

19<sup>th</sup> July

### Memory verse

**And he shewed me a pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life... Revelation 22:1,2a.

Last week's verse was from the very beginning of the Bible. This week's verses come from the final chapter. They are part of a picture of the heavenly Jerusalem. There are things here that remind us of Eden right at the beginning of Genesis. Younger children can learn the words in **bold** and understand that the speaker is an angel, sent by Jesus Christ to show John a vision of heaven.

### Map work

A famous earthly river comes into today's lesson. Follow the royal river trip by looking up the places highlighted in **green** in the story.

### Something to listen to<sup>1</sup>

On **July 19<sup>th</sup>** 1717, the following report appeared in a London Journal:

On Wednesday evening at about eight the King took water at **Whitehall** in an open barge, and went up the river towards **Chelsea**. Many other barges with persons of quality attended, so great a number of boats that the whole river was covered.

A City Company's barge was employed for the music, wherein were fifty instruments of all sorts who played all the way from **Lambeth** (while the barges drove with the tide without rowing as far as Chelsea), the finest symphonies composed for this occasion by Mr. Handel, which His Majesty liked so well that he caused it to be played over three times.



This is the origin of Handel's famous *Water Music* and today would be a good day to listen to it so find a recording.<sup>2</sup> The picture above by Canaletto (1697 – 1768) dates from a few years later and shows the Lord Mayor of London's barge not the King's but it gives an impression of what the scene would have been like.



### A story from History<sup>3</sup>

The king who enjoyed Handel's music so much was George I. Like Handel himself he came from Germany. How did we come to have a German king? It is an interesting story...

1 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 2 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVAB2z1RPu4> for instance.

3 Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 2 which is available here: <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation>. A version of this chapter also appears on *The Mothers' Companion Flashdrive* available here: <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

In the days of Queen Anne (1702-1714) dissenters (Christians who worshipped in churches that were not part of the Church of England) were prevented from studying at the universities. Then it was proposed to make a law (the Schism Act) that a licence had to be granted from a Church of England Bishop to anyone who taught anything except the very basics of reading and writing. All teachers also had to conform to the Church of England liturgy and take communion in a Church of England church at least once a year. This was designed to close down the many fine schools and academies established by the Dissenters. This measure was harsh. Schools established by Dissenters often educated poor children. The Dissenting Academies formed for those excluded from the universities were beginning to have a good reputation for scholarship. The Dissenters were only saved from the persecution which would have been unleashed by this act by the death of Anne herself. She died on the very day that the act was due to be brought into force. The Dissenters knew they could expect better things of the new king George I but would he really be able to succeed to the throne?

George I was the son of the Electress of Hanover, the granddaughter of James I. His succession to the throne had been provided for by the Act of Settlement. This was the Act passed when William III became King. He had been invited over from the Netherlands to replace James II whose persecution of his Protestant subjects had earned him the hatred of almost the whole nation. The Act of Settlement prevented any Catholic, or person married to a Catholic, from ever becoming sovereign. No one wanted another king like James II. "It has been found by experience inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this Protestant kingdom that it should be governed by a popish sovereign or by any sovereign married to a papist," noted the preamble to the Act of Settlement. Those who made this act had had experience of this very situation and wisely decided that it should not be repeated. No doubt they recalled not only the bitter experience of James's rule but also the years of arbitrary rule by his brother Charles, a secret Catholic, who, contrary to the law, ruled for so long without calling Parliament. In explaining why they found it impossible to continue with James II as king they wrote: "The late king James II ... did endeavour to subvert and extirpate the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this kingdom."<sup>4</sup>

Not everyone, however, wished to see George on the throne when Anne died. There were some important people (Tories) who would have preferred to see Catholic James Stuart, (called the Old Pretender because he pretended that he should really be king of England) restored. These Jacobites, as they were called, were led by Lord Bolingbroke. There were also the supporters of the Schism Act who were disappointed that the death of Anne and the succession of George would prevent the persecution of Dissenters. Demonstrations against the succession of George came in the form of riots during which the meeting houses of Dissenters were burned or wrecked. The disaster of a return to Catholic Stuart rule was prevented because those who opposed the Tories acted quickly on the death of Anne. George was proclaimed king and Lord Bolingbroke was prevented from offering the crown to James Stuart who was in exile in France.

