

# ? Life's BIG Questions

- ☼ Why should I believe in a God I can't see?
- ☼ Why does God allow suffering?
- ☼ Has science disproved the Bible?

Struggling with LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.lifes-big-questions.org](http://www.lifes-big-questions.org) for some answers you might find helpful! Read articles, view videos or order free DVD's.

## Past, Present, Future

### The World Today

Today we live in a world that is more scientifically and technologically advanced than ever before. Even so, the world today is faced with the same problems that have affected all generations, such as violence, crime, war, disease, famine, poverty - to mention just a few. Yet, despite all its knowledge, it seems unable to deal with these issues effectively. These problems only appear to be getting worse rather than improving. So what does the future hold and will these problems ever be resolved?

We can look to the Bible for answers to these questions. The Bible speaks of a marvellous hope, incomparable to anything this present world has to offer. The Bible tells us that God will not leave things to chance but has a plan and purpose with the world.

"For this is what the LORD says - he who created the heavens, he is God: he ... made the earth, ... he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited." (Isaiah 45 v18 NIV)

He has also promised that it will never be destroyed:

"One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever." (Ecclesiastes 1v 4)

So what has gone wrong and how has the world got into such a state?

### In the Beginning

In the beginning God created a wonderful world and "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1 v 31) However, instead of obeying God, men and women chose rather to please themselves and so God punished them for their disobedience. Man's sin brought pain and death into the world. God found a faithful and obedient man called Abraham and promised to make of him a great nation and that through his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12 v 2). This seed grew into the nation of Israel and were God's special people. However, they too disobeyed God through their faithlessness and sin, so God put an end to this old Kingdom and its unfaithful kings. God therefore sent his only son Jesus to be the true and righteous King. To King David, God promised:

WE can't offer you tea with the Queen but we can offer you coffee and pretty good homemade cakes on **Friday the 24th August from 10-1pm.** Just turn up anytime between 10 and

1 at **20 Dingley Road, Wednesbury, WS10 9PU**

and leave when you're full! It would be great to meet you. Bring your kids along to play in the garden and decorate and eat their own cakes!



Jon teaches in a local prison.

Helping the Sutton Christadelphians with a praise evening at the end of their 'Bringing the Bible to Life' week. We like a bit of singing!



Sutton have a weekly bible hour, coffee morning and youth group [www.biblemessage.org.uk](http://www.biblemessage.org.uk)



"... I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his Father, and he shall be my son..." (2 Samuel 7 v12-14)

Jesus preached to the Jews the hope of this kingdom, which would be ruled in peace and righteousness to be established in the future. After he was crucified and then raised to life again by his Father, his disciples asked him when this kingdom would be.

"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1 v 6)

Jesus told them that they first had to preach the "good news" of the kingdom to all nations and teach them that they needed to repent of their sins and be baptised in order to be granted the opportunity to be in God's kingdom. After this commandment Jesus then ascended to his Father in heaven waiting the time when God would send him back to the earth to establish this kingdom.

### The Future Kingdom

So when will this kingdom be established and what will it be like? The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament paints a wonderful picture of this future kingdom age.

**The  
earth will be  
full of the  
knowledge of the  
LORD as the waters  
cover the sea.**  
Isaiah 11:9

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion and the calf together; and a little child shall lead them... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11 v 6-9)

Unlike the political rulers of today, Jesus "shall not judge by the sight of his eyes, nor decide by the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth... Righteousness shall be the belt of his loins, and faithfulness the belt of his waist." (Isaiah 11 v 3-5) Jesus will rule as king in God's kingdom until death itself has been destroyed, and with this accomplished will hand over all things to his Father, "that God may be all in all." (1 Corinthians 15 v 28)

God has left us many clues in his word which give us indications of the time of the return of Jesus. The many problems that we see in the world today give us great confidence that we are living in this time and that his return will be very soon. God in his mercy has given us this opportunity now to change the way we live our lives and follow him so that when Jesus does return we, through his grace, may be found worthy of a place in his glorious kingdom.

