

Clifton News

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South Norwood Festival



News

We apologise for the late publication of this issue as we wanted to squeeze in the news of our outreach at the South Norwood Festival. We would like to thank all our readers for pray for the work at Clifton Hall.

South Norwood Festival

We were unsuccessful in booking a stall but prayers were answered when permission was given by an organiser for us to distribute our leaflets inside. The weather last Sunday was sunny and there were many thousands of people visiting the festival. A number from Clifton Hall went at two different times during the day and managed to distribute some 1500 or more specially designed tracts for the occasion. There is an offer on the reverse for a free Bible and literature and details of our meetings. We value prayer for a good response. We plan to make another attempt at booking a stall next year.

Thornton Heath Festival

We have applied for a stall at this year's Thornton Heath Festival which takes place on Sunday 4th of September. Please note that the Breaking of Bread will be at 9:30 am on that day and there will be three shifts for manning the stall, morning setup, early and late afternoon. The festival commences at 11 am and finishes at 6 pm. Prayer is also valued for this outreach.

Children's work

Numbers attending the Wednesday and Friday clubs are still good. Often questions are asked during the Bible talk on Fridays so it is encouraging to see that the children are paying attention to what is being said. We are trying to encourage them to read their Bibles every day with limited success but a few are reading several times a week.

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Meetings

THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread	11.00 am
Family Service	4:00 pm

Monday

Prayer & Ministry	7.45 pm
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Wednesday

Seekers Club	6:30 pm
(Term time only for under 10s)	

Friday

Friday Club	7:30 pm
(Term time only for 10+)	

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

July

3	Nitish Patel
10	South Norwood Festival Outreach
17	Ferranti Wong
24	Richard Catchpole
31	Alastair Rodger

August

7	Mike Surry
14	John Aston
21	Norman Gibbons
28	Nitish Patel

September

- 4 Thornton Heath Festival Outreach
- 11 Alf Taylor
- 18 Alastair Rodger
- 25 Richard Catchpole

MONDAY PRAYER AND MINISTRY

July

- 4 Ken Wilkins
- 11 Alastair Rodger
- 18 Richard Catchpole
- 25 Richard Catchpole

August

Due to a number away on holidays, the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of this month will be arranged at short notice depending upon how many of the assembly are able to attend.

- 29 No meeting (Bank holiday)

September

- 5 Roy Aitkin
- 12 Roy Aitkin
- 19 Nitish Patel
- 26 Robert Bennett

Question Box

Answers to Questions asked by the young people at our Friday Club.



If Adolf Hitler had repented from his sin and believed in Christ, would he have been saved?

Hitler is probably the first answer on most people's lips if you ask them to name someone evil and undoubtedly he was. His regime systematically murdered millions and plunged the world into the Second World War. The death and destruction he wrought is almost without compare.

Would this most evil of men, if he repented from his sins and believed in the Lord Jesus, have been saved? The short answer is yes. Before we continue, we must note that we are dealing with a hypothetical question. Hitler is dead and there is no evidence or suggestion that he ever believed in the Lord Jesus at any point in his life. Even to his death, he was unrepentant and charged others to continue the evil work he had begun.

Undoubtedly, the answer given would offend many, how could God be able save someone with the blood of millions on his hands? How could Christ be able to save Hitler, if he repented and believed, but not save me if I don't repent and believe? Is it fair that an evil man like that theoretically could be saved, but some much less evil person could be lost?

Firstly we need to realise that God is God, we are not God. God is perfectly holy and just. We are the creatures of His hand and don't get to stand in judgement over Him and call Him unfair or unjust. In all circumstances we can know like Abraham knew that "shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (Genesis 18:26).

Secondly, we need to realise that Hitler while was a monstrously evil

man who committed great sins against millions of people, ultimately he sinned against God.

That's the case with all of us, the argument of Romans 3 is that there is no one who is righteous, no one who is good, and all have sinned and come short of God's glory. All of us stand condemned before God and all deserve death and hell, from the worst of us to the best of us.

We might not be grouped with men like Hitler or Stalin, we might live respectable lives, but we are all sinners. Sin affects every single part of us, we are far worse than we like to think we are. Put it this way, would you like all your thoughts to be broadcast loud and clear? Everything you say to be recorded and available for all to review? I thought not. That's why the gospel is good news, it's good news for sinners, sinners like you and me. As well as a sinner like Paul, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul described himself as the foremost sinner, he had ferociously persecuted the church, breathing out threats and murder and by extension he had persecuted Christ (Acts 9:5).

