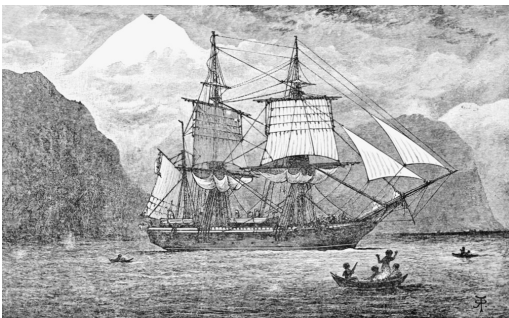


## The Beagle and the Man of Steel

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 1831 HMS Beagle set sail from Plymouth Sound. She was going to South America. The crew had a special job. It was to make charts of the coast. Charts are maps of the sea. In charge was Captain Robert FitzRoy. He had scientists with him too. They would observe the lands they were seeing. They would make notes of the animals. They would make notes of the rocks and plants. They would find out many things about the world. A young man called Charles Darwin went too. He wanted to look at plants, animals and rocks. He wanted to collect some of them and take them home.



Charles Darwin took a book about rocks with him to read on the ship. He collected many plants. He observed many animals. He thought hard about what he saw. When he came home he wrote down an idea. It was an idea about where plants, animals and people all come from.

Charles Darwin's idea was that once upon a time there were no living things on the earth. Then there arose a very simple living thing. Gradually living things like this one changed. They changed into more complicated living things, some of one kind some of another. Then these things gradually changed too, into more complicated living things some of one kind and some of another. He thought this kept happening. He thought it kept happening for a very, very long time. He thought that was where all the plants, animals and people on earth came from. He thought living things were getting better and better. He thought this happened because the living things that were weaker died. Only the stronger ones were left. They would breed stronger plants and animals. The weaker ones of those would die. Animals and plants would keep on getting better and better. He wrote his ideas down in books.

Was he right? No. We know he was wrong. The Bible tells us that God made everything in the world. He did it in six days. He did not take a very, very long time. When Adam sinned things got worse not better. Darwin thought his idea was scientific. That means he thought you could see that it was true. He thought you could see if you looked very carefully. Darwin's idea was wrong. No matter how carefully people looked they could not see that it was true. But that did not stop them believing it. "We do not need to believe the Bible any more," they thought. "The Bible tells us how to behave. We want

to behave just as we like!” They were glad when Darwin told them his idea. “God did not make us!” They said. “This is a scientific idea. We can do just as we like.” Most people believed Darwin's idea. “Everyone believes it,” they said, “so that means it must be true.”

Is something true because most people think so? No, of course not. Sometimes things were seen that made Darwin's idea look wrong. Did people stop believing it? No. If they stopped believing it they would have to remember God.

All over the world there were people who read Darwin's books. Some of them thought they could help the world get better and better. “If we help things will be perfect,” they said. In Germany the leader killed anyone he thought was not perfect. “That will help Germany be a better race,” he said. “It will speed up Darwin's idea.”

Other world leaders said, “We can make everyone happy. We can make sure everyone has enough food. It will be hard at first. In the end it will be good.” In China the leader thought like this. His way of “helping” was cruel. He put many, many people to death. His plan did not work. Many, many people starved. The same thing happened in other countries.

In Russia the leader called himself “Man of Steel”. He meant his name to show how hard he was. As hard as steel. He believed Darwin's idea. “There is no God,” he thought. “Darwin's idea proves it. I want to make Russia great. I want to make the people happy. But not all the people agree with me. I will have to kill them. Then I can carry out my plans. It does not matter. There is no God.” In Russia there was a shortage of food. The Man of Steel thought he could solve the problem. In 1929 on 27<sup>th</sup> December he made an announcement. “We will kill all the rich farmers and take their land,” he said. His plan did not work. Many, many people starved.

Will there never be a happy time, then? Will there never be a time when everyone has enough? What does the Bible say? The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus will come again. Then everything will be put right. All God's children will live praising Him forever. It will never come to an end!