

“KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY”

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We have a new king, Charles III. For the vast majority of our nation and the Commonwealth he is only the second monarch we have had in our lives and we will see many changes as a result. Our money will have Charles' image on it, so will our postage stamps. It will possibly take us a little while to get used to singing “God save the King” and to remember it's “he” and “him” not “she” and “her” in the lines of the verses.

On Christmas Day, we will sit down to watch The King's address to the nation for the first time and my hope is that Charles will be as open in sharing his firm Christian faith as his mother was. The late Queen Elizabeth always referred to scripture when she was talking to the nation and told the viewers how she tried to follow Jesus' example throughout her life.

One of her chaplains, talking with Her Majesty after his sermon on The Second Coming, has quoted her as saying

“I wish He would come during my lifetime, how I would love to lay my crown at His feet!”

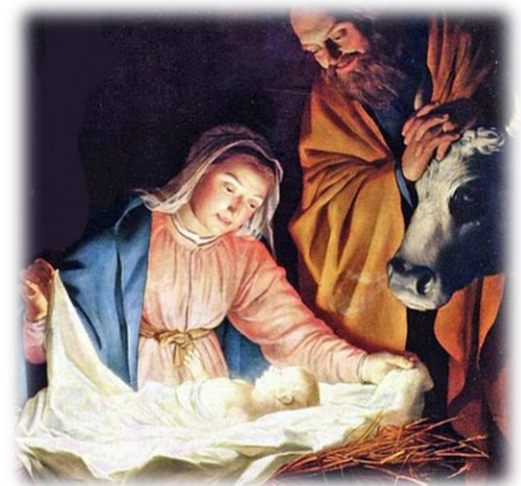
Neither Queen Elizabeth II nor King Charles III were born to be sovereign of our nation, it's a duty they were both called upon to carry out. Jesus was born to be sovereign of the world.

Our perception of Jesus at Christmas is obviously of the helpless newborn baby in the animals' feeding trough, not of who He truly was at the moment of His birth, **born to be King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Saviour, Redeemer, humanities' bridge from earth to heaven.**

“Hallelujah, what a saviour!”

Happy Christmas!

Ellie Minney
(Women of Action)



HE ALSO MADE THE STARS



God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. Genesis 1:16 (NIV)

Do you ever think about God - no I mean really think about Him?

Here in Griffydam a number of us have been looking at the creation account in our morning

worship times, and we've read and marvelled at what God has done in His creating purpose.

And yet, I'm not sure we've got anywhere near to comprehending the magnitude of Him and His creative powers.

We come to Him in our prayers, and we bring our prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication, but I wonder if we do it having the slightest comprehension of who it is to whom we are praying?

He also made the stars

I wonder if we sometimes treat Him as a sort of 'heavenly Superman' who possesses remarkable powers, and when he hears from us He takes time out to think about how He might respond. Or perhaps as some ethereal being who is actually no

further away than our distracted minds.

Was that what was in the mind of the disciple Philip when he said to Jesus, "*Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us*", and see how Jesus replies, "*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*"

And so we are forced to ask the same question about Jesus.

He also made the stars?

As we draw into dark nights and clear sky, go out into the darkness and look at the stars, and then look at the space between the stars – and wonder.

Wonder how someone who '*...also made the stars*' could possibly care for you and me. And then in complete humility give thanks for the Son who has made Him known.

HE ALSO MADE THE STARS

To Find God

Weigh me the fire; or canst thou find a way to measure out the wind?
Distinguish all those floods that are mixed in that wat'ry theater,
And taste thou them as

Saltless there, as in their channel first they were.
Tell me the people that do keep within the kingdoms of the deep;
Or fetch me back that cloud again, beshivered into seeds of rain.

Tell me the motes, dust, sands, and spears of corn, when summer shakes his ears;
Show me that world of stars, and whence they noiseless spill their influence.
This if thou canst; then show me Him that rides the glorious cherubim.

Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

Cliff Darby (Griffydam Church)

THIS SERIES OF STUDIES IS BEING PREPARED FROM A BOOKLET ENTITLED “READ MARK LEARN”

Study number three—Mark chapter 1 verses 29-45 (Please read)
What a Saviour!

Our reading covers four separate incidents, but if you look at them together, you will see that they illustrate two great truths about the Lord Jesus Christ.

HIS DEEP CONCERN

What a variety of problems we find in this passage! Peter’s mother-in-law was ill in bed, many of the neighbours had sickness of one kind or another, and a man found to his dismay that he had contracted the dreaded disease of leprosy- yet Jesus was concerned about them all! As He is **“the same yesterday, today, and for ever”** (Hebrews 13 verse 8) you can be sure that He is concerned about every detail of your life. Nothing is so large that it leaves God incapable, and nothing is so small that it leaves Him unconcerned.

By the way, notice in verse 35 that Jesus began the day in prayer! Whatever it costs, arrange your day so that you can begin it by asking God to guide and bless you throughout the day’s activities. If you want an example from the Old Testament, David wrote in Psalm 5 verse 3 **“In the**

morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation”.

HIS DIVINE COMPASSION

Compassion is much more than concern. It is love in action. Notice some of the things Jesus did. In verse 31 he went to Peter’s mother-in-law and **“helped her up”**; in verse 34 **“He healed many”**; in verse 41 He told the leper **“be clean!”** Here is God’s love in action, meeting people at the point of their individual need.

Perhaps you may sense a need to be “helped up” from the things that have spoilt your life so far; you will want to “be healed” of the wounds and scars of past sin; and you will certainly need to be kept “clean” day by day. As you recognise these needs, learn to realise that in the Lord Jesus Christ you have a Saviour who is wonderfully able to do all of these things!

“Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5 verse 7)

*Prepared by David Shuttleworth
Jump WR Church*

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



GOOD NEWS, YOUR WAY, EVERY DAY!



I don’t have a smart speaker, but I do have a much loved **DAB radio** which plays for the majority of each day.

My favourite programme is **Premier Praise** which is a Christian music station. At the beginning of every hour, the presenter shares a time of prayer followed by a scripture reading. The programme is an uplifting selection of traditional hymns and the latest Christian songs.

When I am preparing a meal or

tackling the washing, **the range of inspirational songs helps me to praise the Lord throughout the day.**

As the dark days of winter hover over our lives, light up your life by listening to Premier Praise. Search for its name by scrolling through the available programmes and allow God’s word to bless you.

Daphne Hodkinson

A DAY OF MINISTRY



Why is it that we Bible loving Christians are so indifferent about going to a special Day of Ministry? Especially, when it is all carefully arranged by David Tuckett, including a "Simon Sykes Special Lunch"!

Nearly thirty people travelled to

Jump on Saturday 15th October 15th to hear Rev. Tim Montgomery speaking about the ups and downs of Church leadership, with the intriguing title of "Transform your mind-And set your heart on fire". He certainly is an inspirational speaker. He has an enthusiastic presentation and a multitude of unique examples. His opening statement was "All disciples of Jesus look like shepherds from behind and sheep from in front".

Tim led us through the Gospel of John, chapters one and two and he emphasised the difference between the four Gospels. "Luke is like BBC 1, Matthew is like BBC 2, Mark is ITV and John is Channel 4"

He urged us to fulfil our purpose as Christians. We must tell our story to others. We must evangelise and we must not lose sight of our primary aim. We were reminded of the soldiers proudly carrying the Queen's lead lined coffin into Westminster Abbey. How smart they were; how privileged they were, but their primary role in the army is to fight and defend our land, not carry coffins. We must get back to our primary purpose of evangelisation.

