

Clifton News

282 July - September 2018

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News

This year's **Easter Holiday Club** saw fewer children attend but there was more consistent attendance by those who came. A total of 34 different children participated and on the prize giving night there were 42 present including approximately 12 adults and 30 children to hear the gospel.

We had a blessed time at the **South Norwood Festival** on the 1st of July. The weather was sunny and hot and there were greater numbers attending. We give God thanks for the better response to our stall this year and there were a number of conversations and literature taken by many. We pray that in the coming days we shall see new children added to our clubs and adults attending the family service.

Norman Gibbons is out of hospital but still quite frail. We are pleased that he is now able to attend the Sunday afternoon family service. Continue to pray for him and Mary.

David Stokoe broke his neck during a holiday in Spain in February and has been in hospital since. Presently, he is in Canterbury hospital and prayers are valued for his recovery which will take up to a year the doctors have said.

We have been given a place at the **Grange Picnic in the park** on 15th of July making it the third community event we are able to present the gospel. In September we hope to hold another **Bible Exhibition** and be at the **Thornton Heath Festival** on the 9th of September. Prayers valued for the outreach.

The annexe is nearing completion and we expect **Vincent and Shara** to join us with their family at the end of July.

Editor: Nitish Patel.

Clifton Hall, 45 Whitehorse Lane, South Norwood, London SE25 6RD.

Website: www.cliftongospelhall.com. Email: cliftongospelhall@googlemail.com

Meetings

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread	11.00 am
Family Service	4.00 pm

Monday

Prayer and Bible Teaching	7.45 pm
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Wednesday

Seekers	6.30 pm
(Term time only for under 10s)	

Friday

Friday Club	7.30 pm
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SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

July

1	South Norwood Festival outreach
8	Nitish Patel
15	Grange Woods Picnic in the Park outreach
22	Richard Catchpole
29	Ferranti Wong

August

5	Mike Surrey
12	George Rassovsky
19	John Aston
26	Nitish Patel

September

- 2 Richard Catchpole
- 9 Thornton Heath Festival outreach
- 16 George Rassovsky
- 23 Nitish Patel
- 30 Nitish Patel

MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING

July

- 2 David Penfold
- 9 David Penfold
- 16 Richard Catchpole
- 23 David Willis
- 30 Paul Miller

August

- 6 No meeting
- 13 Nitish Patel
- 20 Richard Catchpole
- 27 No meeting (Bank holiday)

September

- 3 Bible Exhibition
- 10 Bible Exhibition
- 17 Martin Hayward
- 24 Martin Hayward

Bible Exhibition

*1st - 14th September 2018
(Details to follow on our website)*

Question Box



Over the coming issues, we will answer questions and objections often raised by Bible critics.

“Why did God strike dead Uzzah dead for touching the Ark even when his intentions were good and he wished to save the Ark from damage?”

The story of Uzzah’s death is found in 2 Samuel 6:1-9.

My wife’s uncle in India told us that once he was in a train in Bombay, when suddenly there was the foul smell of burning flesh. Apparently, two men had climbed up onto the roof of the train and sit there like so many do in India. But when the train moved and they felt unsteady they grabbed hold of the overhead 25,000 volt electric line. Both died instantly just like Uzzah touching the Ark. Those men were obviously ignorant of the danger of electricity. Had they seen it happen to someone else they certainly would not have gone any where near the wires.

This cannot be said of Uzzah who knew better. Two infractions of God’s law had occurred here. Firstly, they did not follow the procedure laid down concerning the transportation of the Ark,

“And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering vail, and cover the ark of testimony with it.” (Numbers 4:5). But they had used a cart with oxen like the Philistines had done in 1 Samuel 6:7-8.

Secondly, no one was to touch the Ark except Aaron’s sons on the pain of death,

“But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in,

and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden.” (Numbers 4:19)

Uzzah had no excuse whatsoever. He also knew what happened to the Philistines who touched the Ark,

“So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven” (1 Samuel 5:11-12)

And he also knew what happened to the men of Bethshemesh who looked inside it,

“And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter” (1 Samuel 6:19).

