

# Clifton News

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Thornton Heath Festival



# News

## Thornton Heath Festival

Many thousands of visitors came to this year's Thornton Heath Festival and the assembly was able to set up a literature stall on the high street. Much literature was given away and a few conversations held. We pray that the Lord will bless His Word that was sown.

## Newton Woutersz

With sadness we report the home call of our dear brother Newton Woutersz on the 8th of September. The funeral took place at Clifton Hall on 29th September and was well attended. The service at the hall was conducted by Nitish Patel and at the graveside by Archie Carew. The gospel was preached and a number of unsaved family and friends were present for whom Newton prayed for many years.

## Saturday Ministry Meetings at 7.30 pm

### 2016

1st	October	James College	(Pamber Heath)
5th	November	Mark Lacey	(Bath)
3rd	December	Justin Ramsey	(Helions Bumpstead)

### 2017

7th	January	Kevin Oh	(Uxbridge)
4th	February	Richard Collins	(Caerphilly)

## Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 18th December at 4 pm followed by tea and mince pies

## WATCHNIGHT GOSPEL MEETING

Saturday 31st December at 11.00 -12.00 am

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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 (Term time only for under 10s)	6:30 pm
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### Friday

Friday Club (Term time only for 10+)	7:30 pm
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## SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

### October

2	John Aston
9	Andrew Hall
16	Alastair Rodger
23	Richard Catchpole
30	Nitish Patel

### November

6	Nitish Patel
13	Ferranti Wong
20	Alastair Rodger
27	Norman Gibbons

## **December**

4	Mike Surry
11	Andrew Hall
18	Carol Service
25	Christmas Day (no meeting)

## **MONDAY PRAYER AND MINISTRY**

### **October**

3	Alastair Rodger
10	Richard Catchpole
17	Jonathan Black
24	John Aston
31	John Aston

### **November**

7	Colin Roberts
14	Colin Roberts
21	Colin Roberts
28	Colin Roberts

### **December**

5	Timothy Miller
12	Timothy Miller
19	Timothy Miller
26	Boxing Day (no meeting)



# Question Box



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

*Why is the Bible hard to understand?*

This question was sprung on me just after I finished giving the “Bible Talk” at Friday club. I had to partially disagree with my young questioner; the Bible can’t be labelled in its entirety as a book that is “hard to understand”.

Of course, the writers of scripture themselves acknowledged that there were some things in the Bible that are hard to understand. Peter could write the following about Paul in 2 Peter:

“our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” (2 Peter 3:14-16)

Notice that Peter equates Paul’s letters with Scripture and that there are some things contained within them that are hard to understand.

We also have to realise that the Bible is made up of sixty-six books of various genres written by around forty authors. Due to its size and subjects it’s going to be harder to study and understand than a children’s book or a takeaway menu.

That doesn’t mean, however, that it can’t be studied and understood by you. Get a Bible, open it up and you can see, it’s not written in code, there aren’t any mathematical formulas to work out. The words are there in English, provided you’ve not grabbed a Polish Bible by accident!

God instructs us to study and meditate on His Word throughout the Scriptures. The core truths of the Scriptures are there for us to

understand, as Paul in his second letter to Timothy could write:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings (Holy Scriptures), which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-16)

Timothy had been familiar with the Scriptures since childhood, so clearly they can be understood even by children. The Scriptures are able to clearly show us our need and the way of salvation. They clearly show us that we are sinners (Romans 3:23); that as sinners we face eternal death (Romans 6:23); that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15) and that salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We see also that Scripture is “breathed out by God”, it’s the only thing in the world described as such. It’s the means that God uses to communicate with us and as such God has made it so that we are able to understand it.

So what do you do if you don’t understand something when you read the Bible? Try reading the verse or passage in context, reading a bigger section might give you more of an idea about what the author is trying to communicate. If you’re still struggling, ask another Christian, maybe an elder in your church and they’ll be more than happy to help you.

Remember there are parts of the Bible that are hard to understand, but that doesn’t mean that those parts can’t be understood.