If Christ could save the foremost sinner, He can save you and me if we will repent from our sins and believe in Him. As John Newton, the writer of the hymn "Amazing Grace" could say "Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Saviour."

Hitler was never saved, but Christ is able to save the worst of sinners. The question to ask is not whether this person or that person could be saved, but have I been saved? Christ is a perfect Saviour, you will find Him to be so if you will believe in Him.

Alastair Rodger

Bible Teaching

Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 13)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)

KNOWING THE ENEMY'S PLANS

In the section that follows we learn the value of discernment. Elisha knew what the enemy's plans and intentions were. He did not keep this knowledge to himself, but passed it on to the king of Israel, by way of warning, thus he was saved from defeat and loss on several occasions. But it caused consternation to the Syrian king. He suspected that there was a spy amongst them. Perhaps he thought that it was Naaman? However once the truth was revealed, he decided to capture this man who was hindering his attempts. So he sent one of his bands to do this.



It is a sad fact that today many experience defeat and loss, because of their lack of discernment. So often an idea is presented that seems to be of God, when all the while it is of the Devil. There is no excuse for us, as we have the Bible in our hands, and we have direct access to the throne of God. We are also indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, and if we only allowed Him to teach and to lead us, we would then discern to true nature of what is suggested to us. We too would not then "Pass that such a place," and would be saved from much hurt and loss. Paul could say to the Corinthians, "We are not ignorant of his devices". 2Cor. 2:11.

The problem is that Satan is so cunning, and we can so easily be deceived and think that something presented to us is of God, when

it really comes from Satan. John warns us that we are to allow the unction, (The Holy Spirit) to teach us, (1 John, 2:27), and that we are definitely not to believe every spirit, but to try, (or test the spirits), to see whether they are of God.

Paul also tells us that “ He that is spiritual judgeth, (discerns) all things, yet is judged of no man.” (1 Cor 2:15). The more dependent we are upon God, the more spiritual we are, (that is the more we are led, filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit) the greater will be our discernment.

THE BAND IS SENT

The troubled king then sent an armed band to capture the man of God, and they came to Dothan where he was staying, and besieged that village, deploying the troops during the night. When Elisha’s servant went out in the early morning, (probably to obey the calls of nature), he was amazed to find themselves surrounded by armed soldiers. He rushed back in



despair, and said to Elisha, “Alas master, what shall we do?” However the man of God was quite calm, and replied, “They that are with us, are more than they that are with them. He then quietly prayed, “Oh Lord, open his eyes”. It was then that the servant gained a new vision, he saw what he could not see before, and saw the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

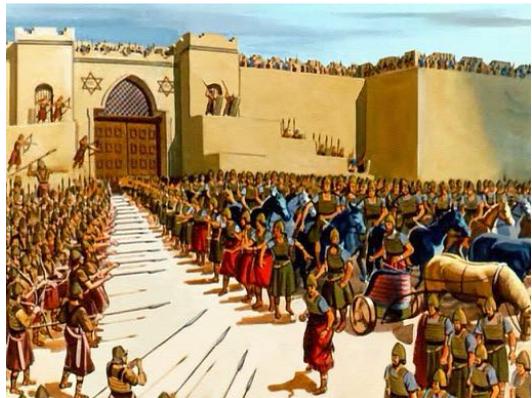
So often we are like that servant, we are so occupied with the difficulties and problems, the dangers that confront us that we fail to see the resources that God has placed at our disposal, and for our protection and deliverance. Lord open our eyes also!

God has sent forth His angels to serve those that inherit salvation. These mighty ministering spirits are always with us, whether we

realise it or not. Their power is available for our protection, while ever we are treading the path of God's holy will, and walking in daily simple dependence upon Him (Heb. 1:14). These mighty beings often confront the demons that Satan deposes to do us harm, as in the case of Daniel, (Dan. 10:11.) Psalm 91 is almost entirely devoted to this subject.

ELISHA PRAYS AGAIN

The prophet prayed again and asked God to smite the soldiers with blindness. God answered his prayer, by bringing partial blindness upon them. They could see enough to walk, and yet were unable to recognize their surroundings.