The result was that they realised God is holy. The men there cried out,

“Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?” (v. 20)

Uzzah treated the holiest symbol of God’s own Person and presence as if it were common baggage. A tragic death but nevertheless it is the way God displayed that He is a holy God and approaching Him is a very serious matter which was the lesson the Tabernacle taught. In like manner today, we cannot approach God our own way, only His way which is through Jesus Christ.

Nitish Patel

Bible Teaching

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORD JESUS (Part 2)

by John Wallace (Hartlepool)

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me” (Isaiah 61.1)

The Lord God

We notice the title that is used for God, “the Lord God” (the title appears four times in chapter 50). In Gen 1 it is God, in the beginning God created, but when we come into ch 2, the title changes to the “LORD God”. In ch 2 we have the creation of man and God’s special relationship with the man He created; He comes into the garden and calls Adam, “where art thou?” The title “LORD” became the name by which God was particularly known to Israel. The name, “the Lord (Sovereign) God” would seem to take us beyond Israel to embrace the Gentiles. Paul asks (Rom. 3.29) , “is he the God of the Jews only?” And he replies, “no he is the God of the Gentiles also”.

In Isaiah 61, we read “the spirit of the Lord God is upon me, he hath anointed me to preach the gospel”. God is still interested in the welfare and blessing of the man He created. Written over the page of Old Testament history is mans rejection of God and his attitude towards God. We might not have been surprised to find that (as in Noah’s day) God has given up on him, but no, the love and grace of God are still reaching out to a world of sinners lost and ruined by the fall. We are living today in the acceptable year of the Lord.

Peter says God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and

with power who went about doing good (Acts 10.38).

The word “went about” is literally “passing through”. As the Lord Jesus lived in this world He was just passing through, His ultimate destination was the cross. Who can assess the good the Lord Jesus did, the benefits He brought as He passed through this world. Truly the poor, the meek, the captives, the broken-hearted, the blind were all blessed; His thoughts might have been upon Himself and the suffering that He was going to have to endure but His thought was for others, His heart of compassion constantly moved out to the need of others.

He hath anointed me

The Lord Jesus is Gods anointed. Different kinds of men were anointed in Old Testament days but the Lord Jesus is unique. Men were anointed by men but the Lord Jesus was anointed by God. Men were anointed with oil, the priest was anointed with the holy anointing oil, but the Lord Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament the word that is used for Christ is the same as the word anointed. We have noticed Peters words concerning Lord Jesus in Acts, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost so when asked, “Who do you say that I am”, he could say “Thou art the Christ.”

The subject of the Christ is a subject in itself but perhaps we might just make one or two basic observations. The word appears in two forms, “The Christ” or just “Christ”. The Christ is a name or title, the anointed. It indicates the one in whom all Gods plans and purposes will be fulfilled. Isaiah 61.1, Gods purpose of grace - to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Gods purpose in judgement - the day of vengeance of our God.

Christ

The name Christ brings all those who believe on Him in to relation with Him. They are chosen in Christ Eph 1.3, they trusted in Christ Eph. 1.13, they are quickened with Him Col 2.5, they are risen with Him Col 3.1, their blessings are in Him Eph 1.4, their life is hid with Him Col 3.3, they are members of His body 1Cor.12.

One is reminded of the hymn which says, 'so closely are we linked in love so wholly one with him' what wonders the grace of God has wrought for us and in us.

Mentions in the gospel according to Luke

Luke writes of the Lord Jesus as the perfect Man and significantly there are a number of references to the Spirit.

