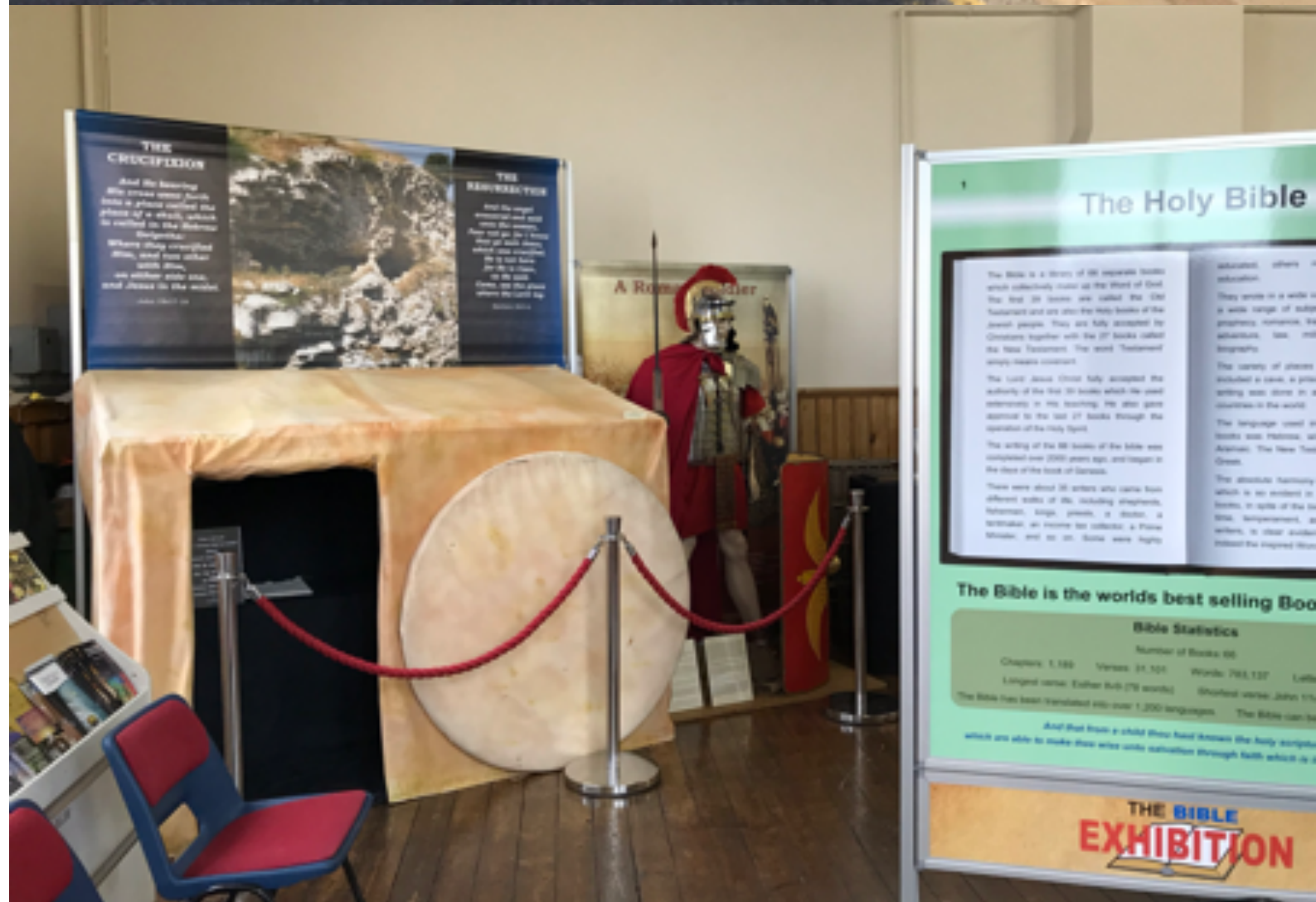


# Clifton News

283 October - December 2018

Published since 1948





### THE CRUCIFIXION

And the knowing  
the cross was built  
into a place called the  
place of a skull, which  
is called in the Hebrew  
language  
Golgotha.  
Where they crucified  
him, and four other  
guilty men,  
an other side the  
road Jesus in the midst.

