



The G.E.M.

Volume 3 Edition 10

The Grace Electronic Magazine

October 2009

REFLECT ON YOUR FAITH

Summer has indeed arrived in Gauteng. With the fresh summer rains having already begun and the sun bringing life to all the plants. It will soon be time to relax outdoors and enjoy the festive season.

Yes, you read right, the festive season is just around the corner and soon you will be asking yourself the question, "Why did I not do my Christmas shopping earlier?"

So in order for you not have a mad rush on December 24, we have brought out our Christmas stock, and unpacked our 2010 calendars and diaries now.

Sunday School teachers, why not visit us to see what we can offer you as prizes or gifts for your special students.

Visit us from 12 to 24 October for our Mid-Month Markdowns, where we are offering you 10% discount on all games and puzzles. Great gifts for the family.

And if you really are at a loss for what to buy those special people in your life this Christmas, why not give them the gift of choice and buy them a Grace Media Gift Voucher?

We trust that you will enjoy this month's edition of *The G.E.M.* We have begun a new feature called *This Day in History*, where we look at a great event in church history that took place sometime during that particular month.

And remember to have lots of fun on our back page.

Until next time, happy reading, happy shopping, and continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

Glyn and Linda. †

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"
(2 Peter 1:2)

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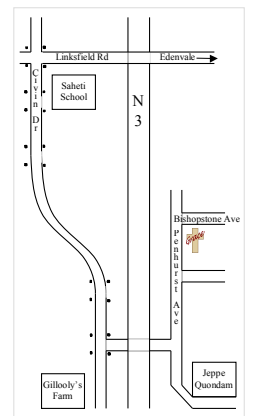
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Directions: From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At the stop street at the road works, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



To advertise your church, ministry, business, event or product in *The G.E.M.* or on the Grace Media website, contact Glyn Williams on 011-454-6045 or webmaster@gracemedia.co.za

BIBLE BASICS

2 Samuel & 1 Chronicles *The Reign of King David*

These two books contain parallel accounts of the reign of King David over the nation of Israel. Even though 1 Chronicles does not immediately follow 2 Samuel, the accounts in both of them overlap and give us a complete picture of the life of David.

Perspectives: The perspectives of these two books are quite different. 2 Samuel gives an historical account that reflects a prophetic viewpoint, while 1 Chronicles is more of a divine commentary on the history of Israel. In other words, Chronicles looks at the events in light of God's character.

Date: 2 Samuel was written sometime after the death of Solomon and the division of the kingdom, and like 1 Samuel its author is anonymous.

1 Chronicles was written sometime after the exile, around 500BC. Though the author is not named in the text, Jewish tradition has its author as Ezra. This is evidenced by both Ezra and 2 Chronicles ending with the same verses.

Content: These two books follow the reign of King David from the death of Saul and Jonathan, through to his death in thirty-three years later.

The basic difference between the two books in this regard is that 2 Samuel details much of what David said and did, while 1 Chronicles overlooks many of his sins and personal tragedies.

Significance: The reign of King David is important because it gives us insight concerning God's plan. We see that David was promised by God that his family line will climax in a person who will rule the house of Israel forever (known as the Davidic Covenant). This promise is fulfilled in Jesus, who is part of David's family through both Joseph and Mary.

Reading the two books together we also learn about God's faithfulness to His plan and purposes. We see that even in the most dangerous of times, even when man fails at what he is supposed to do and be, God is still working out His plan in all mankind.

Basic Outline:

The outline of the two books somewhat parallels each other as well, as is seen in the structure below:

	<u>2 Sam.</u>	<u>1 Chr.</u>
Historical Prelude		1-10
David Triumphs as King		
Rule over Judah	1-4	
Rule over United Israel	5-10	11-19
David's Troubles		
With Himself	11-12	20
With His Family	13-18	
With His State	19-20	
Appendix: Six Incidents	21-24	21-29

Value: David's life deserves careful study, not only because of the dramatic stories, but to serve as an example and warning for our own relationship with God. †

PRODUCT REVIEWS

FIREPROOF SOUNDTRACK CD by Various Artists



Just when you thought that all the hype over the Fireproof movie was over, now comes the soundtrack that everyone has been waiting for.

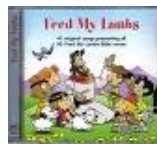
For many people, the movie Fireproof brought tears to their eyes as they laughed, cried, and related many of the issues within the movie to their own lives. Now the journey continues with the soundtrack that features the complete film score and songs from well-known artists: Leeland, Third Day, Casting Crowns, John Waller, Grey Holiday and Warren Barfield.

