

# TRAINING FOR GUYS

No 28 **May 4th** 2013

## Dagon is fallen



**1 Samuel 5 reads:** <sup>1</sup> After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. <sup>3</sup> When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. <sup>4</sup> But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

The false god could not stand in the presence of the Living God. Are we seeing something of the same happening today in our land?

First it was money and wealth. The Banking collapse revealed that behind the facade there was no substance, it was all built on unsure promises and dodgy dealings.

Now we are seeing the great god of *Celebrity* crashing to its knees. The people being accused, arrested, charged and in some cases convicted are members of the first tranche of tv celebrity from the 60s and 70s. People have longed to emulate them, to live lives like them; yet now we discover that they too had a facade



of being likeable that masked something nasty in the background.

So much of society has been geared

towards venerating celebrity. And it is a false god.

Yet people have to worship something. As these gods fall, they will be looking for replacements. Celebrity will try to continue to delude them...Dagon got set on his feet again when he fell. Surely the celebs of today are not like Savile or Hall?

Or perhaps, we have a chance to preach Jesus. Here is no false god, but the One Living True God. Are the false gods falling because God is preparing our nation to hear the Truth in our generation?

More and more churches and groups are going on to the streets to preach Jesus and offer healing to the people who pass by. Is our nation now beginning to see the light? What other idols are there, what else can we expect to see falling as Jesus is preached?

We should not be shocked that ordinary people elevated to semi-godlike status cannot handle the responsibility of being such role models.

However, neither should we just assume that we, as Christians, can. Let's make sure we are always pointing the glory at Jesus, never taking it ourselves. It doesn't belong with us, and can only corrupt us if we hold on to it.

Christians who work in the industry that branded itself as '*sex, drugs and rock'n'roll*' need our prayer. Young Christians who are enticed to worship at the altars of that industry need to be helped to see that it is false - that Jesus is Truth.

But, maybe, there is a greater opportunity to declare that now than there has been before.

### **Bible Study Series**

**We continue our series on 1**

**Peter chapter 5 v 1-4**

**Being Elders and Shepherds**

Read the passage, and go to

[www.tfgministries.org.uk/](http://www.tfgministries.org.uk/)  
podcasts and join in.

# Gig Guide

GOSPEL IN GENESIS



Genesis 3 tells the story of the Fall, of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. yet it includes, too, the first embryonic glimpse of the Gospel message. It's as if God is planting the seed of the revelation of His grace that is going to grow through the Bible books to come. "If you eat of that tree," God said, "you will die on the same day." But they didn't.

So, was God wrong? Was He lying? Did He just change His mind? or was there a deeper truth being revealed?

Verse 21 says *The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*

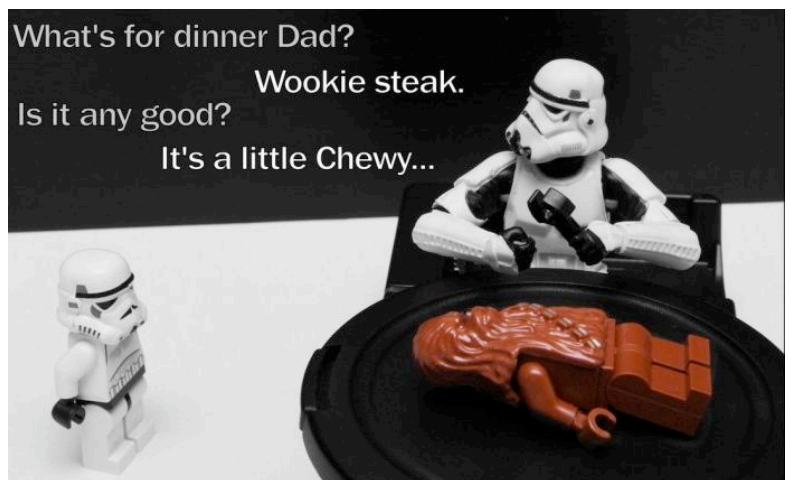
Now, where do you get garments of skin from?

But there was no death in the world at the time. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, but instead of their deaths God substituted the death of animals to make them garments. God instituted *substitutionary sacrifice* to preserve Adam and Eve. He did this, knowing that the sacrifice was a substitution for the one to be made in time by Jesus.

Robed in the garments, possibly even with the blood dripping down them from the skins, they could stand before the Living God that they had defied because He saw them robed in Jesus. Galatians 3 says <sup>26</sup> *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,* <sup>27</sup> *for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* They stood, in faith, clothed with Christ.

When God looked at them, He saw His Son. Doubtless He felt then as He would feel several thousand years later at the moment of crucifixion. The plan of salvation was now beginning to be inacted.

And the serpent, looking on, for the first time must have realised his own plan for destruction was not going so well.



**APOLOGIES IF YOU'RE  
NOT A STAR WARS GEEK,  
T'WAS THE DATE THAT  
MADE ME DO IT.**