



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

BIBLE JOURNEYS – NT Volume 1 JESUS IS LORD

#4 HE HAS CALLED US TOO



[John 1:28-51](#)

[Scripture Reading for Today](#)

[James 5:7-8](#) “[Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.](#) ⁸ [Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.](#)”

[1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#) “[For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nothing things that are: ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in his presence.](#)”

1. INTRODUCTION: Jesus came to the Jews first, to consummate His covenant with Israel to by redeeming they who were the harvest of the early rain; and Jesus came to all who will believe to redeem all who shall be the harvest of the latter rain at His coming! God uses those who are humble to do mighty things for His glory.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

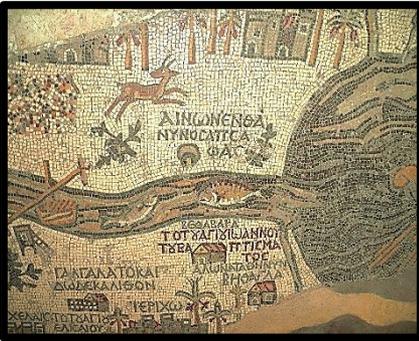
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|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’ | |
| 2. Children’s Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. ARCHEOLOGY PROVES that GOD’S WORD IS TRUE.

John 1:28 “These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.”

1

John found the Savior he was waiting for in Bethabara. Some Archeologists have cast doubt upon the accuracy of the Bible, tho as early as the 6th century, this Biblical location was well known and so important to be preserved in a church of Madaba, Jordan.



Bethabara (*beth-AB-ər-ə*; "house of the ford, place of crossing") is the name used by some versions of the New Testament for the site "beyond (East of) the Jordan" where John the Baptist preached and performed baptisms, where he met with a group of priests and Levites sent by the Pharisees to investigate his ministry, and where he baptised Jesus.^[1] The

name "Bethabara" also appears on the 6th-century Madaba Map and in the Talmud *Mosaic Map Early Byzantine Church of St. George, in Madaba, Jordan*

House of the ford, a place on the east bank of the Jordan, where John was baptizing (John 1:28). It may be identical with Bethbarah, the ancient ford of Jordan of which the men of Ephraim took possession (Judges 7:24). The Revised Version reads "Bethany beyond Jordan." It was the great ford, and still bears the name of "the ford," Makhadhet `Abarah, "the ford of crossing over," about 25 miles from Nazareth. Easton's Bible Dictionary



Unesco World Heritage Site of Jesus' Baptism

Today, ever-changing Science deceives many pastors to doubt the Bible, causing them to teach the Bible as though just stories passed down about God, and not **God's own word breathed to the writers**; ever-changing Bible versions promote this deception. We can save many from false teaching, through real facts that prove God's Biblical timeline is true!

3. JESUS CAME to a WORLD THAT WORSHIPPED SELF.

If we would be ministers to an unbelieving world that holds a very similar worldview as the world to whom Jesus came, then we need to understand that the root of their beliefs is still founded upon the same lie Satan used to deceive man from the beginning of time: Man can be the same as God, that man is essentially his own God.

TESTIMONY OF A FORMER EVOLUTIONIST Genesis 1:1



The assumption of so many today is that science has somehow disproved God. Consider the testimony of the late Dr. Dick Lumsden (1938-1997), biology professor and former dean of Tulane Graduate School. Dr. Lumsden dogmatically taught evolution to his classes until one day a student politely asked him a number of pointed questions. She asked him questions such as:

1. *“How does evolution fit with the fundamentals of information theory?”*
2. *“Aren’t the odds of random assembly of genes mathematically impossible?”*
3. *“Last month you showed us how mutations were genetic disasters. How, by natural selection, could they randomly produce new and better structures, or improved species?”*
4. *“Where exactly in the fossil record, is evidence for progressive evolution, the transitional forms between major groups?”*

Initially Lumsden dogmatically defended evolution, trying his best to answer her questions. But after an honest evaluation of the issue, he concluded that evolution was scientifically bankrupt: “I realized that the origin and diversification of life by evolution was a mathematical, physical, and biochemical impossibility, that the evidence for it was at best circumstantial, and a lot of what we really knew about biology was outright contradictory to the hypothesis.” Dr. Lumsden became a reluctant creationist first and later a Christian. For those willing to look at the evidence, creation is the better explanation of origins. The opening sentence of the Bible says it all. And if God did that, can He not do the rest?