Thanks to David Tuckett and his committee for an excellent day. Thanks also to "The A team" at Jump for their generous hospitality

Daphne Hodkinson

BOOK REVIEW

100 devotions about God and science that will expand the curiosity of kids...

The bestselling children's devotionals '**How great is our God**' & '**Indescribable**': have resonated with more than 500,000 kids, parents, and teachers. Louie Giglio offers 100 devotions about God and science that will expand the curiosity of kids ages 6-10. Including amazing scientific facts, beautiful photography, and fun illustrations, 'How Great Is Our God' covers numerous topics: Space and Time, Earth and weather, The Human Body, Animals, Plants and more!

"These excellent, devotional books are aimed at children aged 6-10 & are well written & illustrated. Each of the 100 devotions per book can be read independently, pairing a bible verse with amazing facts about things or people in the universe to teach truths



about God. We loved both books & learnt so much together." Carol Wilcock (Andy's Sister-In-Law).

Explore Louie Giglio's other books in the bestselling Indescribable Kids series: **Indescribable for Little Ones, The Wonder of Creation.**

Andy Wilcock

Collectors Corner



I'm not a lover or collector of ornaments... they take too much dusting! However, I do seem to have amassed a large collection of Christmas baubles, ornaments, decorations... call them what you will. As we have been blessed by being able to travel the world, courtesy of the company we worked for, I have always been attracted to the various "Christmas shops" to be found in each country. Every shop celebrating the same theme but in a slightly different way.

Each bauble brings back a memory, from sledging in Alaska to flying

over the Grand Canyon, diving in the Florida Keys and even visiting a volcano in Hawaii, plus many more too numerous to mention here.

The olive wood ornaments from Bethlehem bring back a reminder of the Holy land where our Saviour was born... the reason we celebrate the season.

More memories, this time family ones, celebrating the births of our grandchildren, like the baubles, all different but all special. Our collection grows as they now travel, bringing back memories and decorations to add to our tree.

Every Christmas as we decorate our tree refreshing our memories and preparing once again to celebrate the birth of our King, we remind ourselves of the beauty of the world

that God has created for us all to share, also providing a talking point for any non church visitors.

We look back in wonder and give thanks to God, not only for our special memories of the places we've visited but also for the people we've met and especially for our loved ones who make our family complete.

Jean Sykes (Jump Church)



BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

**Blessed be Your name, in the land
that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of
abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name, blessed be
Your name.**

Like many older hymns, this modern song, written in the 21st century, connects with human experience and struggles. When times are tough and bleak, it is important to remind ourselves of the truth about God.

Blessed be your name was written by English songwriter and worship leader Matt Redman and his wife, Beth. The song was written a short while after the 9/11 attacks on the twin towers in New York, at a time when Matt and Beth were travelling in America and witnessed at first hand, the shock and distress felt throughout the country. He wrote "Brokenness was everywhere, and many

people sought some kind of comfort in the church. Following those attacks, church attendance went up dramatically".

However, although preachers prepared inspirational and powerful sermons, speaking into the heart of the pain in the Nation, there was little evidence of the musical poets and prophets helping the people of God find a voice in worship at this tragic time.

Blessed be your name was not written as a conscious response to those dark events, but they must have influenced him quite deeply.

It reminds us that however hard the journey, God's grace has become so real and sustaining so that we are able to say:

**God, you give and take away
Oh you give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be your name**



Our recent experience of universal pandemic, international conflicts and wars, has meant that many people have had to grapple with the issues of loss, violence and loneliness and face unanswerable "Whys".

Blessed be Your name reflects that hard journey towards finding the reality of God's infinite healing grace and compassion.

Daphne Hodkinson



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Safe Haven Project 2022/23

HOT MEALS

LEBANON



they saw the need of the children who were attending their Christian Outreach Programme. On Wednesday the 26th of October 2022, the children who attend their programme received a hot meal for the first time. **Each day the children will now receive a hot meal at the centre, most of the children go to bed hungry as they do not have enough food.** (See photographs)



We come with grateful and thankful hearts to our wonderful God, for His Purpose, Plans, and Provision.