Elisha then led them into the midst of Samaria, where he prayed once more that God would remove the blindness that He had brought on them. They then realized that they had been led into a trap. The king would have slaughtered them, but the prophet would not permit him to do so. Instead he told the king to set bread and water before them, that they might eat and drink and go to their master. The king went to the other extreme, and made a great feast for them. We are commanded to love our enemies, to bless those that curse us. (Matt. 5:43-48) and see also, Rom. 12:17-21.

The result was that these potential enemies became friends, and the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel. Grace is a very powerful thing, much more powerful than vengeance or cruelty. We may think that God was inconsistent, because Ahab was slain because he let Ben Hadad go free. But we need to see that he was Syria's king, and represents Satan, whereas these soldiers were just doing what they were told, and paid to do. They were just pawns in a power

struggle, and we need to see that men that Satan uses are only men, and rather than hate oppose and blame them, we need to confront the power that controls and uses them.

THE SIEGE OF SAMARIA

The remainder of chapter 6 of 2 Kings, and all of chapter 7, is given to the description of the siege of Samaria, and the wonderful deliverance that God gave, according to His word.

We may think that there is a conflict between what is said of the bands of Syria, and verse 24. The difference lies in the fact that it was not the bands of Syria; that came to besiege Samaria. But the whole host of Syria came under the leadership of their king. They came as a part of the judgment of God, upon a wicked people. They had turned away from Jehovah, and given themselves to idolatry, so God's disciplinary judgment must fall.

I see many similarities in the situation that exists today in our society. The siege reduced Samaria until they were feeding on what was filthy, and paying a high price for things that were worthless.

..... to be continued

Good News

WHY DID HE DIE?



Ernest Gordon was twenty-four when he was captured by the Japanese during World War II. He was marched with other British prisoners deep into the Southeast Asian jungles to build the infamous Burma-Siam Railroad over the River Kwai, commonly known as the Railway of Death.

In his book "Miracle on the River Kwai" he tells the story how one afternoon a shovel was missing and the Japanese officer in charge became enraged. He demanded that the missing shovel be produced, or else. When nobody in the squadron budged, the officer got his gun

and threatened to kill them all on the spot. It was obvious the officer meant what he had said. Then, finally, one man stepped forward. The officer kicked him and finally beat him to death with his rifle butt.

When it was over the survivors picked up his battered body and carried it, with them, to the second tool check. This time, no shovel was missing. Indeed, there had been a miscount at the first check point. What had first seemed to be a thief was in fact an innocent man who had been willing to die to save the others.

Two thousand years ago another man Jesus died as a criminal hanging between two robbers, yet He was the only sinless Man ever to walk this earth. He was God's Son who came into this world to pay the price for human sin. The Bible says, "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3). He was willing to bear the full judgment and wrath for what we have done so that we might be saved. The Bible declares that it was a love that passes all understanding.

Having dealt with sin which is man's greatest problem He rose from the dead on the third day. God can now be just in forgiving the guilty and justify or declare righteous those who put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The greatest discovery a person can make is to realise that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and died for their sins on the cross. He did not die as an example, or die as a martyr or die by accident. He willingly died to save sinners. It will be a life changing discovery.

Reader, have you made this discovery? Your eternal destiny for heaven or hell depends on what you do with Christ. The Bible warns, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3)

Design in Creation

By Nitish Patel

MOLECULAR MACHINES

Over the past 20 years, as scientists looked deeper than ever before into cells and how they work, they made the amazing discovery that the chemical reactions that are needed for life to exist are produced by a vast array of molecular sized machines. It was like being able to view a factory only from the outside. You could see raw materials going in one end and the finished product coming out for delivery the other end but could not see inside. Now you are able to go inside to tour the whole factory and be amazed at the sight of many thousands of machines at work on a computer controlled production line.

We have around 37.2 trillion cells (that's 37.2 million million) in our body according to recent research and each of these trillions of cells has thousands of these molecular machines working inside. The complexity of the human body and all living things is truly staggering and far beyond what anyone imagined in days gone by. The Psalmist David wrote, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14)

These machines are very similar in structure to man made machines. We can see wheels, motors, axles, stators, rotors, bushings, clutch assemblies, universal joints, driveshafts, all powered by electric currents and assembled by instructions in the DNA, which is in itself a marvel of God's creation. Let us consider a few of these machines in Creation.

