

30<sup>th</sup> October

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.**

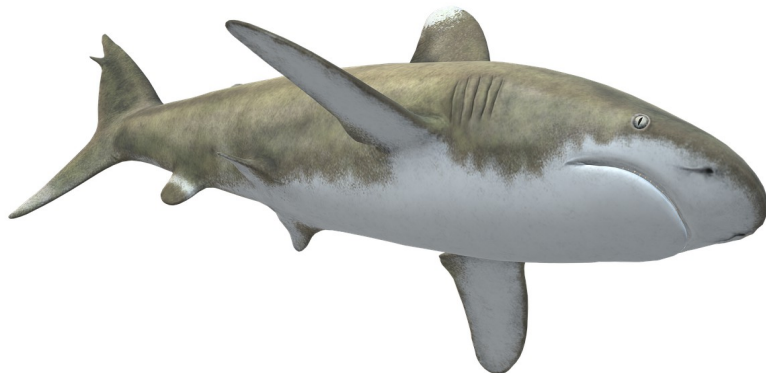
Jeremiah 6:16

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!

### An animal adventure to read

You can sometimes see bottle-nosed dolphins swimming in the sea off the coast of Britain but, as someone who likes a swim in the sea myself now and then, I am glad to say you will *not* normally see a great white shark.

But if you want to go swimming off the coast of New Zealand you have to be more careful. Great white sharks do live there and they can attack swimmers. On **30 October** 2004 Mr Rob Howes, a New Zealand lifeguard, took his daughter and a couple of her friends swimming at Ocean Beach, Whangarei, a beautiful long beach with sand dunes that is popular with surfers on the North Island of New Zealand. As you can imagine, as a lifeguard Mr Howes was a very confident swimmer. He and the girls were very surprised when a pod (the name for a group of dolphins) of bottle-nosed dolphins surrounded them, herding them into a tight group. The dolphins swam round and round the swimmers, preventing them from breaking away and it soon became apparent why they were doing this. To their consternation, the swimmers became aware of a great white shark about three metres long that wanted to attack them. If you want to visualize the size of this creature, measure it out on the floor now. The dolphins were protecting the swimmers from a huge shark!



Mr Matt Fleet, another lifeguard who was patrolling the beach witnessed the incident and he saw the dolphins slapping the water with their tails to keep the swimmers together and within their protecting circle. For forty minutes the dolphins kept the swimmers safe until the shark lost interest in them and swam away. Now that it was safe, the dolphins released the swimmers and they were able to swim back the 100 metres to the beach.

At the beginning of this lesson I said you would not normally expect to see a great white shark in the waters off the British coast. But, in fact, although this is true, no one knows exactly why. The water temperatures round our coast are exactly right for great white sharks in summer time. A few have actually been spotted, about twelve confirmed cases in the last fifteen years. Some of these sightings could have been of the same shark though, which would reduce the numbers further. Sightings are generally in the waters round Devon and Cornwall so keep your eyes peeled if you ever go swimming there!

How is your swimming? Did you follow up the suggestions for learning to swim or improving your swimming in the lesson for 28<sup>th</sup> July? Have a look back at that lesson today if not. Swimming is a valuable skill – and enjoyable too. If you get cracking now at your local swimming pool you will be all ready for the seaside next summer!

### Some history to read: The Hungarian Uprising

I have marked in **blue** some terms you may want to look up in your dictionary. You may want to follow up the highlighted terms or even the whole topic in your own history books.

Can you remember all the way back to the lesson for 2<sup>nd</sup> March? If you did that lesson you might recall that it was about a poem “The Bards of Wales” learned by every Hungarian child because it was written during Hungary's struggle for freedom from Austrian rule. This was not to be the only time in the history of Hungary when the land was ruled from elsewhere. After the Second World War, Hungary was ruled by **Communists**<sup>1</sup> controlled from Russia. Communist rule in Hungary came to an end in 1989 by a peaceful move to a **democratic** system but earlier Hungarians had made an attempt to regain their freedom. That attempt that was suppressed by the invasion of Soviet Russian forces. In the story of what happened, today is an important anniversary in Hungarian history.

Other events in Europe form the background to the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. Poland, also ruled by communists controlled from Russia, managed to gain an agreement with Russia that promised fewer Russian troops stationed in Poland as well as better trade agreements. The Austrian State Treaty established Austria as a neutral country in the **Cold War** between the USA and Russia.

Hungarians looked at these developments and wondered. Could Hungary be neutral too?

Early in October 1956 three bodies were reburied in Budapest, the Hungarian capital. They were of men who had been put to death during the **Purges**<sup>2</sup> in 1949. Earlier in the 1960s Hungarians had insisted on having the sentences passed on them reversed. The State funeral attended by 100,000 mourners, signalled trouble for the Russian backed authorities.

The university students of Budapest began calling for people to join them at a protest at the parliament building against the Russian dominated government. Some students entered the Hungarian Radio building with a list of their demands for political and **economic** reforms and were detained inside the building by security staff. When those outside the building protested some were shot dead by the State Security Police.

---

1 See the lessons for January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> May, July 19<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>, for more about communism.

2 Public Trials in which anyone who was a threat to **Stalin**'s power was falsely accused and sentenced to death.

Russian troops sent in to restore order in Hungary and reassert Russian Communist control were ineffective because they fraternised with the Hungarians and became sympathetic to their cause.

In 1956 Hungary was ruled by the Hungarian Communist Party and non communist parties were not allowed. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 1956 Imre Nagy the new Hungarian Prime Minister took some dramatic steps. He allowed the banned parties to re-form, replaced the Hungarian Communist Party with a new party and called for free elections. Non communists were now included in the government. He dissolved the hated State Security Police. The Catholic Cardinal, József Mindszenty who had opposed both Fascism<sup>3</sup> and Communism in Hungary was released from prison. Lajos Ordass, a Protestant Bishop who had also been imprisoned and removed from his office was reinstated. Finally, Hungary declared that it was going to leave the Warsaw Pact (the umbrella organisation Russia had established for Russian-controlled communist countries) and become independent like its neighbour Austria.



The Russian Politburo decided to crush the rebellion in Hungary before it went any further. Seeing what had happened when troops were sent in previously, the Russians sent tanks rather than troops. This prevented fraternisation and also provided more protection against the petrol bombs used by the Hungarians. The picture<sup>4</sup> shows Russian tanks patrolling a street in Budapest. Open warfare began. Nagy was deceived into leaving the Yugoslav embassy where he was taking refuge. He was taken away to Romania where he was eventually tried and

executed. The Russians and the puppet government they put in place were stronger than the Hungarians. “They controlled the food supply and the job market and literally starved out the last of the resisters.”<sup>5</sup>

How did Hungarian Christians feel amidst these difficulties? “My father saw the Soviet tanks rolling in. He was a strong opponent of communism all his life, but he always said to us: ‘Do not hate Russians, they also suffer’”, says Hungarian Pastor Adam Szabados. This reflects a good Biblical principle for all Christians. We should always oppose wrong concepts and stand up for those who cannot defend themselves. Queen Bathsheba told her son Solomon, “Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.”<sup>6</sup> Wise Solomon treasured up her words. But we must carry out this instruction without bitterness towards those who are oppressors.

---

3 The form of government practised by Hitler, Mussolini and others where one person is in charge and cannot be lawfully challenged. There is no democracy in a fascist state.

4 By FOTO:FORTEPAN / Nagy Gyula, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49704920>

5 T E Vadney, *The World Since 1945* (London, 1987) p.201.

6 Proverbs 31:8.