

CAPTAIN COOK AND THE BIBLE

Copyright Matthew Verschuur. Originally published in The Protector, 20/6/2005.

Captain Cook was a man who believed the Bible. Every Christian should be an explorer of the Bible, and live a life in its light.

The Lord blesses, aids and protects those that do His work. “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield.” (Psalm 5:12). One example of a great man is (Captain) James Cook (1728–1779), who is credited as being the greatest explorer in history. He was the man who sailed his ship *Endeavour* from England, and discovered the fertile east coast of Australia in 1770. This discovery was to open up much riches for England and lead to the society that Australia has today, namely, prepared to receive the Gospel. Storms, groundings, icebergs, shortages and foreign ships could not stop this from coming to pass.

Captain Cook was, as evidence shows, a godly man. In fact, it was said that “‘every day was Sunday’ under Cook’s flag”. His crew did not become sick or mutiny under his command. The secret for his success was not merely good diet or rigorous discipline, but the Bible. “Cook’s widow lived till 1835, dying when ninety-three years of age. Amongst her household treasures was an old Bible from which her great husband, whose ship never knew a chaplain, was accustomed to read every Sunday to his crew.” (Fitchett, W. H., 1917, *The New World of the South*, John Murray, London, pages 68, 70.)

The secret of Cook’s success was the Word of God. “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105). Undoubtedly, Cook’s Bible was a King James Bible. The Bible is the map to life, by which explorers and pilgrims may discover what is already there, prepared and waiting to be possessed and utilised for the Kingdom of God. “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:9, 10). God is revealing the things about His Word to His people.