John 19:17-18



### THE RESURRECTION

And the angel  
appeared and said  
unto the women  
that they were not  
to fear, for he is risen  
as he said. Then they  
went quickly and  
told the apostles.  
Matthew 28:1-7

Matthew 28:1-7

### A Roman Soldier



## The Holy Bible

The Bible is a library of 66 separate books which collectively make up the Word of God. The first 39 books are called the Old Testament and are also the Holy Scriptures of the Jewish people. They are fully accepted by Christians together with the 27 books called the New Testament. The word Testament simply means covenant.

The Lord Jesus Christ fully accepted the authority of the first 39 books which He paid attention to His teaching. He also gave approval to the last 27 books through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

The writing of the 66 books of the Bible was completed over 2000 years ago, and began in the days of the book of Genesis.

There were about 40 writers who came from different parts of the world, including prophets, historians, kings, priests, a doctor, a philosopher, an inmate for a prisoner, a slave, and so on. Some were highly

educated, others

uneducated.

They wrote in a wide range of languages, including Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English.

The variety of places included in the Bible, as well as the wide range of subjects, including history, geography, science, and so on, is a testament to the world.

The language used in the Bible was Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The New Testament was written in Greek.

The absolute harmony which is so evident in the Bible, in spite of the fact that it was written by so many different people, is a clear evidence of the inspired Word.

### The Bible is the worlds best selling Book

#### Bible Statistics

Number of Books 66

Chapters 1,189 Verses 31,354 Words 783,137 Letters 2,845,984

Longest verse: Esther 9:28 (78 words) Shortest verse: John 1:1 (18 words)

The Bible has been translated into over 1,200 languages. The Bible can be

And that from a child these men have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make these men unto salvation through faith which is by grace.

THE BIBLE  
EXHIBITION



# News

The **Thornton Heath Festival** went well with good weather and many visitors. A good amount of literature was taken and there were a number of conversations held with those interested.

The **Bible Exhibition** saw lower numbers than previous years but we were nevertheless pleased that around 157 visitors attended. A young man with no Christian background walked in wanting to study the Bible and desiring to be saved. We are now meeting with him every week to study God's Word. Pray for his salvation.

A woman who works in a local school visited with her son and was disappointed that the local schools were not sending their children. She promised to do something about it and spoke to the headteacher of her school who has now promised to make known any future Holiday clubs or Bible Exhibitions. We give God thanks for this.

We are pleased to see answers to prayer and **Norman Gibbons** has made a good recovery after his illness and is able to walk unaided now. **David Stokoe** who will be returning home from hospital next month we are told. Sadly his accident has caused permanent injuries for which he will need constant care. Prayer is valued for him and Kathleen.

## Carol Service

Sunday 23rd December at **6:30 pm**

*Followed by tea and mince pies*

## WATCHNIGHT GOSPEL MEETING

Monday 31st December at **11.00 pm**

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# 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 (Term time only for under 10s)	6.30 pm
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## **Friday**

Friday Club	7.30 pm
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## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE**

### **October**

7	Nitish Patel
14	Alf Taylor
21	Richard Catchpole
28	Vincent Khushal

### **November**

4	George Rassovsky
11	Mike Surry
18	John Aston
25	Ferranti Wong

## **December**

- 2 Thomas Taylor
- 9 George Rassovsky
- 16 Richard Catchpole
- 23 Carol Service (This will be at 6:30 pm)**
- 30 Nitish Patel

## **MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING**

## **October**

- 1 Roy Aitkin
- 8 Roy Aitkin
- 15 Richard Catchpole
- 22 Colin Roberts
- 29 Colin Roberts

## **November**

- 5 David Willis
- 12 Timothy Miller
- 19 Timothy Miller
- 26 George Rassovsky

## **December**

- 3 Richard Catchpole
- 10 Nitish Patel
- 17 Nitish Patel
- 24 No Meeting
- 31 Watchnight Service 11 pm

# Question Box



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

“How can God be a God of love and justice if he sends two bears to rip up to pieces 42 naughty school children just for calling Elisha ‘old baldy’?”

