

Truth to Wonder

October 2020 – Volume I Issue 7

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© Happy Day – The History of a Hymn

Body of Evidence – The Nervous System

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And Much More!

Editor – Jonathan Badger

Writers – Jonathan Badger, Naomi Badger, David J Badger, John Sivewright

A Warm Welcome

A warm welcome to all as we enter the Autumn season. As we bid farewell to the sun filled days of summer and greet the ever darkening mornings and evenings, we give thanks to the Lord for His loving, providential promise in Genesis 8:22, that while the earth remains the seasons will continue.

What a faithful and gracious God we serve. So let us now come boldly into His throne of grace and lay bare the contents of our heart and in turn be restored by His eternal peace.



Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, thank you for the gentle summer days, where the delightful warmth of your created sun brought light unto the darkness of the former winter days. As streaming rays of dazzling daylight renewed our spirits for a season, we give ever greater thanks that we are renewed each day forevermore by the radiant glory of your only begetting son, the Lord Jesus.

We marvel at your loving kindness dear Lord in how just as you keep our world veiled from the true heat of the burning sun, you also veil your searing glory and holiness from our sinful eyes so that we are not consumed by your might and majesty. Lord, it is staggering to the mind and humbling to the heart to know that you put aside your eternal glory for but a season so that you could live as with live, fulfil the law of God as we cannot and restore us to communion with the Father through the precious atonement offered by your pure, righteous blood.

Dear Lord, as we step timidly into, almost hesitantly into a new season where the warmth of summer is

now but a fading memory, we pray you focus our hearts and minds on that radiant glory that is you.

Lord, we do not know the trials, struggles and temptations that lay ahead of us all but merciful Lord we are comforted in knowing that you go with us and before us wherever you direct our paths. It is such a great joy to serve such a faithful Lord as you my Lord and my God. Whilst the world about us stumbles from chaos to fear, panic to rashness, foolishness to sin, we call upon the unchanging Lord of Lords and King of Kings to steady our feet, to strengthen our daily walk with you and watch over us as we rest in a cursed world of rampant sin.

Merciful Lord, bless the rulers and leaders of this nation with your wisdom and strength so that they may lead this sinful nation back to you in repentance and exaltation of your wondrous name. Lord, as Abraham pleaded for Sodom and Gomorrah that it be spared for the sake of but ten righteous souls living within their walls, so we plead you will be merciful to this wicked nation for the sake of the righteous few of your elected that remain faithful to your word in these godless days.

Be with all our brothers and sisters in Christ gracious Lord, for many do suffer for your names sake. Steel their faith sweet Lord and strengthen their resolve to stand triumphantly and courageously against the forces of evil wherever they may be in this decaying world. Whilst we do not know the countless names and faces that worship your mighty name across the globe, we are bonded to them all in the body of Christ that is your church.

Lord, we pray for our own condition in that whilst we do not suffer the threats and attacks that so many dear brother and sisters endure in service to you, we are in constant danger from another savage threat of faith. The threat of comfort, the threat of conformity with a cursed world, where the luxuries of this world have swept away many a promising heart. Dear Lord, you know how subtly the devil works, testing our hearts with seeming innocent pleasures to lure away our hearts, to steal away our minds from devotion to your word. How we call out for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts so that we are wise to the lurking of the wolves that are in our midst each and every day. We cry out for the Good Shepherd to come and bring us back from our wandering of faith and return us to His heavenly flock so that we may find rest in the green pastures of the Holy Scriptures.

This we do pray in Jesus name, amen.

O Happy Day When Jesus Washed My Sins Away

O happy day, that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

O happy bond, that seals my vows
To Him Who merits all my love!
Let cheerful anthems fill His house,
While to that sacred shrine I move.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

It's done: the great transaction's done!
I am the Lord's and He is mine;
He drew me and I followed on;
Charmed to confess the voice divine.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

Now rest, my long-divided heart,
Fixed on this blissful centre, rest;
Here have I found a nobler part;
Here heavenly pleasures fill my breast.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

High heaven, that heard the solemn vow,
That vow renewed shall daily hear,
Till in life's latest hour I bow
And bless in death a bond so dear.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

Written by Philip Doddridge

A History of O Happy Day

Written by Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), a non-conformist minister (this meant a rejection of the Church of England, following a more Puritanical theology) and close friend of the renowned hymn writer Isaac Watts, whom he dedicated his work *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* in 1745. This same work was a powerful factor in the igniting of the work done by slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce, another faithful servant of the Lord.

Originally entitled *Rejoicing In Our Covenant. Engagement with God*, Doddridge replaced the title with the now famous *O Happy Day*. Chosen by Queen Victoria as the hymn sung at the confirmation of her eldest daughter, Doddridge's rousing hymn reflected his dedication to a covenant made in faith with God when he was but a child. The nature of joy in the yearly renewal in this covenant with God is reflected in the uplifting stanzas of this wonderful hymn. Indeed it was Doddridge's firm desire that his hymns reflect a theological teaching to enrich the heart, something that most modern day hymn writers often neglect for the sake of a catchy melody.

An interesting observation of this hymn in particular is that it is believed to be a composite work. It is argued by some that the refrain and tune was added by Edward Rimbault (1816-1876) in 1854, although this is not a certainty. The refrain is said to have come from the 1854 *Wesleyan Sacred Harp*, which has logical support in that Doddridge was a supporter of the mighty works done in the Lord's name by John Wesley and George Whitefield, both contemporaries of Doddridge.

This much beloved hymn seemed very much on the heart of the dying Doddridge, who as he laid dying of tuberculosis at the age of forty-nine, replied to his wife when asked he needed anything, "No, I am only renewing my covenant engagements with God."

By Jonathan Badger

The Book of Ruth – God’s Song of Providence, Part One

The Book of Ruth was once described by the German literary giant Goethe as, “the loveliest complete work on a small scale.” For such a Godless man as Goethe to lay such sincere adulation at the feet of this short book, opens up the question of what is it that about this short book that brings such praise from the hearts of many a man and woman?

To delve into this question first we must lay the cornerstone that all accurate study and research demands, an understanding of the texts context. As the Bible is a historical document, relaying accurate accounts of human history, we shall consider the historical context of this wonderful book.

The events depicted in The Book of Ruth take place within the period of the Judges of Israel, prior to the establishment of the kingship of Saul. Some Biblical scholars have placed the events of Ruth’s life during the Judgeship of Jair, approximately 1126-1105 B.C (Judges 10: 3:5), therefore about one hundred years before the reign of David as King of Israel, 1011-971 B.C.