ATP SYNTHASE, THE MOTOR OF LIFE

ATP or Adenosine triphosphate is needed by all living cells for energy and is produced in nearly every cell by the world's tiniest rotating

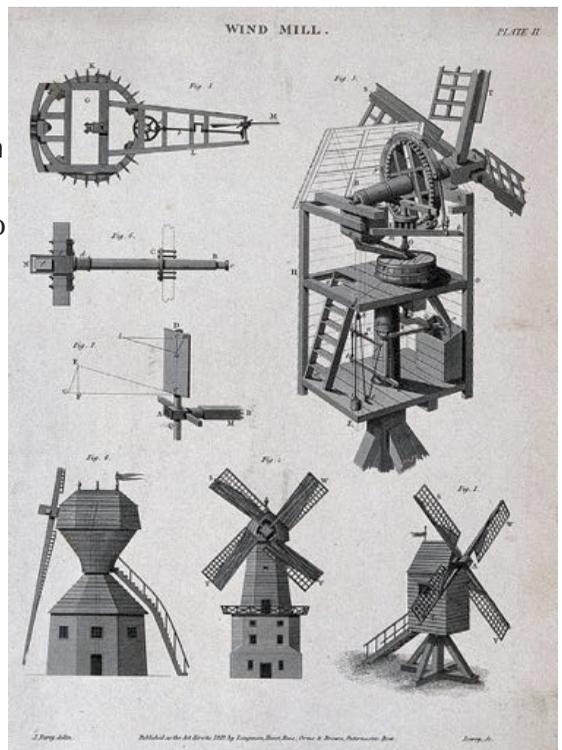
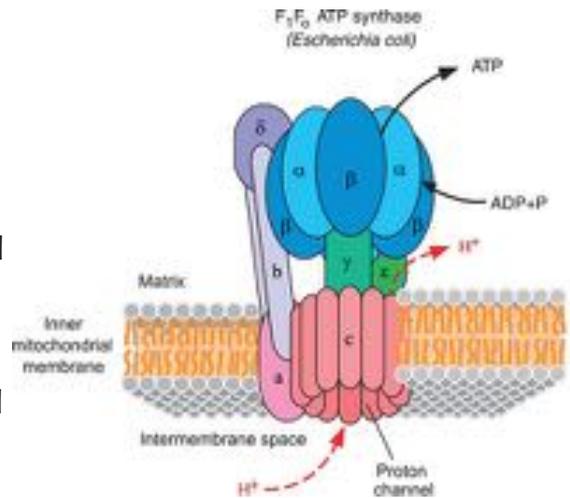
motor known as ATP Synthase.

They are located on the membranes of the mitochondria inside living cells, in bacteria and in the chloroplasts of plants. The ATP Synthase motor is so small you can fit around 100,000 in a square millimetre. It spins around 150 times a second or 9000 rpm.

It's operation can be likened to a windmill or watermill. The wind flows through the vanes of a windmill turning them. The vanes are linked to gears and a shaft which is connected to a stone mill inside where the wheat germ is ground into flour and then put into sacks.

In a similar way, the ATP Synthase has a C ring which is rotated by a flow of hydrogen ions or protons through special channel which turn it round and round. The C ring is connect to a shaft which has a special shape at the end of it. This turns inside six subunits where three of them produce ATP by combining ADP and phosphate together. The rotation draws in more ATD and phosphate and combines them before realising ATP for use as energy. This motor can also work in reverse.

When we travel to another country, we have to change our money into the local currency. Our bodies have to do this with the food



we eat and change it into a form our cells can use. Most of the food we eat is turned into glucose in our bodies to provide energy. Glucose is broken down and used by our cells involving a complex process called glycolysis and the end result is a molecule called ATP which is called the “energy currency of life”. ATP powers all the other machines in the cell to carry out their functions so is a power generator.

THE WALKING KINESIN MOTOR



The kinesin motor is three-millionths of an inch long and walks along highways in the cell known as microtubules which are formed and dismantled when needed. They are like the postman of the cell and carry cargo to every part of the cell to the precise location with perfect timing. They also drag apart DNA during cell division or mitosis.

