

21<sup>st</sup> June

### Memory verse

**While the earth remaineth,  
seedtime and harvest,  
and cold and heat,  
and summer and winter,  
and day and night  
shall not cease.** Genesis 8:22

This is the promise that God gave after the flood of Noah. Dramatic changes in climate were about to take place and the world that Noah and his family saw when they left the ark would have been totally unrecognisable to them. God's promise must have been a great comfort to them in this new situation.

This is quite a long text for little ones to learn but it is set out above in a way that will make learning it easier. Older ones could try it out in sign language too.<sup>1</sup> Always try to learn the reference that shows where your memory verse is found. The reference is important because if you learn it you will always know where to find the context of the verse. The context is the surroundings in which the verse is placed and helps us understand what the verse means.



### Something to read from History<sup>2</sup>

The oldest building in Britain was constructed to create a special effect at sunrise on Midsummer Day. Today is Midsummer Day and here is the story of this gigantic building. It includes an exciting discovery that was announced not long ago that sheds new light on the construction and history of Britain's most iconic megalith.<sup>3</sup> **When** was it built? **How** was it built? **Why** was it built?

**When.** When Noah and his family left the ark after the worldwide flood recorded in Genesis in the Bible, they found the world much changed. Not only was the climate different; there were great ranges of mountains.<sup>4</sup> Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth and their wives settled down and raised families and people began to multiply on the earth again. God told them to spread out over the earth but the people did not want to do this. Instead they stayed together and began to build a great tower, the Tower of Babel. So God split people up by confusing their language and people began to scatter over the earth. In many places where the groups of people settled, they built huge towers, pyramids or other structures. As they had done at Babel, they persisted in worshipping the

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1 18<sup>th</sup> June's lesson.

2 Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 1 which is available here: <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation>.

3 A megalith is a great stone monument

4 See Lesson for 18<sup>th</sup> June.

“host of heaven”, in rebellion against God.

Stonehenge, a huge circle of stones on **Salisbury Plain** is a British monument that remains standing today as a witness to this rebellion but exactly when was it built?

There is a fascinating answer to that question that has been discovered very recently. Archaeologists have noticed that Stonehenge seems to have been built in two stages. There is a first stage of building, which secular archaeologists date to 3000-2935BC then they find no activity except burials at the site until the second stage of building which they date to 2640-2480BC. These dates are calculated according to a secular time scale of history. Recently, using studies in genetics, Nathaniel Jeansen, a Christian geneticist in America, has produced a timeline of world history that fits with the timescales outlined in the Book of Genesis in the Bible. Without going into details of how he does his calculations,<sup>5</sup> his model of early history would adjust these dates for the two periods of work on Stonehenge to around 1950BC and around 1850BC. The significance of this is how it fits in with something that we know of from elsewhere that tells us *why* the builders may have stopped building. Using his Biblical timescale, Dr Jeansen found that somewhere in the period between 1950BC and 1850BC comes the great famine of Genesis 41 and 42 which was “over all the face of the earth” (Genesis41:56) in the time of Joseph.<sup>6</sup> No wonder the builders had to stop work!<sup>7</sup>

**How.** All that remains to us now of the houses of the Ancient Britons are the holes where the posts of their wooden houses were placed. However, that does not mean they did not have great building skills; Stonehenge proves that they did. Huge stones were brought to the site. The Sarsen Stones (see below) came from the **Marlborough Downs** and the so called Blue Stones from the Preseli hills in **Pembrokeshire**, West Wales, where only recently archaeologists discovered evidence of ancient quarrying in outcrops of rock. The larger blocks are called ‘Sarsen’ stones, because that is the name for the form of sandstone impregnated with silica of which they are made. These weigh about 23 tonnes each, with the largest, called the Heel Stone (see below), weighing 32 tonnes. The stones themselves were shaped with great skill and have special grooves cut into them to prevent them moving out of place. Clever engineering devices must have been used to put the stones in place. Measuring rods were used to position the stones. It has been shown that rods of the same length were used throughout Britain at this far off time and there was a standard yard measuring 829cm.<sup>8</sup> Heaps of stone chippings and also stone hammers have been found on the site showing that the great stones were worked on on the spot. The design of the stone circle was carefully laid out using principles of geometry which we usually think of as having been discovered much later in history.<sup>9</sup>