Whilst the author of the book is unknown, Jewish tradition allocates the book to Samuel due to his proximity to the era of Jair and his anointing of David (great grandson of Boaz and Ruth) as king. This is partly due to David being referred to in the Book of Ruth whereas there is no mention of Solomon .

Covering a period of approximately eleven to twelve years, the Book of Ruth opens with the tragic decision of the Israelite, Elimelech. Facing famine throughout Israel (possibly a judgement of God for Israel’s adoption of foreign false gods into their worship, although this is conjecture as the text does not identify the cause of the famine), Elimelech makes the decision to take his family away from their ancestral home, the land promised to their forefathers by the Lord, and instead venture into the neighbouring land of Moab.

On initial reading, such a decision may not seem overly contrary with reasonable rationality of thought. However, as always, with the insight of historical context, the Lord graciously reveals a different viewpoint.

The land of Moab and it’s people the Moabites, were the descendants of the intoxicated incestuous union of Lot and his eldest daughter after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:37).

Located east of the Dead Sea, the Moabites were a constant threat to the nation of Israel and during the era of the Judges (approximate era of the events depicted in the Book of Ruth), they oppressed the Israelites for eighteen long years. This conflict was repeated throughout the Old Testament with Saul defeating the Moabites in 1 Samuel 22:3-4, along with further wars depicted in 2 Kings 3:5-7 and Ezra 9:1.



Moab laid to the East of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea

Furthermore the Moabites were a extremely idolatrous nation, worshipping the false god Chemosh (1 Kings 11:7,33 - 2 Kings 23:13), bringing about the wrath of God, who cursed this wicked people in Isaiah 15-16, Jeremiah 48, Ezra 25:8-11 and Amos 2:1-3.

Therefore the decision made by Elimelech to forsake his home, the promised land for the fields of a deeply Godless and warmongering people takes on a far more questionable position. Hence the Book of Ruth opens with this terrible decision by the head of a household to lean on his own understanding, disregard a trust in the providential hand of God and undertake a life decision that would bring about a series of tragic events. However, God in His providential care would bring together the remnants of this lack of faith and weave together a union that would take its place in the lineage of incarnation of Jesus himself.

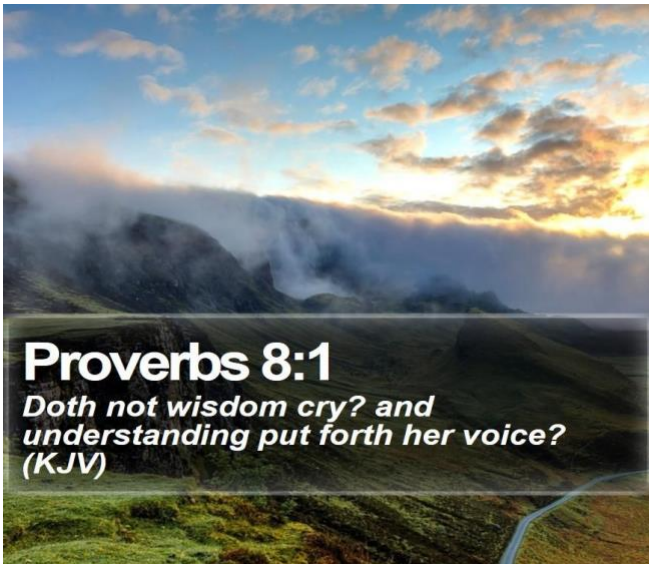
Lord willing in the coming months we will continue to delve into this beautifully rich little book and continue to delight in the glories of God that will be revealed.

By Jonathan Badger

Gaining True Wisdom – Can It Really Be Found?

Pause and reflect for a moment on a question that has perplexed some of the most seemingly brilliant minds to have lived on this troubled earth. How is a person to gain true wisdom in life? This most fundamental of questions that dwells in the pantheon of mysteries to challenge the finite mind has been surmised by first class academics and philosophers as a chasing after the wind; a dream that eludes every soul in it's fullest sense. Yet is this actually true? Is the acquiring of true wisdom a mystical search in the shadows of literature, where a curious, restless mind must wrestle with theories unendingly until the fateful conclusion is made that the only thing we know is that we know nothing (Socrates' infamous declaration of false modesty).

To such an apparently overwhelming topic I resoundingly cry out to each and every one of you that this is not the case, this is not the truth. True wisdom is very much obtainable for those who earnestly and humbly seek after it. So how are we to discover this El Dorado of the human condition? We turn as always to God's word and Proverbs chapter 8 in particular.



In this fascinating chapter we are introduced to wisdom as being embodied in the form of a virtuous woman. Within this embodiment of wisdom, we are greeted with Our Lord's word on the nature of wisdom and whether or not it is an ethereal, transient whisper in the wind or an obtainable richness of being.

In verse one of chapter eight, we are unequivocally informed as to the nature of wisdom with a rhetorical

question put forward by Solomon, the wisest man (bar Jesus of course) to have ever walked God's earth. He puts forward the challenge that, "Doth not wisdom cry? And understanding put forth her voice?" The wisdom of God, true wisdom makes no secret of its existence, it openly cries out to any and all who will listen to its plea to be discovered and embraced fully. Here we have once again another display of how God's word is completely at odds with the world's. God does not try and compromise with the world's wisdom, the world's teachings so that it may entice a few more superficially curious people to its cause. No, God's word is definite, assured, commanding and authoritative, possessing the very qualities that true wisdom is imbued with by definition.

Solomon continues with this image of wisdom as a virtuous woman, crying out to all who will listen as to the nature and location of wisdom in the following verses of Proverbs chapter 8. She (wisdom) makes herself visible from the high places (verse 2) for all to see and she cry's out loudly at the entrance of the city so that every soul can hear her plea (verse 3). True Godly wisdom does not hide in secret texts, mystical experiences, crazed utterances in garbled tongues, it stands openly, declaring itself to be given as a free act of grace towards any who desire it.

The sum of the world's efforts to seize wisdom, to quantify wisdom dictates that one must be extremely learned in a great many theories and texts to have even a semblance of a chance of obtaining wisdom. God however once again flips this fallacy beautifully in verse 5 of Proverbs chapter 8. Here, wisdom wonderfully tells us that the simple can understand wisdom. True wisdom does not reside in a brilliant mind, an agile wit, a sharp intellect, for many such an individual is just as lost as the uneducated beggar. True wisdom, real tangible understanding of how to live a Godly life in every regard, is available to all who possess a humble, earnest and contrite heart. When God graciously tells all who will hear that wisdom is open and obtainable to the simple, He is not just referring to a simpler intellect, those who are not degree laden academics. Our Lord is telling us that wisdom is offered to the simple in spirit, a soul that is uncluttered by its tangled web of pride and arrogance of supposed understanding. A simple heart is ripe to receive the fruits of God's wisdom as the Holy Spirit cannot fill a heart that is already brimming with pride and stubbornness.