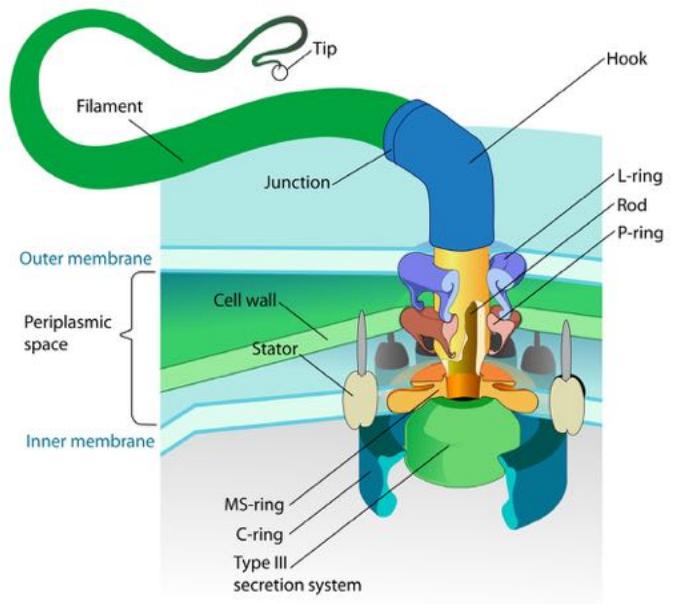
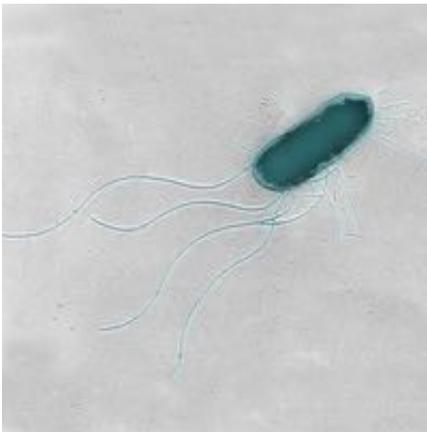
The kinesin motor looks like a man with two legs and two arms above to carry the cargo. They can walk 100 steps a second and sometimes several machines team up and walk together to carry a greater load. They use ATP for energy to walk and can even navigate around

obstacles in the cell.

In the nerve cells, neurotransmitters would take years to reach the axon by diffusion alone but the kinesin runs along and delivers the goods in a matter of minutes. Also like relay races, the cargo is passed onto another kinesin when encountered.

There are many more machines at work including those involved with the DNA.

E-COLI BACTERIA'S AMAZING PROPELLER

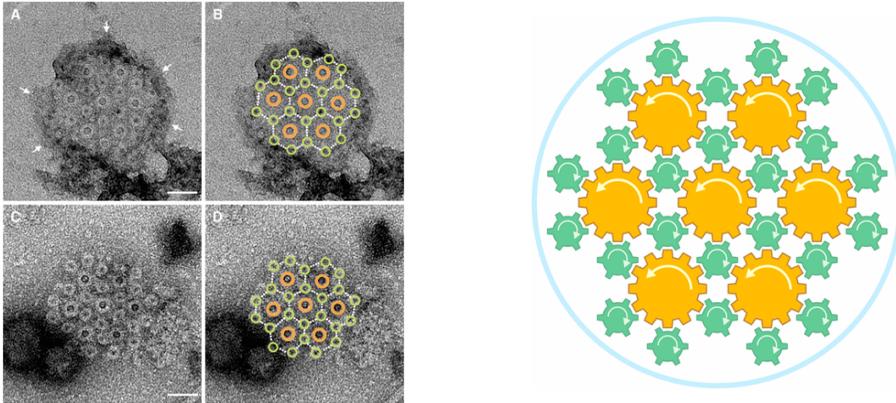


The E Coli bacteria is responsible for food poisoning in man. It has a tail called a flagellum which it spins round like a propeller to swim about.

The electric motor that spins the flagellum is a marvel of Divine engineering composed of a stator, rotor, universal joint, gears for forward and reverse motion and a clutch to disconnect from the filament when required. It is powered by a flow of protons, turning it at 100,000 times per minute and can even repair itself!

THE GEAR BOX OF THE MO-12 BACTERIA

It was also discovered by Osaka University in 2012 that the MO-1 bacterium has 7 motors and 24 gears powering its 7 flagella. It can also sense the magnetic field of the earth and follow it.



Without these tiny machines life could not be possible. Evolutionists cannot explain how these machines formed by chance and are getting more and more foolish in their explanations. If an electrical motor and gear box was found on the planet Mars, the evolutionists would jump up and down with joy that proof for alien intelligent life has been discovered. However, when motors and gears are discovered in nature they fanatically refuse to believe any intelligence created them and say it was all the product of millions of years of chance.

