

9th July

Memory Verse:

If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:31b-32

Geology: Earthquakes!

On 9th July 551AD “a great and terrible earthquake occurred throughout the regions of Palestine, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Phoenicia...” This earthquake had its centre off the coast of Beirut and caused a tsunami, a huge destructive wave of water, as the underwater quake moved the sea bed and pushed water onto the land. The chronicler Antonius Placentius estimated that 30,000 people lost their lives in Beirut alone...



On 9th July 869AD there was an earthquake in the Sendai region of Japan that also caused a tsunami. Geologists have found a huge deposit of sand carried by the wave onto the land which is nearly three miles from the coast.

On 9th July 1956 an earthquake occurred with its epicentre to the south of the Greek island of Amorgos. There was a tsunami wave that ran 30 metres up onto the land. Older residents of Amorgos and nearby Santorini still recall the devastation, damage and terror that left their island home in urgent need of repair. For some time residents lived in emergency tents while the Greek army and rescue services worked to restore the island's infrastructure.

What exactly are earthquakes, where and why do they happen?

In Britain we occasionally experience very mild earthquakes but because of our location we do not get the devastating disasters that happen elsewhere in the world. If an earthquake happens here, generally, most people do not even notice.¹

Why do earthquakes happen? After Noah's Flood, the earth had to recover and settle down. The earthquakes and volcanos of today's world are the remains of the after-effects of the Flood. During the Flood there seem to have been huge earthquakes. Over time they have weakened in intensity but right after the Flood there were still terrible earthquakes. Although the earthquakes we see now in various parts of the world are devastating, the catastrophes that happened just after the flood had such immense power that they caused vast changes, eroding great areas here and depositing deep layers of sediment there until the landscape we know today was formed. But why were there so many catastrophes at that time?

During the flood, the continents had been moving and changing rapidly. As the flood ended mountains rose and the ocean basin lowered and the flood water drained away from the continents and into the oceans as a result. Even after the flood ended these changes carried on for some time, maybe for hundreds of years. Christian geologists are working on various models of the geology of the flood and its aftermath to deepen their understanding of exactly what happened.²

Why does God allow these things to happen? People who do not believe the Bible often ask, “if there is a good God, why do such things as earthquakes happen?” God created the world perfect. There were no earthquakes or tsunamis in the Garden of Eden. When man sinned he brought the whole of creation down with him in his fall. “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now,” writes the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:22. We have seen that

1 The Michigan Tech website <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/UPSeis/where.html> explains far better than I could *where* earthquakes happen with an excellent map of the earth's plates and diagrams of the faults that can cause earthquakes.
2 You can see some of their work if you look at the <https://creation.com> website.

earthquakes are the aftermath of the Flood of Noah's day which God sent to wipe out people on the earth who had become so wicked that they could think of nothing that was not evil. Earthquakes remind us of the presence of a Holy God who is angry with sin. That does not mean that the people who are caught up in an earthquake are more wicked than the rest of us. Jesus explained that God allows disasters to warn us that “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3.) The good news comes in the words “except ye repent”. There is a way back to God for every sinner through the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who belong to Him will one day join Him in a New Heaven and a New Earth full of beauty and joy with no earthquakes or any other bad things.

More about earthquakes on 8th February, 11th February, 7th June and September 28th.

Finding your way around the Bible

Have you ever wondered how the Bible came to be divided into chapters and verses? Archbishop Stephen Langton, who died on 9th July 1228, was responsible for the chapter divisions although the verse divisions came later with the 1560 Geneva Bible.

Stephen Langton's name is on Magna Carta as counsellor to King John. He had supported the Barons in their demands for more freedoms. His nickname was Stephen Linguatonam which means “tongue of thunder” – I wonder if he had a loud voice! He found it hard to find the places he needed in the Bible and so divided it up into chapters. This was so useful that we have been using his divisions ever since. It would be much harder to find your way round the Bible without them.

How well can you find your way around the Bible? The first step is to learn the names of the books of both the Old and New Testaments. This is not as hard as it sounds. Some people sing them – which is how I learned them myself. The Optional Resources files for today have the score and audio of the tune³ in case you want to do that too. You can make yourself a set of flashcards with the name of one book of the Bible on each. Make the sixty-six cards all the same size – postcard size would be good. Start with two cards, Genesis and Exodus, on the first day, shuffle them up and set them down in order. That's easy with just two cards. Next day add Leviticus, shuffle them up and set them down in order. That's still very easy. The next day add Numbers. Still easy. Carry on day by day and you will find it is never really difficult!