True wisdom therefore is crying out to be embraced, she longs to be discovered and treasured, nurtured and cherished by all who will hear her sincere cry. She is the gift of God to the simple of spirit, who long for it's guidance in the paths of righteousness, so that we

can live each day in the peace of knowledge that we are fulfilling the will of God with purity of faith and conviction of trust in His providential care.



We shall conclude with a contrast that can be found by looking at Proverbs Chapter 7 in contrast to Proverbs Chapter 8, which we have been discussing. In Chapter 7 we are shown a very different image, the image of a young man whose lack of wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 7:7) leads him into the way of the woman whose heart is subtle and dressed as a harlot; a loud and contentious woman, aggressive and stubborn of nature, who refuses to follow the commands of God and instead looks to lure those who lack wisdom and understanding down to the grave of sin (verses 10-12).

Her offer is the cheapness of the immediate, the temporal, a fleeting moment of carnal pleasure in return for the judgement of eternal hellfire. The young man depicted by Solomon in this scene is swept up in her subtle aggressiveness, her allure of the physical gratification, the seeming reassurance that all is well with her enticement and punishment for the indulgence of this great sin will be escaped as the master is away and will not discover them in their illicit affairs (verses 18-19).

Her flattering words are enough to sway the youth (verse 21), who without the defence of Godly wisdom and understanding against the subtle manoeuvrings of the wicked, caves in to the temptation and is dragged to hell by her bed of sin.

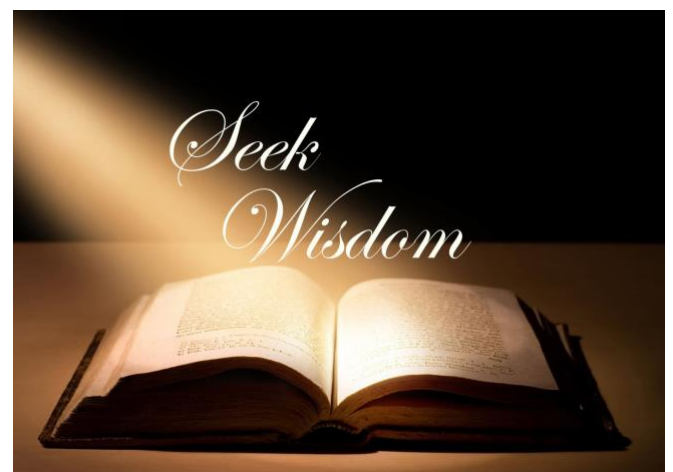
Such is the way of the harlot, the way of the adulteress. Such also is the way of the wisdom of the world. It lingers in the way, scouring for easily swayed hearts and minds that it can lure away from the offering of true Godly wisdom and towards its cheap offerings of supposed wisdom of man that leads only to the grave and eternal damnation.

Notice the striking difference, the wicked woman offers herself in secrecy, adorned with trinkets to allure and distract the curious and easily distracted of heart. Her offer is one of pleasure, of temporal

fulfilment for but a fleeting night, stained with a treacherous heart throughout (verse 18). As quickly as the sin is indulged, it's pain of consequence in judgment is poured out.

The woman that embodies wisdom however, does not offer a cheapness of temporary physical gratification. She does not need to weigh herself down with jewels and perfume to entice. Her natural beauty, her lightness of spirit, her sincerity of speech provides all the allure the craving heart needs to know her cries are not for the immediate only, but for all eternity. True wisdom, the wisdom gifted to a humble heart, trusting in Jesus is the same as this virtuous beauty depicted by Solomon so eloquently.

The wisdom offered by God is the knowledge of His glorious will, an understanding of His everlasting love for all who come to Him as trusting children, a knowledge that in the security of Christ's atonement for our sins, we are safe in His mighty hands forever. For true wisdom is found in Jesus Christ, the fount of all wisdom, the King of Kings, Our Blessed Redeemer and the Great High Priest who intercedes for us constantly before the Father. A faith in this truth, is the source of all wisdom, and such is the potency, the purity of this glorious truth, this ancient wisdom, that it demands, nay it cries out as the virtuous woman to all who will listen that this eternal wisdom found in Christ is the beauty, the fulfilment of all that is good, righteous, holy and lovely. This wondrous promise is available to all who will come humbly in repentance of sin and spirit of adoring faith.



Such awareness, such faith in these assured promises needs no cheap trinkets, glittery jewels or flattering words to appeal. The simple heart sees these precious glories offered in true, Godly wisdom and clings tightly to them, knowing that this wisdom will guide them through this sinful world and into eternal glory.

By Jonathan Badger

Challenging Questions of Faith – Is Evil Just An Illusion

To the rational mind such a question cannot be deemed as anything more than new age madness. Indeed, such is the prevalence of evil in our sin cursed world, that many poor lost souls often struggle to reconcile a loving God with a world that convulses hourly with acts of repulsive sin, disease, famine and natural disasters.

Yet such is the foolishness of man's wisdom in that even though atheism (belief there is no God) and agnosticism (undecided as to the question of the existence of God) are the common views of our increasingly secular world, the problem of why evil exists in the universe continues to trouble mankind. The cold, cruel out workings of evolutionary thinking, as witnessed in the horrors of war and genocide in the last one hundred and twenty years, has left a bitter taste in the mouth of humanity. Stubbornly reluctant to admit error, the human heart clings to the evolutionary principle that happily eliminates the presence of God (and therefore accountability to God), humanity is left with the conundrum of the survival of the fittest teachings yet the all too apparent feeling of injustice at such a methodology of living. This emptiness of purpose and being that lacks any sort of justice or mercy in life, has led to many a tragically lost life to suicide.

However, another school of thought is gaining growing popularity that tries to reconcile the problem of the existence of evil in a world where there is, according to secular wisdom at least, no actual good or evil (if evolution is true, then all death is just circumstance of existence, injustice is illogical and love is merely a tool for self preservation and procreation).