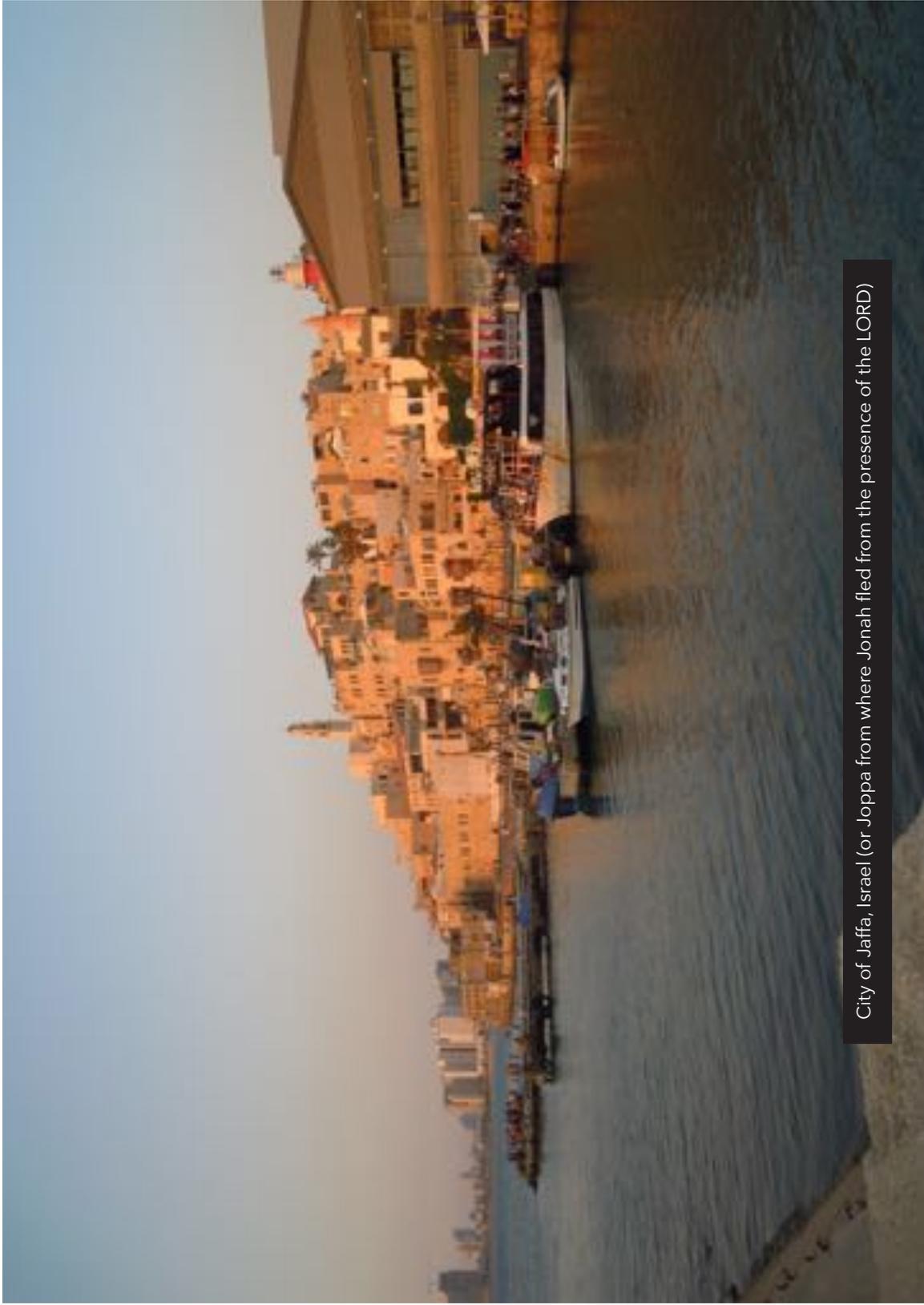
The famous evolutionary geneticist J.B.S. Haldane (1892–1964) was one of the three founders of the field of study known as population genetics claimed in 1949 that evolution could never produce “various mechanisms, such as the wheel and magnet, which would be useless till fairly perfect.”

Well, it can be truly said, that evolution certainly did not produce these machines or life that depends on them. They were designed and created by God of whom the psalmist David has said, “I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.” (Psalm 9:1)



Assembly in the town of Manali in the Himalayas, India. It was recently planted by evangelist Shaji Matthews. After many years of little success by others, a number of local people have now been saved and baptised.





City of Jaffa, Israel (or Joppa from where Jonah fled from the presence of the LORD)