are all His doing and not ours. They are all given to you in His grace and can be removed within a second if He so wills. Be thankful for what you have and all you possess, most importantly give thanks always that you are saved by Christ, because His love is eternal and will give you eternity with Him. So give thanks in everything!

By Donna Badger



Spread the Word

A quick reminder that the Truth To Wonder Ministries website is now online and is the place to go to access all back issues of the Truth to Wonder magazine/newsletter, including the Easter 2020 special issue.

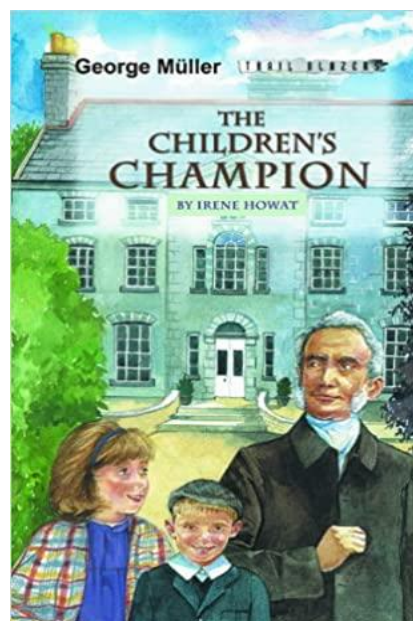
Simply type the web address below straight into the search bar of your internet browser. Tell your friends and family of this free resource available now!

Truthtowonder.godaddysites.com

Above link is enabled to take you straight to the action and thank you for your support.

Children's Book Review

The Children's Champion



This month's children's book of the month is Irene Howat's *The Children's Champion*.

This book is about George Muller, who began as an untrustworthy young thief and drunkard, whose heart was miraculously changed by God to become one of the great men of faith in the Victorian period.

The back of the book is full of questions we should be asking ourselves as believers in the Lord. It is also full of valuable lessons to get us thinking.

The Children's Champion is an amazing book, it is so good that my Mum (who is 25 years older than me) and myself read it in a day and felt eager to read more. Anyone that comes across the book should grab the chance to read it.

Available from Amazon, Eden.co.uk and Keith Jones.co.uk

By Naomi Badger

Family Bible Quiz

- 1: In the victory song the Israelite women sang, how many enemies did they say David have slain in comparison to Saul?
- 2: How many Philistines did David have to slay for Saul to cover the cost of his daughters wedding to David?
- 3: Did David fulfil this order and if so by how many?
- 4: What was the name of Saul's daughter?
- 5: What did Saul's daughter (David's wife) say to the guards who came to kill David?
- 6: How did Saul's daughters marriage to David end?
- 7: Who was David's second wife?
- 8: Who was the witch who Saul sought help from instead of God?
- 9: How did Saul die?
- 10: True or false - Jonathan, Saul's son, died in battle with his father?



Answers

- 1: "Saul hath slain his thousands, David his ten thousands." 1 Samuel 18:7. 2: 100 1 Samuel 18:25. 3: He did, he killed 200 doubling Saul's request 1 Samuel 18:27. 4: Michal. 5: "He is sick." 1 Samuel 19:14. 6: Saul arranged Michal to be remarried 1 Samuel 25:44. 7: Abigail. 8: The witch of Endor. 9: He fell on his sword 1 Samuel 31:4. 10: True
By Naomi Badger

A Final Thought

In these present days of spiritual regression in the western world, where good is being called evil and evil good, one frequently hears of people wanting to be seen as being "on the right side of history". In times of political and racial tension, where issues such as sexual orientation and gender identity rule the day, and where masculinity is frequently attacked, people seem more interested in how history might one day view their present stance than on whether their position is morally, spiritually or, most importantly, biblically correct. One only needs to observe the "cancel culture" antics of the mob on social media, where careers are ruined for the comments of many years gone by, to see how important it can seem nowadays to tow the liberal line. While these are troubled and tense times, brethren, when considering these matters, we'd do well to remember that God, who can destroy both the body and soul in hell (Matthew 10:28), should be turned to as the final authority, not our fellow, fallible men. We are instructed by the Lord to keep his commandments and his precepts (Leviticus 22:31), which are a constant teaching, not subject to the whims and fancies of the ever-changing morality of unsaved man. If the pressures of conforming to the modern sensibilities of this world bring us into direct conflict with the teachings of scripture, we should stand firm in our beliefs as followers of Christ. We should expect persecutions and glory in them, as we are told in the beatitudes in The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:10-12). Being seen as being "on the wrong side of history" during our dealings with other men may bring temporary pain and suffering but, after all, that is but a small price to pay for being "on the right side of history" in the glorious day of judgement yet to come (Matthew 25:34).

Matthew 10:28 – And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell

By John Sivewright