So the answer is offered that evil doesn't exist, it's all just an illusion. Imagined by the founder of Christian Science (make no mistake, there is nothing truly Christian about this organisation), Mary Baker Eddy, a proponent of 'Mind Sciences' (a pantheistic, new age movement based on the mystic Eastern religions) argued that evil was merely a construct of the mind and does not exist in reality. Emily Cady of University School of Christianity (again do not be fooled by the university's title) contended that, "There is no evil....Pain, sickness, poverty, old age, and death are not real, and they have no power over me." The founder of Religious Science, Richard Holmes, agreed with this ludicrous notion as he stated, "All apparent evil is the result of ignorance, and will disappear to the degree that it is no longer thought about, believed

in, or indulged in." So good news everyone, all your problems in life, the bills, the ill health, etc are all in your head, they don't really exist. Visit anyone suffering from the grip of COVID-19 in these last few testing months and they will have a few choice words for such a ridiculous belief. Walk into a cancer ward where the patients are days away from death and update them that there's nothing wrong with them, it's all just an illusion. Speak to the grieving widow, the heart broken parent and reassure them the tragedy of the day is not real, it's only in their mind. Do so and you will be looked at as a madman in best case scenario and in worst case you will be given first hand experience of the reality of pain and suffering!

It is a documented fact that Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of this crazy philosophy, sought consistent medical care from doctors in her old age, wore glasses (the irony of the illusion of failing eyesight no doubt eluded her), had regular morphine injections to cope with physical pain, and yes did eventually succumb to death.

If evil is a lie, a mental construct, then why do people lock their doors? Why do people bother exercising? Why do courts of law exist? If I stole the car of a Christian Scientist, why would they bother prosecuting me, I only stole an illusion!

To deny the existence of evil does not do away with it. I can deny the existence of rain but that won't stop me getting wet if I stand in a deluge. Such is the lunacy of man's supposed wisdom. As the Scriptures says, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (1 Corinthians 3:19) Jesus himself certainly believes in the existence of evil; did He not say in the Lord's Prayer, "deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:13) He didn't say, "deliver us from the illusion of evil."

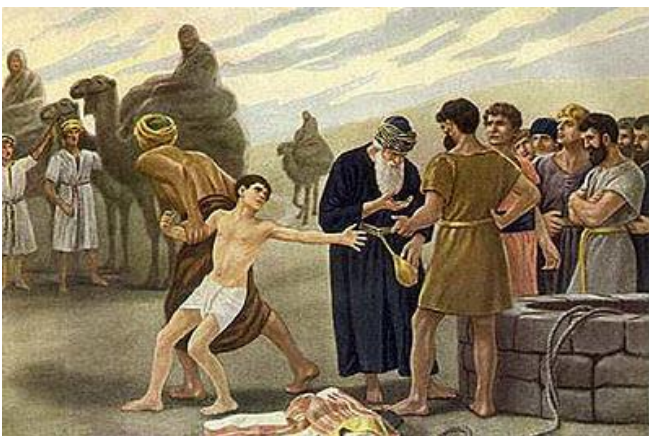
To accept such lunacy is to deny all personal experience and our physical senses. Jesus however comforts us, gives purpose in and to our life experiences. He actively sought the disciples to test the reality of His resurrected body (John 20:27) by placing their hands on His wounds from the cross. Jesus lives is the greatest reality, His conquering of evil was no illusion, it was as real and substantial as you ground you walk on. It is this firmness of reality that gives strength to all who believe that yes evil does exist in this world, but in the power and righteousness of Christ Jesus, in the offering of His holy blood, we shall live forever in a new world where evil at last will be banished forever. Praise be to God that He is, praise that He alone can say I AM. For in this most triumphant and authoritative statements of reality, we are able to say 'We are, because He is.'

By Jonathan Badger

Joseph in Egypt – The Historical Evidence

As we have repeatedly seen in previous issues of Truth to Wonder, archaeological discoveries unsurprisingly corroborate the Genesis account of world history time and time again. Discoveries in Egypt again supports the assertion that the Biblical text is an accurate historical document and not a series of pleasing moral tales for young children.

The account of Joseph in Genesis is no stranger to this historical verification that secular historical discoveries have provided to the holy scriptures. Firstly, the twenty shekels of silver that Joseph was sold for as a slave is supported by Mari (hopefully the reader recalls how discoveries of ancient Mari texts discussed in the August issue of Truth to Wonder highlighted how accurate the history surrounding the era of the Biblical patriarchs truly is), Hammurabi and the Brooklyn Papyrus (ancient document detailing ninety-five Semitic households in Egypt, supporting the Genesis account of the Jews living in Egypt during the time of Joseph to Moses), as being the correct amount paid for that period of history. Interestingly by the time of the Persian exile endured by the Jews in 5th century B.C, a period when sceptics say Jewish leaders made up their ancient history to keep national identity alive in captivity, the price of a slave had risen to ninety shekels of silver. It would be very problematic for a 5th century writer to know the price of a slave 1000 years earlier, lending support to the Genesis historical accuracy and that the accounts were written by Moses at a much closer time to the original events of Joseph.



The names of Potiphar, Zaphenath-paneah, Asenath, Potiphara (Genesis 39:1, 41:45) have been shown by the discovery of the texts discussed earlier, to be authentic names of the time period of the patriarchs.

As the reader will no doubt recall, each time the Genesis account refers to the Pharaoh of Egypt (and indeed in the Book of Exodus), no individual name of a particular Pharaoh is given, only the title of Pharaoh is written down by Moses. This supposed lack of information has been argued by some ill informed individuals as evidence that the events depicted in the first two books of the Old Testament were written far later than the lifetime of Moses. However, we now know that it was until the reign of Rameses II in the 13th century B.C, that Pharaohs were known as purely 'Pharaoh' with no individual name added. This marries up perfectly with the fact that Moses (the writer of the Book of Genesis through the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit) who would have lived prior to this time, approximately 100-200 years before (see the excellent *Patterns of Evidence* dvd series for in depth discussion of the timeline of the events of the Exodus), meaning that his record of Pharaohs without individual names being added is absolutely historically accurate given the time and events in which he was recording.

The phrase 'overseer of the house' seen in Genesis 39:4, is precisely the same phrase as the one used by Egyptian texts of the same period. Furthermore the referencing to quotas, taskmasters, straw for brick making (Exodus 5:6:8), foreigners working as slaves (Exodus 1:14) and holidays for religious festivals (Exodus 5:1) are all similarly commensurate with the time period of the Biblical patriarchs through to the time of Moses.