The story is found in 2 Kings 2:23-24.

“And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.”

Critics of the Bible do not read or study the passage properly. These were not naughty little school children. The Hebrew phrase refers to adolescents from 12 to 30 years old. They were of a morally responsible age and knew what they were saying.

They were not just mocking Elisha for his bald head but telling him where to go. Their words were “Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.” (2 Kings 2:23). They were referring to his predecessor the prophet Elijah who had been taken to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:11). They were rejecting God’s prophet and telling him to go where Elijah went.

Elijah’s ministry was a ministry of judgment when the heavens were shut up and there was no rain until three and a half years later when at Mount Carmel the godless nation rejected their false god Baal and believed on the LORD.

“Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.” (1 Kings 18:38-39).

These youths had experienced that judgment in the land and were not ignorant of God’s holiness and of what had taken place.

Elisha’s ministry in contrast was one of God’s grace. He did miracles of kindness. The first one being the waters of Jericho healed and many others such as raising the dead, miraculously feeding 100 men etc ...

“And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land” (2 Kings 2:21)

These youths were aware of this miracle yet rejected the prophet and God whom he represented. When God’s warnings are not heeded and His love and grace despised there is nothing left but punishment for sin.

“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29).

Nitish Patel



## THE HEART OF THE LORD JESUS

by John Wallace (Hartlepool)

### 1. A PURE HEART

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in the holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart ...” (Ps. 24:3-4)

Someone may advertise a job and with the advert are the qualifications. They are looking for someone who qualifies. That is not the idea of this verse, the verse is not looking for someone but pointing someone out. Only one person qualifies and that person the Lord Jesus.

**Clean hands.** The one part of our body that we are constantly having to wash is our hands. We are constantly picking up defilement with our hands. The Lord Jesus is not only holy, harmless and undefiled, He is undefileable. At the end of thirty years living in the polluted atmosphere of this evil world, He offered himself WITHOUT SPOT to God. The Man of the clean hands.

**Pure heart.** There are two words here, “clean” and “pure”. If one was to take a clean glass and pour into it some pure orange juice there would be pure juice in a clean glass. Now pour some water into the glass and what do we have? A clean glass but not pure orange juice, the juice is mixed with something else. In the heart of the Lord Jesus we see only pure love, pure grace, pure kindness, pure compassion, we could go on. John says of the Lord Jesus, He is pure.

The hill of the Lord is the place of the king, the holy place is the place of the priest. The Lord Jesus is the only one who of His own personal right is able to occupy the place of the king and stand



in the place of the priest. He is the true Melchisedec.

## **2. A MEEK AND LOWLY HEART**

“I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29)

Meekness and lowliness are not the things men seek after or regard of any value. There was an occasion when the Lord rebuked Peter, saying, “for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men”. Peter himself writes in 1 Peter 3 that a meek and quiet spirit are in the sight of God of great price.

Meekness is often thought of in terms of meek and mild. Moses is called by God the meekest man in all the earth: Moses was a man of stature and great strength of character. Meekness in the Bible sense of the word is submission to the will of God.

Coming into the world He said, “I delight to do Thy will” and He moved always in perfect submission to the will of God. He found His strength in doing the will of God; His will was always in perfect harmony with the will of God. In the garden of Gethsemane He prayed not my will but Thy will be done. There are two different words for “will” here. The words, “my will”, is my desire and the words, “Thy will” is what Thou hast purposed. This was a final act of total submission to the will of God.