4. IT WAS and IS EXCITING TO FIND THE MESSIAH!

John and all of Israel, were looking for the Messiah of prophecy, the Savior God of the Old Testament, who was God with us in His son!

Isaiah 9:2 & 6 “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. ⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”



God had sent John to announce the coming of the Messiah. Remember that John had leapt in Elizabeth’s womb when he first met the Savior before they were born? Now when his cousin Jesus came, suddenly John knew that Jesus was the Savior from Heaven, but he needed to see the sign from God to know with certainty.

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh....”

John was baptizing people in water so they would be prepared to receive the child who had been born to Mary, as God from Heaven who had come to save them. This child, the Lord Jesus, was God the only Savior made visible in flesh: in other words, the Everlasting God with skin on!

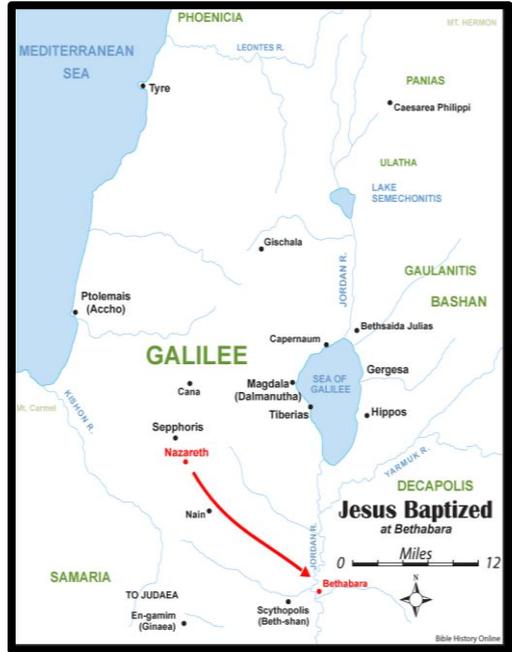
Matthew 1:21-23 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”



Think back to the day when you received Jesus as your Savior, and you can imagine their excitement when the Messiah was found!

5 LIKE JOHN, WE CAN GROW UP WITH JESUS IN THE HOUSE AND STILL NOT “KNOW HIM” THAT HE IS GOD

John was in the desert waiting for the Christ to come save His people from their sins, but why here in Bethabara? Biblical history records this to be the location where Elijah was taken up to heaven in the chariot of fire, and the place where Israel crossed the Jordan! So God leading John to this spot to await the Messiah, was not a coincidence. John knew that Jesus would be shown to Israel for some purpose, but it is apparent that John did not know Jesus was LORD.



John 1:30-31 *“**This is he** of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹ And **I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel,** therefore am I come baptizing with water.”*

John did not know Jesus was God until God revealed it to him.

John 1:32-33 *“And John bare record, saying, **I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,** and it abode upon him. ³³ And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, **Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.** ³⁴ **And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.**”*

To know Jesus is God you need a revelation & He will show you!

Luke 10:22 *“All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and **who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.**”*

6. JESUS IS GOD WHO CAME OUT FROM GOD – HE IS THE LAMB THAT GOD PROMISED TO PROVIDE.

***John 1:34** “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
³⁶ looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**”*

Considering that lambs were slain for sins and roasted in the Temple daily, it was alarming to announce Jesus as the Lamb of God - this is the Lamb of God that God promised to Abraham!



***Genesis 22:8 & 14** “And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering....¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovah-jireh**; as it is said to this day, **In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.**”*

God had come to fulfill His promise to Abraham, upon the same Mt. Moriah! John and all Israel knew the prophecies, that the Messiah was coming as a lamb, but they did not understand until after the prophecies came to pass. Later Jesus would explain:

***John 16:27-28** “For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and **have believed that I came out from God.** ²⁸ I came forth from the Father, **and am come into the world: again,** I leave the world, and go to the Father.”*

Jesus, claimed to be the invisible Spirit of the Father that had come out from the Father, and His disciples believed! But what did Jesus mean by saying that He had come into the world again?