Finally, the note in Genesis 50:2,26 of Jacob being mummified and Joseph being placed in a coffin matches perfectly with the burial ceremonies of Egyptian custom at the time of the Biblical patriarchs. What is all the more interesting is that such practises were not used in Canaan during this time period giving exciting evidence of the fact that the events recorded by Moses in Genesis highlight the clear awareness of Egyptian customs (which as a former prince of Egypt Moses would undoubtedly have) without the influence of Canaanite customs which would've no doubt taken effect if the events depicted in Genesis and Exodus were far later than Moses.

Yet again we come to the end of another brief study of the historical evidence of the truth and accuracy of the Biblical narrative. It should come as no shock that this is the case to any follower of Christ and I pray that it adds as a stirring of the heart and mind to all those who are doubtful of the claims of this most remarkable of books that is the Holy Bible.

By Jonathan Badger

Provision for a Nation - Part Two

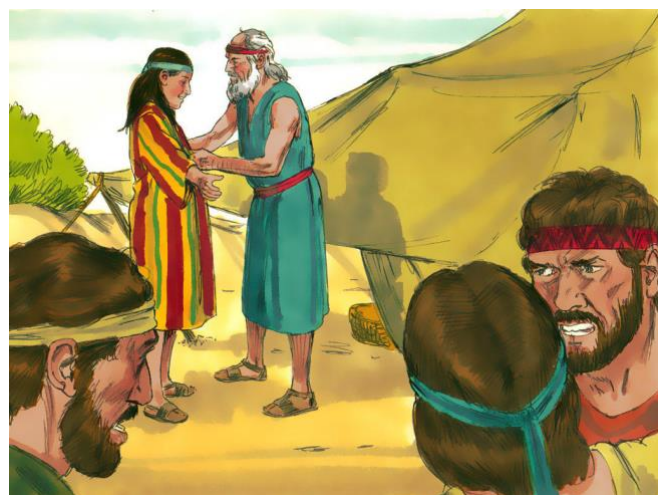
First of all may I seek the readers forgiveness . After promising in the issue before last of Truth to Wonder, a monthly continuation of our look at the life of Joseph, I immediately stalled! But as was graciously noted in the August issue this was due to God's never ending provision for me, by allowing despite the ongoing Covid crisis, the marriage of myself to my wonderful Godly wife Amelia. We were blessed with a wonderful day and may I just say how utterly undeserving of such a blessing I am, and I know Amelia feels the same. But our God is a God of mercy and love, patience and tenderness, bringing such a sinner as me through the storms and troubles to meet the woman I was always meant to be with. Praise the Lord for He is good!

And with that I would like to continue our look at the extraordinary life of Joseph. In the first part we took a brief overview, an introduction, and made note of how the events to follow were a mirroring – a foreshadowing – of the life of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. We will now begin our journey with Joseph in somewhat more detail and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Genesis 37:1 can be thought of as a transition verse. "And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. "

This verse reminds us of the separation of Esau and Jacob that was learnt of in the preceding chapter. Esau in verses 6-8 of chapter 36 realises the need to leave the land that had been very definitely assigned to his brother Jacob –the land of Canaan. This may have been a situation that arose soon after Jacobs return from Mesopotamia or some time after, but in any event the prosperity of both brothers meant that the land was not enough for both of them and Esau yielded to Jacob who had received the blessing and elected to move away to dwell in Mount Seir, so beginning the line of the Edomites (which as the rest of Chapter 36 shows was through a process of intermarriage with the native Seirites or Horites).

Jacob on the other hand as verse 1 states, remained in the land of Canaan, the land of his Father Isaac. It is interesting to note here that Isaac is still alive at this point. Although Isaac's death is mentioned in Chapter 35:29, as it was natural to raise this fact at the conclusion of his "History" or toledoth, he in fact probably lived for another 12 years or so beyond this point. How do we come to this conclusion - it takes a bit of maths but bear with me. Jacob was 130 when he went to Egypt at Josephs request (we're jumping ahead!) in chapter 47: 9. Joseph was 30 years old when he went before Pharaoh (chapter 41:46) and 37 years old when Jacob arrived in Egypt at 130 years old. Therefore if we take 20 years off Jacobs 130 years on entering Egypt to get to Joseph being 17 years old – the age at which he was sold into captivity. Then take the 17 years off Jacobs age and you have Jacob being 93 at Josephs birth and 110 at his removal to Egypt. Isaac was 60 when Jacob was born (Gen 25: 26). If Jacob was 110 at Josephs sale to captivity then Isaac would have been $60+110 = 170$, and we know that Isaac died at 180 years old. As a result he lived to see his son Jacob's grief at the loss of his most beloved son Joseph and indeed his own grandson.



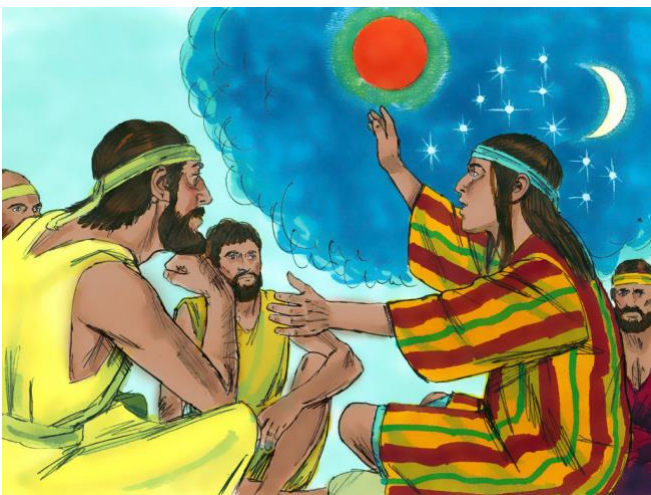
What is the point of this calculation you might ask? It is because we tend to read the text as a series of events – one occurring after the other when in fact they overlap and we do not realise the inter-relationships of the characters we read about.

Verse 2 "These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph being seventeen years old, was feeding the flocks, with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons

of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report".

Moving on the next verse tells us both Joseph's age and his occupation and his companions at the time. The sons of Bilhah were Dan and Naphtali, and those of Zilpah, Gad and Asher. There was however something amiss with the behaviour of these four sons, and Joseph brought a report of this behaviour to his father, the content of which is absent from the written record we have. Joseph being the beloved son wanted to be dutiful and not see his Father dishonoured by his sons acting inappropriately away from his eyes. Joseph was not in a position to discipline the other brothers and so he went to the one who he would not have be ignorant. However as correct as such a report was, we do know from the next verse how strained relations had become between Joseph and his brothers by this time, and Joseph dropping them in hot water with Jacob was not a way to endear him to them.