The WRU Overseas Missions team, would like to thank you all for your prayerful and financial support, for our OM personnel, and also for the projects we champion each year.

God calls us to be together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we should love one another (John 15:12), as He loves us and to share what we have (Hebrews 13:16; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Everything we have, has been provided by God (Philippians 4:19) "Hallelujah"

The Overseas Missions team launched the **Safe Haven Hot Meal programme** as our project for this year at conference.

Safe Haven have never done anything like this before, but

Nicolette from Safe Haven has sent me an update of the first few days of the programme.

"Two days down and the hot meal programme has been amazing! I cannot even describe how the kids have reacted. We wanted to pass on a few pictures that you can share with your churches. Please, please, pass on our huge thanks for everyone who is giving, and praying to support this project. I have no doubt it will make a huge difference for these kids.

The first meal the kids had was Lebanese meatballs with rice and warm yogurt sauce. One of our

boys, 12 year old Khalil, asked what meatballs was, and when we told him, he started jumping and exclaiming 'meat! We are getting meat!?' It was so sad and beautiful at the same time."

Please support this much needed project. Lebanon is nearly 3 years into one of the world's greatest economic and financial crises, still recovering from the shock of the port explosion in August 2022.

Many Lebanese people are starving and live in poverty, please pray for them.

We face crisis in the UK in this season! But we are fortunate to have running water and basic supplies.

(To quote Oliver Twist) **"PLEASE SIR, CAN I HAVE SOME MORE"**

Seasons blessings and love to you all from Lindsey Hedley and all of the OM Team



STARSTRUCK

Starstruck: *fascinated or greatly impressed by famous people, especially those connected with the cinema*

It has been said 'you should never meet your heroes,' but in fact when many people do meet their idol, they go weak at the knees, their cheeks go bright red and they make a fool of themselves. It maybe only once we've spent time with them, that we find they are just as human and flawed as we are.

With Jesus, it was the opposite. People just saw a carpenter, with a strong northern, Nazarene accent, minus the status of formal education, surrounded by fishermen, prostitutes and tax collectors. It was the getting to know Him that changed peoples' minds, hearts, and lives.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God.

Jesus coming into this world was announced by a night sky full of Angels singing, a great Star and the innocent, first cry of a small baby, in a stable. At Christmas we celebrate the brightest, and greatest star of all being born on earth. The Living Word become flesh. Emmanuel – God with us.

So, did the very people who met Jesus, get Starstruck? Well overall, no, in fact many were very much underwhelmed. In the end He wasn't what they'd been expecting. Mary and Joseph experienced pregnancy and labour, the shepherds found a baby in a manger. The Wise men found a child. Nathaniel asks, can anything good come out of Nazareth. Jesus' neighbours from Nazareth, rejected Him, His message, and His miracles.



But when we look at those who discovered who He truly is, now that was a different matter.

John the Baptist said "I am not worthy to untie your sandals.

Peter, witnessing the miracle of the great catch of fish, said "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Nathaniel, after his initial scepticism, said "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel"

Peter, James and John fell to the ground as though dead, on seeing Jesus transfigured. And Peter asked to build three booths for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah: John commented "He did not know what he was saying".

Mark on the other hand tells us "The common people heard Him gladly". The blind, lame, lepers and those whose family members were demon possessed and even of the dead approached Him for help and healing, believing He had the Words of Life. They were accepted and their requests met with powerful miracles of healing.

This Christmas, how do you receive the Lord Jesus.? You won't find him in a cradle, or a boat, on a cross or even in a tomb: He's been there already, He died for our sins and rose back to life. We find Him in heaven, where authority over sin and death is His. We find Him loving and able to forgive, welcoming us into His church, and ultimately receiving us into His heaven and family.

Andy Wilcock



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

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



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE