

June 6th

Memory Verse

I am the resurrection and the life;
he that believeth in me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live. John 11:25

These are the words of the Lord Jesus; he is the “I” and “me” here. Younger children can learn the words in **bold**.

A story of exploration¹



Explorers have uncovered many of the secrets of the world we know, yet large areas of the earth's surface remain unexplored. The oceans of the world cover nearly two-thirds of the globe and we know almost nothing of these vast underwater areas. About 80 percent of the world's oceans are still unexplored today.

One reason for this is pressure. The pressure under the sea is so great that divers can only descend to about 150 metres. A special device is needed to take man into the deepest parts of the oceans, to depths of two and a half miles or more.

On **6th June**, 1930, off the coast of Bermuda, two men climbed into a steel ball suspended at the end of a cable nearly an inch thick and were lowered into the sea. William Beebe and Otis Barton were making the first test of their invention, the bathysphere.

It was a tremendously strong steel shell weighing two and a half tons, with walls two inches thick and an internal diameter of about 1.3 metres. Oxygen cylinders provided the fresh air and the bathysphere was lit by an electric cable bound to the steel hawser together with telephone wires. The world at the bottom of the ocean is intensely dark, so the sphere was also equipped with a searchlight and windows made of fused quartz nearly 8 cm thick. All this thickness and strength was to protect the inventors inside the bathysphere from the tremendous pressure in the depths of the ocean.

Inside the cabin the men were very cramped and once the steel door had been bolted into position they knew nothing could save them if their sphere should spring a leak.

Their first descent took them to a depth of nearly 250 metres and revealed small defects in the bathysphere which would have to be put right before deeper descents were made.

The second descent reached a depth of over 350 metres and the third time they went down a quarter of a mile.

After leaving the surface the light coming through the portholes would first turn pale green, then to blue before light was extinguished completely and they were alone in absolute darkness.

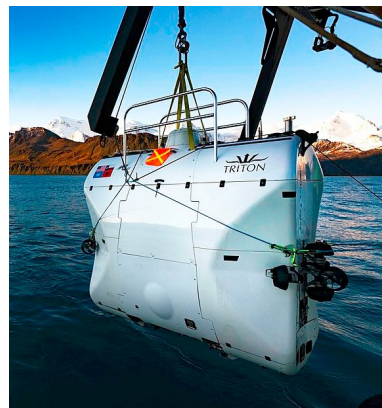
¹ Adapted from Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 2 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/> Image of Bathysphere By Mike Cole - Flickr: Bathysphere, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14518676>. Image of *Limiting Factor* By Richard Varcoe on behalf of Caladan Oceanic LLC - <https://fivedeeps.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Sub-of-South-Georgia-Island-c-Caladan-Oceanic.jpg>, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=76781437>.

Where the water was blue the men saw hundreds of luminous fish, many of them covered in wonderful patterns of coloured lights.² They also saw shadowy forms of sea monsters that never came near enough to the sphere for identification.

In 1934 Beebe and Barton established a world record dive of 923 metres before their partnership broke up, and fifteen years was to pass before a new record was set up, this time by Otis Barton alone.

Using a newly designed sphere, which he called a bathyscaphe, he reached a depth of 1372 metres, which is about 7/8 of a mile off the coast of California in August 1949.

The current record for deep sea exploration is held by Victor Vescovo a Texan entrepreneur and former US naval officer who commissioned *Limiting Factor*, a modern submersible craft, pictured on the right, in order to reach the bottom of the deepest point of each of the world's five oceans. He reached 10,925 metres, over six and three quarter miles, in 2019.



Census

The first modern census of the United Kingdom was taken on **6 June** 1841. What is a census? A census is an official survey or count, usually of everyone in a particular country. Governments carry out censuses to find out information such as people's ages and the jobs they do. Governments have been carrying out censuses since ancient times and we read of censuses in the Bible.

In Exodus 30 we read God's instructions to Moses regarding taking a census. A sum of money was to be paid by every adult male when a census was conducted. It was to be a payment of half a Shekel and in Exodus 38 we read that the silver money from a census conducted by Moses according to these rules was used in the construction of the Tabernacle. This money is described as "a ransom" and it is specifically stated there is a danger of plague among the people if a census is carried out without the ransom payment. God commanded another census just before the children of Israel went into the promised land. We read about this in Numbers 26. These two censuses were commanded by God.