Hebrews 10:7 omits the word “delight” in quoting Psalm 40:8 . In Hebrews it is the sin offering which is view and whilst it was part of the will of God the Lord Jesus surely found no delight in becoming the sin bearer.

The test of a man’s ministry is in his motive, why did he do it? The Lord Jesus had the purest of motives, to do only the will of God. He was a Man approved of God.

In Psalm 45:4 we find some things linked together; majesty, truth ,

meekness and righteousness. “In thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth, meekness and righteousness”. Meekness and majesty in perfect harmony, two things not usually linked together in the minds of men but personified in the Lord Jesus. In Rev. 5, John speaks of hearing a voice and seeing a vision. He heard a voice saying “the Lion of the tribe of Judah hath prevailed” and he saw in the midst of the throne a little lamb. The lion – the victorious sovereign; the lamb – the vicarious sacrifice (freshly slain). Exalted in glory He is still the meek and lowly Jesus.

### **3. THE STEADFAST HEART**

In Psalm 108:1 David says “My heart is fixed O God”. The word “fixed” is firmly established. The Lord Jesus always had before Him a set, fixed objective; to please God, to do God’s will and to finish God’s work and He never deviated from that. The main objective of the Devil in the temptation was to deviate the Lord Jesus from the path of absolute dedication to God and devotion to God’s will. The Devil was surely wise enough to know that it was impossible for him to get the Lord Jesus to sin but he might succeed in turning Him aside from the path that He had set himself to pursue. He failed miserably. When Peter said to the Lord “Pity thyself”, he was met with the sharp rebuke “Get thee behind me Satan”. Having put his hand to the plough and set his mind on the goal, He ploughed a perfectly straight furrow. “He endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2). The word “cross” embraces every aspect of the suffering of the Lord Jesus not just the actual crucifixion. The word “endured” means literally to “keep under”. In the experience of the Lord Jesus the cross was always there but He never deviated from it right to the end.

### **4. THE BROKEN HEART**

“Reproach hath broken my heart” (Psalm 69:20). This is a profound

statement. His enemies had no power to take His life but they broke His heart. In fulfilment of the Scripture they were prevented from breaking His bones but they broke His heart. The Lord Jesus told a story about a man who let out his vineyard to husbandmen. When the time of the fruit was come they refused to render him his due. As a last resort he sent his son thinking they would reverence him. As soon as they saw the son coming they said in their hearts "This is the heir, come let us kill him". The lad has done them no wrong; he died simply because he was his father's son. The reproaches of them that reproached thee have fallen upon me, reproach has broken my heart.

## **5. THE REJOICING HEART**

"Therefore did my heart rejoice moreover my flesh also shall rest in hope." (Psalm 16:9)

In the intensity of his sufferings there was still joy and hope in the heart of the saviour. For the joy that was set before him; there was always a joy in the heart of the saviour even at the cross.

There was a twofold joy before the heart of the saviour. First there was the joy of knowing that he was bringing to its completion the work his father had given him to do. The word It is finished must have brought immense joy and satisfaction to his heart. Always had been before him the desire to finish the work his father had given him to do; now it is done; what a joy that must have been to his heart.

There was also the joy of knowing that he would one day see the fruit of his falling into the ground and dying. One day he would have by his side the bride for which he had given his very life

There was also hope. Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell. His confidence was not misplaced, Peter could say, speaking on the day of Pentecost, his soul was not left in hell neither did his flesh see corruption.

## 6. THE CARING HEART

In Old Testament days the high priest bore the names of the children on his heart before the Lord (Exodus 28:29).

The Lord Jesus is now exalted at Gods right hand, He has entered into the presence of God for us as our Great High Priest (a title which is unique to the Lord Jesus) and we are constantly upon His heart, He is touched by the feelings of our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15); He doesn't only "know how we feel" (an expression which we hear very often), His great heart of compassion is touched with "the feelings of our infirmities".