***Hebrews 1:1-3** “God, who at sundry times and **in divers manners spake in time past** unto the fathers by the prophets, ²**hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,** whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;** ³ who being the brightness of his glory, and **the express image of his person**....”*

Jesus as God’s breath spoken on earth through angels in times past, came out from the Father, “again”, to become flesh in the son!

7. JESUS CALLS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM, AND JESUS CALLS US TOO.

John 1:37-42 “And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus....”⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, **We have found the Messias,** which is, being interpreted, **the Christ.** ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art **Simon** the son of Jona: thou shalt be called **Cephas**, which is by interpretation, A stone.”



So we have so far, John, Andrew, and his brother Simon, whom Jesus also called Peter (*meaning rock or stone*), Peter was never the rock upon which the church was built, but it was **‘his testimony that Jesus is the Christ’**, that is the rock upon which the church is built. **It is the stone of the testimony, that Jesus is LORD**, that the builders **(the Jews)** rejected. Jesus is the Rock in whom Peter believed!

Matthew 21:42 “Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner:** this is the Lord’s doing...”

John 1:43-46 “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, **Follow me.**”⁴⁴ Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, **We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.** ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?** Philip saith unto him, **Come and see.**

Jesus even knows how it feels to be rejected by those from a more affluent location, who suppose themselves better than you!

“Even an impeccably Jewish Galilean in first-century Jerusalem was not among his own people; he was as much a foreigner as an Irishman in London or a Texan in New York. His accent would immediately mark him out as “not one of us,” and all the communal prejudice of the supposedly superior culture of the capital city would stand against his claim to be heard even as a prophet, let alone as the “Messiah,” a title which, as everyone knew, belonged to Judea.” R. T. France Commentary 2007

8. JESUS KEPT HIS PROMISE TO NATHANAEL.

John 1:47-50 “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! ⁴⁸ Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.”



What does it mean, that Jesus saw Nathanael when he was ‘under the fig tree’? The implication of this passage is that **Jesus always knew Nathanael because He is God!** Some teachers have said that Jesus simply saw Nathanael talking under the fig tree before Philip brought him to Jesus, but this does not explain Nathanael’s intense reaction. The intent of this Jewish idiom more likely is similar in meaning to, “*Before Abraham was, I AM*” John 8:58, meaning Jesus is God; and He saw Nathanael when he was an infant in his mother’s arms as she harvested figs for her family, or as a little boy learning the Torah.

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

Josephus (A.D. 75) - Jewish Historian ... the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature....before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence" (Jewish Wars, VI-V-3).”

Furthermore, Jesus told Nathaniel he would soon see Jesus’ words fulfilled, and kept His word to consummate His covenant with Israel in 70 AD. Eyewitness accounts are recorded by Josephus, Tacitus, and Eusebius of when during Passover, Heaven opened, and saints were seen rising up to Jesus with armies of angels running among the clouds! And Jesus is coming again to call up His people of the latter rain!



9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. John was waiting for the Messiah to come in the same place where God called up Elijah, and where the Israelites crossed over Jordan.
2. Studying to show ourselves approved before God and men, includes finding the archeological facts that support God's word.
3. Understanding the worldview of the church to whom Jesus came, helps us to minister to the unbelieving church today.
4. Only a few of God's church receive Jesus as One LORD of heaven who became flesh in the Messiah, to shed His own blood for us.
5. We can trust that when ever-changing science with its circular reasoning comes to an end, God's word shall still stand true.
6. It was and still is exciting to find that Jesus is the Christ!
7. Like John, we can grow up with Jesus, yet not know Him as LORD.
8. Jesus is the physical expression or image of the invisible Father God.
9. The testimony that Jesus is LORD, is the foundation His true church.
10. Jesus received the first fruit of the first rain harvest, consummating His covenant with Israel in 70 AD, and He is coming again to call up the latter rain believers of His church, at the end of all things!