From the songs we have all come to love, such as *While I'm Waiting* and *Love is not a Fight*, to the instrumental score of the many action and tear-jerking scenes, one can enjoy this CD with your partner as you reminisce over this excellent movie.

Our Price: R 120



FEED MY LAMBS CD



As a parent or teacher, one of the most essential things to teach children is the Word of God. This resource will help you to do just that.

Through a series of forty-one songs, children will learn ninety Bible verses. Based on key Christian topics, the verses are simplified to make them easy and fun for children to understand and learn.

As children become more familiar with the Bible verses on the Feed My Lambs CD, they will learn many important Christian truths and character-building principles that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Some of the verses included on this CD are: 1 Corinthians 13:8; John 3:16; Romans 10:9; Philippians 4:13; Psalm 37:4; Matthew 5:9; 1 John 4:8; and more.

This is an excellent resource for parents who are home-schooling their children, teachers in Sunday schools, or even for use within religious instruction at school.

Our Price: R 110

Also Available: Feed My Lambs Set
Included in this set is the *Feed My Lambs* CD, seven books with stickers to monitor progress in learning the verses, bookmarks to mark the way, and a lamb finger puppet that makes learning the Bible verses even more fun for the littler ones.

Our Price: R 220

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

4 October 1535 Pre-answers to Prayer



Occasionally God answers our prayers before we offer them. William Tyndale put his life at risk when he decided to translate the Bible into the English language during the days of King Henry VIII. The church and government opposed him, but he told one clergyman, "If God spare my life, I will cause the boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scripture than thou dost." On October 6, 1536 he was burned at the stake for his efforts. His last words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

He perished without knowing the Lord had already answered his prayer—one year earlier, almost to the very day. The answer? Miles Coverdale. Born in 1488, Coverdale came under the influence of Robert Barnes at Cambridge who discussed ideas "out of Germany" with him. When Coverdale picked up the Bible and began reading it for himself, he fell in love with it. "Now I begyne to taste of Holy Schryptures; now (honour be to God) I am sett to the most swete smell with the godly savour of holy and awncyent Doctoures."

Soon he began preaching an evangelical message. It proved impossible for him in England, so he fled to the Continent where he spent seven years translating the Bible from Latin into English for his own people. It was published in 1535, the first complete edition of the Bible in English. He wisely dedicated it to King Henry VIII, who, being flattered, allowed it to become the first English rendering of Scripture to circulate without official hindrance—thus answering Tyndale's prayer one year in advance.

In his preface Coverdale said he had not coveted the task of translating Scripture, but "it greued (grieved) me yt other nacyons shulde be more plentously prouyded (provided) with ye scripture in their mother tongue than we. ..."

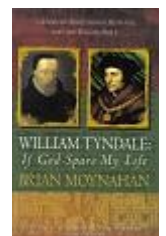
Coverdale became rector of St. Magnus Church near London Bridge, and visitors today can read a memorial plaque on the east wall of the church: ... he spent many years of his life preparing a translation of the Scriptures. On the 4th of October, 1535, the first complete printed English version of the Bible was published under his direction.

"I will answer their prayers before they finish praying" (Isaiah 65:24)

Quoted from: *On this Day: 265 Amazing and Inspiring Stories About Saints, Martyrs & Heroes* (electronic edition) by Robert J. Morgan.

Learn more about William Tyndale in the book:

William Tyndale: If God Spare my Life. †



BE PREPARED

We are commanded in 1 Peter 3:15 to “Always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”. If you had to be challenged about your faith, would you be prepared to answer? Would you know what to say to the spiritual seekers in this world? Here is a brief look at ten of the common objections raised against Christianity today.

The church is full of hypocrites

A hypocrite is a person who pretends to be someone they are not; an actor.

There has always been, and always will be, hypocrites in the Church. But Jesus does not ask us to follow others; He asks us to follow Him. In fact Jesus' harshest words in the Gospels were directed towards hypocrites.

As Christians we represent Jesus in either a good or bad manner. The real question is not about hypocrites in the church, but whether Jesus was a hypocrite or not. To prove that Jesus was a hypocrite is to prove Christianity false. The Bible, as God's Word, presents Jesus as being perfect. Jesus Himself challenged others to prove if he had ever sinned (John 8:46), and even His own disciples testified that He was without sin (see 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5).

Christians have committed many atrocities

Throughout the centuries, Christianity has indeed been blamed for religious wars, the Crusades, the burning of witches, slavery, the Inquisition, and even the Holocaust.

This is simply taking the issue of hypocrites to the next level. Much evil has been committed of the years by people who called themselves believers, but in reality, they were Christian in name only.