*Alastair Rodger*

# Bible Teaching

## Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 14)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)

### THE ASS'S HEAD

It is remarkable that this should be mentioned. The ass's head was the thinking part of the animal, and the part that made all the noise. There would have been much more flesh on the rest of the animal, but that is not mentioned. I would suggest that the head represents what is intellectual. In our society intellectualism is of great value.



If one has been to college, or to university, if they have trained or studied in a theological seminary, and have obtained a degree, or diploma, or better still a doctorate, then that person will be sought after.

It makes me think of the politicians of our day. They make so much noise, (like the braying of an ass), and claim to be the brains of the country. They enrich themselves, and vote themselves large salaries. They retire as millionaires, while a large section of the population live in poverty. Some of them have failed in business, and gone bankrupt, yet consider that they have brains enough to run the country. Ours is a society under siege!

### DOVE'S DUNG

This is filth, yet the people were paying a high price for it. We see a parallel today when we observe what is served up in the media. Visit the bookstores, and see what fills the shelves. Look at the magazines



that people read, the vulgar advertisements, the TV programmes. People are feeding their minds on what is filthy, and paying a high price for it.

## **CANNIBALISM**

The citizens of Samaria were in such a state of hunger, that they were eating the flesh of their own children. Men and women in our society have turned their backs upon God, they have gone into many forms of sin. They practice sinful habits, yet it is the little children that suffer. If a father experiences sorrow, then often they will turn to alcohol, they will selfishly drink away the family's income, it is the poor helpless children that suffer. They did not ask to be brought into the world, it is akin to eating their flesh.

The mother may go out to work, and in that situation be thrown into the company of men other than the husband, to whom she has promised in a solemn oath before God, to be true and faithful. Lust is awakened in her heart, and she breaks her vow, is unfaithful to her husband, and runs off with another man. It is the little children that suffer. Every little child deserves the security of a loving mother and father, and to deny it to them is like eating their flesh.

## **THE KING'S DISTRESS AND HIS DECISION**

Such a terrible revelation of the dire condition of Samaria and it's people, caused the King great distress, and made him to tear his clothes in anguish. This revealed that under the royal garments was the sackcloth of mourning on the King's flesh. He was helpless to do anything, but instead he turned against the only One that was able to deliver him and his people from the peril of their condition. He turned against Jehovah, and decided to silence the voice of God, by beheading His prophet. It seems that the city elders had more wisdom than their king, because they were sitting before Elisha, as if desirous of hearing God's message through him.

How often the world's rulers do the same today! Instead of seeing,

that the cause of their trouble is that they and the people have turned away from God, they turn against God, and blame Him for their troubles. They often turn against His servants, with fierce persecution.



Elisha heard the King and the executioner coming, and instructed the elders to shut the door of the house, and thus to keep them from entering. Elisha knew the King's murderous intentions, but instead of calling down fire from heaven, as Elijah might have done, he allowed the king to pour out the hatred and bitterness that was festering in his wicked heart.

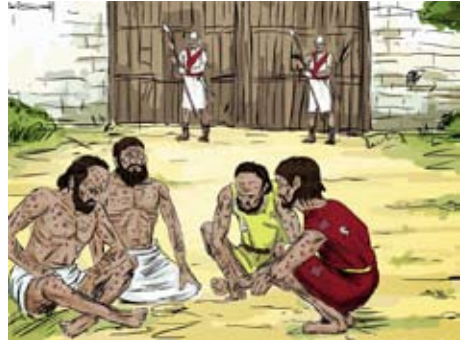
The king proceeded to blame God for their troubles, and revealed his impatience, asking, "Why should I wait for Jehovah any longer?" However instead of rebuking the King, Elisha gave a message of hope and salvation. Telling that on the following day, there would be food in abundance, and it would be sold at a cheap price in the gate of Samaria. The executioner mocked and scoffed at this message. He replied, "If God was to make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" He was to hear from the lips of the prophet, the message of his doom. "Thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shall not eat of it". He would witness others receive the blessing of salvation, but he would be suddenly hurled into Hell, and eternal torment. The reason for this was his own refusal to believe the message of salvation that came from the lips of God's servant.

