

The duration of the storm

We will leave what happened after all arrived safely on land for a future article. We conclude this one by looking again at verse 27.

The duration of the storm, some fourteen days, springing up so far away, off the coast of Crete, and reaching Malta, might well be a matter of surprise. On this subject Conybeare and Howson have some interesting and very relevant information: "A gale of such duration, though not very frequent, is by no means unprecedented in that part of the Mediterranean towards winter". Then in a footnote we read: "The writer has heard of easterly and north-easterly gales lasting for a still longer period, both in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar and to the eastward of Malta". Later we find this information: "We extract the following from the 'Christian Observer' for May 1853, pp. 324,325: Late in the autumn of 1848 we were returning from Alexandria to Malta, and met the wild Euroclydon. The sea was crested with foam

over all the wild waste of waters, and a dull impervious canopy of misty cloud was drawn over the sky. A vessel which preceded us had been *fifty-six days from Alexandria to Malta*; and just in the same way St. Paul's vessel was reduced to lie-to in the gale and drifted for fourteen days across the sea which separates Crete from Malta . . . Under the modern name of a Levanter, the same Euroclydon which dashed down from the gullies of the Cretan Ida in the winter of 60 A.D. swept the sea in the autumn of 1848".³ It is indeed remarkable what a vivid light this throws on Luke's narrative of the storm.

There is more to be said about the bay, and we hope to return to the subject in our [next article](#).

(To be continued)

3. *The Life and Epistles of St Paul*, London, 1862, vol. 2, pp. 412-3, note 2.

New feature

The Bible Workman

David Noakes

Which answer? What does the Bible really teach?

THIS IS THE FIRST of a series of articles written primarily as a Bible Class exercise for all the members, though personal study will also be well repaid. The essence of Scripture study is the resolution of problems, but is the obvious answer the correct one? *Before* you make up your mind, ask yourself, What are the options? Are there other possible solutions?

Although the great truths of the gospel stand out clearly, there are many matters where we need to scratch the surface so as to uncover the treasures that are beneath. Shallow study trots out old clichés, someone else's ideas without evaluating them and proving them for ourselves. Honest study brings its own reward, and the results will add life to your address. Share the problem with the audience; get them thinking.

Set out below are some Bible problems and several solutions for each, arranged for you to do as a Bible Class or group exercise. God will-

ing, there will be more to follow. The author's review of the solutions, and suggestions for the best answers, will be in the [next issue](#).

Class Exercise

Take one of the problems and its alternative answers.

Examine the alternatives and give reasons for discarding some and accepting one. **Be prepared to say in five minutes which answer is correct.**

Note:

- Five minutes *only*
- Leave out an introduction, dive straight in
- Be clear cut in making a decision and give reasons
- The reasons must be Bible based, not *your* preferred answer
- Demolish the other suggestions—crisply.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:29. What is the meaning of being “baptized for the dead”?**
 - a) The early church practised baptism by proxy for those too infirm to be immersed.
 - b) “For the dead” means ‘filling the places in the ecclesia of those removed by death’.
 - c) Re-punctuate: “Else what shall they do which are being baptized? It is for the dead, if the dead rise not at all”.
 - d) The statement is an ellipsis and means ‘for [the hope of] the dead’, that is resurrection.
 - e) “The dead” refers to Christ, ‘the dead one’, and the statement refers to baptism into Christ.

2. **Genesis 22:18. To what does “in thy [Abraham’s] seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” refer?**
 - a) Nations are blessed who bless the Jews.
 - b) The forgiveness of sins.
 - c) The Kingdom of God.

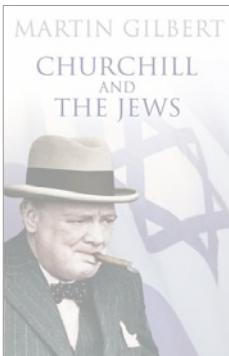
3. **Matthew 19:24. What is the meaning of “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle”?**
 - a) Refers to a camel going through the small side-gate of a city, known as ‘the needle’s eye’.
 - b) For “camel” read ‘rope’; there is only one letter’s difference in Greek.
 - c) It is just a vivid figure of speech for what is impossible.

4. **Matthew 13:33. What does leaven signify here? (In considering your answer, ask yourself if it fits Luke 13:20,21, where the Lord also gave this parable.)**
 - a) The gospel spreading gradually.
 - b) Corruption spreading gradually.
 - c) The Kingdom of God covering all the earth.
 - d) The gospel at work in men’s hearts.

Suggested answers [next month](#).

A committed Zionist

John Nicholls



Churchill and the Jews
Martin Gilbert (2007)
Simon and Schuster UK Ltd
Hardback
Price: £20

SIR MARTIN GILBERT is an historian whose works are well known amongst Christadelphians, and at the age of seventy-one he is still managing to maintain his prodigious output of books. His latest book is on Winston Churchill and the Jews.

Churchill was one of several men raised up at the right time by our God to bring about the partial return of the Jews to the Land as a prelude to the setting up of the Kingdom. From the

time of Brother Roberts up till now, we have rejoiced to witness the return to the Land and the protection of the people from their many enemies. God has been the unseen Shepherd, protecting and directing those who will one day truly be His people again, but He has used men like Churchill to achieve His purpose. This book sets out in chronological sequence the dealings that Churchill had with Jews. It is fully referenced and has a selection of photographs, some maps, a good bibliography and a comprehensive index.

Early years in politics

Churchill was born on 30 November 1874, within days of the birth of Chaim Weizmann, another man raised up to help the Jews to return. Churchill attended Harrow School, where the stories of the Old Testament were an integral part of his education. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, had many Jewish friends, who continued to befriend Winston after the death of his father. In 1904 he became the Liberal Member of Parliament for