The Spirit descended upon Him	(3.22)
He was full of the Spirit	(4.1)
He was led by the spirit	(4.1)
He was empowered by the spirit	(4.14)
The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him	(4.18)

Led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil

When we think of temptation we always think of the Devil as being the prime mover, for instance the very first instance in the garden. Here it is the Holy Spirit who is the prime mover. At His baptism God has spoken from heaven concerning the absolute delight that He finds in the Lord Jesus, He is now going to show his absolute confidence in Him. The first man failed in that he not only succumbed to the temptation of the enemy but he failed to realise God's plans and

purposes for him. God is now going to show that He has a man who, full of the Holy Ghost and totally dependent upon Him and relying absolutely on His word, will not only confront and prevail against the enemy but who will go on to accomplish all His will.

On the hill side at Elah (1 Sam 17), we see Davids absolute confidence in God; In the wilderness, we see Gods absolute confidence in the Lord Jesus. Adam failed and brought disaster. Had the Lord Jesus failed it would have been catastrophic, but God showed, right at the beginning, that there was never any possibility that such a thing could happen. The first man was driven from the garden in shame and disgrace; the Second Man, having faced and prevailed against the adversary, returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we view the perfect life of the Saviour, we see a life lived in the fullness of, under the direction of, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. All four gospel writers make mention of the dove. The dove is the symbol of peace, meekness, purity, gentleness, tenderness; all these things are portrayed perfectly in the Lord Jesus. The dove is also noted for its clarity of vision. The Lord Jesus had a perfect vision of what was the will of God, what pleased God and what was for the glory of God. He pursued these things constantly with singleness of eye and purpose.

Through the eternal spirit offered Himself (Heb 9.14)

Who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God. The word "eternal" links the Holy Spirit with the Godhead. This statement would teach us the wonderful truth that the whole of the Godhead had a part in the work of the cross. The whole of the

Godhead had a part in the work of Creation and the whole of the Godhead had a part in the work of salvation. The Holy Spirit was there at the coming into the world of the Lord Jesus, was there at His baptism, was there in His ministry and was there at the cross.

In Leviticus 1, God gave instruction to Moses concerning the burnt offering. The animal was to be cut in pieces and the pieces laid in order on the wood that was on the fire that was on the altar. It was the ascending flame that caused the sweet savour of the offering to rise up from the altar. The answer to this is in the verse we are considering together; who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God. He offered himself a sacrifice of a sweet savour (Ephesians 5.2). There is another aspect of the blood in this verse. How much more shall the blood of Christ purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. The blood has redeemed us, reconciled us, and purchased us. Because the blood has been shed and we are depending on the blood, we no longer feel conscious of a need to pursue dead works to secure our acceptance with God but we devote ourselves to serve the living God.

We have thought about God's Perfect Servant. Sometimes when we look at Him and then look at ourselves we think, but He was not like me, He was perfect. The Lord Jesus had no resource available to Him but is available to us today. He had the word of God, He had prayer and He had the Holy Spirit. The scripture exhorts us (Heb. 12.28), "wherefore let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear."

** Concluded **

Good News

Only one life



A story is told of a ship whose screw broke, and the engineer withdrew the shaft with the intention of repairing it; but the water rushed in through the hole, the bulkhead was not closed in time, and in a few minutes the ship began to sink. The boats were got out, the captain stepping into one laden to the gunwale. The night was dark, and the sea so rough that it seemed impossible for the boat to stay afloat. After a while, they saw the lights of an approaching steamer; but how could they signal it?

They made search in the boat, and found a battered lantern with an

inch or two of candle in it. Then they tried to find a match. Every man felt in his pockets, but in vain. Not a match was to be found. The captain bade them search again, and at last, out of some corner, one match was produced. The man who found it handed it to the mate; the mate passed it to another officer, and he gave it to the captain. The sailors clustered round him, holding out their jackets to keep off the wind, and they watched him with anxiety.

The captain said he had faced many a difficulty and danger, but had never felt such responsibility as at that moment when he had to strike the match, but he did it. The lantern was lighted, and when it was waved to and fro the ship saw the signal, altered its course, and picked them up."

Now, what gave such value to that match? It was the only one! Reader, like that match, your life is precious and is the only one God has given you. God did not give you life to waste it serving sin and Satan, *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."* (James 4:14)

God loves you and sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for your sin and rise from the dead on the third day to save you so that you might have peace with God and eternal life. Jesus said, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

Turn from your sin, trust in Him now and your life will be completely changed. The Bible promises, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31).



