



## Upcoming Schedule

**May 12**

CTF Fossils at Gateway Church  
Grand Prairie, TX

**May 17-20**

Ryan at Calvary Chapel  
Norman, OK

**May 24**

Ryan at First Christian Church  
Noble, IL

**May 24-28**

Matt at First Christian Church  
Canadian, TX

**May 26-29**

Ryan at Genesis Week Camp  
Flora, IL

**May 31-June 3**

Ryan at Grissom Church of Christ  
Peru, IN

**June 1-5**

Matt at Lakeview Christian Camp  
Stockton, KS

**Please visit our website  
or Social Media pages  
for the latest event information.**



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## ARTEMIS... IS NO GOD

Artemis - the Greek goddess of wild animals, the hunt, vegetation, chastity and childbirth.<sup>1</sup> While the Greek goddess may not be openly worshiped anymore, her name has now been irrevocably linked to the lesser light, just as her mythological twin brother Apollo's was in the last century. Even so, it was not without Providence showing Who is really present in the affairs of men.

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has been focused on having a prolonged presence in space with the work of the International Space Station (ISS), so until recently lunar exploration took a backseat. The Artemis missions of NASA have changed that. They began with the first launch in 2022 when an unmanned spacecraft orbited the Moon and returned successfully for the first time since Apollo 17 in 1972. The plan for the Artemis program is to establish an ongoing manned presence on the Moon. In upcoming missions astronauts will return to the surface, marking another generation of Moon exploration. As we press forward, may we never forget the sacrifice of many lives throughout our ongoing space program, and may we remember it is only possible by the ordered design and engineered forces at work in creation by the Lord God our Creator.



Artemis II Pilot  
Astronaut Victor Glover  
Image Credit: NASA/John Kraus

Many of you may have watched, as I did, as four brave astronauts were launched from the clutches of Earth's gravity on April 1, 2026. It was hard to describe how proud I was as an American on that day. This country, founded on God-ordained rights and privileges, was the first and only country to place His image bearers on the surface of the lesser light years ago, and we are headed back again. We are literally doing what the Lord asked of us from the Genesis 1:28 mandate in studying His creation. As much as I know that not all who work for NASA have this worldview, there are several that do, praise the Lord! On Artemis II launch day, one of the four astronauts on board was our brother in Christ - Victor Glover, mission pilot.

The only time Artemis comes up in Scripture is Acts 19. Providence had placed Paul and his companions preaching and teaching around the great city of Ephesus, home to the Temple of Artemis. A riot almost ensued

because so many people were coming to the Lord that those in charge of making the idols for Artemis were worried her name would be lost. In a way, that is exactly what was happening, because the name of the Lord was proclaimed in lives that had been consumed with pagan idol worship. That's not unlike today as the pagan goddess name adorns a space program, and yet Providence placed one of His own followers right in the middle of the first human flight back to the Moon to proclaim His name, the name above every name, Jesus.

Victor continued to live his life of faith in Christ even while orbiting the moon. Part of the personal items he chose to take were his Bible and communion cups. He studied the Word and prayed while in orbit, as well as virtually joining his home congregation in worship. During an impromptu Easter message asked for by a CBS news interviewer, he emphasized man's creation by the Lord and Earth as a "spaceship" in the universe for us to live on. He went on to share the two greatest commandments and the importance that Christ placed on them, love.

Just as we live in a pagan, fallen world as Paul did with pagan names and temples all around, Providence has placed us here to proclaim His name above all others. He asks us to share Who He is wherever He has called us, whether that be here on Earth or in space. Please join me in prayer for the many others like Victor who carry the Lord's light within NASA and beyond. Blessings.

1. Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature. Merriam-Webster. 1995. p. 74. ISBN 9780877790426.



Matt Miles - President  
[matt@creationtruth.com](mailto:matt@creationtruth.com)

**Join CTF's Ryan Cox on a 10-day / 9-night tour  
to Philadelphia & Washington D.C. to celebrate  
America's 250<sup>th</sup>!** We will visit important historical sites  
as Ryan teaches the Christian Faith woven throughout  
America's founding.

For more information and registration:

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EACH OF THESE ARTICLES ARE EXCERPTS FROM  
**AMERICA'S EPIC ADVENTURE™**  
 CTF'S NEWEST VBS CURRICULUM  
 From Lesson 2: *The Protected*, Be strong  
 and courageous – Joshua 1:9



## A MIRACULOUS SHIELD PART 2

### A Big Battle

The new British General in America was Edward Braddock. He decided to invite George Washington to go with him to capture Fort Duquesne. Out of a sense of duty, Washington agreed. His mother was very upset and went to Mount Vernon to stop him. He said to her, "The God to whom you commended me, madam, when I set out upon a more perilous errand, defended me from all harm, and I trust He will do so now. Do not you?"