Herein lies a warning to all today that would reject and scoff at the message of God's salvation, that is offered to guilty, hell-deserving, and lost sinners. The message of God's salvation is made known, for the obedience of faith amongst all that hear it. It is so sad to think, that there are some that will witness others receive God's wonderful salvation, through faith in Christ, yet they themselves will end up in Hell. I appeal to those that read this, please don't let this happen

to you! Put your faith and trust in Christ now, while you have the opportunity.

## GOD'S INTERVENTION

God waited until every human attempt had failed, until every human resource had been tried then He intervened. He does His miracles so quietly, and so simply. He does not sound a fanfare of trumpets, and bid the world to watch what He does. He used four leprous men to discover what He had done, and to convey the message of



salvation to those within the troubled city. These men were doomed to die, but unlike the respectable sinners in the city, they knew it, and they could not hide their miserable plight. So they held a little committee meeting amongst themselves. They came to the conclusion that if they did nothing, if they just sat there, they would die. The same is true for every lost sinner, if they do nothing about their lost condition, they will surely die in their sins and go to Hell. Some argue "If I am going to be saved, then I will be saved!" My dearest friend, that is the surest way to be lost. An evangelist once asked a class of boys, "What do I have to do to be lost, and go to hell?" One boy put up his hand and replied, "Please sir, nothing!" He was right, God offers His salvation as a gift, He wishes that all might accept that gift, but the gift only becomes the possession of those that receive it.

..... to be continued

# Good News

## China builds world's largest radio telescope



China has completed construction of the world's largest radio telescope measuring a colossal 500 meters (1,640 ft) across. Nicknamed 'Tianyan' or the 'heavenly eye'. It is built in a natural crater in Guizhou Province in southwest China. China is seeking to become the scientific powerhouse of the world. In comparison, the Lovell telescope at Jodrell Bank, UK, the third largest steerable radio telescope in the world measures 76m across.

The telescope will take three years to calibrate and will be used to study the radio signals emitted by black holes, pulsars, supernovas or exploding stars. After finishing the installation in July 2016, Zheng Xiaonian, deputy head of China's National Astronomical Observation, told state media: "The project has the potential to search for more strange objects to better understand the origin of the universe and

boost the global hunt for extraterrestrial life.”

Despite a previous fruitless project called SETI in the USA which lasted over 50 years, man still refuses to acknowledge God in his thoughts and believes life came by chance and therefore millions of other alien civilisations must have evolved on other planets. However, if this were true then surely without any doubt we would be able to tune into their radio and TV transmissions by now. Without a single alien ‘Coronation Street’ program picked up or even a faint intelligible signal, some scientists are wondering if man is alone in the universe.

The Bible tells us to be astronomers too but in doing so come to a different conclusion to the unbelieving ones of this world. When David was a shepherd boy on the hills of Bethlehem he gazed at the stars and said, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:3-4)

David felt man is very small and insignificant when he considered the vast universe God had made yet he understood that God is mindful of man and cares for him. God visited this earth in the Person of His Son. The baby born in Bethlehem and named Jesus, was God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

God’s love for you and me led Him to give His beloved Son to die on the cross of Calvary for our sins. God accepted the payment for our sins and raised Him from the dead, a living Saviour. We can be saved through faith in Christ and know God in a personal way as our own God and Father.

China’s telescope might discover new wonders of how God’s universe functions but more importantly you can make the greater discovery that the God who created the Cosmos cares personally for you.

