

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Reader Edition

End March/Early April 2009

THE ANSWERING CROWDS

The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus' – Matthew 21: 11

Crowds come in all shapes and sizes. There's the football crowd, the concert crowd, and the crowd that waits in the rain for a sale or the star for an autograph. The Formula 1 crowd, or the crowd by the road at the accident. Then there's the crowd of daffodils which Wordsworth happened upon. Not a poetic description of such beautiful sight, one might have thought, but memorable and cleverly done. His was a beautiful, benign crowd, 'fluttering and dancing in the breeze', and not a bit like the crowd standing outside the gaol in one of those Westerns, looking to hang the unfortunate chap inside.

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ON THE DISTAFF SIDE

Part One

The history of the world is to a remarkable degree the story of Woman. By turns praised, tolerated, and feared, she has been regarded as Doyenne, Diva, and Devil rolled into one. A far nobler description is that assigned to her in Genesis 3: 20, 'mother of all the living'. Profound in its prediction of her influence on a world thenceforth under condemnation, and transcending the mere facts of reproduction, the ascription hints at the essence of compassion, care, and the complexities of nurturing, which would be her domain. More than a mere alter ego of the man, the woman would, in her own right, help to weave the rich tapestry of history, encouraging and supporting those who had a more immediate and visible role than she, even to bearing the Saviour and rocking His cradle.

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In the Rear-View Mirror: 1919

'Says Dr. [E.J.] Dillon in his book, *The Peace Conference*, "Europe, when the President [Wilson] touched its shores, was as clay ready for the creative potter. Never before were the nations so eager to follow a Moses who would take them to the long-promised land where wars are prohibited and blockades unknown. And to their thinking he was that great leader. In France men bowed down before him with awe and affection. Labor leaders in Paris told me that they shed tears of joy in his presence, and that their comrades would go through fire and water to help him to realize his noble schemes. To the working classes in Italy his name was a heavenly clarion at the sound of which the earth would be renewed. The Germans regarded him and his humane doctrine as their sheet-anchor of safety." Such were the overpowering expectations that President Wilson raised. How completely he disappointed them and how weak and futile was the League of Nations he made is too long and too distressful a story to tell here. He exaggerated in his person our common human tragedy, he was so very great in his dreams and so incapable in his performance. America dissented from the acts of its President and would not join the league Europe accepted from him. There was a slow realization on the part of the American people that it had been rushed into something for which it was totally unprepared. There was a corresponding realization on the part of Europe that America had nothing ready to give the old world in its extremity.'

– H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World* (London; William Heinemann Ltd, *rep.* June 1933), 344

The Lord's Supper: April 8

For those of our subscribers who commemorate the Last Supper once a year, the date falls this year

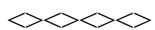
on *Wednesday, April 8*, beginning at 18:00 (6 p.m.). For details on how we have calculated this and for background information, go to our Website and read or download the [pdf](#).

DRAG-NET: Topical items from the Web

God on the buses in Calgary

The group 'God Exists' puts anti-atheist posters on buses in Canadian city

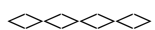
<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2009/03/20/cgy-god-exists-bus-ads-atheist.html>



Parental discipline important

Study confirms long-standing assumptions

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1165156/Why-children-best-strict-parents.html>



Netanyahu sworn in

A new phase in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/01/2531657.htm>

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