Washington went with him on May 29, 1755 with 2,100 men, though he got sick with a bad fever, chills, and aches. Along the way, they met some Shawnee and Delaware Indians. They offered to help, but Braddock shunned their offer. The Indians got fed up and left – Washington, knowing how helpful they would have been, was not happy.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> they approached the fort, expecting an easy win. What they didn't know was that the French had received reinforcements and Indian allies, making them 1,600 strong. Still, they only sent out 891 to fight Braddock and his troops.

Lt. Col. Thomas Gage was sent forward with an advance guard of 350 men. About seven miles from the fort, they ran into the French at around 1:00 pm; they turned around and ran back toward the main group. Braddock's group heard the gunshots and started running toward Gage's men. They end up crashing into each other!

Everything then became chaotic and very scary! The Natives were making their terrifying "whooping" war cry. Gun shots were coming from all around and above them as the French and Indians were firing from behind and from the tops of trees! The British soldiers were used to fighting in straight lines in the open fields of Europe. To make sure they didn't get shot, the Virginians who were with them jumped into the woods to fight like the Indians.

General Braddock was very upset at this kind of fighting but didn't let it phase him. He demanded his soldiers get in proper formation and began to fight back. They actually started to do OK for a while, holding their lines for about 3 hours when...

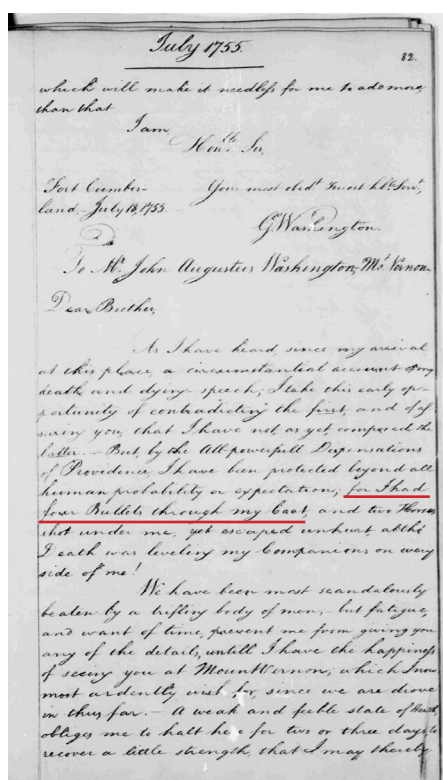
...General Braddock was shot in the chest. As he was hurried away, Washington, who was still not very well, took command and organized a retreat. The retreat was successful in that they were not pursued, but lots of guns, provisions, and other items were left behind. One of the baggage wagons was being driven by Daniel Boone. He and his cousin Daniel Morgan were attacked by natives and narrowly escaped when Daniel Boone jumped down and cut the horses from the wagon, and the two fled on horseback.

General Braddock died three days later. George Washington would conduct a funeral for him, reading Scripture and offering prayer. Of the 1,300 British soldiers, 456 were killed, 422 more wounded, and 63 of the 86 officers were wounded, with 26 dying. Of the 50 women who had come along as maids and cooks, only 4 made it back – half were killed, the other half taken prisoner. The French only had 27 killed and 57 wounded.



Portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale, 1772

### A Protective Shield



George's 1755 letter to brother John  
 Library of Congress

After a few days, Washington, who was weak and exhausted from ten days of sickness, travel, and battle, was finally able to write to his mother to let her know he was OK. He also wrote to his brother John:

*As I have heard since my arrival at this place, a circumstantial account of my death and dying Speech, I take this early opportunity of contradicting the first, and of assuring you that I have not, as yet, composed the latter. But by the all powerful dispensatns of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability & expectation for I had 4 Bullets through my Coat, and two Horses shot under me yet although death was levelling my companions on every side of me, escaped unhurt.*

Fifteen years later (1770), George and his friend Dr. James Craik were traveling to explore western territories where they met an Indian tribe on today's Ohio/West Virginia border. The chief spoke to George Washington, which was recorded by Dr. Craik:

*I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle... I called to my young men and said, "Mark yon tall and daring warrior? He is not of the red-coat tribe – he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do – himself is alone exposed. Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies." Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for you, knew not how to miss – 'twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we, shielded you.*

*Seeing you were under the special guardianship of the Great Spirit, we immediately ceased to fire at you... Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destinies – he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of heaven and who can never die in battle.*

George Washington, though sometimes the biggest, easiest target on the battlefield, never received one wound in battle. He was simply faithful, regularly reading the Bible and praying. He never tried to be a hero. He did not worry about what would happen to him. He trusted God to protect and take care of him. One of the important things the patriots said during the war was that there should be no kings but Christ! George Washington had only one king – Jesus, and he lived for Him.