

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

By Ian Woodley

I remember, as a young lad, being taken by my Dad to watch the film *A Bridge Too Far*.¹ This movie re-told the events of an unsuccessful Allied military operation in World War II. Operation Market Garden hoped to speed up the end of the war, but it ended in failure after strong resistance from the Nazis. The aim was to capture a road bridge over the river Rhine, which was acting as a formidable barrier to the advance of Allied forces.

We build bridges to overcome all kinds of hindrances to human advance and development. From my workplace I can see the magnificent Queensferry Bridge, which was opened in 2017 to replace the aging Forth Road Bridge. An incredible amount of ingenuity and artistry were combined to prevent the river Forth from becoming a barrier again to the everyday flow of traffic and commerce.

Recently I saw a poster that advertised a very different type of bridge. The advert was for a lady who calls herself Psychic Sally. As a medium, she was offering to contact the dead. Personally speaking, I remain unconvinced about the claims of mediums, especially as this type of 'bridge' often appears to communicate mainly lightweight information. In a world of so many problems, I would hope that the dead had something far more important to say to those who remain alive.

Are the dead in some way still conscious? If so, where are they? Do angels exist? Is there a heaven? Or more frighteningly, is there a hell? All of these questions pose great problems for many people.

Is there a 'bridge' to go over and find out the answers?

The history of the ancient nation of Israel includes an intriguing story of a man called Jacob, who dreamed of a ladder that reached from the earth into heaven. Angels were using the ladder to travel between the place of God and the place of humanity.² Is this a flight of fancy, or could such a bridge really exist?

Many centuries later, Jesus of Nazareth referred to this dream of Jacob. He said something very strange. There is a bridge to heaven. But it isn't some portal or a physical gateway. The ladder is a person—Jesus himself.³

Perhaps this brings your mind back to psychics and mediums. Is Jesus yet another person who claims to have some knowledge of what takes place 'on the other side'? But there is something in the story of Jesus that, if it's true, makes his statement more pertinent. All of those who knew Jesus claimed that he came back from the dead. Such an act really would make him the bridge between the earthly and the spiritual. Jesus told others to live on the basis that there is more to the universe than just this life.

But is all this just a bridge too far? Can we trust that Jesus reveals a glimpse of a heavenly-inspired life? From my own personal experience,



Even crossing the Capilano Suspension Bridge in Vancouver, Canada is 'a bridge too far' for some people. This article discusses a bridge safe enough to stretch as far as from death to life.

I have found Jesus' teachings give powerful insights into how to live, and as our cover article in this issue of *Inside Life* shows, there is substantial evidence that he was resurrected and indeed did become a bridge between death and a life beyond it.

Endnotes

¹ *A Bridge Too Far*, directed by Richard Attenborough, 1977.

² Genesis 28:10–17.

³ John 1:43–51.

This article was first published in the November 2018 issue of *Because* magazine (www.because.uk.com). Reprinted with permission.