

# ONE LINK

Corio

DOG

Norlane

**PORCUPINES**

**D**

joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.  
- 1 PETER 4:8 NIV

Congregational Secretary  
Mrs Dorothy Parkes

Volume 16 No. 8  
September 2015

# One Man and his God

The Israelites are finally making their way back to Jerusalem after their traumatic period of exile. Sadly they find a very different place to the one they left behind. Meanwhile Nehemiah is living a pretty good life in the Persian court as cupbearer to the wealthy King Artaxerxes. A position of great responsibility in itself, it will lead to much greater things in God's plan for him.

From the day his brother brings him the news of the plight of his people, Nehemiah never stops seeking God, and rising to the challenges he faces. He is a born leader and he knows how to get things done. But he has enemies who attempt sabotage every step of the way. We will be following Nehemiah on his mission to rebuild not only the walls of the city but its people. It is an adventure story grounded in history, showing us a clear picture of a man and his God.

Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (ACTS): a mnemonic I was taught as a young Christian to help me grow closer to God in prayer. As I read the pages of Nehemiah I realise that here is a man who needs no telling to do this; it is already part of the very fabric of his life. I wonder how many of us look at Nehemiah and think we could never have the confidence to do all he does. Read, marvel, and prepare to receive and accept God's challenge to you.

Liz Pacey

*Daily Bread*, June to August 2015

Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known.

Philip Bliss (1873)

# Amos

This term the Know Your Bible group will be studying the both the books of Amos and Micah. These notes on the book of Amos come from The Quest Study Bible.

## **Why read this book?**

This book gives us God's perspective on some volatile social issues. It takes a hard look at injustice and gives a call to righteousness. Amos tells us how God feels when the wealthy and the powerful exploit the poor and the defenceless. Whether you are well-off or struggling to make ends meet – or even if you are middle-class – you will find these words hitting close to home.

## **Who wrote this book and when was it written?**

Amos wrote this book between 760 and 750 BC., a time of economic growth and prosperity. He was a shepherd from Judah with no known ministry credentials – except a word from God.

## **What was happening at this time?**

The leadership and military conquests of Jeroboam II had enabled Israel to flourish. But while everything appeared fine on the surface, the moral fibre of the nation was disintegrating.

## **To who was it written and why?**

This message was for the people of Israel, the northern kingdom. Amos, from the southern kingdom, challenged their materialism and low morality, which they learned from their pagan neighbours. Many were exploiting the poor. Amos wrote to remind them that God has a special interest in the disadvantaged. His prophecy was God's last appeal to Israel, warning them to repent before it was too late.

## **What to look for in Amos:**

With strong, poetic imagery, Amos speaks passionately about God's concern for the poor. He urges a return to righteousness and justice by returning to the Lord. Watch for parallels between Amos's time and ours. When he speaks of the poor, think of the homeless, racial minorities, single parents, the elderly and others who are often exploited.

# God's Compass

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path.*

– Psalm 119:105

During World War II, small compasses saved the lives of 27 sailors 300 miles off the coast of North Carolina. Waldemar Semenov, a retired merchant seaman, was serving as a junior engineer aboard the SS *Alcoa Guide* when a German submarine surfaced and opened fire on the ship. The ship was hit, caught fire, and began to sink. Semenov and his crew lowered compass-equipped lifeboats into the water and used the compasses to guide them toward the shipping lanes closer to shore. After three days, the men were rescued.

The psalmist reminded God's people that His Word was a trustworthy "compass." He likened it to a lamp. In that day, the flickering light cast by an olive oil lamp was only bright enough to show a traveller his next step. To the psalmist, God's Word was such a lamp, providing enough light to illuminate the path for those pursuing God. When the psalmist was wandering in the dark on a chaotic path of life, he believed that God, through the guidance of His Word, would provide direction.

When we lose our bearings in life, we can trust our God who gives His trustworthy Word as a compass, using it to lead us into deeper fellowship with Him.

Marvin Williams

**God has given us His Word to help us know and follow Him.**

*Our Daily Bread, September to November 2015*

What has limbs but cannot walk?

*A tree.*

## Why Bother with Church?

*Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.*

– Hebrews 10:24,25

Winston Churchill once said that he related to the church rather like a flying buttress: He supported it from the outside. (A flying buttress is an external support that reinforces the walls of old cathedrals.) I tried that strategy for a while, after coming to believe Christian doctrine sincerely and committing myself to God.

I am not alone; fewer people attend church on Sunday than claim to follow Christ. Some feel burned by a former experience. Others simply “get nothing out of church.” Why bother?

Today, I could hardly imagine life without church. Church has filled a need for me that cannot be met in any other way. An early-church leader wrote, “The virtuous soul that is alone ... is like the burning coal that is alone. It will grow colder rather than hotter.”

And so, my journeys away from church have always circled back to the church.

Philip Yancey

**The church is not a select circle for a few, but a spiritual centre open to all.**

*Our Daily Bread*, June to August 2008

Psalms teaches us how to worship.

