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Working with: **New
Testament
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There has been quite a bit of movement in some of the European royal houses this year, a birth in the UK, abdications and accessions in Holland and Belgium; weddings in Sweden and Luxemburg, and a sad death in Holland. Perhaps more is to come - stay tuned, as they say.

In the Bible too we find royal houses. Two Bible books are especially dedicated to the kings of Judah and Israel. Of course, the house of David is the most famous one of all time, with the Messiah Himself inheriting David's throne for all eternity.

One famous Bible king of the Davidian dynasty was King Uzziah. We read of his birth, his accession to the throne, his life, his deeds and his death in 2 Chronicles 26. Uzziah died at 68 after a long reign of 52 years. However, one event stands out in this chapter. In the latter part of his reign, the king got carried away with his own 'greatness'. Realizing that in a true theocracy, the monarchy doesn't have any say in the temple, he thought the time had come to change that. Surely, it should be possible for him to offer incense... His idea must have been to "marry throne and temple". Instead, with leprosy breaking out, he became an instant outcast, his son being left to take care of Uzziah's kingdom...

Here was a good king disgracing himself and becoming an instrument of Satan. That old serpent was perfectly aware that only in the coming Messiah could throne and temple ever be truly and eternally united (Hebrews 4). How happy he is when we humans play king and priest and pretend to offer God 'our incense'. It was at Calvary that the pure fragrance of spiritual "incense" was offered by the true king-priest, the "King of the Jews" - a 'sinless son' of Uzziah. After Calvary no more material "temple" or "incense" was needed. In fact, in John 2 Jesus tells us that his resurrection was to bring forth a wholly new "temple", incomparably greater than Solomon's.

When the prophet Isaiah remembered the gloom at Uzziah's death, he was shown the glory of Christ the King (Is. 6, Jn. 12:41). In a world of discontent, scheming, gross corruption, power-grabbing, leprosy and death, God's servant sees the greater reality, that of the other world. King Uzziah's reign ended in gloom - but then Isaiah **saw the King of glory!** He exclaimed: "**My eyes have seen the King!**". When the King asks, who will go and face that world of gloom; young Isaiah is ready; he responds "**Here am I, send me!**"



JANET'S ANGLE

If Janet could write to you today, she would do so from England. She only went yesterday; if it had not been for all the doctors' visits, she would have gone earlier. It is a relief for both of us that now, at last, she can take it easier for a while, enjoy the family and the cooler climate, and see what the Lord has in store for her.

First of all she is having a few days with son Andrew and family in Hemel Hempstead, then she'll travel on to Wolverhampton and enjoy family visits and times of lovely fellowship with the friends. After that, more or less mid September, she'll join Lydia and Dave in Eton. Finally, on the 23rd she is booked to fly back - all of it "Lord willing!" The flight is a 3-hour affair, so there is hardly time to get too uncomfortable.

Some of you may be wondering what came of our May celebrations in Holland. Well, on the 11th of that month we had a great time, indeed, six hours in all, with a total of 63 relatives, friends and Christian family. It was our 50th wedding anniversary, but as you know, in reality, we celebrated our Lord's faithfulness! How grateful we are to HIM, but also to the good friends, to our children, my sister and a niece, who all went out of their way to make it such an outstanding experience. If you are interested to see a big photograph of most of the group, you only have to look for us in Facebook ('Jaime van Heiningen') and you'll see it at the head of our page.

After the English guests too had departed, we returned to the farm where we had already stayed a few days. From there we continued to make a good number of 'forays' all over the place, seeing old and new friends. There was a wonderful sense of blessing. On June 5th we were back home in Spain.

We told you about a journey Janet was hoping to make to Italy. The friend who had invited her on this vacation, wasn't able to go in the end and so it didn't materialize. In hindsight we realize she wasn't really up to it anyway.

Then here is something else, still under the heading of "Janet's Angle": Two visitors came this morning to see her, i.e. two lady JW's. The one, a sweet young mother, **Rebeca** (with her little boy), has often called on Janet before; the other one is older and came to meet Janet for the first time. Her name is **Juanita**.

They were sorry not to find her in, so I tried to substitute... A conversation developed about the Savior, Jesus Christ, and I asked if they could not tell me where the Scriptures state that Christ, our Lord, is in reality the archangel Michael, as the JW dogma has it. They promised they would find the relevant passages and give them to me in their next visit. Then I suggested they might also want to do some research re the Lord's resurrection, was it non-physical as their dogma has it, or did his body too rise from the grave as John 2 declares explicitly? They promised they would look into that too... Have you ever prayed for JW's? Now is your chance!

