

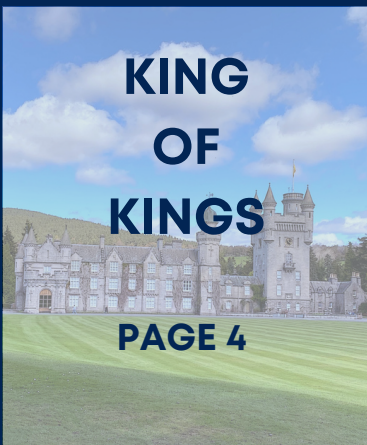
RIVERSIDE QUARTER *by*



Issue

03.

Autumn 2022



KING OF KINGS

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SECOND LIFE

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Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Riverside Quarterly. Whilst we enjoyed the quieter summer months, its great to have all our usual activities up and running again. We hope you will enjoy the features in this issue and please reach out to us using the contact details on the back page if you would like to find out more.

What we believe about...

Salvation from Sin...

- **Man's total sinfulness:** *'All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God'*
- **The penalty of sin:** *'The wages of sin is death'*
- **Man's inability to save himself:** *'By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing...so that no one may boast'*
- **God's answer in the cross of Christ:** *'Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God'*
- **The need for repentance:** *'God commands all people everywhere to repent'*
- **The need for faith:** *'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved'*
- **The certainty of eternal salvation in Christ:** *'He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him'*

**All words in italics from The Bible*

Whats on?

SUNDAY

- **9:30am** Breaking of Bread
Coffee @11:15am

**BIBLE
FOR
ALL**

11:30am

Creche available

- 4:00pm Bible Teaching
- 4:00pm Sunday School

MONDAY

- 10:00am Toddlers
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm Kids Club
- 8:00pm Bible Teaching

THURSDAY

- 10:00am Toddlers

We also run bi-weekly studies for young people, monthly men's study breakfasts, community lunches and other regular activities. Please contact us for more information.

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth" Genesis 1:1

Genesis

Making sense of where we came from

Energy

Essential for our universe to function and life to exist. It cannot be destroyed, nor can more be made. So how was the universe originally endowed with the usable forms of energy that life requires?

Information

Information is the foundation of life. The human genome extends to three billion codes arranged in a staggeringly complex manner. Where could such data come from, other than the mind of a super-intellect?

Design

The six constants of physics which govern our universe all happen to be exactly the values needed to produce a universe capable of supporting life. The odds of this happening by chance even just once are infinitesimally small.

Purpose

If life is an accident, there is no such thing as purpose. Genesis however provides the foundation for real purpose by explaining how God has special intentions for humankind, and a unique role He has granted to them.

Pain

Genesis gives an explanation for the universal problem of pain. More importantly however, it introduces the God who cares about human suffering and has provided a way of eventual deliverance for those who trust Him.

Equality

Genesis proves the dignity of every human being and their equal intrinsic value. To all God affords His gift of love and the promise of a Saviour, later shown to be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consciousness

Why do we ask why? The ability to think deeply and search for answers is the 'fingerprint of God' upon humankind. Humans are not like animals; they have been given the capacity to seek God, and to find Him through Jesus Christ.

The King of Kings

The Lord shall be King over all the earth.

(Zechariah 14:9)

For most in the United Kingdom, the last few weeks have unfolded remarkable events which we have never witnessed before. Our Queen has died, and her long-time heir has been proclaimed as our new King. The sheer number of ceremonies taking place across the UK demonstrate the national significance of this moment, as millions gather to mourn the loss of our Queen.



The Coming King

After the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, it was not long before our attention turned to Charles. Within just a few hours he was declared to be our new King. After more than seventy years it will take some time for us to adjust to having a new Monarch, and to saying the words, "King Charles the Third".

Whilst the ceremony surrounding these events is compelling, my mind turned to what the Bible says about the great King who is yet to come. This King is neither Charles III, nor any of his future descendants, but rather the living Saviour, Jesus Christ, who one day will come to this Earth to reign.

Perhaps this is the first time that you have heard how the Bible teaches this. Christ is often depicted merely as someone who lived a good life and set an example for us to follow. Whilst there is truth in that statement, Christ is so much greater. One day He will return, and will rule over the whole Earth; in justice, righteousness and peace. Christians long for the day when Christ will be recognised on Earth as King, and when war and corruption will be replaced with peace and enduring righteousness.



The Heir of All Things

Charles was “heir to the throne” for many years, before he finally acceded to receive his inheritance. That inheritance carries status and position, but also land, businesses, jewels, gold, silver, houses, castles, palaces, and much more. It is a wealth that most of us can scarcely comprehend.

However, Jesus Christ is described in the Bible as the “heir of all things”. He who once received a crown of thorns when the world rejected Him 2000 years ago is actually the heir to everything. The day could be very close when the King will come, and the inheritance will be given to Him.

Every Knee Will Bow

During the transition from Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III there was a man who was threatened with arrest for holding a sign that said “Not my King”. Whilst he should be free to express his feelings, this was perhaps not the moment for such a display. By contrast, the Bible makes clear that at the coronation of Christ, not one person will refuse to bow their knee before Him when they see Him. That includes you and me.

Most remarkable of all is the fact that this majestic coming King is the very same one who gave His life for you on the cross at Calvary. He loved us enough to personally endure God's punishment against sin. If we trust Him and ask God for forgiveness then God promises we will receive salvation.

The Bible doesn't give a date for these events. But it does tell us that the reign of Christ on earth will arrive very suddenly. Now is the time to come to Him in faith; bow your knee willingly and receive him as your own Saviour and King.

