

30th August

Memory Verse

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved,
we have a building of God,
an house not made with hands,
eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1

This verse tells Christians about our home in heaven. The “earthly house of this tabernacle” is our body. It is a tabernacle or tent. We live in it here on earth. One day we will die and it will “dissolve”. We have an eternal building waiting for us!

One of the most important events of ancient history was the siege and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. The siege finally came to an end on **30th August**. We learned a little about what happened in the siege in the lesson for June 5th. The Emperor Domitian constructed a great triumphal arch in Rome to celebrate the victory. You can see it in the picture on the right. If you look back at the lesson for 5th June you can see the carvings on the arch. If you did that lesson you will also remember that Jesus had warned his disciples that a terrible destruction was coming on the city. In Luke 21:5-38 we read that he told them that the temple would be destroyed. He told them that, before the destruction of the city and the temple took place, they would be persecuted and hated. Some of them, he said, would even be put to death. He would give them wisdom to answer their persecutors – even kings and judges – when they were put on trial. We can read about how all this came to pass in the Book of Acts. But Jesus went on to warn them that as soon as they saw Jerusalem surrounded by armies they should flee for their lives to the mountains. Anyone who ran *into* the city for safety would not survive. This all came to pass in AD 70.



With the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem the old Jewish worship with its temple sacrifices came to an end. Those sacrifices all pointed forward to the Lord Jesus and his death for sinners. They were no longer needed after Jesus died; everything that they depicted had come to pass.

A story from science history

On **30th August** 1909 an American palaeontologist or fossil expert, Charles Doolittle Walcott made a remarkable discovery.

Walcott had just returned from England. He had been there to join in the celebration of Charles Darwin's centenary.¹ He had met Henry Woodward,² curator of the Natural History Museum. He talked to Woodward about his work in the Canadian Rockies and Woodward had suggested he look for more fossils on Mount Field.



Walcott went straight to Mount Field when he returned to the Rockies. To get there he had to travel through a pass that had been constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway to promote tourism in the

¹ See the lesson for 19th April.

² We met Henry Woodward in the lesson for 24th May.

area. His route lay along what is *now* called Fossil Ridge. On 30th August he made the first finds of some amazing fossils. Most fossils consist of the hard parts of an animal such as its bones or shell but these fossils had had soft parts preserved too!

Walcott had found the Burgess Shale, a fossil-bearing deposit, now famous for the exceptional preservation of the soft parts of its fossils. Exploration of the Burgess Shale revealed over 120 species of marine (sea dwelling) invertebrates (creatures that do not have a backbone). The fossils are mostly of soft bodied creatures and some are so well preserved that details such as food in their stomachs can be seen.

For soft tissue to be preserved in a fossil it must be buried very quickly. Any dead soft bodied creature that is left lying about gets eaten by scavengers or rots away. Charles Darwin himself thought that completely soft bodied creatures could not be fossilised. The creatures in the Burgess Shale seem to have been buried almost instantly. One creature, an arthropod, is in the very act of moulting its skin – something that happens very quickly. The fine layers of the Burgess Shale were obviously deposited in a rush, dumping the fossils higgledy-piggledy in very turbulent conditions. This is exactly what we would expect to find as the result of the flood of Genesis 6 – 8.³

Something to do

If you did the lessons for 24th May and 21st August, you might have made your own fossils and also done your own fossil dig. Today would be a good day to do this if you did not do it earlier. If you did have a dig in May you might like to have another one today in a different spot. You could get out the fossils you made and put them on display. There are ideas for making your own museum in the lesson for July 12th and your home made fossils and fossil finds would be good exhibits. If you started a museum in July, why not make some more fossils to put in it today?

3 Watch a short clip showing examples of the fossils and views of the Burgess Shale here: <https://creation.com/media-center/youtube/fossil-graveyards-point-to-global-flood>.