**Why** did the Ancient Britons build Stonehenge? It was not a house to live in or a fortress for defence. We have seen how there was rebellion at the time of Babel. The settlers in Britain probably worshipped the sun, moon and stars. Stonehenge may have been built to be used for this pagan worship and also for accurate observation<sup>10</sup> of the movements of the sun and moon. At midsummer,

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5 You can find out all about this here:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP297DOy-Pc&list=PL1v9pqs4w1mwrGlCET76Rs99Fx0EfJXE4> Dr Jeansen's research has been released in a series of 24 videos and a book is forthcoming in 2021.

6 Consultation with Christian geologists confirms that climatic conditions would have been likely to cause widespread famine at this period.

7 Dr Jeansen's conclusions are tentative at the moment but certainly worth watching. If he is correct, a whole new window onto ancient history is opening up thanks to the new science of genetics and only those who understand that the Bible is a true historical record will be able to look through it!

8 A yard is a unit of measurement roughly equivalent to a metre. The modern yard is about 0.92m.

9 You can read more about the construction and see diagrams of how it might have been done here: <https://creation.com/stonehenge>.

10 Observation means watching. People still watch the movements of the sun, moon and stars today and we call buildings made for this purpose observatories. We can think of the stone circles as the first observatories to be built in Britain.

“on the summer solstice<sup>11</sup> [21<sup>st</sup> June], the sun rises behind the Heel Stone in the north-east part of the horizon and its first rays shine into the heart of Stonehenge.”<sup>12</sup>

Accurate observation of the movements of the heavenly bodies gave the priests of their religion great power.<sup>13</sup> Because the priests could predict accurately the movements of the heavenly bodies, people would assume that they had been given this knowledge by the gods and would trust them to predict the future in other ways also. The musical note given by the Blue Stones when struck must have seemed magical too. When the Ancient Britons made Stonehenge they were trying to do what their ancestors had failed to do when they began to build the tower of Babel.

### Map Work

There are some places highlighted in green that you could look up. How far did the stones have to be moved?

### Something to think about

The builders of Stonehenge had *lost* the knowledge of God that their forefather Noah had possessed. This is why they gathered to worship the hosts of heaven at Stonehenge. Since Christianity became well known in Britain in the days of Alfred the Great and perhaps much earlier, this great heathen megalith was no longer used for Pagan worship. It became one of the earliest “tourist attractions” with visitors coming to Salisbury plain to marvel at the great stones. Archaeological work began there in 1620 under the patronage of James I.

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century attempts to use the Megalith for a festival of pagan worship by New Age Travellers coincided with the re emergence of pagan religion in Britain. The knowledge of the true God was being *lost* again and pagan worship was one of the results. English Heritage/National Trust now “manages” the Solstice at Stonehenge, promoting what it describes as the “spiritual” aspects of the site. The New Age Travellers of the twentieth century wanted to climb all over the stones and use the megalith for a rock concert. That has been deemed “not allowed” because it would damage the monument. The authorities instead promote a kind of sanitised paganism with free entrance, but limited parking and careful policing of the “event” to ensure no damage is done. How sad that such wonderful news as the gospel is becoming lost! The thought should stir us up to tell out the gospel to others in every way that we can.