“
*At the coronation of
Christ, not one
person will refuse to
bow their knee...
that includes you
and me.*

Written by Stephen Jackson
Riverside Christian Assembly

Focus on...

BIBLE TEACHING

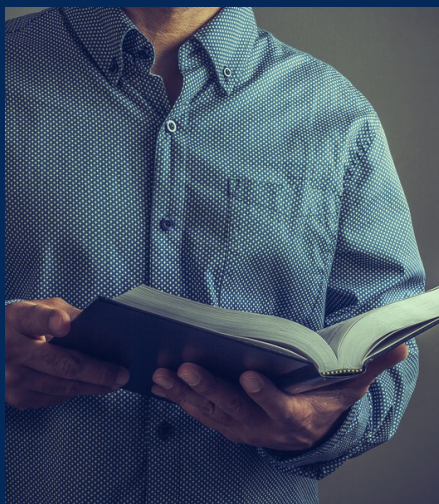


- Bible teaching primarily for Christians, both adults and young people
- Every Sunday 4-5pm during term time
- Activities for children run concurrently

WHAT IS IT?

BIBLE TEACHING

Understanding and obeying the Bible is vital for Christians to grow spiritually. During these sessions we seek to explain and apply the Bible's message in a straightforward manner. Right now we are studying in Genesis. This incredible part of the Bible explains origins and also establishes many of the foundational truths which are so important to Christians.



Creche (0-5s), Sunday School (P1-6) and JBC (P7-S1) run at the same time as the Bible Teaching meaning there is something for all the family.

FOR KIDS

If you would like more information please contact us:

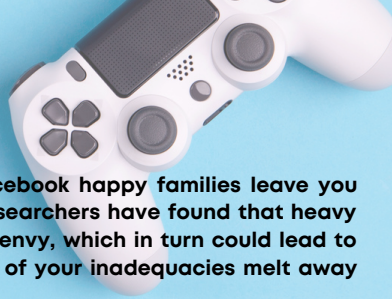


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SECOND LIFE



Does looking at everyone else's "Insta-perfect" snaps and Facebook happy families leave you feeling somewhat inadequate? If it does, you are not alone. Researchers have found that heavy Facebook use may make certain people experience feelings of envy, which in turn could lead to depression. How would you like to have a second life where all of your inadequacies melt away with the click of a button?

Invented in 2003, Second Life is an online platform that allows people to create a computer-generated identity for themselves and have a second life in an online virtual world. Exploding into oblivion in the early 2000s, Second Life seemed to come and go in a Dotcom-burst bubble, losing out to giants such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube but, perhaps due to the worldwide COVID lockdowns, it now reports having 900,000 regular users. A similar platform, Animal Crossing, has more than 200,000 active users. These virtual worlds promise that users can be whoever they want to be, look however they want to look, and do whatever they want to do. Users can customise their appearance and spend actual hard-earned money buying fashionable clothes for their avatar and virtual furniture and art to furnish their virtual homes in their fabulous virtual life. All very well until one comes crashing back to earth in the real world of a cold lonely flat, with a receding hairline and an expanding waistline.

What drives users of these platforms to flee the reality of their lives is a desire for something better. A sense that they are missing out on something and that, perhaps, in the virtual world they will be pretty enough, smart enough, fashionable enough to be accepted and find satisfaction. This all points to the need for something outside of ourselves, proverbially described as a "God-shaped" hole in the human soul. As Augustine of Hippo said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee". Humanity today is plagued with the sense that something quite fundamental to our existence is missing in the life that has left God out of the equation. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

He was stating that His coming into the world was in order that humanity could enjoy life as it was intended to be, life in all its fullness.

The Christian does not find the abundant life in natural things, far less in virtual things, but in spiritual and eternal things, namely in a personal relationship with the God of the Bible. While the virtual world has some appeal, if the pandemic taught us anything it is that human touch is something so essential and powerful that no virtual experience can replace it. As much as we cannot be content without human touch, neither can our souls be content without the touch of God. The abundant life is to be found in a living relationship with our Creator God. This was made possible through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross, which met the righteous demands of a holy God against sin, and His resurrection from the dead on the third day, which confirmed that God was satisfied with what He had achieved. He gave His life so that we might have new and eternal life through faith in Him.

Through confession of our sin, demonstrating a change in heart towards God (the Bible calls this repentance), and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ we can have a "Second Life", an abundant life, a life truly worth having. The Bible puts it like this: *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Further than that, future, eternal happiness is guaranteed: *"You [God] will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore"* (Psalm 16:11).

What can we do for you?

Please get in touch if you would like us to

- send you a free Bible
- pray for you
- meet with you to discuss what we believe

contact.riversideassembly@gmail.com

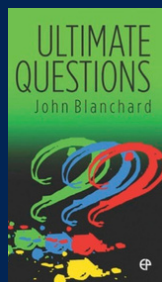
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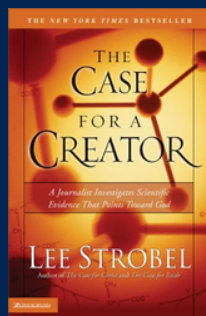
*Who am I?
Where do I go from here?
Is there an answer?*

*Simple, clear and direct
answers to these questions
and more.*



The Case for a Creator

By Lee Strobel



***Has science
discovered God?***

*At the very least it's
giving faith an immense
boost as new findings
emerge about the
incredible complexity of
our universe.*

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