Verse 3-4: 'Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him".



This is a pretty tense family situation. If all eleven other brothers felt this way then Jacob could hardly have been ignorant of the feeling. Hatred is a hard emotion to hide by one person let alone eleven. Yet Jacob bestows upon him a coat and this fuels the fire

further. His brothers were not just jealous of his coat as we are often led to believe, though this may have been one of the last straws. In verse 8 the hatred grows still further due to Joseph's dreams. But the jealousy appears to have existed long before this; Jacob's favouritism was not likely to have been well concealed, and a coat of many colours certainly brought it front and centre.

The coat would have been a long garment. The Hebrew 'kethoneth passim' denotes wrists and ankles. It would have been a garment of distinction rather than one for work, and this garment alone would have shown Jacob's thought that this son held a pre-eminence above the rest. Luther suggests that Jacob wanted to designate Joseph as a ruler, especially with the note of many colours – being garments worn by the elite and ruling classes. And to be fair if we look at some of the other brothers it's not hard to see why. Reuben had committed incest. Simeon and Levi had been impulsive and uncontrolled in cruelty and violence.

Loved by God hated by the world. This is the mark of the true believer. We see this in John 15:18-19:

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

We do not conform ourselves to the world to be part of the world, we do not seek their favour, and Joseph certainly demonstrated a desire not to be part of his brothers dealings early on and to rather honour his father. May we be mindful of this each and every day. To honour our heavenly father first, and not integrate ourselves into the world so that we are lost within it, indistinguishable from it. Because as believers we are strangers in this land, we are sojourners, we do not belong here, merely travelling through on our way home to our heavenly place of peace and rest. Amen.

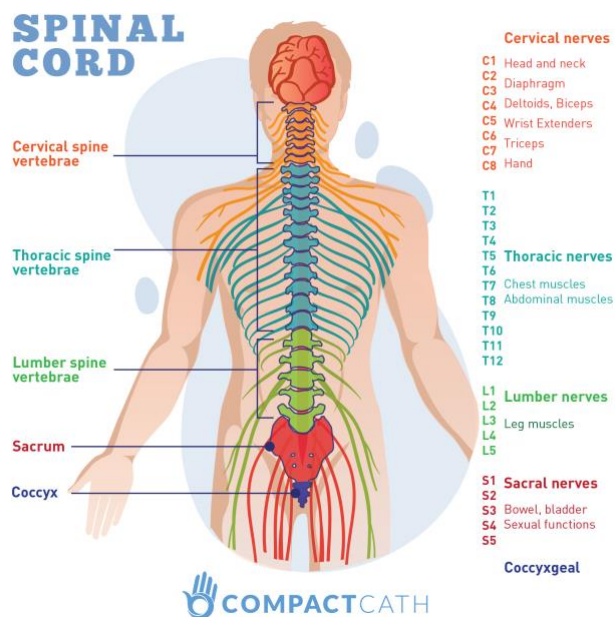
By David J Badger

Body of Evidence – The Nervous System (Part One)

The nervous system is the quiet yet intricately designed system that is responsible for a wealth of unseen biological actions that we are often completely unaware of each day, yet such is the incredible efficiency imbued in this most remarkable of systems crafted by Our Mighty God.

This amazing network that weaves its way around the human body so exactly is responsible for involuntary actions such as blood circulation and digestion; along with voluntary actions such as muscle movements. The majority of the coordination of the body is executed by the brain although the spinal cord also takes part in utilising some reflex reactions.

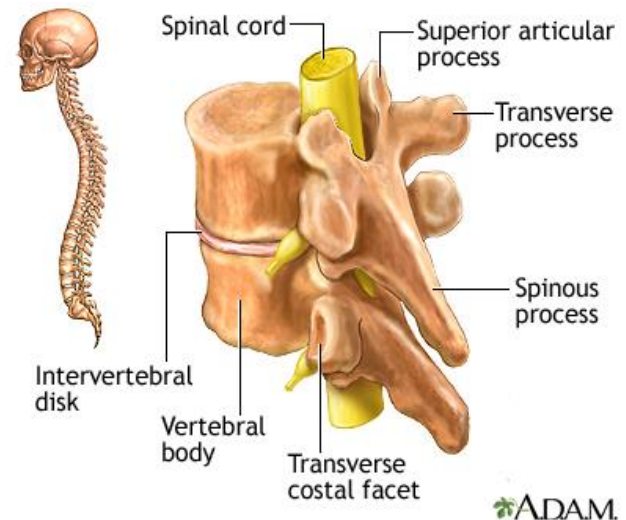
The central nervous system comprises of the aforementioned spinal cord and of course the brain. The spinal cord itself consists of millions of separate nerve fibres that act like a electrical cable with millions of individual tiny wires contained therein.



Adult spinal cords average between 40-50 cm in length and 1-1.5cm in diameter, passing through the backbone otherwise known as the vertebral column. Typically this column consists of 33 individual vertebrae that give protection to the delicate spinal column whilst also providing flexibility to movement that we know and enjoy in our own bodies. Such is the mastery of engineering that the Lord consistently displays in His creation that such a wondrous mix of

delicacy and intricacy is so exquisitely mingled with strength, protection and also physical flexibility.

The spinal cord branches off into 31 pairs of nerve roots which leave the spine via small openings on each side of the individual vertebrae as you can see in the image below.



As you see, the stunning levels of complexity involved in just one vertebrae interacting with the spinal cord and the roots nerves does not allow for any possibility for a supposed evolutionary process to bring such a form. Let us consider for arguments sake that all the components necessary for this vital system that is pictured above did happen by chance apart from one area (mathematically such a possibility is not even viable but let's humour the doubters). Say for example the small holes in each side of the vertebrae that allow the root nerves to pass through did not evolve efficiently meaning no holes were available for the nerve roots to exit the spinal cord. Would such an eventually allow a smooth existence for the poor soul who ended up with this mutation? Of course not. With all the vital body functions that are coordinated through the nervous system, the poor individual in this predicament would quickly die!

Once again therefore we are greeted with a design of such complexity that it is simply irreducible, it cannot be explained in its complexity of existence in any other way that being fully formed and functioning from the very get-go. Evolution therefore simply cannot explain this level of intricacy and complexity found within every human body.

It is heart breaking at how so many souls who work tirelessly to explain existence without God, are using such an incredible creation as is their own body to defy the living God.

