

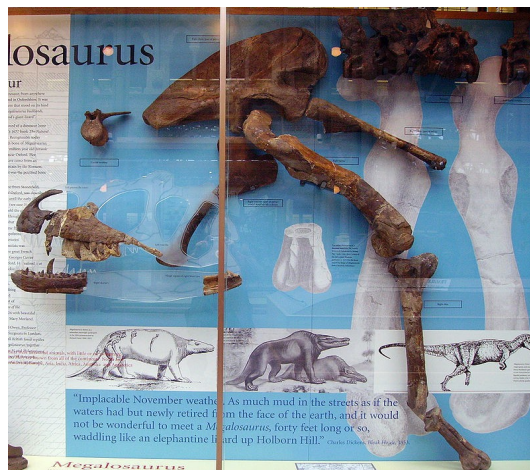
February 20<sup>th</sup>

### Memory Verse

Thou therefore **endure hardness,**  
**as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** 2 Timothy 2:3

This verse tells us that Christians are soldiers. That does not mean that we fight people and hurt them with weapons in order to spread the gospel. True Christians spread the gospel by telling people about the Lord Jesus not by fighting wars with them. This makes Christianity different from many false religions which teach their followers to force others to join them by fighting against them. How are Christians soldiers then? Christians have to fight sin in their own lives. This is one way of being a Christian Soldier. We have to resist the devil when he tempts us to do wrong. Christians are like soldiers too when they tell the gospel message to others. When the gospel spreads it is like a victorious army claiming territory for its king. Younger children can learn the words in bold.

### Something to read from science history<sup>1</sup>



Do you know which was the very first dinosaur ever discovered? The *Megalosaurus*,<sup>2</sup> which means “great lizard,” is often considered the first dinosaur ever discovered in modern times. It was originally named by William Buckland in 1824, but some reports say it was discovered as early as 1676! The Rev. William Buckland, F.R.S. F.L.S. President of the Geological Society, and Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Oxford read a *Notice on the Megalosaurus or great Fossil Lizard of Stonesfield* to the Geological Society on **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, 1824 in which he explained this creature in detail. William Buckland was an colourful personality.

Church of England clergymen in the nineteenth century seem to have had plenty of spare time for scientific, botanical, geological and historical pursuits and William Buckland was no exception, combining the post with that of an Oxford professor. He insisted on doing his outdoor fieldwork in an academic gown and his lectures were dramatic. He used charts and maps and a whole display case of fossils behind which he would pace up and down while lecturing (indoors!) and when describing dinosaurs he would energetically demonstrate what he imagined were their movements. All this made his lectures popular and they were generally very well attended. One of his students, Henry Acland, described his methods:

He had in his hand a huge hyaena's skull. He suddenly dashed down the steps – rushed skull in hand at the first undergraduate on the front bench and shouted ‘What rules the world?’ The youth, terrified, threw himself against the next back seat, and answered not a word. He rushed then on to me, pointing the hyaena full in my face – ‘What rules the world?’ ‘Haven't an idea’, I said. ‘The stomach, sir’, he cried (again mounting the rostrum) ‘rules the world. The great ones eat the less, the less the lesser still.’<sup>3</sup>

1 Information from <https://answersingenesis.org/creationism/old-earth/deep-time-and-churchs-compromise-historical-background/> and other sources.

2 Image of Megalosaurus remains By Ballista at the English-language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6327707>

3 Gordon, Mrs [E.O.]. 1894. The life and correspondence of William Buckland, D.D., F.R.S., sometime Dean of Westminster, twice president of the Geological Society, and first president of the British Association. John Murray, London, XVI + 288 pp. quoted in <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/learning/pdfs/buckland.pdf>

William Buckland began his career in geology believing that much of what he saw in his geological investigations was attributable to the flood of Noah's day. However, he thought that the evidence for this was in the physical features of the continents and the surface sands and gravel only. There are thousands of metres of sedimentary (laid down by water) rocks that are found *beneath* the surface sands and gravel. This, he considered, must have been laid down gradually through vast ages of time. How could he reconcile that with the Bible? He adopted Thomas Chalmer's Gap Theory,<sup>4</sup> a theological compromise that destroys the relationship between sin and the entry of death and suffering into the world while providing no useable framework into which the nineteenth century interpretation of geological phenomena could be fitted.

He wrote:

The myriads of petrified Remains which are disclosed by the researches of Geology all tend to prove that our Planet has been occupied in times preceding the Creation of the Human Race, by extinct species of Animals and Vegetables, made up, like living Organic Bodies, of 'Clusters of Contrivances,' which demonstrate the exercise of stupendous Intelligence and Power.

Buckland preferred to twist what the Bible says rather than adapt his interpretation of the geological evidence. This was because he considered that geological evidence was more reliable than the Bible. The rocks, he argued, could not be changed. They were there for all to see. Written evidence, on the other hand, is subject to error, change and uncertainty. This of course not only rules out God's providence in preserving His Word but also substitutes the *interpretation* of the geological evidence for the evidence *itself*. While the rock may not change, ideas about why they are the way they are certainly do.

Watch out for more lessons about dinosaurs on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> November.<sup>5</sup>

### Map work<sup>6</sup>



On 20<sup>th</sup> February 1953 Snooty, a black and white cat, arrived at her old home in Windermere. In September 1952 Snooty's owners had moved away to Cheshire, taking Snooty with them. But Snooty did not feel at home in Cheshire and after some weeks she went missing. On 20<sup>th</sup> February Mr and Mrs Tom Hoggart, who now owned Snooty's old home in Windermere, woke up to find her waiting on the doorstep. Snooty was none the worse for her long walk which had taken her four months but everyone realised she would have to be allowed to stay in Windermere now. Mr and Mrs Hoggart kindly adopted her – or perhaps we should say Snooty adopted them!

