

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

End-2009

To all of our readers, in whatever country you are, the UK Bible Students wish you a Happy New Year and rich blessings from the Lord in 2010.

THE GIFT OF GOD

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2: 8–10).

What is it that makes a man or a woman religious? Is it *nature* — a trait genetically acquired from immediate or earlier forebears? Or is it *nurture* — the particular environmental influences and conditions that mould an individual's character? It is a complex question, and the persuasive view is that we are all products of both nature *and* nurture.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 1910

The following is an extract of an American editorial, 'Views from the Watch Tower', which first appeared in The Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence, January 1, 1910, pages 3-5. We reproduce it in its approximate style and original wording and spelling. This article is in the public domain.

The year 1910 opens auspiciously upon a world which may be said to be nervous and doubtful, if not fearful. Hope still holds the reins, however. MONEY IS THE KING IN THE PRESENT ORDER OF THINGS, EVERYWHERE! His palace is entrenched, a veritable fortress, practically impregnable. His interest from bonds — national, state, county, municipal, railroad — and real estate mortgages represents more each year than all the gold money in the world could pay. Hence the debtors must make good the deficiency with other bonds, etc. Thus Money owns, and, in the last analysis, rules the world. Moreover, its debts are protected by most stringent laws and regulations, and with armies and navies, militia and police. Money could not be better off than it is today.

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Miscellaneous Musings

'Intelligent Design'. Is there any other kind? That which is arrived at without purpose or by accident, cannot be said to be designed. Yet proponents of Evolution wish to have it both ways. No (they say), man and nature are the products of blind, opportunistic force, though (they concede) such things may look as though they were designed. But in our everyday life, reason obliges us to recognise mind in the designs all around us — buildings, motor cars, diesel-electric locomotives, aeroplanes, window shades — artefacts all, not one of which would have come about without intelligent planning. In this fact lurks (for the evolutionist) the contradiction that man, presumed to be the outcome of a non-thinking process, may only express himself in a purposive manner, with intent and imagination, endeavouring to match the final product with his blueprint vision of it.

It is not remarkable to unearth a fist-sized rock in the garden; to discover a similar-sized mobile telephone next to it, is. We may reasonably suppose that the gardener is of sufficient intelligence to recognise the

respective merits of his discoveries. And we can be absolutely sure that he does not confuse the random forces which formed the rock with the automation that produced the phone. Science excavates Nature to uncover the physics of it, and assigns the cause of it all to a cosmic accident. On finding the programming script of DNA, it draws the same conclusion.

– *A. Prentice*

Psalm Twenty-Three

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

Rev. Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821 - 1877)

In the Rear-View Mirror

Several clauses in Magna Carta give expression to the spirit of individual liberty, as it has ever since been understood in England. And the constant repetition of these brave words in centuries to come, by persons who were ignorant of the technical meaning they bore to the men who first wrote them down, helped powerfully to form the national character: –

No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned or disseised [dispossessed] or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor will we send upon him except by the lawful judgment of his peers or (and) the law of the land.

...

The Charter was regarded as important because it assigned definite and practical remedies to temporary evils. There was very little that was abstract in its terms, less even than later generations supposed. Yet it was the abstract and general character of the event at Runnymede that made it a great influence in history. A King had been brought to order, not by a posse of reactionary feudalists, but by the community of the land under baronial leadership; a tyrant had been subjected to the laws which hitherto it had been his private privilege to administer and to modify at will. A process had begun which was to end in putting the power of the Crown into the hands of the community at large.

It is for this reason that a document so technical as the Charter, so deficient in the generalizations with which the Declaration of Independence abounds, so totally ignorant of the 'rights of man,' has had so profound and lasting an influence on the imagination – in every sense of the word – of succeeding ages.

George Macaulay Trevelyan, O.M., *History of England* (1929; Longmans, Green and Co., London), 171.

Dragnet

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Britain

Anglican priest gives nod to shoplifting

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/north_yorkshire/8425420.stm>

Australia-Britain

Locusts inspire flying robots

<<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2009/09/18/2689688.htm>>

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