



# Between --- Friends

2020 VOLUME 2

**Are you committed to a work for the Lord? We are surely to find out from God what the Lord would have us do, and to have a sense of commitment to it. Beware of just wandering through spiritual life, otherwise unattached without any specific work to which you are committed.**

**DAVID GOODING**

**FROM: TWELVE STUDIES IN NUMBERS**

# Contents

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p2

Dear Friends

p3

Bringing Us To Glory

p4

Drawing Near to God

p5

Q&A Project

p6

Audiobooks & New Websites

p7

Bible Studies

p8

Translations

p10

For Prayer

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## Dear friends,

### **'WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR LIFE, IF TODAY IT SHOULD DAWN ON YOUR HEART THAT IT IS BUT A SHADOW AND SOON WILL BE GONE?'**

In *God's Great Salvation: Lessons from the Lives of Old Testament Characters*, David Gooding encourages us to consider this question. It is one that many have been prompted to consider throughout the upheavals of this year.

During our considerations, we should be quick to remember the rich and hopeful promise that Scripture holds out to us:

According to [God's] great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)

Peter says that believers have a 'living hope'—an eternal inheritance granted to us because we have been linked with the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised victorious from the dead.

This reality, alongside the knowledge that our lives are 'but a shadow and soon will be gone', should inform how we live in the present, and encourage us to pursue things that will contribute to the future inheritance Christ has won for us.

What does this look like? Dr Gooding points us to King David who, late in his life, voluntarily abdicated his throne so that he could focus on the work nearest to his heart: 'preparing the treasure for the building of the house of the Lord and organizing the people' (1 Chr 29).

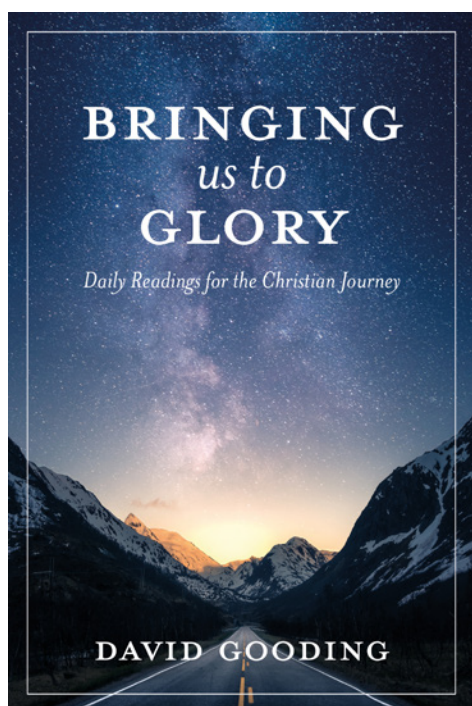
King David poured his life's energies into this work, 'so that, when the day dawned . . . and the presence of God descended and filled [the temple], the people might be ready, each in his or her place, and the glory of God might fill them and express itself through them.' He desired to see the 'many and variegated gifts' that God had given to the people coming 'back to God in a never-ceasing stream of glory.'

We are invited to learn from King David, who recognized that his own inheritance was intrinsically linked with the establishment of God's glory. When he realized this, he gave himself wholly to pursuing those things which contributed towards that inheritance.

Likewise, God 'invites us to join King David . . . in preparing the material that shall adorn the eternal city of God. He gives us the grace, the energy, the time, the salvation, the knowledge of his word and the fruit of the Spirit to collect the material, quarry it, polish and shape it by our preaching, our prayers, our pastoring, our love, our kindness and our care'.

May we each know our Lord's help as we assess the year that is nearly over and look forward to another year in his service.

**NEW BOOK: BRINGING US TO GLORY**  
*Daily Readings for the Christian Journey*



*This book is equal to a full year at any theological college. I realize more than ever why so many of my friends have been mentored by Dr Gooding. — George Verwer*

*Bringing Us To Glory moved me to a greater love for our risen Lord who sacrificed everything for us and our salvation. It is a must read! — Rebecca Manley Pippert*

We released *Bringing Us To Glory* on 13th November 2020 after months of hard work from the whole Myrtlefield team, and especially Helen Crookes who collated and edited the book.

We expect this collection of 365 daily readings to be a major catalyst in introducing David Gooding's teaching and insights to new readers.

The following is an excerpt from the book.

*22nd April*

A HIGH PRIEST OVER THE HOUSE OF GOD

**Reading: Exodus 28:6–43**

*It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. (v. 38)*

We have a great priest, that is a high priest, over the house of God. When the young Israelite priests began their complicated duties in the solemn courts of the temple, it must have been a comfort to them to have a high priest who was an expert and could show them just what to do and how to behave in the divine presence.