James 5:7-8 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."
⁸*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*



Our Dear Father, thank you for your word that reveals to us that you are one LORD, in Jesus Christ! The revelation of who you are in Christ is the foundation of our faith and the Rock upon which we stand, and we praise your name LORD Jesus, the Almighty! You are the breath we breathe because you fill us with your Holy Spirit. We lay aside the image we have made for ourselves and purpose to die to self this day; fill us with your Holy Spirit until we are full of you and healed Lord! Fill us, change us, and use each one of us for your glory, Lord God, **in Jesus' name, Amen.**

10. CHILDREN'S STORY: God Works Best In A Humble Heart



Charlene was the best gymnast on her team, and very hopeful to make the Junior Olympics, but she was having great difficulty with one of the components of her routine and could sure use some help; if only she could meet her idol Simone Biles!

One day Charlene overheard Katy, one of her team members talking. Katy was really not very good at gymnastics because her parents did not have the money to pay for extra lessons, and Charlene felt she was too good to be friends with Katy. But Katy was talking about Simone Biles like she knew her, saying she was coming to her house for dinner and the whole team was invited!



Charlene laughed at Katy, and did not consider going to dinner, because how could someone who lived in a poor neighborhood like Katy, even know someone famous like Simone Biles? What Charlene did not know, was that Katy and Simone's families were friends until they moved away, and that Simone Biles really was coming to meet Katy for dinner! Charlene judged Katy because she thought she was better because she lived in a richer home, and never gave Katy a chance to be her friend. The next week, the girls on the team were so excited about the wonderful time they had at Katy's house, and how inspiring it was to get to talk about gymnastics with a real Gold Medal champion!

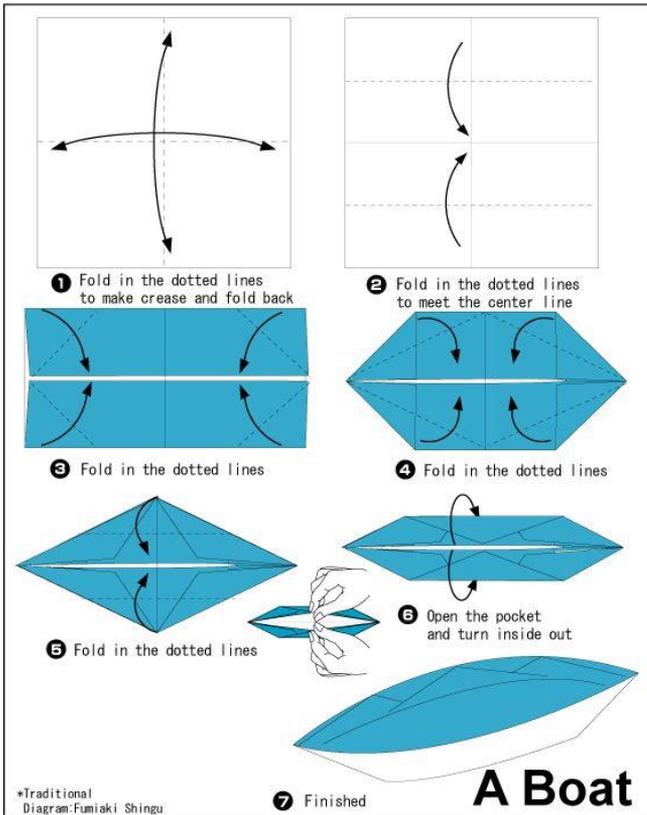
Charlene missed out on her dream to meet her gymnastics idol, Simone Biles, because she did not think anything good could come from someone who lived in a neighborhood like Katy's. Boys and girls, did you know that a man named Nathanael, almost missed out on becoming one of Jesus' disciples because he thought that God would not use anyone who came from a little town like Nazareth? People only look on the outside, but God looks at your heart. Jesus loves you and He will use your life is a wonderful way to tell others how much He loves them too!