By Jonathan Badger

A Translator Revived – Lancelot Andrews

As noted in last month's article on the supremacy of the KJV Bible as the pinnacle of Bible translations; God in His providential care brought about the gathering of some of the finest minds this world has ever seen to craft this high point of the English language.

One of these men was Lancelot Andrews, who born in 1565 was of such linguistic ability that as a young student, he would take the summer each year to master a new language to the extent of being fluent in most of the European languages, fifteen in total.



The renowned KJV Bible translator Lancelot Andrews

Appointed to a scholarship to study Greek at Pembroke Hall of Cambridge University, Andrews quickly found his remarkable ability to be rewarded with the prestigious position of a fellowship at the same university. He also gained the complimentary appointment of lecturer in divinity at Jesus College of Oxford University such was his academic renown. His acclaim at Pembroke Hall did not cease there. In 1589 he was appointed Master of Pembroke Hall, making him head of the college. Prior to this appointment however, Andrews enjoyed various positions throughout England as minister including the world famous St Paul's in London such was the clamour to have this remarkable man speak to the people.

Lancelot Andrews stunning abilities in academia and indeed preaching gained him firm followers in the form of Sir Francis Walsingham (the Secretary of

State under Queen Elizabeth I) and indeed Queen Elizabeth I herself when he acted as chaplain to the famous queen. Her delight in Andrew's skills and indeed Godly character led Queen Elizabeth to appoint Andrews as Dean of Westminster, one of the most prestigious positions in all England.

It was during his time as Dean of Westminster that he was awarded the position of Director of the Westminster group of Bible translators, where his group was responsible for the five Books of Moses along with the historical books to the end of 2 Kings.

In the eyes of King James I, Andrew's stature continued to grow due to Andrew's determined defence of the word of God. One such instance came when King James I wrote a paper entitled 'Defence of the Rights of Kings', a paper against the arrogant claims of the Popes. Cardinal Bellarmine angrily responded to the monarch's paper, to which King James tasked Lancelot Andrews with crafting a suitable response. This he did so effectively that the angered yet highly learned Cardinal could not provide a response to Andrew's keenly penned paper. In reward, Andrews was made Bishop of Chichester on November 3rd 1605 (he had been offered this position numerous times before but had declined each time through sheer humility).

At the same time he was made Lord Almoner to the King, a highly prestigious and powerful position where he displayed great faithfulness in his work and no abuse of his power and prestige. As a result he was transferred to the bishopric of Ely and made part of the King's privy council in 1609. Not long after this accolade, Andrews was appointed Bishop of Westminster, one of the most powerful and wealthy positions within the Church of England. Furthermore he was appointed Dean of the King's Chamber which he held until his death.

Yet Lancelot Andrews wasn't just a man of great intellect, he was also a man of great faith and character. His God given ability to preach the word of God led to his acclaim as being labelled the 'star of preachers' by his contemporaries. His studies compelled him to spend many hours a day in private and family devotions to the Lord. He lived by the words of Martin Luther in that "to have prayed well, is to have studied well." This fervent study was keenly reflected in the vast amount of academic papers and books Andrews compiled in his life, to the extent that one of his contemporaries observed that "they might end their days in Bishop Andrew's chapel," such was the scope of his academic production (pg 86, *Translators Revived*, Alexander McClure). Such was the ingrained level of linguistic genius of Andrews,

was that his private devotions, composed by himself were written entirely in Greek.

Andrew's generous nature was frequently noted by all who came to enjoy his hospitality. Indeed such was his levels of generosity and joy of life it was said throughout the land that Lancelot Andrews 'kept Christmas all year round' (pg 87, Translators Revived, Alexander McClure). Furthermore, Andrews was constantly seeking to aid those who were financially poor and opened numerous university scholarships to poorer students through his own money.

Yet along with his faithful, devoted servitude to the Lord, his constant demonstration of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his constant generosity towards others, Lancelot Andrews was no dour bookworm devoid of humour or wit. Indeed in one humorous exchange between King James I, Lancelot Andrews and the Bishop of Durham. King James was observing in discussion how as king he would have full right to take whatever monies from the people he needed without first going to parliament. The Bishop of Durham, keen to please the King quickly agreed with the King by saying, "you should, you are the breath of our nostrils." James I pushed Andrews for his thoughts on the matter. Andrews initially diplomatically declined to observe on matters of parliament and politics. Yet when pressed by the King for an answer, Andrews wittily responded, "I think it lawful for you to take my brother Neile's money (the Bishop of Durham), for he offer it." The King was quick to recognise the sharp wit of Andrews and burst into laughter (pgs 82-83, Translators Revived, Alexander McClure).

The genius and Godly character of this remarkable man brought by God to lead on the king of Bible translations, the KJV Bible, can be neatly summarised by the observations of a former chronicler of the Bible translators. Such was the skill of Andrews in all languages, especially the Oriental (Eastern), that, had he been present at the confusion of tongues at Babel, he might have served as Interpreter-General.

Andrews went to glory on September 25th 1626. He never married, and so left his estate to charitable uses. The literary great John Milton, a youth at this time, wrote a glowing elegy on Andrews, in Latin, as a final testament to the learning and Godly nature of this truly remarkable man.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner

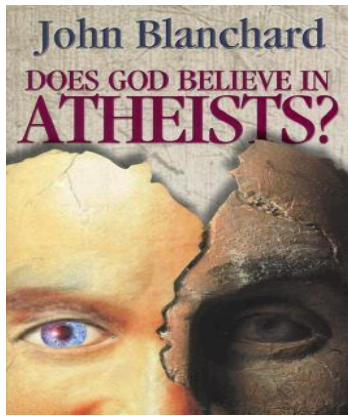
The Pilgrim's Progress – Movie Animation



A man named Christian discovers a book, and the more he reads it, the more he is convicted of sin and judgment and a burden begins to develop on his back. Obsessed with discovering the truth and escaping his town, the City of Destruction, Pilgrim ventures outside the forbidden borders and begins his journey to find a Celestial City ruled by a good and noble King, meeting friends and foes along the way. THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS was written over 340 years ago by John Bunyan when he was in prison. The story of Pilgrim's Progress has been smuggled to the underground church during communism, banned for a time in China, and has sold more copies than any other book other than the Bible. The journey of this remarkable work continues as Revelation Media brings the story to a new generation using state-of-the-art CGI animation.

