

November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thus saith the Lord,

Stand ye in the ways, and see,  
and **ask for the old paths**,  
where is the good way,  
and walk therein,  
and ye shall find rest for your souls.

But they said,

**We will not walk therein.**

Jeremiah 6:16

Tiny children could learn the words in bold. They could understand that the “path” means the way which we should follow. Because God is eternal it is an “old path”. The Bible tells us what path God wants us to follow. The Bible is like a map of the “old path”. Jeremiah told the people God's message. What a foolish answer they gave!

Today is the day that Alexander Cruden presented his complete concordance of the Bible to Queen Caroline in 1737.<sup>1</sup> We learned about this in the lesson for 31<sup>st</sup> May and the whole of Alexander's life is such a wonderful story that to go back to that lesson and read about him today would be an excellent idea if you missed it – or just to refresh your memory.

Queen Caroline (1683-1737) was the wife of King George II. The king was not a faithful husband to his wife but he did make great use of her abilities. Caroline was an intelligent lady who had had in her late teens a thorough education. However, her education had been so neglected in childhood that her handwriting was poor all through her life. Perhaps there were benefits, however, to a formal education that came late in life. The king trusted her advice and always considered her opinion. In fact, it soon became clear that the Queen had as much if not more to do with governing the country than the King. At the time when George II became king Walpole was Prime Minister – the first Prime minister England has ever had.<sup>2</sup> Queen Caroline trusted Walpole and saw to it that he remained in office. The king also made visits to his native Hanover during which she had great responsibility.



When Cruden presented his wonderful book to the Queen she was already very ill. She was delighted with the book but because she died shortly afterwards Cruden never received the money she wanted to give him. Caroline was mourned by those she had supported politically and also by George II who refused to marry again after her death.

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

2 See the lesson for 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## Something to read from History



The picture above shows the **Suez Canal** today. Can you find it on a map in your atlas for the next part of today's lesson? Which which two great bodies of water does it link and through what country does it pass?

On **3<sup>rd</sup> November** 1956 Britain was deeply involved in what became known as the Suez Crisis. In 1869, the Suez Canal had opened. We will be looking at the construction and opening of the canal in another lesson this month.<sup>3</sup> From 1875 Great Britain had owned the Canal with the French as the majority stockholders. Because of the great strategic importance of the canal, it was declared a neutral zone under British protection at the 1888 Convention of Constantinople. This meant that both in peacetime and during a war, ships *must* be allowed to pass through the canal.

Egypt's President Nasser was determined to built a great dam on the river Nile. The dam was to provide water for irrigation, flood control and hydro electricity.<sup>4</sup> He needed financial help with this and Britain and America both gave aid. When Nasser later asked for military aid from America the Americans declined. They did not want any increase in violence in the Middle East. Nasser turned to communist countries for arms instead, buying weapons from Soviet dominated Czechoslovakia. This was at the beginning of the Cold War<sup>5</sup> and America was naturally upset. For this and other reasons further American aid for the Aswan Dam project was cancelled.

In retaliation Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal amid scenes of enormous enthusiasm in Egypt. He said that the canal revenue would make up for the withdrawn Western aid for the dam. More than forty nations regularly used the canal and the biggest user was Great Britain whose Middle Eastern oil supplies came through the canal. The American president tried to negotiate a settlement involving an international commission to secure the canal but Nasser rejected this idea. He pledged to keep the canal open but British and French interests considered he might not have the skilled workers to do so.

Britain and France concocted a plan to preserve their assets, secure the canal for international shipping and perhaps get rid of Nasser at the same time. They got together with the Israelis (the

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<sup>3</sup> See the lesson for 17<sup>th</sup> November.

<sup>4</sup> We learned about some of the negative consequences of this dam in the lesson for 8<sup>th</sup> March.

<sup>5</sup> Conflict between Democratic USA and Communist Russia.

intended targets of the weapons that Nasser had purchased from the communists) and agreed to act. Israel would invade Egypt then Britain and France would rush in to separate the combatants and secure the canal. At the end of October 1956 the Israelis invaded and the British and French called for a ceasefire as planned. As they had hoped, Nasser refused. They then began landing paratroopers at **Port Said** at the Northern end of the canal. But things did not go according to plan. The Americans, far from supporting this action, put pressure on the British to withdraw. The French and British failed to gain their objectives quickly enough and the Egyptians blocked the canal with sunken ships. The canal was unusable – the very thing that the British and French had wanted to prevent.

The Americans forced a humiliating withdrawal on the British and French. The ramifications of this on world affairs were enormous. One historian has said that Britain, for instance, if she had been successful would have been much less willing to rush into abandoning her empire in Africa and would have instead taken more time to develop stable local institutions before gradually letting go. This would probably have led to more stability throughout Africa.

### Something to look at and something to draw



Annibale Carracci (1560-1609), a leading painter of the baroque era was born on **3<sup>rd</sup> November** in Bologna. Baroque is an elaborate style of painting and architecture that was popular in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century. You can see from his dates that he was an early pioneer of this type of art.

Carracci came from a family of painters and he had his early training from members of his family. He studied with his brother and cousin and they worked together, cooperating on paintings. Even today there are paintings where experts cannot tell which member of the family painted what. Together they started a school where painters could learn their craft and they concentrated on teaching how to paint the details of the natural world with

accuracy and expression.

Carracci became an expert in fresco painting. This is the technique of painting directly onto wet plaster and it was used for paintings on walls and ceilings. As the paint and plaster dried they bonded together producing a unique effect. It called for great accuracy for, once applied to the plaster, the paint could not be removed or over painted. Carracci's paintings in this medium were mainly of Biblical subjects for the walls of Great Catholic church buildings or of ornate classical subjects showing events in the old Greek and Roman myths for the decoration of great palaces.

Carracci was also a wonderful painter of nature scenes. Look at the beautiful river painting on the next page. Carracci and his brothers would go out into the countryside and make rapid sketches. They would use these to build up a picture such as this peaceful scene. Can you see how he has used dark colours in the foreground and lighter ones behind in the background to give depth to the picture? We saw something similar in Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa.<sup>6</sup> Notice the sizes of the trees too, these help create the picture's perspective.<sup>7</sup> There is much careful detailed observation in the picture. The trees have trailing ivy and the dainty reeds bend in the breeze. Carracci has composed his picture carefully with triangular blocks of land to the left and right of the picture through which the river winds.

Far, far away in the misty distance is a great city with towers and domes. But the occupants of the little boat are not burdened with the cares of city life; they seem to be enjoying a holiday. Perhaps

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6 Lesson for 5<sup>th</sup> April.

7 We learned about perspective last month in the lesson for 26<sup>th</sup> October.

the picture was inspired by a real boat trip!



On the previous page you can see Carracci's self portrait. How detailed and realistic it is! You can see his crisp lace neck ruff and the sheen on his leather jerkin. Carracci was master of a technique called *sfumato* which is the gradual blending of tones and colours to produce a softened outline. He has used this technique to paint his own face with great realism.

If you would like to try making your own self portrait here are a few hints that might help. You can use a mirror as Carracci himself probably did. If you do, it will help you if you can also support your drawing in an upright position while you work – like an artist working at an easel. Then you can place the upright mirror and the easel side by side to avoid too much movement while you work.

You may prefer to work from a photo of yourself. If you do, you can use the grid method as we described in the lesson for 27<sup>th</sup> May. This is not cheating. Great artists used similar methods to help them get correct perspective and you are just walking in their footsteps.

Whichever method you choose, observe your face carefully. Try to draw only what you see, not what you “know” is there.