11. GOSPEL CRAFT

HE HAS CALLED US TOO! HE HAS CALLED US TOO!
 WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES, I AM ONE, AND YOU!
 WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES, AND HIS WORK MUST DO.

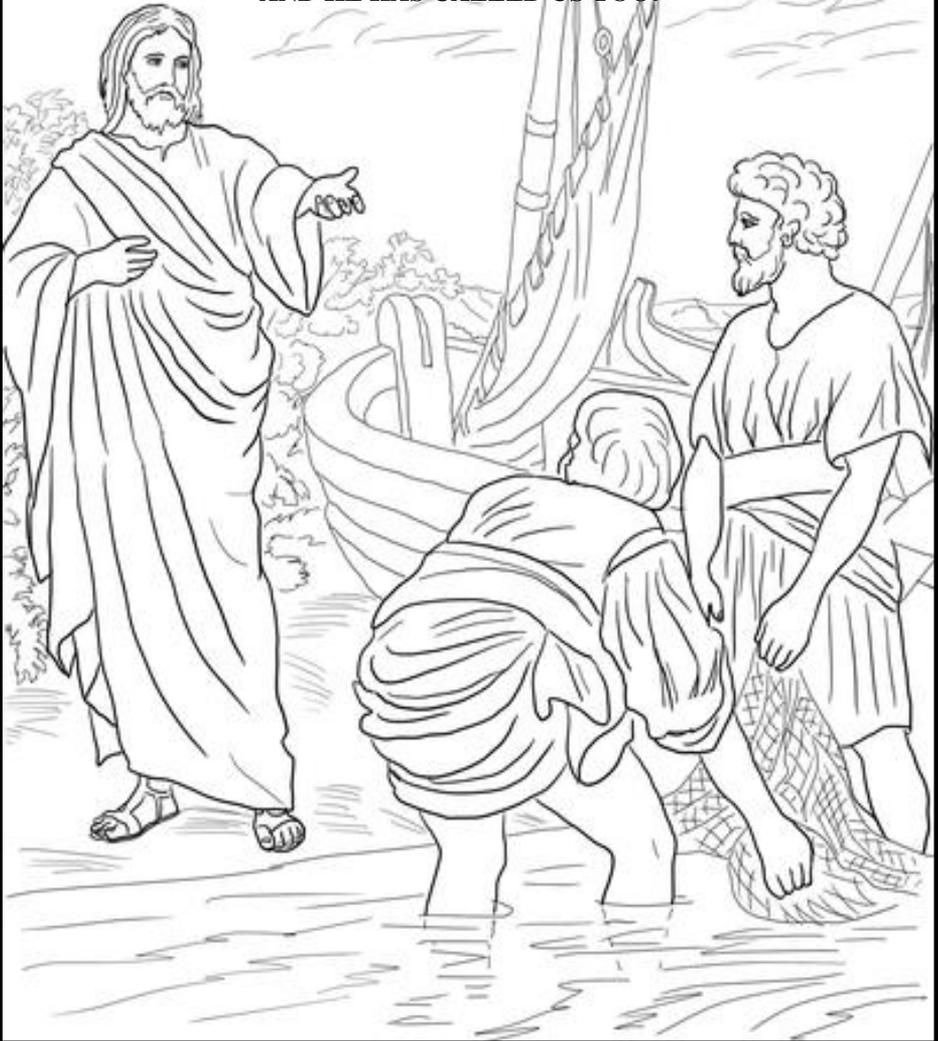
DIRECTIONS:

1. Enlarge and make color copy to 8 1/2 x 11" white card stock.
2. Cut out around top of disciples & make fold between.
3. Fanfold disciples so they can stand up in the boat.
4. Fold paper as shown to make an Origami boat.
5. Seal bottom with clear paint or packing tape.
6. Cut out word strip and glue to front of boat.
7. Put disciples in the boat.
8. Boat will float in a tub of water!



12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE: Jesus Calls His Disciples

**JESUS CHOSE LOWLY FISHERMEN TO BE HIS DISCIPLES
AND HE HAS CALLED US TOO!**



1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”