George I was more of a German than an Englishman. He never learned to speak English and he preferred his German friends to Englishmen. He was always more concerned about affairs in Hanover than about England. He was fifty-four when he became king so it would have perhaps been hard for him to change his German ways and become English. Very few people in England could speak German and so communication with the new king was difficult. George could speak Latin, French and Italian and these languages generally had to be used when he was talking with his English subjects. This made it difficult for him to manage the day to day business of government and he soon stopped going to the meetings of the Council, or as it was now called the Cabinet.

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4 It is interesting to notice how often in our history the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of the country are perceived as belonging inseparably together. It has often been said that the one cannot be had without the other.

George became unpopular quite quickly. People considered he put German matters before English. Some disliked the humdrum life of George's court where the same things happened at the same time every day and there were no elaborate pageants and parties. To make things worse the king and his son, the Prince of Wales, were always quarrelling.

George was "... a great promoter of our constitutional liberties, because he knew and cared so little about things English that he left to his ministers all questions of domestic policy..."<sup>5</sup> The ministers that he chose were all Whigs (opponents of the Tories) because he knew that he owed his throne to them. George suspected all the Tories of being Jacobites and had their leaders imprisoned. His lack of trust in the Tories was generally shared by his subjects even if they were not Whig supporters themselves. Most people wanted "... peace under a Protestant King and Parliament."<sup>6</sup>

### Something to do

The fifteenth Olympiad, or Olympic Games, opened at Helsinki on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1952. The best performances of the games that year were by the Czech athlete, Emil Zátopek the "Czech Locomotive"(1922-2000). In the distance running event he won three gold medals for the 5,000 metres, the 10,000 metres and the marathon. This is something no athlete is likely to do again yet Zátopek had never run a marathon race before! Those spectators who watched his astounding performance did not know at the time that he nearly did not appear at the Helsinki Olympics at all.



After the Second World War, Czechoslovakia was taken over by Communist Russia and communism was imposed on the country. The communists exercised tight political control over the country, allowing no political freedom. One of the members of the Czech Olympic team was Stanislav Jungwirth. Jungwirth had been imprisoned for political offences and the Communist authorities refused to allow him to go to the Olympics. Zátopek refused to get on the plane to Finland until Jungwirth was allowed to go too.

Zátopek grew up in poverty. He endured the Nazi occupation of his country. He was a socialist and co-operated with the communist government of Czechoslovakia. He seems to have been a kind man, however, and came to believe in allowing political freedom, something Czech leader Alexander Dubcek called "Communism with a "human face".

In 1968 Alexander Dubcek led his country away from the Soviet style tyranny. His attempt at more freedom was called the "Prague Spring" and the Russians decided to put a stop to it. They invaded Czechoslovakia with a huge force of tanks and infantry. Alexander Dubcek and his fellow Czech leaders were captured and the Prague Radio station staff were driven out of their building at gun point.

The Czech's tried to defend themselves, making their own radio broadcasts from hiding places, destroying road signs that would help the invaders and gathering in Wenceslas Square, which filled up with Russian tanks. Western journalists soon recognised Zátopek among them, addressing the patriotic crowds of dissidents from the foot of the statue of Saint Wenceslas. Zátopek was a world sporting legend and a Czech national hero. He rushed up to the Russian soldiers and told them who he was, begging them to listen and telling them that what they were doing was damaging Communism. He told them about the Olympic spirit and the rule that bans aggressor nations from the games.

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5 Trevelyan, G. M., op. cit., p. 531.

6 Trevelyan, G. M., ibid., p. 503.

Dubcek's reforms were doomed to fail without international help. The Russians reasserted control. That Zátopek escaped with his life was probably the result of pressure exerted by athletes from the west who knew of his plight. Zátopek's cheerful and generous personality had made him popular with fellow athletes from all over the world. The athletes staged "Zátopek in danger" demonstrations and wrote to the authorities on his behalf. He was exiled to a remote area of the country and his name was removed from Czech textbooks. This was more than Zátopek could stand. Spied on and bullied he eventually gave in and retracted the things he had said. He gave evidence against his fellow dissidents. He was allowed back to Prague but the Communists never forgave him. The Dissidents could not forgive him either, to them he was a turncoat.

Czechoslovakia eventually regained her freedom in 1989 in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. A free parliament was elected with Alexander Dubcek as speaker. But Zátopek was a hero no longer.

Zátopek's success as a runner was partly due to his rigorous training. If you did the running training suggested in the lesson for June 18<sup>th</sup> make sure you are keeping it up. Have another go if you have let it lapse. If you have not done the June 18<sup>th</sup> lesson look at the suggestions on the second page of the lesson. They would apply to today's lesson just as well.