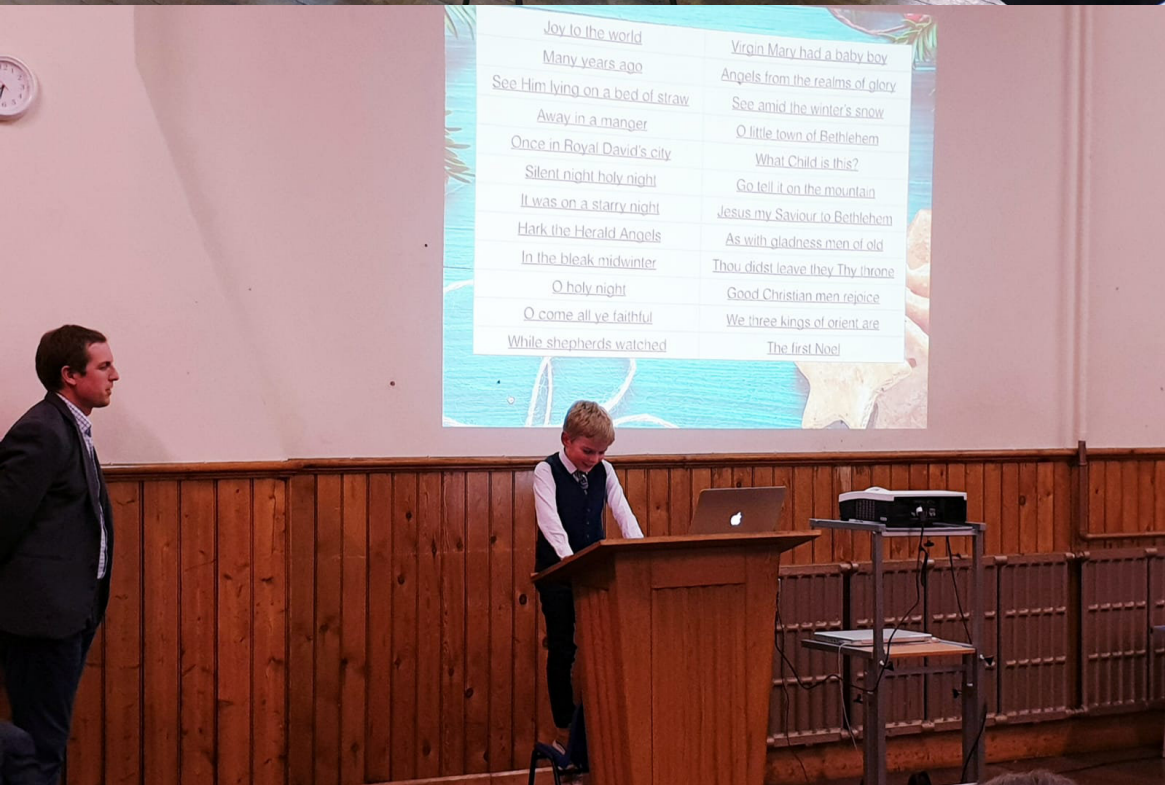


# Clifton News

288 January - March 2020

Published since 1948





# *News*

# 2020

## happy new year

We would like to wish all our readers a very happy new year as we also enter a new decade. We look forward to the most important thing a believer can look forward to, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and can say Maranatha! (1 Corinthians 16:22)

The Christmas services went better than last year with a few more unsaved present for the Carol Service. Kiran, Noah and Richard did Scripture readings. Vincent did a Christmas quiz.

The watch night gospel meeting was not so well attended as in the past but a number of us were present to see in the new year and give God thanks for all that He has done.

Looking forward to the new year, the assembly has plans for an Easter holiday club, outreach at the three local festivals and praying for any new opportunity the Lord will give for witness.

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# Meetings

## Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am  
(During outreach at local community events it is at 10 am)

Young people's Bible class 12.00 pm  
Family Service 4.00 pm

## Monday

Prayer and Bible Teaching 7.45 pm

## Wednesday

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

## Friday

Friday Club 7.30 pm

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

### January

5	Richard Catchpole
12	Nitish Patel
19	Ferranti Wong
26	Alastair Rodger

### February

2	Richard Catchpole
9	George Rassovsky
16	Alf Taylor
23	Vincent Khushal

## March

1	John Aston
8	Nitish Patel
15	Vincent Khushal
22	George Rassovsky
29	Alastair Rodger

## MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING

### January

6	David Penfold
13	David Penfold
20	Alastair Rodger
27	George Rassovsky

### February

3	George Rassovsky
10	Colin Roberts
17	Colin Roberts
24	Timothy Miller

## March

2	Timothy Miller
9	Timothy Miller
16	Nitish Patel
23	Nitish Patel
30	To be decided

## SATURDAY MINISTRY MEETINGS

6 January	Richard Catchpole
1 February	Iain Jamieson

# Question Box

The Friday Club youngsters have been asking questions again and one question was, "What happens if you die at birth?"