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, God himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21 v 3-4)

**Gareth & Helena Edwards**

It was indeed a privilege to be able to attend the diamond jubilee lunch with the Queen at Westminster Palace. I was invited because I had been awarded for my horticultural training work and my engagement of learners within charity gardening projects.

**Jon  
Ensell has  
Lunch with the  
Queen**

will arrive on this earth. Not just so that we can enjoy one delicious lunch but when sin and death will be conquered. We wait for Jesus, the son of God to come back and make this happen. He won't walk down some steps past 8 trumpets, no, an even grander entrance will mark his coming:

Words could not describe the electricity that was in the air as the royal family arrived heralded by 8 trumpeters. The orchestra set the tone and pace as the Queen walked down the steps into the hall and you could not help getting swept up with the moment. The Royals then were seated at tables around the hall and the meal began.

***Luke 21:27-28 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near.***

The next part that really stood out for me was of the royal family leaving the event, the Yeoman of the Guard lining the aisle to protect them as they left. Even more striking was the noise as the great doors of the hall were opened to the outside and they met a jubilant crowd that had been waiting so patiently for them. It roared with an excitement that was both terrifying and amazing, the crowd continued to cheer and wave flags as they climbed into their open horse drawn carriages and rode into the streets of London.

I have never experienced the excitement and atmosphere that there was that jubilee day but as a christian it made me think beyond the arrival of the Queen of Diamonds to a day when the King of Hearts





WHAT WE GET UP TO EACH WEEK...	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<b>Breaking of Bread Service</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Aldridge Scouts Hut  We share a meal, sing, read the Bible and pray. The baptised members share bread and wine together in memory of Jesus	<b>Bible Class</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Various homes  Discuss different lessons from the Bible and encourage each other in our christian walk.	<b>Bible Reading</b>  <b>Venue:</b> 65 Hales Road, Wednesbury  Simple sharing of Bible teaching in an informal, relaxed environment.	<b>Learn English with the Bible</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Whitehall Infant School, Weston Street, Caldmore  Learn what the Bible teaches whilst improving your grasp of English.

## How I came to know God

I guess I always wanted to know and learn more about God and the Bible but never knew how to go about it or where to start... such a massive book, where do you begin?

I was brought up in a Christian household and went to church every Sunday, became a Sunday school teacher in my teens and always felt I needed and wanted to know more about the Bible.

After some trials in my life and having a child ask me the question "What do you think happens when you die?" I started looking into what I actually believe. Who is my God? I know I believe in Him but what is that big book really all about?

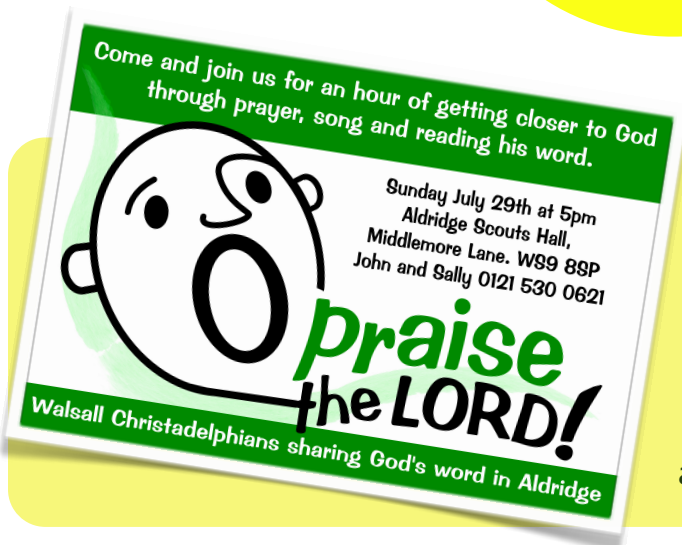
I started reading my Bible from the beginning and couldn't make much sense of it. I had lots of questions and was determined to find the answers. I'd heard about Christadelphians and turned up at a Bible class one night by myself, I didn't know anyone and I felt a bit out of place. The first thing I learnt was to read the Bible for myself! I had A4 pages of questions and people to ask to try

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13

and figure out what the Bible actually teaches. After looking into it for about a year and becoming confident in what I believed, going to my nearest Christadelphian church and reading my Bible most days, I got baptised into the saving name of Jesus Christ and started my journey to the Kingdom of God.