Why did God choose Aaron to be high priest and not Moses? While Moses was enjoying the luxuries of Pharaohs palace Aaron was toiling and suffering with the children of Israel, he knew and understood. The Lord Jesus has been here Himself, has been tested at every point as we are (Hebrews 4:15), so He knows, not only the distress that we may be experiencing, but exactly what that distress is doing to us. The hymn writer put it so beautifully when he wrote, "There is a shepherd living there, the firstborn from the dead, who tends with sweet untiring care the flock for which he bled".

The exhortation to our hearts today is, let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we might obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We will find always that the grace to help comes just at the right time.

What a joy it is to our hearts to be able to look into the heart of the Saviour, may our hearts have been truly blessed.



# Good News

## BORN WITHOUT A MAN

In 1955, a popular newspaper, the Sunday Pictorial, published scientific research by geneticist Helen Spurway who had studied parthenogenesis or virgin births in fishes and caused a sensation when she claimed that it might also rarely occur in humans. The newspaper called for any women to come forward who had given birth without a father. Most of the nineteen candidates who came forward were eliminated because their eye colours and blood types did not match. But there was one remaining, Emmimarie Jones and her 11-year-old daughter, Monica.



Spurway had one final test which involved a skin graft. Spurway grafted a piece of Monica's skin onto Emmimarie, and grafted a piece of Emmimarie's skin onto Monica. Spurway's reasoning was that, if Monica possessed only Emmimarie's genes, then Emmimarie's immune system should accept Monica's skin, much like a skin graft between identical twins. Emmimarie's graft from Monica fell off after four weeks, and Monica's graft from Emmimarie fell off after six weeks. An article in The Lancet about the case, written by one Dr. Stanley Balfour-Lynn, concluded that Monica's genes did not match her mothers and had failed the final test. But the article added that they could not prove she had a father and so the claim had to be taken seriously. The newspaper sensationally reported that a virgin birth had occurred.

However, since that time geneticists have learned much more about DNA and the mechanisms of human conception and found that natural parthenogenesis is impossible in humans. It has been suggested that Emmimarie was taken advantage of when she was in hospital in 1944. However sincerely she believed her claim, it was clear that Monica was not virgin born.



There has been only one virgin birth in history and that is the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact that it is naturally impossible was obvious to Mary. When the angel Gabriel told her that, "... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS", she replied "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:31, 34). The answer was that it was going to be a miracle which only God as Creator could do. "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

The baby born at Bethlehem was unique in human history for that babe was God manifest in flesh and born without a human father. Jesus was born without the sin nature we have all inherited from Adam bringing us under death and condemnation. He alone could be the Saviour of sinner by His death for our sins and resurrection from the dead. He was unique in His birth, in His life, in His death and in His resurrection. He is the living Saviour you must trust if you are to be saved.

*"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matthew 1:23)*





# *Design in Creation*

## **THE VENUS FLY TRAP**

(*Dionaea muscipula*)

By Nitish Patel

Charles Darwin described the Venus fly trap as “one of the most wonderful in the world” yet followers of his evolutionary theory are at a loss to explain how it could have evolved in a step by step manner through chance.

Scientific literature such as an article in the New Phytologist, 2009, “Evolving Darwin’s ‘most wonderful’ plant: ecological steps to a snap-trap” by Thomas C. Gibson and Donald M. Waller hypothesise how it might have occurred in a step by step manner but ultimately admit “Our inferences are based on logic, existing structures in related species, a simple model, and empirical data from contemporary studies. As we lack fossil intermediate forms, we consider this scenario a series of hypotheses to test”. What they mean to say is that





