

22nd 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

Something to do



In the lesson for March 8th there is a piece about being an archaeologist and conducting a dig in your own garden. If you did not do this activity then, today would be a good day to do it. If you *did* do it in March why not conduct another dig today?

The archaeologist in the picture is sitting on the edge of a trench. Trenching is a method archaeologists use to work bit by bit through a section of a site. Nowadays in Britain health and safety laws make trenching very expensive to carry out. Archaeologists are often forced to rely on a method known as mechanical coring instead. This uses a powerful device like a giant apple-corer to pull up a long cylinder of ground for examination. Watch out for this

method in the account below.

Today's lesson follows on from yesterday's as an important announcement was made on 22nd June 2020 that relates to Stonehenge. Archaeologists often get big surprises but the one that was announced on 22nd June was enormous. A couple of miles to the north east of Stonehenge the largest find of its kind was unearthed on Salisbury Plain. This is a huge circle, *over a mile wide*, marked out by great shafts in the ground. The shafts are 5 metres deep and up to 20 metres wide and they enclose an area which includes structures already discovered known as Durrington Walls and Woodhenge.

Some very interesting techniques were used to locate this circle including measuring the earth's magnetic field by means of a fluxgate gradiometer, a survey using ground penetrating radar and mechanical coring.

When was this newly discovered circle made? The radio carbon methods¹ used to date shell and bone finds at the site use assumptions that give distorted results. They put the circle at dates before the flood of Noah's day. But the effects of the flood were so utterly destructive that nothing like this circle could have survived. It is likely therefore that it was made by descendants of Japheth who had found their way to Britain at some point after the fall of the Tower of Babel. Human beings have never, in fact, been primitive. Archaeologists are aghast at finding something so old that needed such skill in mathematics and engineering to construct. We should not be surprised. Human beings have always been fully human and always shown ingenuity and skill.

Look out for more archaeological discoveries in the lessons for August 12th, September 6th, 8th, 9th, 22nd and November 4th.

¹ See <https://creation.com/carbon-dating-fooling-whom> for details.

Something to read

The novelist and agricultural reformer Sir Henry Rider Haggard (1856-1925) was born on 22nd June. His most popular story is the exciting adventure *King Solomon's Mines*.² The power that comes through the ability to make astronomical predictions (like the priests of Stonehenge) is part of the story!

A heroic Christian fireman³



We read about the work of firemen on May 7th. Here is another tale of fire heroism.

On 22nd June 1861 A fire broke out in London's Tooley Street. It took two weeks to extinguish. The fire had started at Cotton's Wharf on the Thames after an explosion and it spread quickly to warehouses full of inflammable goods such as jute, hemp, tallow and oil. You can clearly see the blazing warehouses in the contemporary picture above which shows the state of the fire on the second day. Steel doors in the warehouses which should have been closed to prevent the spread of fire had been left open and burning oil and tallow spread across the surface of the river until the Thames seemed to be on fire. The London Fire Engine Establishment brought 14 fire engines, including a steam fire engine and a floating engine, to fight the blaze. The flames threatened to engulf two ships moored at a nearby wharf but the firemen managed to save them. Thousands of sightseers crammed London Bridge to view the scene.

The work of the firemen was hampered because of low tide when the fire began. The firemen would normally pump water out of the river to fight the blaze but at low tide this was more difficult to reach.

² If you do not have a copy you can read it here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2166/2166-h/2166-h.htm>.

³ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today* Volume 2, available on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>

In charge of the London Fire Engine Establishment (later to become the London Fire Brigade) was James Braidwood (1800–1861) a pioneer of a scientific approach to firefighting. Mr Braidwood was a Christian who had great care for his men. He had introduced the London City Mission to the London Fire Engine Establishment and the men and their families received regular visits from the missionaries to their homes. It was in looking after his men that he lost his life. He noticed that some of his men were flagging and ordered that a nip of brandy be served to them all. Then while he was helping one of his firemen, a wall collapsed on top of him and he was killed. After the fire, Londoners were so grateful to James Braidwood that they turned out to see his funeral procession pass in even greater numbers than they had done to watch the blazing fire.

How well do you know what to do if there is a fire? There are two quiz sheets on the topic in today's optional resources produced by the Cheshire Fire Service.⁴ See how you get on!

4 Permission sought 24th March 2021.