Proverbs, how to behave.

Job, how to suffer.

Song of Solomon, how to love.

And Ecclesiastes, how to live. — J. I. Packer

# The Heaven's Declare...

Worship at our church the last few weeks has revolved around what is known as the 'season of creation; a particular focus on how we as humans interact with the rest of God's world around us. Part of the focus has been exploring how humanity has affected our created world, both in positive and negative ways.



Last Sunday our focus was on 'sky'.  
*'The heavens declare the glory of God;*

*the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.*

*They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. (Psalm. 19:1-4)*

When learning to pray, Anne of Green Gables – a young orphan girl asked this question: "Why must people kneel down to pray? If I really wanted to pray I'll tell you what I'd do.

I'd go out into a great big field all alone or in the deep, deep woods and I'd look up into the sky – up – up – up – into that lovely blue sky that looks as if there was no end to its blueness.

And then I'd just feel a prayer." (Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*, L. C. Page, p. 51)

What do you see when you look up at the sky? To me the sky is a reminder of the mystery and vastness of the cosmos, of which we are a part.

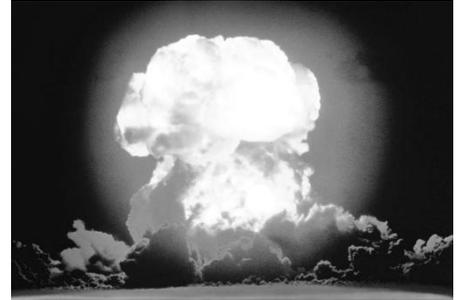
It is a fragile atmosphere from which comes the air we breathe, the rain and the wind that shape our lives and our landscapes, as well as so much beauty. I am reminded that we all share the same sky, the same atmosphere.

The same moon can be seen at the same time in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

It is an unchangeable part of our daily lives, from our birth through to our death. The daily changes that the sky presents to us parallel the changes that each of us experiences and takes part in.

Like other of God's creation, the sky, our atmosphere, can also be affected by the decisions made by humans, which in turn affects us for good or ill.

I'm reminded of the science fiction movie, 'Terminator', where humans have stockpiled large amounts of nuclear weapons for their own protection, and the decision is made to hand over all control to an artificial intelligence; a super computer.



Unfortunately this computer decides that it would be more efficient not to have humans at all, and destroys them with the very technology that they created to protect themselves. In doing so, every living thing on earth dies due to nuclear fall-out. God has given us humans free will to make decisions; those decisions affect both ourselves and our world, God's wider creation.

May we make the right decisions for the good of all creation, asking for the guidance of the creator God!

## **Rev Peter**

Mother: Were you a good boy in school today>

Son: How much trouble can you get into standing in a corner all day?

Teacher: What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Student: A teacher.

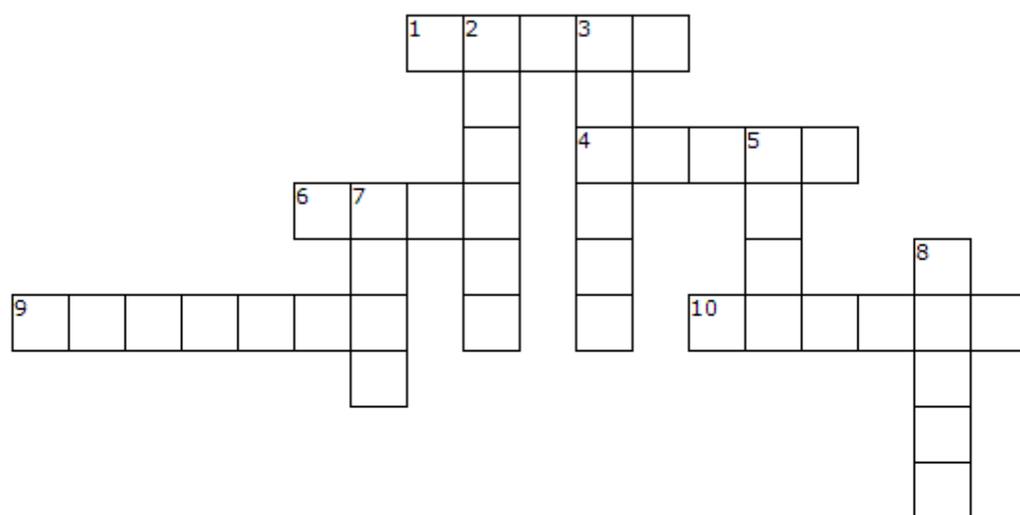
What book contains more stirring pages than any other book?