The next time we read of a census it is a very different story. King David decided he wanted to know how many fighting men he had available in his kingdom. To do this he would have to take a census. But God had not commanded this census nor was the half shekel ransom money paid. Joab, David's military commander, tried to dissuade the king from this course of action. God was Israel's defence, not the soldiers. I am sure you can think of at least one Bible history in which God deliberately saved Israel through only a small number of fighting men when the enemies had hosts of soldiers. Perhaps King David should have remembered Gideon!

Joab went off to collect the figures but the census was never completed. The work was so distasteful to him that he missed out the tribes of Benjamin and Levi altogether. Joab brought back the figures he had collected but Gad, David's seer, told the king how angry God was that he had done this thing. God had not commanded a census. David's desire to know his military strength showed a lack of trust in God.

² For information on these fish see <https://creation.com/bioluminescence-the-light-of-living-things>.

David was smitten with remorse for what he had done. Gad told the king that God would punish the whole land. “Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land?” asked Gad, “or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days’ pestilence in thy land?” David thought over these terrible things. The first two options would mean that Israel would be at the mercy of other nations. In a famine food would need to be imported from elsewhere and of course the foreign enemies could be as harsh to Israel as they wanted. Only the pestilence was in the hand of God directly – and this was the very punishment God had said would befall his people if a census was taken without the ransom being paid. “Let me fall now into the hand of the LORD;” said David, “for very great *are* his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.”

God sent out his avenging angel and the plague spread over the land:

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

This was a highly significant place, especially in relation to judgement and redemption, not just of Israel but of all nations. The threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, was to become the temple mount. It was Mount Moriah, where Isaac had been brought to be sacrificed. This was the place where God's judgment stopped.

Isaac had been redeemed by God who sent “a ram caught in a thicket” to be his substitute – do you remember the history? The temple was to be the place ordained by God for Israel as a place of sacrifice. Here the animals would be killed as a substitute for sin – a picture of the death of Jesus Christ which was to come. God's judgement on his people stops today because the Lord Jesus is their ransom.

Censuses in Britain go back at least as far as William the Conqueror. William wanted to be sure he was getting every penny of the taxes and rents due to him and he sent out his agents to every shire in the land for find out what land everyone held and what was its value.

For the 1841 census each householder was required to complete a census schedule which contained the household address and the names, ages, sexes, occupations and places of birth of each individual living at the address.

Pre-printed census schedules were left with a household before later being collected by the enumerator. If there was no one in the house who could write, the enumerator recorded the information.

When the enumerator had collected the schedules he then copied the data into the 'Census Enumerator's book'. These books now form the only record we have of the census because once copied, the census schedules were destroyed. As with any human activity, there was plenty of scope for error. Householders may not have completed the schedule accurately. The enumerator may have miscopied information. He was working from handwriting that might be difficult to read! Despite this however the records are very valuable to historians and also to anyone who wants to find out about their family history. If you are fortunate enough to live in a house that was standing in 1841 you can look at the census records and find out who lived there then!

Do your own mini census³

The Government's Office for National Statistics oversees the census and analyses the data collected. The most recent official census in the United Kingdom was carried out in 2021. The government is

3 If you would like to do a traffic census there are instructions for this in the lesson for 6th July.

considering scrapping the census altogether in favour of collecting data in other ways so there may not be a census in 2031.⁴

Now have a think. Suppose you found a census record from a household living 100 years ago in your house or in a building on or near the ground where your house now stands. What information would it be interesting to know about them? What was their favourite food? What games did they play? What books did they read? Did they go to church? I'm sure you could think of a number of things that you would like to know that would not feature on a census form! Now design a form for a family to find in 100 years time. What do you think they would like to know about you? Fill your form in carefully. If you like you can seal it in a waterproof container and bury it in the garden. Choose the spot where you think it is least likely to be disturbed.

⁴You can see what the census form looked like here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/census2021paperquestionnaires/householdenglandpdf.pdf> Have a look at it and see what kind of information the government collects about us!