To focus on their atrocities is to avoid the real issue. The truth is, Christianity has had much more of a positive influence in history than negative. Christianity has been key in the formation of schools, hospitals, AIDS Centres, relief organisations, orphanages, and many other charities. There is no other religion in the world that can compare to what Christianity has been instrumental in forming.

Christianity is a crutch

Many critics have charged that religion is a human invention that has been designed for people who are unable to cope with life's pressures. Some claim that they do not need this type of emotional comfort, as if this in some way disproves Christianity. The claim of Such critics is that they are “stronger” than Christians because they are able to face life without a “crutch”. This implies that non-religious people do not need a crutch. In fact, drug addiction, alcohol abuse, smoking, money, power, other people, material possessions, and promiscuous lifestyles, all demonstrates people's basic need for something to depend on.

Rather than being weak, we as Christians are strong, not because we can depend on ourselves, but because we depend on, and

put all our faith in, Jesus.

Christianity is narrow-minded!

Jesus claimed that He is the only way to God (John 14:6). Such a claim is either true or false. Some people claim to be Christians, yet ignore Jesus' claim to be the only Saviour. Critics argue this view is exclusive.

But if Christianity is true, then we have to accept Jesus' own teachings. If one believes Jesus' assertions are true, then there is nothing left to argue.

To be a good person is all that matters

Some critics argue that even if a person's religion is false, what counts is that they are sincere about being a good person. This idea is based on the belief that God is pleased by one's works.

However, sincerity is not what determines truth. One can be genuinely sincere about what they believe, and yet be sincerely wrong. For example, Hitler was very sincere in his beliefs, and we all know how the effects of those beliefs are still seen today. The Bible teaches us that God judges people based on truth, not opinions, and that truth is Jesus Christ.

What about those who have never heard about Jesus?

This implies that God lacks compassion. However, an important Biblical principle to understand is that no one has ever remained lost who wanted to be found. Just as God sent the apostle Philip to the seeking Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39), Jesus promises all who seek Him will find Him (Matthew 7:7-8). It is man who is not going out to the rest of the world. God Himself is not failing in this regard. Nor is it up to us to say how He is going to judge those who have not heard about Jesus.

The church is full of hypocrites

The Bible is filled with errors

The Bible is God's Word and since God cannot lie (Isaiah 55:10-11; John 17:17; and others), it is free from error and trustworthy. This issue, inerrancy, is not merely a theory about the Bible; it is the teaching of the Bible itself.

What are seen as errors in the Bible are not errors but difficulties. Over the years many have thought that they have found errors or inconsistencies in the Bible. However when these are properly investigated, all have been proved otherwise. New discoveries in fields such as archaeology, history, science, and language, have solved many of these apparent errors.

If God is good, why is there evil?

The idea behind this charge is that the presence of evil disproves God's power.

We must remember however, that God did not create evil. Sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience (Genesis 3), and is more an absence of good, rather than a thing in itself.

Evil is also necessary for a free world. Free will gives man the opportunity to make both right and wrong choices.

God hesitates to stop evil for one important reason; just like parents will allow their children to make mistakes and suffer the consequences in order to teach them a lesson, God does the same with us.

How can a good God allow suffering?

Some hold that pain is proof that God has no concern for man. However, pain can be used for good and bad purposes. Not all pain is bad. Pain is an essential tool for survival. Pain signals greater danger, and without it, we lack a vital part of protection.

Suffering is a spiritual signal that reminds us of the balance of life and our mortality. In

The Problem of Pain, Christian apologist C. S. Lewis wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain; it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world”.

Suffering often helps to bring about greater good. This is best seen in Jesus who experienced pain, loneliness, and death, even death on a cross (see Philippians 2). Jesus is not just a Saviour, He is our suffering Saviour. The cross is the ultimate example of innocent suffering.

At the heart of this issue is the charge that God is not fair. The problem is, for society, pleasure is its chief goal in life. Known as hedonism, those who live by this philosophy find any form of suffering offensive.

To be honest, if God gave us what we deserve, we would all be in trouble. It would be foolish to ask God for justice; when what we really need is mercy. God's mercy and grace are so taken for granted that suffering and pain shock us.

How can a loving God send people to hell?

God hates evil, and one day, when Jesus returns, all evil will cease permanently. While evil, pain and suffering are very real, they are temporary.

