



Edited by  
**ANDREW DUTTON**

#### **YOUNG PRECIOUS SEED**

is a supplement of *Precious Seed*, designed for those young in the faith. Its purpose is to restate timeless truths from the word of God for a new generation of Christians and to kindle a biblical approach to current issues in the world in which we live. YPS is published by *Precious Seed*, PO Box 10544, Grantham, NG31 0HW, UK, and is available separately from the main magazine.

Volume: 22 Issue: 2  
**MAY 2025**



[YOUNG.PRECIOUSSEED](https://www.instagram.com/young.preciousseed)

## Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the May issue of YPS.

With exam preparation or other work pressures it might be a busy time just now. But with summer around the corner, God willing, it's a great time to plan how to use the holiday season for

the Lord. Why not find out if there are special outreach activities you could support, a Christian camp, or Bible teaching series you could attend? If you would like some ideas, we would be pleased to try and help at YPS.

This edition has more helpful articles and I hope that they will be a blessing to you.

Andrew Dutton

## Seeing the world through a biblical lens – Creation

ANDREW DUTTON, NORWICH, ENGLAND

'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth', Gen. 1. 1, is not only the opening statement of the Bible, but the basis to scripture that follows. It is a foundational truth on which Christians stand. If these words, along with the following record of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are disregarded, or even subtly adjusted in an attempt to fit the biblical account of creation with other world views, the truth of scripture is undermined. This leads to serious problems – if I don't accept that these chapters are the exact and accurate account of creation, how can I rely on the whole Bible, including God's way of salvation?

It is therefore important to start with the basis that 'all scripture is given by inspiration of God', 2 Tim. 3. 16, and 'thy word is truth', John 17. 17. As a believer in the Lord Jesus, my conviction should be formed on the fact that God's word is true, no matter what the world around me thinks, understands or believes.

The purpose of this article is not to show that science can agree with biblical creation, but to state some of the biblical truths relating to creation and then consider the implications to me practically. After all, I'm no scientist and there are many good resources available.<sup>1</sup>

#### **The truths stated**

- **God is eternal and there was a point in eternity when He created:** 'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God', Ps. 90. 2.
- **The Son of God was instrumental in creation:** 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made', John 1. 1-3.
- **Creation was for God's glory:** 'The heavens declare the glory of God', Ps. 19. 1.

- **God created from nothing:** 'God created the heaven and the earth . . . the earth was without form, and void', Gen. 1. 1, 2.
- **The entire universe was part of God's creation:** 'Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven?', Job 38. 31-33.
- **God created all things in six days:** 'And the evening and the morning were the sixth day', Gen. 1. 31.
- **Mankind was distinct in creation:** 'God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion', Gen. 1. 26.

#### **Implications**

So, what are the implications of the stated truths? First, because God has stated these things in His word, I believe them as true facts – without question! As a Christian, this is to be my conviction, regardless of what other voices say around me, including most schoolteachers and textbooks. This is hard, particularly for those in schools and universities that are taught opposing views, disguised as facts. As such, it's important to be prepared:

- Learn God's word, and become familiar with verses about creation, such as those above.
- Pray about the verses and ask the Lord to help you to be certain and unmovable in your own conviction. After the Apostle Paul had taught about the truth of the resurrection he said, 'God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . be ye steadfast, unmoveable', 1 Cor. 15. 57, 58.
- Recognize that it is 'through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God', Heb. 11. 3.

Second, I can praise and worship God – 'All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee', Ps. 145. 10. We can





appreciate God's great power displayed in the vast universe. But also, how amazing it is to think that we who 'were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ', Eph. 2. 13, because the eternal Son of God came to the world He created.

'Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty', Rev. 15. 3.

<sup>1</sup>For example, the reader can find helpful material at:

- YPS Series - Evidence From Nature of a Creator's Touch – [www.youngpreciousseed.org/series/evidence-from-nature-of-a-creators-touch](http://www.youngpreciousseed.org/series/evidence-from-nature-of-a-creators-touch)
- Answers in Genesis – [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)
- Creation Ministries International – [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com)

# Gone, but not forgotten. Epitaphs of the kings of Judah

RICHARD SMITH, BRIDGE OF WEIR, SCOTLAND



All quotations are taken from the New King James Bible

## 2. Comparisons with David

How do I know if I am a success? A useful tool is comparison. Observing others to identify the differences or similarities and decide our status. Children compare who got the biggest slice of cake, who is punished more severely, to determine who is the favourite child. Often, they reach the wrong conclusion! The world judges success by material things such as brand of clothing, number of likes, retweets, and so on – too often the comparison is shallow, causing dissatisfaction.

The Lord often used comparisons: two men went to the temple to pray; two men built houses; a man had two sons; two men passed the victim on the Jericho road and a third 'came where he was', Luke 10. 33. Comparison is an effective tool, and used properly gives an indicator of where we are spiritually. The temptation to think like the Pharisee in Luke chapter 18 verse 11, 'I thank You that I am not like other men', is to be avoided.