Although the Bible does not explicitly state what happens to infants who die at birth, it does give enough assurance that they are in heaven.

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)

The Bible teaches that very young children have not the knowledge of right and wrong, neither have they done good or evil.

"Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it." (Deuteronomy 1:39)

"(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)" (Romans 9:11)

The Scriptures clearly recognise an age when children are not accountable for what they do for they do not have the ability to make a moral choice. However, despite this every one is descended from Adam upon whom the sentence of death came and upon the whole human race. This is why children can and do die. There are only two destinies after death, heaven for those who have trusted Christ as Saviour and hell for those who have rejected Christ.

God has two perfect sides to His nature. God is light and God is love. One cannot be preached at the expense of the other. If God were to put an infant in hell, He would be righteous in doing so but He would not be love if that child has no hope whatsoever.

Though their sin nature does not fit them for heaven, the Scriptures clearly teach that Christ died to fit them for heaven. We read in Romans,

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” (Romans 5:18)

The ALL of the second half of the verse is the same as the ALL of the first half.

Children come under the sentence of the first as well as the offer of the second. Salvation was clearly provided for ALL and this means that God has given opportunity for ALL to be saved regardless of when they die.

Jesus said, “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.” (Matthew 18:14)

The verses considered do indicate that in keeping with this truth of God’s great love for children and His desire that not one should perish we believe that children who die in infancy go to heaven as Christ died for them and they have not rejected Christ in unbelief which is the only reason anyone ultimately goes into eternal punishment (Mark 16:16; John 3:18, 36).

*Nitish Patel*

# Bible Teaching

## THE MANNA (EXODUS 16)

*From Bible notes by the late Tom Ledger*

(We would like to express our thanks to Pamela Ledger for permission to put our beloved brother Tom's edited notes into print. We greatly appreciated his ministry at Clifton Hall over the years and we hope these study notes will be a blessing to all).

The manna may be viewed in three ways:

Historically: Account of the way God feed 2 millions people for 40 years in the wilderness. Over a million tons a year for 40 years.

Symbolically:

(a) The written Word Matthew 4.4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

(b) The Incarnate Word. (John 6:28-41)

Other Scriptures:

It is **despised** (Numbers 11:6-10).

Seen in relation to **discipline** (to humble thee, prove thee)

(Deuteronomy 8:3,16)

Has to do with **distinction** (contrast with old corn of the land) (Joshua 5:12)

**Dedication** after backsliding (Nehemiah 9:15, 20)

**Declaration** of God's dealing with Israel in His goodness (Psalm 78:24)

**Desire met** (The people asked and He sent) (Psalm 105:40)

**Divine provision** "and did all eat" (1 Corinthians 10:3)

**Deity** (Golden pot) (Hebrews 9:4)

**Divine approval** (overcomer) (Revelation 2:17)

Description Exodus 16:13-15, 31

Distribution Exodus 16:16-30

Display Exodus 16:32-34

## DESCRIPTION

(v. 13) "The dew lay round about the host ...." Uncontaminated by contact with the world.

The Holy Spirit preparing Israel for the manna (a) In the body of Mary "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee ..." (Luke 1:35); (b) Among the nation by John the Baptist. "... he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost ..." (Luke 1:15)

The Lord in relation to the Holy Spirit.

(a) Baptism "lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." (Matthew 3:16)

(b) Temptation. "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." (Matthew 4:1)

(c) Demons cast out. "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." (Matthew 12:28)

(d) Work of the cross. Hebrews 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God ..."

(e) Present age. "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:14)

(f) Commandments to the Apostles. Acts 1:2 "... He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen."

(v. 14) "Small". His humiliation. Despised, rejected here. "... but I am among you as he that serveth." (Luke 22:27). "He .... began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them ..." (John 13:5) "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor ..." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

(v. 14) "Round". His deity i.e. no beginning, no end. Heavenly One. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word". John 8:23, "And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world." Colossians 1:17 "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Revelation 1:8 "I am Alpha and

## Omega"

(v. 15) "What is it?" The inscrutability of His Person. "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." (Matthew 11:27). "... a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." (Revelation 2:17). Israel could not explain the manna, it was a mystery. Pride, self exaltation cannot feed on the manna. There must be humility.