Thank God, as we come into the awesome dwelling place of God, we have a high priest to take us by the hand, to present us at court, to prompt and lead our praise and prayer, and to tell us how to behave before the Majesty in the heavens. Israel's high priest wore on his mitre a plate of pure gold engraved with the words 'Holy to the LORD'. He did this, Scripture explains, so that he might 'bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate. . . It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD' (v. 36–38). So Christ—only in a far fuller sense—has made himself responsible for the imperfections of our worship and prayers. He has borne the guilt not only of the sins we did as sinners, but also of our sins and imperfections as saints and worshippers. We may therefore enter boldly into the very presence of God through the veil, not because we have merit, or have attained to an advanced stage of sanctification; but in spite of all our imperfections, thanks solely to Jesus Christ, our Lord, Saviour and high priest.



## NEW BOOK: DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

This publication is a revised and expanded edition of *How to Teach the Tabernacle*. It was released on 1st October 2020.

This new edition includes large images of Myrtlefield's tabernacle model, which was photographed for us by Andrew Agnew. It also features updated text which has been adapted to apply to all age groups and a wider readership.



## COMING SOON: Q&A PROJECT



We are getting ready to publish an online archive of David Gooding's answers to Bible-related questions that he received over many years of correspondence and in Q&A sessions. This includes his reaction to books and articles that were brought to his attention, doctrinal matters, as well as issues of a more pastoral nature. The letters will be anonymized to protect the correspondent's identity.

Below is just a sample of the questions addressed in these letters:

Would it be safe to say that Genesis 1 neither affirms nor denies the theory of evolution?

Was the story of the adulteress originally a part of John's Gospel?

Why do Christians hold the Lord's day on Sunday, and not Saturday?

Can Christians ever be demon-possessed?

Were believers in the Old Testament born again?

Should we attempt to harmonize apparent inconsistencies in the Gospels' resurrection accounts?

Do you accept the Calvinistic doctrine?

Are the structures in Luke's Gospel real, or are they subjective impressions that might be different to each reader?

Are there any fables in the Bible?

Is the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 a parable?

Is it unwise to speak from the same Bible book for a long period of time?

Should we read books other than inspired Scripture to help us understand the Bible?

Work to adapt the website to make these available for the public is also in process. We plan to have the first batch online in January 2021. Printed compilations are also a possibility.

## COMING SOON: AUDIO BOOKS



This year we began to produce our first audiobooks in response to many requests to make our catalogue available in this format.

The recording of *An Unshakable Kingdom* has commenced, and should be available in the first quarter of 2021.

As part of the first phase, we will also produce audiobook editions of *According to Luke*, *True to the Faith*, *The Riches of Divine Wisdom*, *In the School of Christ* and *Windows on Paradise*.

We plan to publish the audiobooks on Audible and Christian Audio. If you use other platforms to download audiobooks, please let us know so that we can look into making them available there too.

## COMING SOON: NEW WEBSITES

In response to the ever expanding and diversifying material on our websites, we have decided to update [myrtlefieldhouse.com](http://myrtlefieldhouse.com) and [keybibleconcepts.org](http://keybibleconcepts.org) in 2021.

Work on [keybibleconcepts.org](http://keybibleconcepts.org) will commence first. For some years, it has existed as a low-bandwidth alternative to our main site, and has also hosted our translated works in Bulgarian, Chinese, Spanish, German, Korean, Malay, Myanmar, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

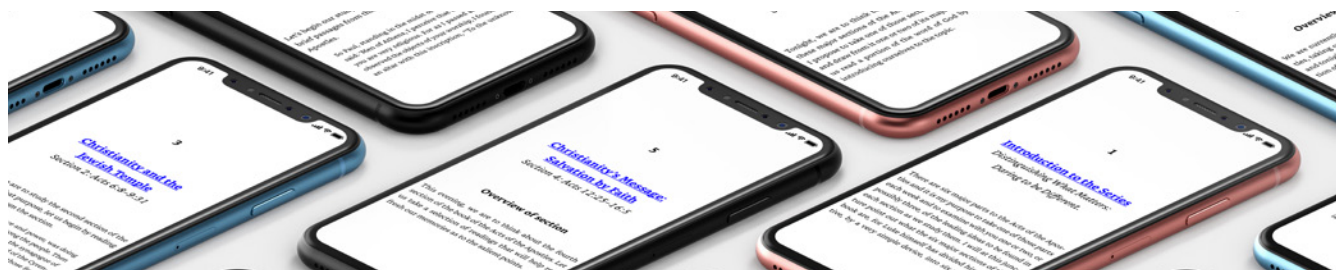
We hope to make this website easier to navigate in the various featured languages, while maintaining fast-loading speeds for users with slower internet connections. The update on [keybibleconcepts.org](http://keybibleconcepts.org) should be finished early in 2021.