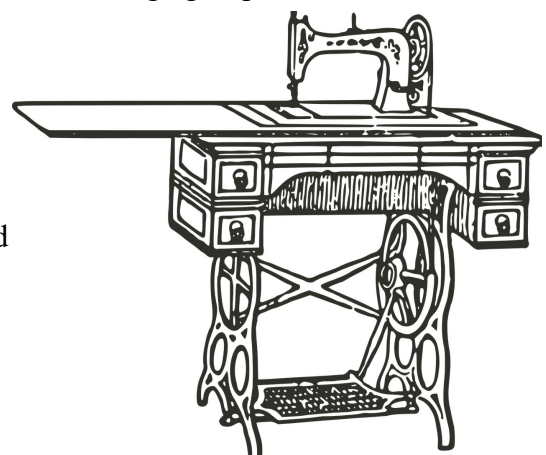
Sword drill is a game that is fun to play if there are a number of you. You need a caller who decides on some Bible verses, ideally all on a related theme. All the players need to have their Bibles. The caller gives out the reference. The players repeat it. Then the caller says “draw your swords” and the players all raise their Bibles up high in one hand – this makes the start fair. The caller says “charge” and the players find the reference as quickly as they can. The first one to read the verse aloud gets a point. A handicap has to be put in place to help younger ones, usually a few moments start is all that is needed. You can do this with teams if you have a large group.

Something to do

American Elais Howe (1819-1867) the inventor of the lockstitch sewing machine was born on 9th July. He spent years developing a functional design, and was granted a patent on his machine on 10 Sep 1846. His machine changed the way clothes were made, both in the home and in factories, speeding up production and cutting out tedious, eye-straining hand work.

If there is a sewing machine in your home, every young lady in the family should learn to use it.

One good way to start is to use the machine without any



3 Taken from the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

thread in it and a sheet of paper instead of fabric. This produces lots of little holes in the paper and you can learn how to control the speed of the machine as well as how to guide the paper along easily. You will soon find that a slow speed makes controlling the direction of the stitches easier however, to achieve a steady slow speed may take practice. You can draw lines and patterns on the paper and try to follow them with the sewing machine. Once you can control the machine using paper, you can use some scrap fabric. A sewing machine must be correctly threaded (the handbook with the machine will give you a diagram), the bobbin properly loaded and the machine should also be oiled with sewing machine oil from time to time. Once the machine is threaded and you have some scrap fabric pieces, begin by just doodling some lines as you did before. When you can control the machine you are ready for a simple project. Start with something easy such as a little square pin cushion. Dolls clothes can be fiddly but it is fun to dress your dolls yourself. When you can use a sewing machine well you can make your own clothes – which gives you much more choice and a better fit!

Something to cook

Percy Le Baron Spencer (1894-1970) was born on 9th July. He was an American engineer and inventor who, after the Second World War, worked for a company which was investigating the cavity magnetron tube invented by Sir John Randall and Dr H A Boot. This device had changed the course of the war by allowing the development of airborne radar systems. The cavity magnetron was used to produce radar microwaves. During one experiment he was conducting, Percy Le Baron Spencer noticed that a bar of chocolate which he had in his pocket had completely melted! He realised that the magnetron radiation had melted the chocolate, which led him to investigate the possibilities of using microwaves to cook food. The microwave ovens that many of us have in our kitchens are the result of his work.



If you have a microwave oven you can try this delicious recipe for flapjack in five minutes!

Ingredients

8 oz porridge oats
4 oz butter
3 oz soft brown sugar
3 tabs golden syrup
1 oz nuts
2 oz dried fruit
1 teasp. baking powder

Method

Melt the sugar and butter in a glass or pottery bowl by cooking on high for 30 seconds.
Stir in the syrup, baking powder, oats, fruit and nuts.
Mix well and turn into a buttered, shallow dish, pressing down lightly.
Cook on high for 5 minutes.
Leave to rest for 15 minutes before cutting into squares and cooling on a wire rack.