

15<sup>th</sup> October

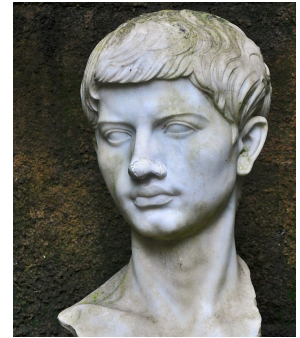
**Go ye therefore,  
and teach all nations,**

baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19

Younger children could learn the words in **bold** and understand that what we are to teach is the truth of the Bible: that Jesus came to save sinners. More about today's memory verse in the lesson for 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Some poetry to read

Virgil, whose full name was Publius Vergilius Maro, was born on **October 15<sup>th</sup>** 70BC. He was one of the greatest poets of Ancient Rome and was born near Mantua. His parents wanted him to go in for law but he was only interested in poetry. Fortunately he gained the patronage of the first Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar, and other wealthy and influential citizens, and was enabled to live quietly, writing his poetry.



His three most famous works are the *Eclogues*, his ten pastoral poems, the *Aeneid*, an epic poem in twelve parts, and the *Georgics*, a poem in hexameters, about the life of the countryside and the farm and garden.

From Book 4 of the *Georgics*, translated by A S Kline, here is Virgil's advice to young bee-keepers:

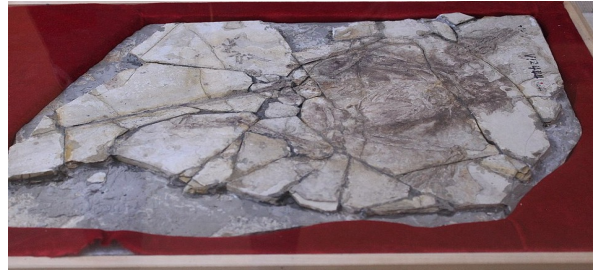
First look for a site and position for your apiary,  
where no wind can enter (since the winds prevent them  
carrying home their food) and where no sheep or butting kids  
leap about among the flowers, or wandering cattle brush  
the dew from the field, and wear away the growing grass.  
Let the bright-coloured lizard with scaly back, and the bee-eater  
and other birds, and Procne<sup>1</sup>, her breast marked  
by her blood-stained hands, keep away from the rich hives:  
since they all lay waste on every side, and while the bees are flying,  
take them in their beaks, a sweet titbit for their pitiless chicks.  
But let there be clear springs nearby, and pools green with moss,  
and a little stream sliding through the grass,  
and let a palm tree or a large wild-olive shade the entrance,  
so that when the new leaders command the early swarms  
in their springtime, and the young enjoy freedom from the combs,  
a neighbouring bank may tempt them to leave the heat,  
and a tree in the way hold them in its sheltering leaves.

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<sup>1</sup> Procne was a minor figure in Greek mythology who, in a particularly nasty incident, was turned into a swallow for her crime. The reference to blood-stains here is to the red throat of the swallow.

## Dinosaur or bird?<sup>2</sup>

At a press conference held by *National Geographic* magazine in October 1999 a new fossil discovery was unveiled. Called Archeoraptor, it was hailed as a missing link between dinosaurs and birds. For some time a number of scientists have been pushing the idea that there might be – indeed must be – fossils of dinosaurs with feathers and this creature seemed to fit the bill. A breathlessly excited article on dinosaur to bird evolution, illustrated with hypothetical pictures, of what the creature would have looked like proclaimed the new fossil to be “a missing link between terrestrial dinosaurs and birds that could fly.”



Scientists who believe the Bible always deny that birds evolved from dinosaurs: God created birds on day five of creation and land animals such as dinosaurs on day six they say. They remain suspicious of so called dinosaurs with feathers and if you read their careful investigations you will find that no reliable feathered dinosaur fossils have yet been found although there have been a number of finds of extinct birds. You will remember all about this if you did the lesson for August 21<sup>st</sup>. If you were on holiday in August and missed the lesson have a look at it now for information about how dinosaurs and birds breathe, for instance, which makes the evolution of the one from the other quite impossible.

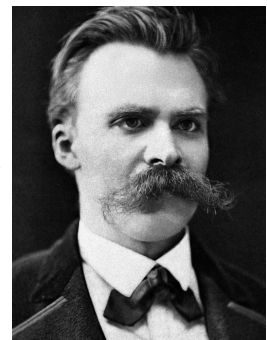
What about Archeoraptor then? Of course, if there *were* dinosaurs with feathers this would not cast any doubt on the Bible narrative any more than Australia's egg-laying mammals, the platypus and echidna. But as it turned out Archeoraptor was not a feathered dinosaur at all, it was a fake!

It turned out that, although it is illegal in China to export fossils, some Chinese farmers do dig them up and smuggle them out of the country. A fossil dinosaur with real feathers would be a very valuable find and so, as a real one was not forthcoming, one farmer put together some parts of two different fossils he had found. As the illegal export of fossils is punishable by death in China, there is a strong incentive among fossil smugglers to make the finds as valuable as possible. A small notice in *National Geographic* was published withdrawing the previous article.

Today would be a good day to get out your own collection of toy dinosaurs – if you have one. I recently met a young lad who was busily selling off a number of toy dinosaurs for a few pence each at a Christian home education conference. “Are you no longer collecting dinosaur models?” I asked him, thinking he was perhaps raising money for some new hobby. “O yes,” he replied, “but I only collect accurate models now I'm older and all these have mistakes in their shape or pose or some other feature so I'm getting rid of them!” What about your models? How accurate are they? Can you find out?

## Something to think about<sup>3</sup>

The German Philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844-1900) was born on **15 October**. He had an unhappy childhood and suffered from complete mental breakdown for the last eleven years of his life. His philosophy says, according to one source that we should, “...expand as human beings to fulfil to the fullest our latent human potential, and joy of being and existence on



<sup>2</sup> Illustration:By Jonathan Chen - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=80189102>

<sup>3</sup> Information from [https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j24\\_1/j24\\_1\\_106-112.pdf](https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j24_1/j24_1_106-112.pdf) and <https://www.gotquestions.org/Friedrich-Nietzsche.html> and other sources.

earth. In order to achieve a deep satisfaction with our lives he promoted individualised ‘*greatness*’ through the overcoming of the self, setting oneself apart from the human masses.”

Sounds good doesn't it? Have you ever been told to “be yourself”? That is Nietzschean philosophy.

Nietzsche was promoting the development of what he called an “overman” or heroic person who would be far above others. He was himself. No moral laws constrained him no need to please anyone else – even God. God, said Nietzsche, “is Dead.” That he saw himself as such an “overman” is clear from his book *Ecce Homo* which has a chapter called “Why I am so Clever.”

When Nietzsche said “God is dead” he was specifically referring to the God of the Bible, to the God of Christianity. He explained “...that the belief in the Christian god [sic] has become unbelievable...” and proclaimed this as the greatest event of recent times.

His final book rages against the God of Christianity with such vehemence that it sounds almost like gibberish:

...God had created for himself a rival, science makes equal to God—it is all over with priests and gods if man becomes scientific!—Moral: science is the forbidden sin itself—it alone is forbidden. Science is the first sin, the germ of all sins, original sin.

...and so on for pages. Probably his last illness was already affecting him.

One writer explains: “Nietzsche shook his fist at God, but Nietzsche is dead and God is not. So the last word belongs to God.” What do we read at the beginning of Psalm 14?

Next time you hear someone say “just be yourself” remember the implications.