Available from Amazon, Eden.co.uk, KeithJones.co.uk

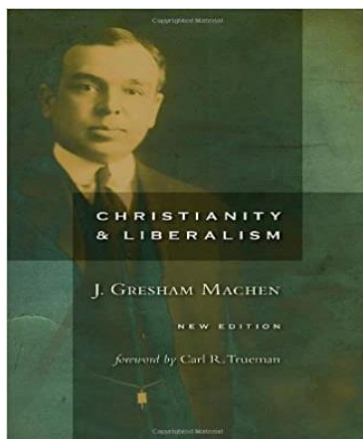
Does God Believe In Atheists



This award-winning title traces the development of atheistic and agnostic thinking over the past 2,500 years and shows how thinkers like Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, Bertrand Russell and others have shaped many people's thinking today. It also pinpoints the flaws in Darwinian evolutionism and in claims made for it by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and others, explains why secular humanism self-destructs, reveals why there is no conflict between science and belief in God, exposes fatal errors in nine world religions and fourteen major cults and shows why the existence of evil and suffering is no reason to deny God's existence.

Available from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Christianity and Liberalism

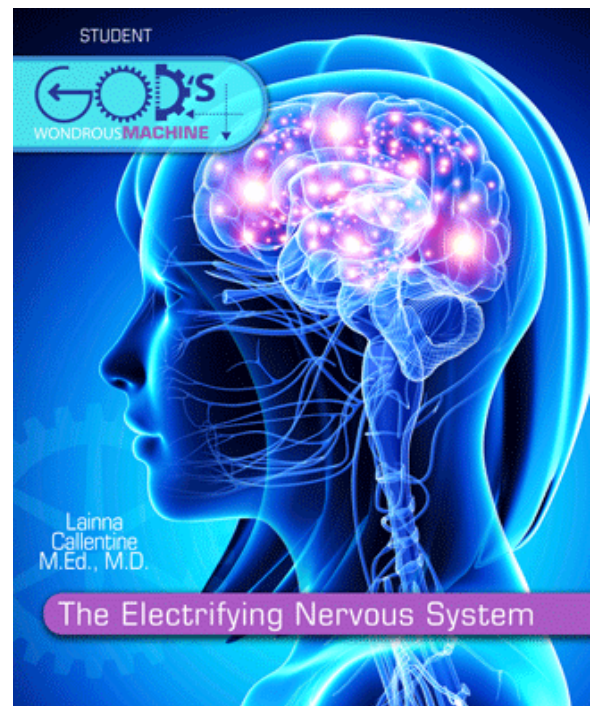


This classic defence of orthodox Christianity, written to counter the liberalism that arose in the early 1900s, establishes the importance of scriptural doctrine and contrasts the teachings of liberalism and orthodoxy on God and man, the Bible, Christ, salvation, and the church. J. Gresham Machen's *Christianity and Liberalism* has remained relevant through the years ever since its original publication in 1923.

Available from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Children's Book of the Month

The Electrifying Nervous System



October's Children's Book of the Month is Dr Lainna Callentine's 'The Electrifying Nervous System'. This fantastic resource book was selected for its great information that's given in easily understood vocabulary.

I found this book extremely useful during the COVID-19 lockdown when I used it as a very helpful resource for my home schooling. It covers not only the nervous system but also the brain, sleep and maintaining a healthy body, along with much more!

Dr Callentine has clearly put a great deal of thought into how to lay out this well presented biology resource book. The facts are given clearly, with detailed yet non-technical language that makes it great for children of eleven years old and up. The wide selection of colourful diagrams throughout the book are a great addition to help the reader understand the contents as well.

If anyone was to learn about basic biology that focuses on the nervous system, this book would be one of the first things I'd recommend to them.

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

Priced at £10

Review by Naomi Badger – age 11

Family Bible Quiz

- 1) Who was Naomi's husband?
- 2) Where were Naomi and her husband from?
- 3) Who was Ruth's sister-in-law?
- 4) Were Naomi's sons called Mahlon and Chilion, Amminadab and Pharos or Obed and Eliab?
- 5) Did Oprah return to Moab?
- 6) Did Naomi want to be called Mara?
- 7) Did Ruth harvest wheat or Barley?
- 8) Was Boaz a relative of Naomi?
- 9) What was the name of Boaz and Ruth's child?
- 10) What was this child's relation to David?

By Naomi Badger



I Go Happily Home

Oh such a sweet song is deep in my heart,
It's wondrous refrain I don't know of its start.
Yet such is the power, the might of this song,
My heart will not rest till it's sung by a throng.

Oh what is this deep joyous, royal melody?
It is but the words that tell my soul I'm free,
A new man I am made in His gracious name,
No longer am I burdened by my greatest shame.

Now join with me brothers and sisters in Him,
We shall all sing His name till the sun grows dim.
And when the light does fade we shall all rest,
Trusting that angels do guard at His behest.

Such great truths are now known by my heart,
Oh I still do not know how they did start.
Sung in eternal song this I do know,
His plan of love to me He has now shown.

So by His precious blood I can now stand,
With my redeemer holding fast to my hand.
I now rest easy for I am His own,
Into His arms I go happily home.

By Jonathan Badger

A Final Thought

The government's recent guidelines around social distancing, together with their hint that restrictions could continue for the next six months, sees the impact of the Coronavirus continue to cause significant changes in the lives of us all. Such drastic alterations to our lifestyle and routine can be a cause of anxiety and discomfort; life has quite literally not been like this for most of us in our lifetimes. It is at such times that we would do well to remember that, while the world we live in can undergo drastic change, the Lord does not. From everlasting to everlasting, God never changes (Psalm 102:27). Our God is the same Lord above that created the heavens and the earth, that divided the Red Sea, that sent his Son to die for our sins and who takes a personal interest in each of us. As we experience great highs, we must give praise to the Lord (Psalm 150:6). If we are plunged into troublesome depths, we must seek refuge in him (Nahum 1:7). The course may change as we walk through life, but the one who laid the paving stones and who acts as our guide never does. Draw near to the Lord through faith in the person of his Son, and his constant, unchanging, ineffable love will see you persevere, whatever unexpected challenges life throws up.

John 6:37 – All that the father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

By John Sivewright



"BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND
THY YEARS SHALL HAVE NO END."
PSALM 102:27 KJV

Family Bible Quiz Answers

- 1) Elimelech 2) Bethlehem 3) Orpah 4) Mahlon and Chilion 5) Yes, she returned to Moab 6) Yes because it reflected the bitterness of her pain in loss of her family 7) Barley 8) Yes he was a relative of Naomi 9) Obed 10) Grandfather