Teeth

Trigger hairs

Nectar secreting  
glands

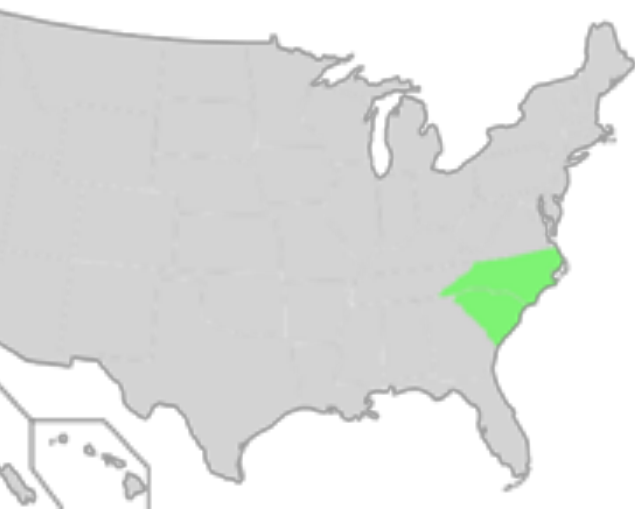
Digestive glands



“We don’t have any empirical evidence whatsoever but we still believe it evolved and need to find the proof that it did!”

It is quite a tall order for a plant with no intelligence to work it all out for itself and add new information into its own DNA for sensory hairs that convert movement into electrical signals, a counting system and the addition of hydraulic engineering to boot amongst many other things! But that holds no problem to the atheist who has blind faith in his “religion”.

The incredible design and engineering built into these plants manifests the awesome power and wisdom of God (Romans 1:20).



The Venus flytrap is named after the Roman goddess of love and seduction. It is native only to a small part of the world, the Carolina states in the USA. This part of the globe is home to a number of the world’s other carnivorous plants such as the pitcher plant, cobra lily and sundew plant. They live in soil which is poor in nutrients and eat insects to get their nourishment.

Nectar glands release a smell attracting flies who land on the leaf. Once the insect lands on leaf, the process of counting begins. Children can count from the age of 15-18 months. German researchers (Böhm et al., 2016, Current Biology 26, 286–295) discovered that the Venus flytrap can count as well. When any one of the trigger hairs is moved twice within the space of 15-20 seconds or any two individual hairs then the trap closes trapping the fly within one tenth of a second. Touching any hair causes an action potential to build up and touching the second time triggers an electrical current which springs the trap. After the third touch of the hairs, digestive enzymes are produced and after five touches digestion begins in earnest breaking down the soft tissue of the insect. The leaves close

tightly to form a hermetically closed leaf 'stomach', which via the gland-based endocrine system is flooded by a prey-decomposing acidic enzyme cocktail.

Then pumps that suck sodium and nutrients into the plant are turned on as its meal turns into liquid. The researchers using live crickets fed to the plants found that the crickets moved the hairs an average of 63 times in first one hour of capture and this triggered a proportionate response with more enzymes released to subdue the bigger prey. A plant without the ability to think could through a built in counting system know if a live prey has landed on its leaf and how big it was.

This design means that only living insects close the trap rather than a gust of wind, rain drops or a twig falling onto the leaves otherwise it will use up energy since leaf trap can only close 6-7 times in its lifetime before it wears out.

After 7-10 days the leaves slowly open taking a whole day when the sensory mechanism inside tells the plant that the insect has been digested. What's left of the insect is washed off by rain or stays inside as a bait to attract other nosy insects to their doom.

None of these design elements can function without everything in place. A leaf that has nectar glands and trigger hairs but cannot fold is of no use. A leaf that can fold but cannot digest is of no use. If it can close in on the fly but has no teeth and the fly escapes it is of no use and we can go on .... Along with the complex mechanisms for reproduction, the headache goes on for those seeking a mere naturalistic explanation.

The fact is that this plant was created on third day of the Creation week with all its perfectly designed parts in place (Genesis 1:11-12). No flytrap could have survived millions of years waiting for the next bit to evolve before it could eat a fly!



The author's own Venus flytrap (above) did not eat the dead fly put inside! It needed a living one.



A small lizard caught by a venus flytrap

Bethlehem Shepherd (1920, G. Eric and Edith Matson Photograph Collection)