# Design in Creation

By Nitish Patel

## THE HONEY BEE

The Bible speaks of bees four times and the honey they produce some 54 times. Honey is a figure of the sweetness of God's Word and of its wisdom (Psalm 19:10; Proverbs 24:13-14). The Promised Land is described as flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). The Lord Jesus ate honey in His childhood (Isaiah 7:14-15) and after His resurrection to give evidence to His disciples that He was not a spirit but was indeed risen from the dead (Luke 24:42). The most well known story is of Samson and the bees, "And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion." (Judges 14:8)



### POLLEN, NECTAR AND HONEY

There are some 20,000 different species of bees and the most well known is the Western or European Honey Bee (subgenus *Apis*) which is a social bee and lives in hives. Bees are one of the most important insects on the planet and pollinate many crops that human life depends upon. Bees forage for the sweet nectar in flowers and in turn the flower gives it pollen which the bee takes home to feed on and the rest pollinates other flowers. Both depend on each to survive. The bee stores the nectar in its honey stomach and mixes it with enzymes. Back at the hive the bee regurgitates the nectar and a younger sister repeats the process in its body. Finally the nectar is placed in wax cells and the bees fan the nectar till it dries into sweet thick honey.



Once the moisture content has reduced to about 17-18%, the honey is non perishable and is sealed with wax in the cell till needed as food. A typical hive will produce 27 kg of honey and it has been estimated that the bees have to fly 3 million miles in total to produce this!

Scientists at Royal Holloway, University of London and Queen Mary, University of London have discovered that bees learn to fly the shortest possible route between flowers even if they discover the flowers in a different order. The bee uses mathematics in its tiny brain consisting of only one million neurons to work out the best route between all the flowers. "Indeed such travelling salesman problems keep supercomputers busy for days" said Professor Lars Chittka from Queen Mary's school of biological sciences.

## THE HIVE

The hive is usually made in a hollowed out cavities in trees, caves or in the story of Samson, a dead lion's carcass. The hexagonal structure of the wax combs made by the bees uses the least material to create a lattice of cells within a given volume. Bees know the best geometrical design.



Bees also have a built in thermostat and knowledge of air conditioning. The queen can only lay eggs when the temperature is 34°C. If the hive gets too hot, then a signal is sent out to the foraging bees which stop all that they are doing and look for water. Each one brings a little in its mouth which is spread over the cells and then they fan the hive with their wings to cool it. If too cold, then they bunch up and vibrate their flight muscles to generate heat.

A hive consists of one queen bee which lays up to 2000 eggs per day and around 2 million in her lifetime. There are around 20,000 to

80,000 female worker bees and 300-3000 male drones whose sole purpose is to mate and then die. If they don't die then they are thrown out to die to preserve the food supply for others.

The female workers only live around 6 weeks and are worked to death, giving us the expression, "as busy as a bee". They are assigned jobs according to their age. Between 1-21 days old, they take care of the hive, cleaning the cells, keeping the brood warm, feeding larvae, producing wax and building new combs, carrying food, performing undertaker duties and guarding the hive. From 22 days till they die at 40-45 days old, they fly outside collecting pollen, nectar and water.

### BEE SWARMS

Once the number of bees in a hive becomes too many, the bees swarm to make a new one. The queen starts laying eggs in queen cups and the emerging larvae are fed by the workers with special food called 'royal jelly' made from their heads. The old queen is starved to make her lighter and able to fly. The older workers convince her to join the first swarm known as the prime swarm. They often make stops with scouts looking around and reporting back with possible new locations.

The first new queen to hatch either flies off to make another new hive or stings the other queens to death in their cells and rules the present hive. There can only be one queen in the hive! At any time if the queen dies, the bees no longer smell her pheromones so begin to feed larvae constantly with royal jelly turning them into new queens.