Judah's kings are sometimes compared to Israel's greatest king – David. Acts chapter 13 verse 22 quotes Samuel: the Lord had found 'a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'. Wait! What about Bathsheba? Uriah? Surely David failed. Yes, but his heart was right – he wanted what was right and, on the occasions when he failed (see Psalms 32 and 51), he was quick to repent and put the matter right with God.

When Asa was confronted with his failure, in his rage he imprisoned his accuser. When faced with his sin, David repented immediately and put the matter right. That is the reason that 'his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father', 1 Kgs. 15. 3 ESV. The recorder does give Asa his due: when he does good, we are told, 'Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did his father David', 1 Kgs. 15. 11. He was different to David in the matter of **repentance**.

Later we come to Amaziah, a man who appeared to be doing well, but scratching the surface reveals that he encouraged idolatry in the nation, even making offerings to idols, 2 Chr. 25. He went to war against Israel despite God's instruction. 'He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a loyal

heart', 2 Chr. 25. 2; 'not like his father David', 2 Kgs. 14. 3. He differed from David in **reality**.

Amaziah's great-grandson was Ahaz. His was a reign of failure. He walked in the idolatry of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his son to an idol. Besieged by Syria and Israel, he surrendered to the Assyrians, removing the treasures from the House of God, giving them, and his liberty to them, 'I am your servant and your son', 2 Kgs. 16. 7. What a difference with David! Ahaz 'did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God, as his father David had done', 2 Kgs. 16. 2. The contrast with David is in his **rebellion**.

Ahaz's son was Hezekiah, his great-grandson Josiah. These were remarkable kings. They discovered the word and worship of God, and though neither were perfect they were reforming, diligent kings, determined to make a difference for God. Hezekiah 'did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done', 2 Kgs. 18. 3; Josiah 'did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left', 2 Kgs. 22. 2. They were the same as David in their **resolve**. Perhaps the reason for Josiah's resolve was his decision, 'while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David', 2 Chr. 34. 3.

What about us?

- **Repentance:** How do I respond to sin? By sinning again? By covering it with more sin? Or by confessing, repenting, with a determination to return to my former devotion?
- **Reality:** Is my life just for show? Is what I do more important than who I am? The Lord knows and judges the motive as well as the action.
- **Rebellion:** Is my life rebellious? Set against the truths of scripture, am I determined to please myself?
- **Resolve:** Let's resolve to put ourselves behind us, to prize what God would prize, to look at the positive example of a man like David, and, in the words of Paul, 'forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus', Phil. 3. 13, 14 ESV.



# Christian basics – establishing Christian friendships

STUART SCAMMELL, CARDIFF, WALES

**‘A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother’, Prov. 18. 24.**

Social media is a huge influence on us today. Many have an online persona that may actually reflect very little of the reality in their lives. Everyone has a need to be accepted, and, for some, popularity is very important. Social media often measures this by the number of likes, or the amount of ‘friends’ we have online. The verse in Proverbs would remind us that true friends are not superficial acquaintances that we meet in passing, or that we might send a friend request to. True friends are people who earn our trust through their actions, and this is a two-way street. The verse tells us that a true friend is invaluable and can be closer even than family. These friends will be lifelong, will see past our faults and should be cherished.

Christian friendship is so important to the life we lead for our Lord. I look back to my teenage years and I am thankful for Christian friends who encouraged me and offered a sense of community.

Many will have school friends that will be loyal, loving, and supportive, yet, ultimately, they will have very different values, dreams, and ambitions. We value these friendships and would prayerfully seek to tell them about our Saviour, but increasingly they will encourage us to participate in activities, frequent places, and talk about things that would be detrimental to our spiritual progress.

As I look back at my younger days, sadly many of my Christian friends are no longer walking with God. It is very possible that they grew to love what this world has to offer, or maybe followed popularity, feeling the need to fit in. We are reminded in Romans chapter 12 verse 2 not to ‘be conformed to this world’. God warns of this for a reason. In John chapter 14 verse 30, the devil is described as the prince or ruler of this world. This world is set up to take us away from God. It will rob us of our time, change our outlook, and lead us to have goals and ambitions that are not spiritual.

In 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10, we read of Demas. Paul, in Philemon verse 24 described him as his fellow labourer, but here we read that he deserted Paul because he found the things the world had to offer so appealing. That is extremely sad; Demas turned to the pleasures of this world for whatever time he had left in his life, but missed out on much. He missed out on knowing the joy of living for God and building into heavenly, eternal blessings.

Our friends undoubtedly influence us and encourage us to make choices that will benefit us, or otherwise. A true friend will lovingly point out our faults. If we don’t have our faults revealed to us, we will carry on in them and this could end in disaster. Proverbs chapter 27 verse 5 tells us that ‘Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed’. Verse 6 goes on to tell us that, ‘Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful’. These verses emphasize the value of true Christian friends, who will lovingly help us with our faults, and we should help them too.