Design in Creation

The Chameleon and his coat of many colours

By Nitish Patel

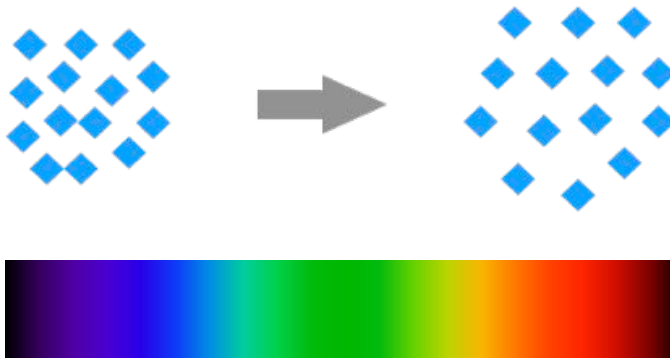
There are more than 200 species of Chameleons and almost half of them live in the Island of Madagascar. They live in warm varied habitats from rainforests through to deserts and are also found in other parts of Africa, southern Europe, India, Sri Lanka and other parts of Asia.

THE CHAMELEON'S COLOURS

Chameleons are famous as the lizards that can change their colour to patterns of pink, blue, red, orange, green, black, brown, yellow and purple. It is an amazing and beautiful thing to see.

It only was recently in 2014 that Swiss researchers found out exactly how the chameleon changes its colour.

It was assumed for many years that the chameleon dispersed pigments in its skin cells to create colours much like we do when we go darker in the sun due to the melanin pigment in our skin but researchers discovered that the chameleon instead used a combination of pigments and two superposed layers of cells called iridophore cells that contained a lattice of guanine nano crystals of differing sizes and shapes. These reflect light and give the chameleon its iridescence colours. When the chameleon is relaxed the crystals are packed and reflect more blue light which when mixed with the yellow pigment in



their skin gives off a green colour. But when excited for any reason, the chameleon spreads out the crystals in its iridophore cells shifting the colours from blue to green to yellow and orange.

It was assumed that chameleon's changed colour to camouflage itself but this is not the main reason. It's normal colour is green so it can hide itself well amongst the leaves and trees. Some even shake themselves to mimic the movement of a leaf to fool predators.

It's colours are more to attract a potential mate or to scare off other



chameleons or predators. Chameleons also change colour to absorb more heat as they are cold blooded lizards.

TELESCOPIC EYES AND 360 DEGREE VISION

Chameleon's eyes are like no other creature with the ability to move independently of each other and can focus on two different objects. This gives them complete 360 degree vision front and rear. Their eyes can see small insects up to 10 meters away. They can also see in visible and ultraviolet light which enables them to see insects more clearly against foliage.



A SUPERSONIC TONGUE

Chameleons have a tongue that is over twice the length of their body and is shot out of the mouth by powerful muscles at such a speed that it reaches its target in just 0.07 seconds, a force that is over 41g (i.e. 41 times the force of gravity!). Space rockets accelerate less than 9g otherwise the astronauts will pass out.



Their tongues forms a suction cup as it hits its target and the insect is trapped and pulled into the chameleon's mouth. Chameleons usually

eat large insects such as locusts, grasshoppers, crickets, and stick insects, some bigger species also eat other lizards and young birds.

Chameleons are not deaf but they do not actually have ear openings. Many species of chameleon have horn-like bumps or crests on their heads. Species of chameleon can be as small as 15 mm (0.59 in) or as large as 69 cm (27 in).

The humble colourful chameleon is one of the creeping things is called upon to praise the LORD,

“Praise the LORD from the earth, Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl.” (Psalm 148:7, 10)

Indeed they were not the product of millions of years of evolution by blind chance but they show forth the glory of an Intelligent Creator God.



Port of Caesarea, Israel