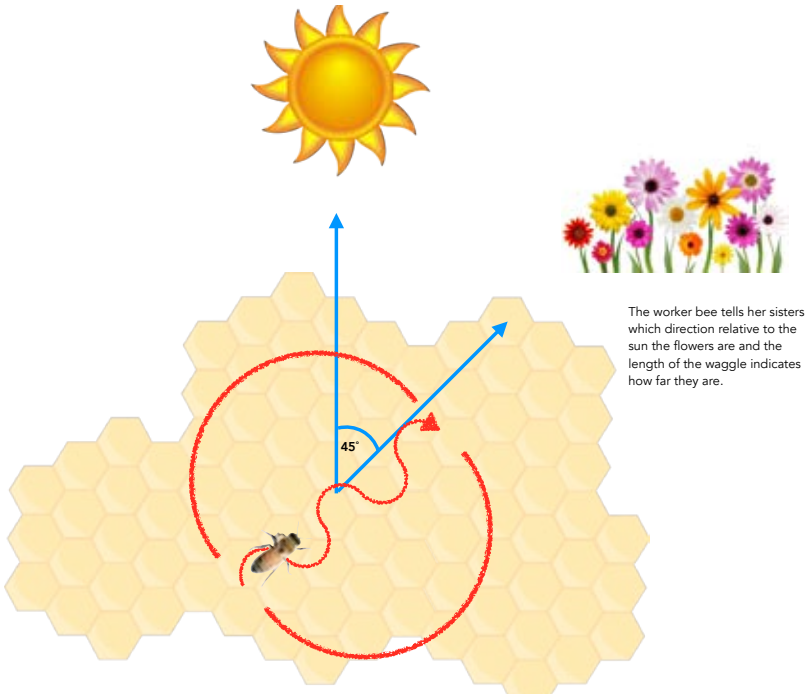
### THE HONEY BEE'S WAGGLE DANCE

Though the bee's waggle dance has been observed throughout history, it was only in the 1900s that Austrian scientist Karl Von Frisch (1886-1982) worked out its purpose after 20 years of study. He discovered that the bee's dance was actually the means by which they communicated to the other bees where to find flowers, water or a new location for a hive. Other scientists disputed this and were skeptical

but much later it was shown to be true and Von Frisch was awarded the Nobel prize in 1973.

He also discovered that bees have colour vision and a sense of smell so can distinguish various blossoming flowers by their scent and colour. Their vision is more shifted towards the ultraviolet so they cannot see red. Bees prefer yellow and blue flowers. Being able to see the ultraviolet rays of the Sun and the polarisation pattern of the light in the sky is a design advantage for ultraviolet light can pierce through cloud and fog so the bee can see the sun and navigate whatever the weather. Bees cannot see red so prefer yellow and blue flowers. Karl Von Frish also discovered that bees have an internal clock with three different synchronization or timekeeping mechanisms. The bee can also sense the direction of earth's magnetic field providing it with a built in compass and also have air speed gauges in their antennae.

When a bee finds nectar it goes back to the exact hive it came from which is a miracle of navigation itself as the bee could travel up to



3miles away. The bees uses two types of dance to communicate the location of the nectar, the round dance if it is less than 100 meters to the hive and the figure of eight waggle dance if it is further away. The angle of the straight line shows other bees the direction of the food source relative to the sun. If it is straight up then the bees must fly in the direction of the sun. If it is straight down then it is away from the sun. Any other direction is indicated by the angle of the straight light from the vertical. Bees can sense the vertical by using their head as a pendulum and have sensory cells in their neck. The time taken to complete the straight line when it waggles its body indicates how far away the source is. For example, one second of waggle along the straight line tells the bees that the flowers are approximately 1 km away. Bees also know that the world is round and take this into account when calculating angles as well as taking into account the movement of the sun during the time they fly back to the hive. Even if a mountain is in the way, the bee can still work out how to reach the flowers. This is truly amazing and it has been called as one of the seven wonders of the animal world.

### THE EVOLUTIONIST'S SILENCE

You just have to look at the literature produced by evolutionists to see that they are at a complete loss to explain how all this came about by a step by step chance process. There is no scientific evidence offered at all as to how bees could have evolved such complex abilities. How did bees come to possess such detailed information in their DNA? How did they learn to communicate to the other bees? How did the other bees understand the geometrical information danced to them by the first bee to have evolved it? Further research is producing even more wonders about these tiny creatures leaving the fool who says that there is no God looking even more foolish (Psalm 14:1).