### Something to paint

On the next page is a painting of Stonehenge by John Constable (1776-1837). Constable painted this picture using water colours.<sup>14</sup> There is an outline of an Iris flower in the Optional Resources file for today which you could colour using water colour technique. You could use the gridded picture on the right to make your own larger outline picture of Stonehenge and then paint it in water colours. See 27<sup>th</sup> May's lesson for how to use a grid. Constable himself used a



11 To understand more about the solstice see: <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/earth/enjoy-extra-daylight-summer-solstice>. For the winter solstice see the lesson for December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

12 English Heritage Website for Stonehenge. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/things-to-do/solstice>

13 See *King Solomon's Mines* below.

14 If you would like to learn how to use water colours you could watch

grid for this painting.<sup>15</sup>



This painting comes from a sad period in Constable's life and it has rather a miserable, grey look about it. Even the huge double rainbow is only suggested in the sky without the vibrant colours we saw in Millais' painting in 1<sup>st</sup> June's lesson.

Joseph Turner (1775-1851) also painted Stonehenge in water colour but his is a much more



dramatic picture. A violent storm is crossing Salisbury Plain and has left the poor shepherd and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye23IkKlc-4> You only need a cheap paintbox and a good brush to do this tutorial.

15 You can see his original sketch, which is in the British Museum, here:

[https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P\\_1888-0215-38](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1888-0215-38). Look carefully and you will see some grid lines on the sketch!

some of his sheep in the foreground dead – struck by lightning!

More about Stonehenge tomorrow.

### Something to remember

Get your atlas out for this next story from history because it ranges over quite a lot of Europe! Plot the story with the places marked in **green**.



On **21<sup>st</sup> June** Christians in the **Czech Republic** remember a sad event in their history. They remember the **Prague Old Town Square Executions of 1621** which was an important event in the history of their country. Those who were executed, some in most brutal ways, were the leaders of Bohemia which had risen against its rulers who were trying to force Roman Catholicism on the country. The events that led up to this horrible episode have a significance far beyond Bohemia, or as it is now called the

Czech Republic, because they led to the Thirty Years' war in Europe. This war laid waste, not only Bohemia but large parts of **Germany** too.

Bohemia was the country of John Hus (1372-1415) who was a reformer and martyr, influenced by reading the works of John Wycliffe.<sup>16</sup> Bohemia's king was the Catholic Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor. The Emperor Rudolf II (1552-1612) had granted his subjects in Bohemia religious freedom by means of a special letter called the “Letter of Majesty.” When, not long after issuing the letter, Rudolf died and was succeeded by Matthias, the letter was ignored. Protestant churches were demolished by imperial soldiers or forcibly closed and protests to the emperor were ignored. Discontent grew in Bohemia until it erupted in an event known as the Defenestration of Prague when two of the emperor's governors were thrown out of a window into the moat far below. The Bohemians rebelled in earnest and at first succeeded, advancing until they were in a position to threaten **Vienna** itself, the seat of Hapsburg power.

But things did not go well for the Bohemians after that. In 1620 they were defeated near Prague at the Battle of the White Mountain or Bila Hora, fought on a hillock outside the city. It took just one hour for the imperial forces to be victorious. Matthias had been succeeded by the Emperor Ferdinand II, who was even more determined to have no religious freedom in his dominions. His army with its skilled commander, General Tilly, was more than a match for the rebels. The king they had chosen for themselves, Frederick V (1596-1632)<sup>17</sup> was defeated and only just escaped with his life to the **Netherlands**.

Bohemia suffered a wave of violent repression by Tilly and his soldiers of which the Old Town Square Executions formed a part. The Protestant church of Bohemia was almost wiped out. At least 30,000 families fled the country. Many were able to escape to the Netherlands. The Emperor continued his campaign and Tilly then ravaged the **Palatinate**<sup>18</sup> where Frederick V was the Elector. The conflict engulfed the whole of Germany for 30 years.

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16 See the lessons for February 1<sup>st</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June (coming soon).

17 His wife was Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of James I of England.

18 You will not easily be able to find this area. It consisted of a number of small territories in two groups the Upper and Lower Palatinate the larger of which clustered around the Rhine with **Heidelberg** as its capital.