

The Good News Paper

July 2023

The Good News Paper is prepared by the Mt Waverley Christadelphians to spread the good news from God in the Bible. It is intended that you will now receive the newsletter every month, and we welcome your comments and questions.

This month will include the Bible's answer to the question "Why do people die?", a brief summary of the emergency help you can find in the Bible and a look at the character of Mary as shown in the Bible.

God bless you as you read, and may your thoughts and meditations be acceptable to our God in heaven.

The editor

Why do people die?



We must turn to our Creator if we want to understand the great truths about life and death

Adam was created when *"the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being"* (Genesis 2:7). Eve, who became Adam's wife, was created when *"God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man"* (2:21,22).

From the beginning, God gave the man and woman 'free will'. They could choose between obedience to God's command or disobedience (sin).

But how would that have given God pleasure? Human parents are happy when their children love them and choose to obey them. God works similarly with us, His children. He wants each of us to choose to obey Him because we love Him. That is why God gave Adam and Eve free will.

After placing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God gave them very clear instructions: *"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but*

you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (2:17).

Sadly, Eve was tempted. She ate the fruit of that tree and persuaded Adam also to eat. They had broken God's commandment. Soon they learned that God keeps His word. The terrible result of disobedience by Adam was, *"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food, until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return" (3:19).*

Adam was condemned to death.. As the human race descended from one man, Adam, we have inherited his nature. We are all mortal-which is simply a word of Latin origin that means *"deathful"*. The plain truth is expressed in the Letter to the Romans: *"As sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (5:12); "the wages of sin is death" (6:23); and "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (3:23).*

So the Bible teaches us that not only have we inherited a mortal nature from Adam, but like him we have disobeyed God; we have sinned and so deserve this condemnation from God.

This is all quite difficult, but don't worry - the Bible has a message of hope as well that we'll get to soon.

In our next Newsletter we answer the question "Why did Jesus Die?"

BIBLE EMERGENCY HELP



Lonely	Psalm 27:10; Romans 8:38-39
Worried	2 Kings 6:15-17; Matthew 6:25-34
Anxious	Psalm 77; Philippians 4:4-9
Need courage	Joshua 1; John 16:31-33
Need faith	Exodus 14; Mark 4:35-41
Struggling with finances	Psalm 23:1; Hebrews 13:5
Feeling no-one cares	Psalm 145:14-16; Matthew 11:28-30

GET HELP – 24 HOURS – FREE CALLS

Mary the mother of Jesus

Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of His Son. She was of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David's son Nathan (Luke 3:31). She was engaged to Joseph of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David's son Solomon (Matt 1:6).

Mary must have been an exceptional young woman, who believed the Bible in every detail, and whose only question was how she would conceive because she was not married. The angel Gabriel, who appeared to her, explained that it would be a virgin birth, for the Holy Spirit would come upon her and therefore the child that would be born of her would be the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

*The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, and
the power of the
Most High will
overshadow you;
therefore the child to
be born will be holy;
he will be called Son
of God.*

Luke 1:35 (NRSV)

Mary believed without further question and said "be it unto me according to thy Word" and set off to visit her cousin Elisabeth who was old and childless yet was six months pregnant with a son, because "with God nothing is impossible". She lived in Judah, in the hill country in Hebron. Read Luke 1 and imagine the strength and support they gave each other.

It must have been difficult for Joseph to hear the news, but an angel appeared to him in a dream when he was considering just what to do. He knew she was a righteous woman and wanted to put her away privately, but he was convinced by the angel that this was what Isaiah had prophesied (Isaiah 7:14) that "a virgin would be with child and bring forth a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us".

Due to taxation laws, Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem because they were both descendants of David. Imagine traveling so far at this stage of pregnancy and then to arrive and find no accommodation available but a stable. Nevertheless their son was born safely and named Jesus.

On the eighth day Mary and Joseph took their infant son to be circumcised. While they were in the temple They were given messages by two people, Simeon and Anna, who had been waiting for the birth of the Messiah all their life. The messages spoke of the amazing future that Jesus would live, and while she was confused, Mary pondered these things in her heart.

Wise men from the East came having seen his star and inquired of Herod where the new king was. Herod requested that when they found him they return to him telling him where the child was, because he wanted to destroy him. When the wise men went home another way, Herod found out and decided to kill all children under 2 in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph were warned to flee to Egypt and stay there until it was safe to return. After this they went and lived in Nazareth.

When Jesus was 12 years old they went on their annual visit to Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus stayed behind in the temple when they started for home, and on returning to look for him they found him in the Temple 3 days later talking to the learned men, hearing them and asking them questions. His reason? "Knowest thou not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Again, Mary kept all these things in her heart.

Mary was one of the women who supported Jesus through his ministry, and was present at Jesus' crucifixion. John records that at this time Jesus requested John to look after Mary as a mother. No longer was Mary Jesus' mother - he was now her Lord and master.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)