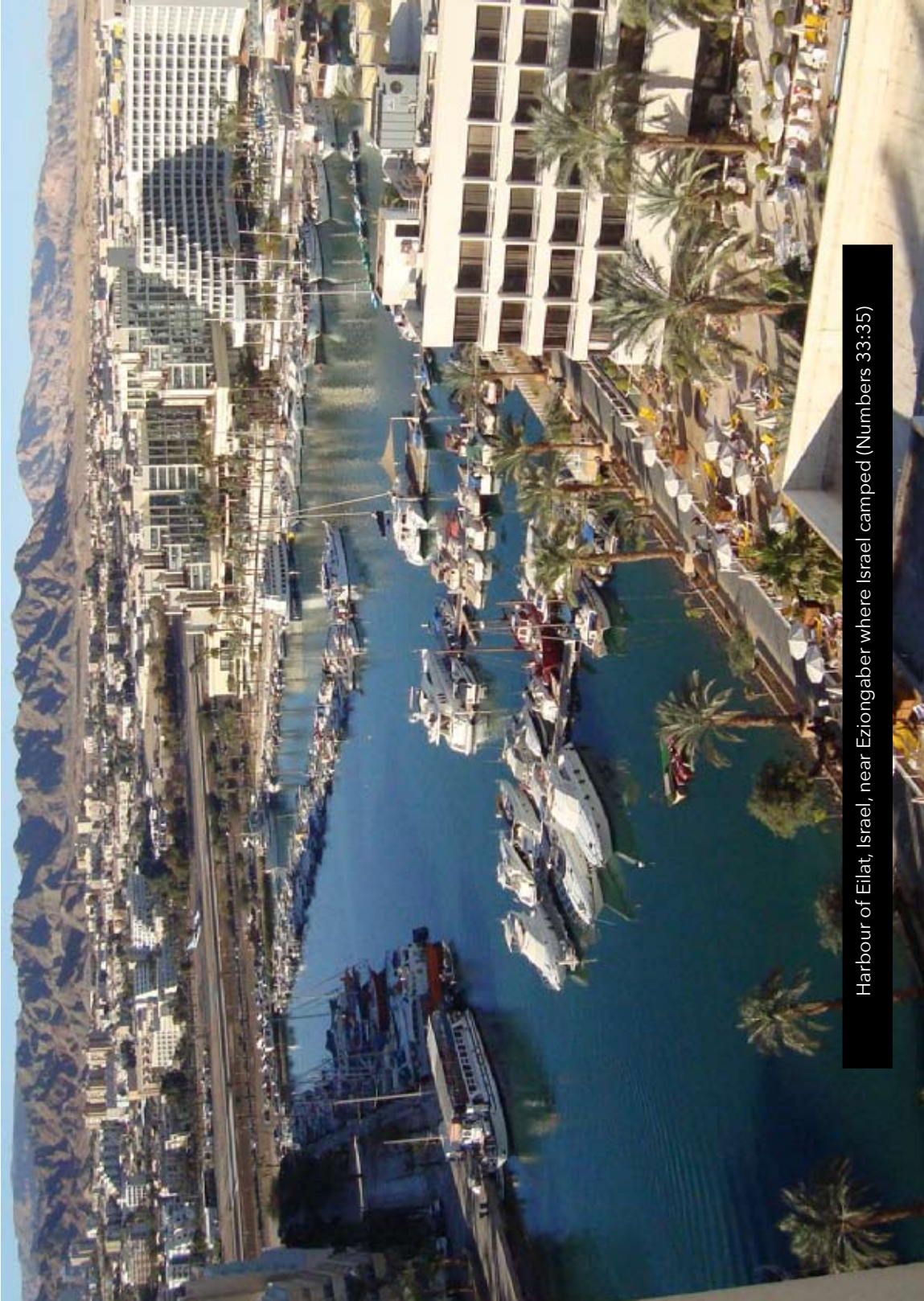
“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.” (Psalm 19:9-10)



Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*)







Harbour of Eilat, Israel, near Eziogaber where Israel camped (Numbers 33:35)