"And when the dew that lay on the ground was gone up" The Spirit out of sight presenting Christ. "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:14). As small as the hoar frost on the ground. Must stop to get it.

(v. 31) "Seed". not like crystal which is attractive but lifeless. The Seed has life. "In Him was life" (John 1:4).

(v. 31) "White" His purity, Holiness. 1 Peter 2:22 "Who did no sin" - His Body; 1 John 3:5 "in Him is no sin." - His Soul; 2 Corinthians 5:21 ""Who knew no sin" - His Spirit.

(v. 14) "Upon the face of the wilderness" Man down here

(v. 33) "Lay it up before the Lord" Man up there

Ephesians 4:9-10 "(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens ..."

Revelation 2 "The hidden manna" The food of the overcomer.

Pergamos was the church in the world !

The manna. As God He emptied Himself - As man humbled Himself Nehemiah 9:15 "And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger ...". Psalm 78:25 "Angels' food" lit. food of the mighty. Psalm 105:40 "... satisfied them with the bread of heaven."

The manna down here. The food of wilderness conditions. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

(v. 15) "... And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." Egypt's food was 6 in number, the number of man. Fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlick. Canaan's food was 7 in number. Complete, perfection. Wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates; oil olive, and honey.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

(v. 16) "According to his eating" . Baby, young men, fathers. Not all same value of Christ. "every man" Personal responsibility. "in his tents" Family responsibility

(v. 18) "no lack". He is sufficient for all young and old.

Exodus 16:20 "Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them."

What was gathered was to be consumed. Acquisition, then assimilation. Benefit can be lost. Can be injurious!

(V. 21) "every morning" i.e. preeminence. He must have the first place. Must be persistent, persevering, diligence, purpose. "every man" Not just family prayers. Reading must be personal.

(vv. 22-26. Seventh day on which Israel must not gather. No day upon which we cannot gather. But may be on which we cannot gather but need not go hungry! Sickness, prison etc. The Holy Spirit will bring back what is stored.

## **DISPLAY**

(v.32 "that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness". Have we known Christ in the wilderness, so as to witness to a new generation?

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# Good News

## THE SEARCH FOR EVERLASTING LIFE

Many in history have looked for a means to live forever and cheat death. One such was the famous American aviator Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) who became the first man to fly across the Atlantic non stop in 1927 in his monoplane "The Spirit of St. Louis". He landed at Le Bourguet Field near Paris after 33.5 hours in the air. During his groundbreaking trip, he had traveled more than 3,600 miles. He became an overnight star for this achievement and was showered with many honours.

During his whole life, he was obsessed with inventions, exploration and interested also in the environment. When his sister in law developed a fatal heart condition he was stirred to invent a mechanical heart machine that could cheat death and keep a person alive.

He teamed with up a Nobel wining French surgeon named Alexis Carrel, to create a machine that could keep human organs working outside of the body with a supply of artificial blood. The device invented was known as the "Perfusion Pump" a precursor to the modern heart lung machine. He believed through machines, man could live forever. However, their plan was to make it available only to certain select individuals deemed worthy of living forever because he was a believer in eugenics for which many believed him to be a Nazi sympathiser.



Despite much public excitement the machine was not useable on humans because of difficulties that could not be overcome with 1930s technology. Later in life, Lindbergh moved to Maui in Hawaii with his wife at the end of his life and died of cancer on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1974.

The Bible tells us the only place eternal life is to be found and how to get it without the use of machines or inventions.

Jesus said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

Life is only found in the God who gave life to all of whom we read, "... He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;." (Acts 17:25).

Eternal life is found in Jesus Christ and without Him there can be no hope after death for He is the only One whom God has sent to be the Saviour of the world.

Eternal life is a free gift of God, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23). It was purchased for us when Christ died for our sins at Calvary's cross and rose again from the dead a living Saviour.

It can be possessed and enjoyed right now!

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11).

Reader, do you have this life from God. Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of your soul?