My family have different beliefs to me and sometimes this can make life difficult but that's why the verse in the bubble means a lot to me and I try to remember it every day.

That's me Fiona in the photo.



We would love to see you at our next **Praise Evening at Aldridge Scouts Hut, at 5pm on July 29th**. It lasts an hour with time for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Also, don't forget our special talk on **September 23rd** where we will share the exciting Bible truth about **"The Way to Life or Death - You Choose"**

We'd love to receive feedback from you about what you'd like to see included in our newsletters. Please get in touch for further information or to share your ideas.

John and Sally Palmer, 0121 5300621, johnsallypalmer@yahoo.co.uk

# WALSALL CHRISTADELPHIANS

Summer 2012



Welcome  
to our 2nd  
seasonal  
newsletter

## 30 SEC GUIDE

### Walsall Christadelphians

#### ... read the Bible regularly because ...

- We believe very firmly its claim to be the word of God
- We understand the Bible to be the way God has chosen to communicate with us as individuals
- We appreciate that Bible prophecy provides both convincing proof supporting its claim to be the word of God, as well as helpful signs indicating the nearness of Jesus Christ's return

#### ... understand from Bible teaching the importance of ...

- The Jewish people, Israel, in God's plan and purpose
- Baptism, by complete immersion in water, as a symbolic death, by a person capable of making a decision to follow Jesus
- Being ready for the return of Jesus, an event that will catch many people unprepared

For more information on who we are and what we believe, please visit:  
[walsallchristadelphians.org.uk](http://walsallchristadelphians.org.uk)

People who trust God's word may be sad about the violence and turmoil in the Middle East, but they shouldn't be surprised. The Bible has always been clear that the area would be full of conflict, especially just before Christ's return.

The Bible clearly predicts many aspects of the current Middle East situation, including that:

- ★ Israel would re-emerge as a nation after many years in exile. This happened in **1948**.
- ★ Many other nations would gain independence at around the same time. This also happened. Many Middle East countries became independent from world empires at about the same time. These include Egypt **1922**, Iraq **1932**, Lebanon **1943**, Syria **1946**, and Libya **1951**.
- ★ That there would be war between Israel and her neighbours, with many nearby nations trying to destroy her completely -- but never able to succeed. Almost as soon as Israel declared independence she was at war with her neighbours. Iran has stated recently that it would like to "wipe Israel off the map".
- ★ That Jerusalem would be a "burden", and that the international community would be unable to resolve disputes about it. This is also true -- Jerusalem has been the focus of crusades and continues to be a hot potato for negotiations between Israel and her neighbours.

Many of these "prophecies" appear in the Bible in symbolic language, but for people who look at them carefully the meaning has been clear for centuries. They were interpreted correctly long before the events took place. They prove to us that the Bible really is the Word of God.

Like any compassionate person, we sorrow at the pain and conflict in the Middle East. But these things also give us hope because the Bible makes extra prophecies too ... prophecies that have not yet happened: that these conflicts will get worse until Israel is in real danger. Then God will send his son Jesus back to the earth, to protect Israel and to show the world how to live in a peaceful and righteous way.

So while we look with sadness on the pain and loss suffered by many in the Middle East, we also look forward to the time when God will step in and make everything good.

*To understand how the Bible predicts these things, and how to understand the Bible message for yourself get in touch for a ...*

Free Bible  
information  
booklet about

