

14:61-62; John 5:23; 8:58; 10:30; 17:5). Nor would they have left in the text statements by Jesus that seem to contradict that, saying, “The Father is greater than I” (John 14:28), and “Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son” (Matt. 24:36).

Nor would they let stand the demanding teaching of Jesus, as found in the Sermon on the Mount, such as: “Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:28); “Everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (5:32); “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (5:44-45).

Neither would they have put in the record such demanding statements as “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you” (John 6:53). Or, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).

Each of these commands is difficult and goes against the natural interests of every human being. These are clearly commands that people would not impose upon themselves. Therefore the evidence points against their being fabrications.

Norman Geisler and William Roach, *Defending Inerrancy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011) 95.

Back issues are posted at
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



Prayer List:

Healing: *Tatyana's daughter Olga, Jerry Robinson's daughter Christie, Mike Cavasos, Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas Self, Annie Self, Douglas and Jonda Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark's grandson), Inez's son Lee, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

17 February 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: The Gospel!

Romans 1:16

P.M.: Assyria – The Lord's Instrument

Isaiah 8:1-10

Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Awesome Power

(# 11 in our hymnals), by David Cain

John G. Elliott shared some thoughts below on how he came to write the song “Awesome Power.” I thought his words sparked some ideas for me... how about you? See what you, my fellow music lovers and worshipers, think:

That song has a most unique history. I had been working as a songwriter in Nashville beginning in 1983. By the time 1989 rolled around I had had 45 songs recorded or printed by other artists. GMA and ASCAP had me giving talks and seminars on songwriting and I always emphasized the importance of re-writing, re-writing and re-writing until a song came into its final form. I generally opposed the idea, held by many, that songs always come by "inspiration"----that it was more like a craft that requires time and

investment and refinement. However, one morning in April of 1989 I woke up "hearing" a melody---I was coming, as it were, out of a dream. I cannot now remember if I heard the words "awesome power" at that moment or if they came to me almost immediately---but it would be an experience that I would honestly have to label supernatural. It is my opinion that I was hearing something that was happening in heaven itself---I guess you would have to "be there" to know by the nature of the experience. It has not happened to me in that profound kind of way since then.

Does Elliott's experience resonate with you? I asked him afterward if he had ever wondered what it's gonna be like to actually be in the Holy One's presence someday, and to hear His voice. Is God a tenor or a bass, or can we expect Him to sing the lead?! John says: *His voice will probably encompass ultra bass, bass, tenor, alto, soprano and ultra soprano all at the same time!* John then suggests reading Revelation 14, as a way of trying to imagine what God's voice will be like. This whole discussion has another question running through my head: If God is a musical being (as Zephaniah 3:17, among other biblical passages, suggests), do I engage in something supernatural when I sing or otherwise let music get inside of me and motivate me? Is that part of its power, and why God instructs us to sing to Him? Is His awesome power, as when he parted the Red Sea, on us when we worship with music?

<http://songscoops.blogspot.com/2010/07/awesome-power-john-g-elliott.html>

***For Yahweh your God, he is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, the mighty, and the awesome, who doesn't respect persons, nor takes reward.
Deuteronomy 10:17, World English Bible***

Editorial Note: I recently heard on the radio an interview of Ann and Nancy Wilson (of the rock group *Heart*). I found it interesting how self-deprecating they are with respect to their amazing talent as songwriters. It seems when a truly talented artist writes an amazing song, he wonders how such a beautiful thing could have come from his pen. He almost always suggest that the source of the art must have been supernatural (as did Nancy Wilson in the interview). It reminded me of something I had read about a song that is in our hymnals. It is the article I posted above. -ns

Awesome Power

by John G.Elliott and Virginia H Vick

Awesome power, boundless grace.
None can fathom all Your ways.
Truth and love are found in Your heart alone,
Righteousness surround Your Throne.

Chorus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Most High.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, Most High.

Songs of gladness! By your hand
Though we'll never understand
You have reconciled us into Your love
to a holy home above.

Holy Father, Holy Friend,
How are we to comprehend
That You came to earth, suffered human birth
so that life might have no end?

I'm in the middle of reading a book that argues for the *Inerrancy* of the Bible. I must say it is a very challenging read and I'll not write a full-blown book report in this space; but I wish to include an excerpt from a section that defends the reliability of scripture. This argument highlights something we probably wouldn't ordinarily notice. -ns

The New Testament Writers Left Difficult Passages in the Text

It is not likely that anyone trying to create a story about a perfect man, let alone the God-man, would have included these stories in the text. Those passages include Jesus's claiming to be God (Mark