# *Design in Creation*



## **“DID NOAH TAKE FISH INTO THE ARK?”**

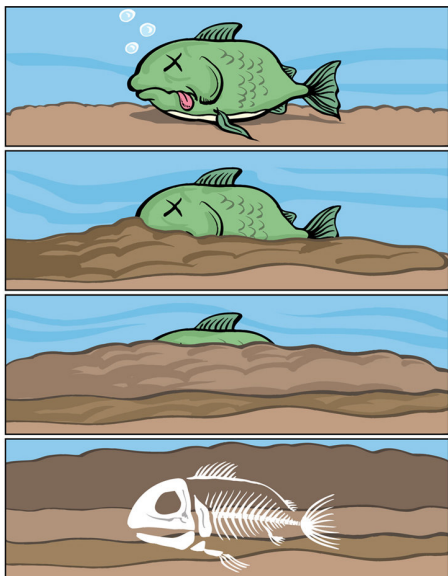
Another question asked by one of the young people at our Friday club recently was this one above.

The question was obviously simple to answer for fish live in water and more of it in the flood would have made no difference to them at all. They did not need to be taken into Noah's Ark. The Bible says that it was only pairs of land animals and birds that needed to be saved and seven pairs of clean animals and birds.

“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.” (Genesis 7:21-22)

However, due to the catastrophic nature of the worldwide flood, many marine creatures were buried in the sediment washed into the sea by the water on the land and when the fountains of the great deep broken up (Genesis 7:11). Millions of ancient creatures of whom 95% are marine creatures have been found buried in sedimentary rock.

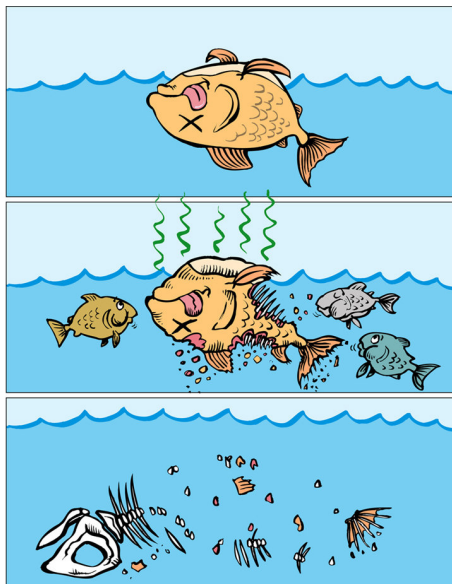
When fish die, they float on the water and are devoured by other fish and scavengers. The illustrations below from Answers in Genesis show simply the facts of fossilisation. The first two presents what evolutions believe, the second two what the evidence shows of a flood causing the formation of the fossils.



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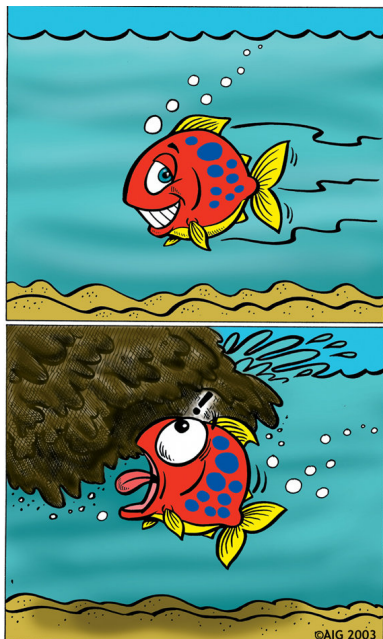
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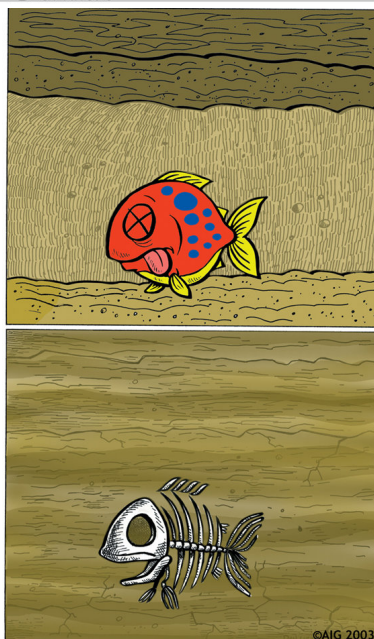
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The fossil record shows fish and billions of other animals completely preserved in sediment. According to long age evolutionary belief, these animals were slowly covered in sediment from rivers until they were fossilised into stone. The evidence shows rather a sudden burial of living things by a flood. There was no time for their body to decay or be eaten by anything.