OTHER NEWS

The **Coaching for Christ** team from N. Ireland is on the point of arriving again to spend a very busy week with football sessions and many youngsters participating. This, of course, is simply a means to an end, as the team, after the physical effort, get them all to sit down on the ground in the central sports area where they, and a number of parents, can quietly listen to the Gospel - **Michael** interpreting.

When the team were here in May, Michael got hold of as many addresses and telephone numbers as he could from the kids in order to later give them the information they would need for these "summer games". This seems to have been an excellent strategy. **Julie**, on the other hand, has been having a new problem with a very painful hip. The doctors are seeing what can be done.

Michael, Julie and the girls were invited to go to the Rumanian wedding of **Robbie & Hannah**, where Michael was actively involved. They had a marvellous time. Later the newly weds spent part of their honeymoon here. They are now looking to the Lord to know exactly where to go to live and work in Spain. They'd love to be here in the south, but the Lord would have to clearly open the door.

Andrea is coming to the meetings when she can, but her physical condition and the distance of some 15 kms don't help. She has just become the happy grandmother of a little girl.

Fernando and **Juani** with the two young girls have been away in a village for some months, but are back now. Something though is keeping them from also coming back to the meetings.

Reme, the one with the depression, would bring her young daughter-in-law, **Yésica**, to the meetings, but sadly Yésica and partner **Félix** fell out and she left him to go back to Córdoba. He now seems to be into drug dealing.

PRESSING ON! is at the printer's. It continues to meet a need in many lives and groups. It is a tremendous privilege to be involved! We are also very, very grateful for the active prayer-partners among you!

Every blessing in Christ,

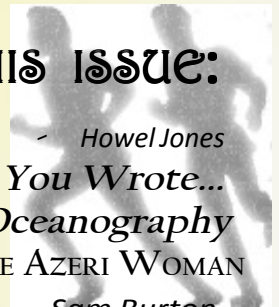
Jim & Janet

NOW IN HARDCOPY AND PDF.
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DRESSING ON!



Differences between humans and animals

by Andrew Lansdown

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On the lighter side, are there really any differences between us and the inhabitants of farms and zoos?

'No single, essential difference separates human beings from other animals.' So began a feature article on evolution in TIME magazine ('How Man Began', March 14, 1994). The more I thought about this sweeping statement the more I began to warm to it.

For example, like humans, apes have well formed rational faculties. Their ability to develop an argument, follow a line of logic, draw conclusions and frame hypotheses is quite remarkable. Also like humans, apes have a marked faculty for language. (This, of course, is intertwined with their powers of reason.) Their vocabulary is enormous, their grammar complex, and their conversations deep and meaningful. The apes' ability to codify language in writing is further proof of their close relationship to humans. In this respect, it was most gratifying to see the number of apes who wrote to TIME magazine in response to the article on 'How Man Began'. I was particularly interested to follow the line of reasoning of the orangutan who argued that apes had evolved from humans, not vice versa.

Like humans, apes also have a strong spirit of inquiry. Their research in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, medicine and physics is noteworthy.

Apes also (again, like humans) yearn for meaning in life. This is why they devote so much of their time to philosophy, theology and ethics. The religious sentiments and practices of all apes can be traced back to their intense and endless quest for meaning. Apes are concerned about questions not only of origin but also of destiny. The best proof I can offer for this claim is the maxim by one famous ape philosopher who said, 'Whether

my life leads ultimately to the dirt or to the Judgment, either way, I've got a problem.'

Apes also have, like humans, a refined aesthetic sense. They admire beauty and long to surround themselves with it. When an ape cultivates a garden, puts flowers in a vase, or hangs up a painting, what is it doing if not expressing a love of beauty?

Again like humans, apes have a strong creative impulse. This is seen in their poetry, painting, dance, drama and music. To a lesser extent their creativity is also evident in the way they gather in weekly craft groups to weave baskets, spin wool, knit shawls, and cover photo albums.

The sense of humor shared by all apes is another proof of their close kinship to humans. Their delight in the ridiculous and their love of a good laugh is plain from the popular ape jokes they tell.

Reason, language, inquiry, wonder, longing, religion, morality, aesthetics, creativity, imagination, aspiration and humor; such intangible but fundamental qualities are by no means unique to humans, as I hope I have conclusively shown. Therefore, in the profound words of TIME magazine: 'No single, essential difference separates human beings from other animals'.

This being the case, Christians are plainly wrong to insist that humans and animals are vastly different. And they are also obviously wrong to insist that this difference arises from the fact that God created us humans in His own likeness. And if they are wrong to insist that God made us in His own likeness, then they are wrong to insist that God has any claim on us.

Furthermore, if God has no claim on us, then we are free to be animals like our evolutionary ancestors. Free to be as low-down as snakes, and to make pigs of ourselves, and to act like donkeys. Did I say 'free'? Hiss! Oink! Heehaw!