In the meantime, God desires for as many people as possible to turn to Christ, and to accept Jesus' death and resurrection as payment for their sins. The sad fact is, many will decide not to be a part of God's Kingdom. In effect, God will not send them to hell; they will send themselves. †



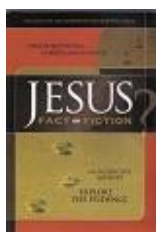
INSPIRATIONAL DVD

Jesus: Fact or Fiction?

Explore responses to over 50 of life's toughest questions from experts such as: Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel, Gary Habermas, Darrell Bock, Paul Maier, William Dembski and Ravi Zacharias.

With 4½ hours of special features, compelling viewing, and includes the movie, *Jesus*, the most well-known, most historically accurate film about the life of Jesus.

Excellent for church, small group or home use.



R 180

THE BACK PAGE

THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

How well do you know the Good Book?

All answers are found in 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles.

Use the following 20 words to complete each of the verses below. Watch out for the red herrings:

Zadok	mountain	Jerusalem	thirty
Hebron	sacrifices	lament	land
fifty	Jebus	Levites	Jabez
Bathsheba	dirge	temple	Michal
nations	forty	Jesse	music

- From his ___ he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears.
- David son of ___ was king over all Israel.
- David was ___ years old when he became king, and he reigned ___ years.
- David told the leaders of the ___ to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs
- Isn't this ___, the daughter of Eliam...
- David and all the Israelites marched to ___ (that is, ___).
- David took up this ___ concerning Saul and his son Jonathan
- ___ was more honorable than his brothers.
- These are the men David put in charge of the ___ in the house of the LORD
- David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To ___," the LORD answered.
- So David's fame spread throughout every ___, and the LORD made all the nations fear him.
- As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, ___ daughter of Saul watched from a window.
- David summoned ___ and Abiathar the priests

Answers in the Next Edition

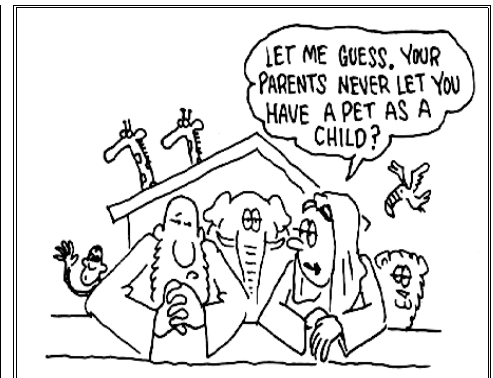
Last Month's Answers: 1. Death, Alive (2:6) 2. Spoke (9:17) 3. Abner (26:14b) 4. Benjaminite, Shiloh (4:12) 5. Gittai (13:7b) 6. Abigail (25:42) 7. Samuel (12:18) 8. Saul (24:16) 9. Rare, Visions (3:1) 10. Judge (7:15) 11. Forty, Philistine (17:16) 12. Israel (11:13) 13. Thirty (13:1)

DAVID – A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

A L H B Y Q T S M G Z H N J U X W T W Z J A X R J P C T
 C M M I T J U T I V R V X P O L V C R R B A E G O H U A
 I B J W T E Z B E E P S T Z N A P X A E U K B G N I K O
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 O S E I U N V A E W A L N T J T K M M O L A S B A T G S
 Q P T B M Z Y X B N I V Z H A I R U X L E J Z U N I D M
 S E E V F E B N W A C A M B Z E B A J O N L U A S N U J
 S J Z R M D I S T A M A L E K I T E N S V O K X T E V P
 K T N E T L N H E R C Q J U D S A Z R K H P R A G H Q H
 S I U N W F L W U M P I M U P R J P Q E K C M B X W L N
 N P A K G R J U G R W T T V D A O H S Z A A E Q E K L A
 S M M W B Z Q D R S C L B V F J U L J R R A C I M H Y Z

Find the following words in the above grid.

Abner	Absalom	Altar	Amalekite	Bathsheba	Gibeonites
Goliath	Hebron	Hittite	Jabez	Jebusite	Joab
Jonathan	Lord	Mica	Nathan	Philistine	Saul
Shimei	Sheba	Solomon	Tamar	Tent	Uriah



DIARY OF EVENTS

Israel Houghton SA Tour

23-25 October 2009.
Johannesburg, Durban & Cape Town.

Third Day SA Tour

5-6 November 2009.
Durban & Pretoria.

Educational & Homeschooling Expo

Saturday 7 November 2009.
Montclare, Johannesburg.

Dickie Fritz Moth Fete

Saturday 7 November 2009, 09h00-12h00.
Dickie Fritz Rd, Marais Stein Park.

Visit our website for more info on these and other exciting Christian events.

"The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness;
 according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me."

2 Samuel 22:21