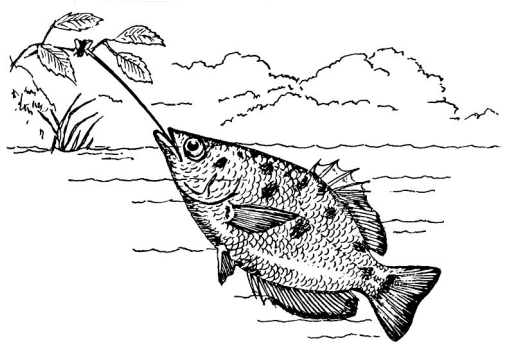


Here is an example of a fish suddenly buried in sediment while it was in the act of eating another fish. Only the great flood with the titanic forces created could have produced the sudden burial in sediment of sea life like this. None of the fossils found are creatures that died a natural death and buried gradually over many years as evolutionists claim.

All marine creatures were created on the fifth day of Creation, "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." (Genesis 1:20). There is such an abundance of life in the sea, that to this day no one fully knows that new creatures

lurk in the deep that man has yet to discover.

Here are two amazing fish which were clearly designed reminding us of the words of Job, "Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?" (Job 12:8-9)



The archer fish (genus *Toxotes*) has the unique ability to spit a jet of water from its mouth and knock insects into the water and eat them. This ability is all the more amazing when you realise that it is able to take into account, the refraction (bending) of light by the water at different angles, the bending downwards of the water jet by gravity into a parabolic path, and the exact distance to the insect. It precisely forms the shape of the water squirted with its mouth so that the bullet of water has the same force whether the insect is 12 inches or 24 inches away. This means that built into the fish's brain is the programming for trigonometry and calculus as a result a mature archer fish normally hits its target first time. Evolution could not produce this in stages as parts formed would be of no use unless all was created in place and fully functioning.

Another fish with unique abilities is the electric eel (*Electrophorus electricus*). This eel is found in South America where it lives in the swamps and rivers. It stuns its prey by a massive electric shock generated in its body. They can grow up to 2.5 metres (8 ft) long and weight up to 20 kg (44 lbs). They live an average of 15 years in the wild. Nearly all living things including humans generate electricity in

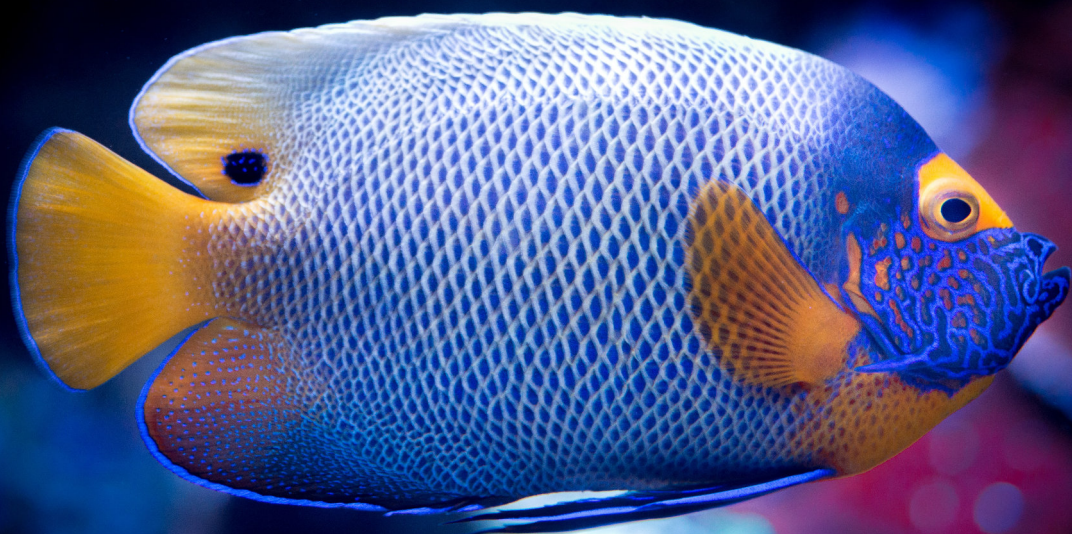


the body. Our own brains control the body by means of electrical signals via the nerves. In the case of the electric eel, 80% of its body is composed of about 6000 specialised electrocyte cells stacked together like a battery. The current generated is around 650 volts and enough to stun a horse. Sometimes rarely they have caused human deaths.

This eel could not have evolved for it had to simultaneously evolve protection for itself otherwise it would die from the same electric shock coming out of it's body. If some mutation made it evolve more electric power, another blind chance mutation was needed to protect itself more. Rather, it is another wonder of God's Creation.



"O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts." (Psalm 104:24-25)



Jerusalem in time of snow