4 See lesson for 17<sup>th</sup> March – yet to come.

5 5<sup>th</sup> November yet to come.

6 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 1 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/> and information from <https://creation.com/moths-navigating-by-the-stars>, <https://creation.com/magnetic-navigation> and other sources.

Get out your atlas and find Windermere. What kind of geographical feature is it? Suppose Snooty's starting point had been **Nantwich**, Cheshire and her finishing point **Ambleside**, Windermere, how far had she travelled? If she started from Cheshire on 20<sup>th</sup> October how many days had she spent walking? I calculated that Snooty had covered less than a mile a day. Why do you think that was?<sup>7</sup>

The thing that amazes us about such stories is the ability of animals to find their way around. If we were setting out from Cheshire to Windermere we would rely on maps, sign posts and nowadays probably a satnav. Animals have none of these things and until quite recently no one had much of an inkling about how they found their way over long distances.<sup>8</sup> Many creatures, even some moths, we now know, are able to navigate. Some use the position of the sun in the sky and even the pattern of polarised light. Many creatures use the earth's magnetic field. A study of cattle done in 2008 surveyed Google Earth images of 8,510 grazing and resting cattle in 308 pasture plains across the globe. The researchers found that whether grazing or resting, there was a discernable tendency for cattle, and also deer, to align their bodies with the earth's magnetic field.<sup>9</sup> It seems that a wide range of creatures possess a magnetic sense.

Famous evolutionist and pioneer of population genetics, J B S Haldane (1892-1964) once said that evolution could never produce, “various mechanisms, such as the... magnet, which would be useless till fairly perfect.”<sup>10</sup> How right he was!

### Something to listen to or play yourself!



Carl Czerny (1791-1857) was born on **20<sup>th</sup> February**. A brilliant pianist, piano teacher and also a composer, Czerny is famous for his piano studies which not only teach the young pianist various necessary skills but are also tuneful and enjoyable to play. Czerny began giving piano lessons when he was just 15. Many of his pupils were rich aristocrats. In the picture you can see him introducing his eleven year old pupil, Franz Liszt, to the famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven<sup>11</sup> who had been his own teacher. The young Liszt lived in the same street as Czerny and the teacher, quickly spotting the youngster's natural

ability, gave him lessons free of charge. Liszt went on to become one of the most famous pianist-composers of all time.

Piano teacher Frank Huang explains why Czerny's music is so useful to those learning the piano:

We all want to get to a point where we can play Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninov *études*—the pinnacle of the piano literature. In order to reach this level, however, we need to incorporate a steady diet of scales, arpeggios, and chords, which are the building blocks of Western literature, as well as the appropriate repertoire. I also propose that one should add Czerny exercises to the mix because they allow students to further develop these fundamental skills.... they provide excellent musical value, rather than just “warm-ups” in building your fingers.... Having studied with

7 As well as sleep Snooty would have had to find food. Hunting for survival would be time consuming. Also she may not have gone a very direct route. At some point, for instance she would have had to cross the Ribble and the Mersey! Can you find another water feature she must have crossed somehow?

8 Look out for the lesson on 17<sup>th</sup> of July about migration of birds.

9 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7575459.stm>

10 <https://creation.com/cows-a-magnetic-sign-for-evolutionists>

11 More about Beethoven in the lessons for April 27<sup>th</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Beethoven, he was undoubtedly influenced and inspired by his older predecessor...When you compare other piano exercises, no other composer comes close in fusing technique and musicianship together as well as Czerny.<sup>12</sup>

If you play the piano and would like to try your hand at some Czerny I have put the score of his Op. 261, No. 13 in today's Optional Resources files.<sup>13</sup>

Beethoven was a difficult person to get on with, often irritable and impatient especially when he began to go deaf – I certainly don't think I would have enjoyed being one of his pupils – yet Czerny remained his friend until the composer's death. His autobiography and letters are one of the most important sources of information we have about Beethoven's life. Beethoven chose the young Czerny to give the first performance of his First Piano concerto: Czerny was just fifteen. Later, when he was twenty-one, he also gave the first performance of the famous fifth piano concerto, the “Emperor Concerto.”



Czerny's memory for music was prodigious and he could play most of his teacher's piano music from memory. Beethoven had a rich patron, Prince Lichnowsky, who enjoyed the composer's music very much. You can see him in the picture on the left. He would ask Czerny to come and play for him at his palace in Vienna once or twice each week. The Prince would just call out the opus<sup>14</sup> numbers of the pieces he wanted to hear and Czerny would play them for him on demand!

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pianistmagazine.com/blogs/3-reasons-why-you-should-study-czerny-exercises/>

<sup>13</sup> If you would like to listen you can find the piece here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWaSDhb43tQ> Czerny's book of graduated studies can be found here: [https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/4/4a/IMSLP245853-PMLP398579-Czerny\\_Carl-125\\_Passageneubungen\\_Op\\_261\\_Peters\\_6986-87\\_filter.pdf](https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/4/4a/IMSLP245853-PMLP398579-Czerny_Carl-125_Passageneubungen_Op_261_Peters_6986-87_filter.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> “Opus” means “work”. Publishers give each of a composer's pieces a number by which they can be identified. This is called the “opus number” or “op.” for short. Look out for more information about opus numbers in the lesson for 28<sup>th</sup> July.