We must also, of course, be positive. In a slightly different context, Hebrews chapter 10 verse 24 encourages us to, ‘consider one another in order to stir up love and good works’. It is a good test of how good a friend really is, if through their conversation and encouragement, we are brought closer to God, His work, and to display Christian love.

In the UK at least, there are far fewer Christians than in previous generations and certainly fewer in assembly fellowship. We must be careful not to isolate ourselves in our home assemblies, where there might be only a few younger believers. Our local assembly is where we are called to serve and help one another, and we should be regularly gathering and becoming more involved. However, we should make every effort to attend meetings at other assemblies, Bible study weeks and weekends. Here we will not only learn more from the word of God, but we will establish good friendships that can be vital to our spiritual wellbeing and help us to live meaningful lives serving the Lord, whom we love because He first loved us.



# Saints' CVs: Charles Thomas Studd

BY JEREMY SINGER, BRIDGE OF WEIR, SCOTLAND

## CHARLES THOMAS STUDD 1860-1931

Pick up any cricket encyclopaedia and flick through it; you will soon find the entry for C. T. Studd. This is what Cricinfo says about him:<sup>1</sup>

'A great batsman, a fine field and a high-class bowler, CT Studd developed his powers so rapidly that, while still at Cambridge, he was in the best Eleven of England. He possessed a fine upright style in batting and was particularly strong on the off-side. He bowled right-hand rather above medium pace and, tall of build, brought the ball over from a good height. In 1882 he made 118 for Cambridge University and 114 for the M.C.C. against probably the strongest bowling Australia ever sent to this country'.

Studd was the Ian Botham or Freddie Flintoff of his day – a world-class all-round cricketer. In two seasons, he 'did the double', scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets. He played in the first Ashes match between England and Australia. Studd's name is contained within a poem written on the original Ashes urn.

He had a privileged upbringing; as the son of a wealthy Victorian landowner, he was educated at Eton College and Cambridge University, two of the most prestigious education institutions in the UK. When Studd was a teenager, his father was saved during a gospel meeting where D. L. Moody was preaching. Immediately, Studd senior started inviting travelling preachers to visit his country manor, Tedworth House. Within a year, C. T. Studd and his two brothers were saved, along with other people in the neighbourhood.

During his time at Cambridge, Studd was convicted about serving the Lord as a missionary. The famous Hudson Taylor was visiting Cambridge, and his message provoked Studd, along with six other young men, to volunteer to serve with the China Inland Mission. The Cambridge Seven<sup>2</sup> caught the attention of the country, leading to a nationwide tour of speaking engagements. Many others were saved and later devoted their lives to missionary work.

While in China, Studd married Priscilla Stewart who was a fellow missionary.<sup>3</sup> He also received a vast inheritance from his father, but Studd renounced this fortune, choosing to donate it to charitable causes including George Muller's orphanage in Bristol.

C. T. Studd and Priscilla were sent home from China due to

poor health. However, they later became missionaries in India for several years. Finally, Studd

elected to travel to Africa. He had been attracted to a meeting about African mission work by a notice which read, 'Cannibals want missionaries'.<sup>4</sup> He died in what was then the Belgian Congo in 1931. Studd was the founder of the World Evangelisation Crusade (WEC), a missionary organization that remains in operation today.

I think the most striking image of C. T. Studd is found in a pair of photographs from Studd's biography by his son-in-law, Norman Grubb.<sup>5</sup> The first photo shows the magnificent Tedworth House, set in the beautiful English countryside. The second photo shows Studd outside a ramshackle wooden hut in Africa. The pictures are accompanied by a verse caption, 'Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt', Heb. 11. 26.

Studd was renowned for forceful words and challenging poetry. He often offended people with his uncompromising and challenging tone. Some of his most famous quotations are listed below.

- Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.<sup>6</sup>
- Some wish to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.<sup>7</sup>
- If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.<sup>8</sup>

Studd leaves a tremendous legacy as an inspirational missionary pioneer. His Cricinfo biography goes on to say, 'Unhappily for English cricket, C. T. Studd was not seen in the field after 1884'. Happily for the gospel, Studd exchanged the cricket field for the mission field, renouncing sporting glory for his Master's service. 'And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life', Matt. 19. 29.

The books listed in the footnotes are all excellent reading – swashbuckling missionary stories about C. T. Studd and his service for the Lord.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.espncricinfo.com/cricketers/charles-studd-20398>.

<sup>2</sup> JOHN POLLOCK, *The Cambridge Seven*, Christian Focus, 2006 (revised edition).

<sup>3</sup> EILEEN VINCENT, *CT Studd and Priscilla*, STL Books, 1988.

<sup>4</sup> GORDON PETTIE, *No Sacrifice Too Great*, Sovereign World, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> NORMAN GRUBB, *CT Studd: Cricketer and Pioneer*, Lutterworth Press, 1933.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 145.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 170.

<sup>8</sup> GORDON PETTIE, *op. cit.*, pg. 219.