We will provide further information about our work on [myrtlefieldhouse.com](http://myrtlefieldhouse.com) in the next edition of *Between Friends*.





## UPDATE: MYRTLEFIELD BIBLE STUDIES



Our editors continue working to make transcripts of David Gooding’s teaching available now and for future generations. Thirteen additional series of studies are available for free download on our website, bringing the total to 172 series.

The new series are listed in the table below. They are available in multiple formats, so you can download and read them wherever you go.

Our full catalogue now features teaching on 20 Old Testament books, 17 New Testament books, and a variety of topics such as apologetics, the Christian life, Christian doctrine, the gospel, and prophecy.

<a href="#">Heaven: Revelation Chapter Twenty-One</a>	<a href="#">Studies in Numbers: Twelve Parts</a>
<a href="#">Christianity on Trial: Can We Trust the Bible and Can We Trust a God Who Allows Suffering?</a>	<a href="#">Overview of Matthew’s Gospel: Chapters 1–4; 8–12; 14–17</a>
<a href="#">How to Study the Bible: Aids to Bible Study</a>	<a href="#">Is Belief in God a Superstition?</a>
<a href="#">The Gospel of the Cornerstone: The Apostolic Witness and Where We Should Build Our Lives</a>	<a href="#">The Problems of Becoming and Being a King: Fifteen Seminars on 1 &amp; 2 Samuel</a>
<a href="#">Encouragement and Challenges from the Gospel of Matthew</a>	<a href="#">The Text of the Old Testament: Versions and Variants</a>
<a href="#">Exodus: How God Deals With Rebels</a>	<a href="#">Can We Be Sure of Heaven?</a>
<a href="#">Teaching Joshua: Examining Chapters 1–12</a>	

## UPDATE: TRANSLATION PROGRESS



### SPANISH

We released *La Multiforme Sabiduría de Dios* (English publication: *The Riches of Divine Wisdom*) in June 2020. Several other books are being prepared for publication as *Myrtlefield Español* titles.

### MANDARIN

The translation and editing of *True to the Faith* is almost complete. Once it is, we will apply for ISBN approval. We ask you to pray that this book will be published without reservation so that it may bless many believers.

### CZECH

ALEF Křesťanské sbory has published *Christianity: Opium or Truth?* in Czech.

### GERMAN

Christliche Verlagsgesellschaft (CV) is publishing *The Quest* series as a four-volume set. The first two volumes, *Was ist der Mensch?* (English publication: *Being Truly Human*) and *Was können wir wissen?* (English publication: *Questioning Our Knowledge*) are now available.

### ITALIAN

The translation of *The Riches of Divine Wisdom* into Italian is now underway. It will be co-published with Edizioni GBU and should be available early in 2021.

### KISWAHILI

We are glad to announce that *According to Luke* is being translated into Kiswahili. The aim of this project is to make the book available at a low cost in various Kiswahili speaking countries. When the translation is complete, we will make the ebook edition available for free distribution through [keybibleconcepts.org](http://keybibleconcepts.org).

**Worship is a very practical thing. It reminds us of the worth of him who died for us at Calvary, draws out our heart's response to him, and concentrates our thoughts on him. It has the reflex action: if he did so much for me, what shall I not do for him?**

**DAVID GOODING**  
FROM: TWELVE STUDIES IN NUMBERS

# For Prayer

## SOME ITEMS TO PRAY FOR OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- That the new users who visited the website during this pandemic would continue to benefit from the material.
- That the increasing number of non-Christians who interact with our social media accounts would come to see the beauty of Christ and the hope offered to them in the gospel, and that we would have wisdom as we reach out to them.
- That our team would be united in vision and that the Lord would be with us as we carry out our work for him.
- That *Bringing Us To Glory* would bring much blessing to those who use it over the next year.
- That *Drawing Near to God* would introduce a new generation to the insights into God's character and work that the Tabernacle provides.
- That the Mandarin edition of *True to the Faith* would be approved by the government ISBN regulators.
- That our upcoming *Myrtlefield Español* publications would reach many in Spanish-speaking countries all over the world.
- That God would direct further translation/distribution of our books into strategic languages/ areas.
- That we would have wisdom and strength for the many opportunities ahead of us in 2021.

***The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***