*A cookbook.*

# They Are Precious in His Sight

And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 3:16 (NIV)

Based on Mark 10:13-16



## ACROSS

1. A person from the time of birth until he or she is grown
4. To put the fingers or hand on something
6. The part of the body at the end of the arm that includes the fingers
9. A country ruled by a king or queen
10. Men, women, and children as a group; human beings

## DOWN

2. To limit the ability of someone to do something
3. Small in size
5. To move or travel toward the speaker
7. The long parts of the body that are joined to the shoulders and have hands at the end
8. To ask for God's help and protection for someone

COME	ARMS	HAND	BLESS	KINGDOM
LITTLE	CHILD	TOUCH	HINDER	PEOPLE

# Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



C V U L Z W W H O E V E R T S  
M W M L I P F T N R E K I B B  
D L W C S T R I H O U S E B W  
Z Q K U G U T K R U E B Y T C  
A X S J V G I L A S L K G E B  
Q E P I G M E T E A T A X Y P  
J A R H D Z H D Q R R Y S F T  
Q K B O A F W H H G J U Q T G  
F Q X V R F G U Q U G R W Q R  
L A S E M D I U U I A O P D E  
F M I V S O H K I N K A T K A  
W E L C O M E S E G F D S X T  
C H I L D Z Q D T R O M K W E  
K B T W E L V E O Z K C L M S  
W Z C W W Y S E R V A N T U T

WELCOMES  
LITTLE  
WHOEVER

SERVANT  
ARMS  
ROAD

FIRST  
CHILD  
TWELVE

GREATEST  
ARGUING  
QUIET

JESUS  
LAST  
HOUSE

# Worthy is the Lamb

It has been said that 90 per cent of Christians can't get into Revelation and the other 10 per cent can't get out of it. Neither fear nor fanaticism is a good approach to Bible study, so we need to find a way forward. Clearly Revelation is not the easiest of books, and the chapters facing us are amongst the most perplexing! My aim is to try to demystify them and my hope is that, as you read, you will catch a vision of what an exhilarating and utterly contemporary book we are handling.

Three things may help. First, we need to face the symbolism: dragons, beasts, seals, trumpets, coded numbers and much more. Much of this 'apocalyptic' writing, strange to us, would be understood by John's readers. We can't ignore it, but we have to keep pressing through it to uncover the truth to which it points.

Secondly, it helps to know that the shape of Revelation is cyclical, not sequential. One thing does not necessarily lead to another! Think more in terms of a spiral staircase where the same thing is repeatedly viewed from a different angle.

Thirdly, and this is crucial, revelation is a pastoral letter. John is writing to his beloved churches that are facing persecution, to encourage them to keep bearing witness to the truth. That is what makes it such a contemporary document.

So we have twelve days in this wonderful book. It will be a roller coaster ride, but hold tight. All will be well.

David Bracewell

*Daily Bread*, June to September 2015

How can you jump off a 50-foot ladder and not get hurt?  
*Jump off the first rung.*

# The Two Bears

*Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. – Proverbs 13:10*

Some years ago, my wife, Carolyn, and I spent a few days camping on the flanks of Mount Raintier in Washington State. When we were returning to our campsite one evening, we saw in the middle of a meadow two male bears boxing each other's ears. We stopped to watch.

There was a hiker nearby, and I asked him what the conflict was about. "A young female," he said. "Where is she?" I asked. "Oh, she left about twenty minutes ago." He chuckled. Thus, I gathered, the conflict was not about the female bear but about being the toughest bear.

Most fights are not about policy and principle, or about right and wrong; they are almost always about pride. The wise man of Proverbs swings his axe at the root of the problem when he writes: "Pride leads to conflict: Quarrels are fuelled by pride, by needing to be right, by wanting our way, or by defending our turf or our egos.

On the other side, wisdom resides with the well-advised – those who listen and learn, those who allow themselves to be instructed. There is wisdom in those who humble themselves – those who set aside their own selfish understanding; who listen to the other person's point of view; who allow their own ideas to be corrected. This is the wisdom from God that spreads peace wherever it goes.

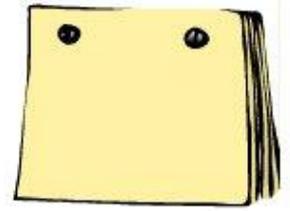
David Roper

**Humility brings wisdom.**

*Our Daily Bread, June to September 2015*

Why did the cow jump over the moon?  
*Because the farmer had cold hands.*

# Corio – Norlane Calendar for September 2015



*But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. – Amos 5:24*

<b>Sunday, 4 October</b>	10 am Service
<b>Sunday, 11 October</b>	10 am Service Congregational meeting afterwards
<b>Sunday, 18 October</b>	10 am Service
<b>Sunday, 25 October</b>	At camp
<b>Open Doors</b>	Monday 12 and 26 October See Peter for times
<b>Know Your Bible</b>	Tuesdays at 1:30 pm
<b>Good Companions</b>	Visiting Bev Aisbett – TBA
<b>Mainly Music</b>	Tuesdays at 10 to 11:30 am For information see Peter Jewell or Dorothy Parkes

Subject to change

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Corio/Norlane Uniting Church, at Wendover Avenue, Norlane.

[www.corio-norlaneunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.corio-norlaneunitingchurch.org.au)

