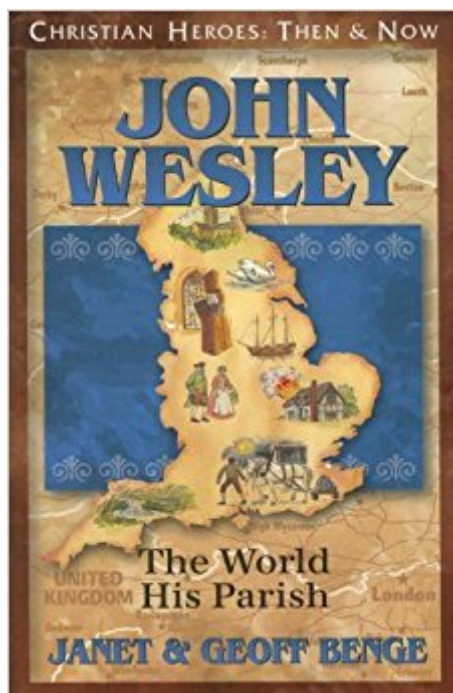


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# John Wesley: The World His Parish (Christian Heroes: Then & Now)



## Synopsis

Pursuing his calling with singleness of vision, John Wesley defied the strength of angry mobs and longwithstanding traditions to offer the hope of Christ to millions of people who were outside the influence of the churches of the day. Passionate and tireless, this Anglican clergyman rode a quarter of a million miles on horseback during his lifetime, stopping to preach more than forty thousand sermons in open fields, churches, and barns. Focused on God's love and holy living, the movement Wesley founded quickly multiplied in vibrant Methodist societies all over England and would soon influence far-flung nations for Christ.

## Book Information

Series: Christian Heroes: Then & Now

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Janet and Geoff Benge are a husband-and-wife writing team with more than twenty years of writing experience. Janet is a former elementary-school teacher. Geoff holds a degree in history. Originally from New Zealand, the Benges spent ten years serving with Youth With A Mission.

This book is very hard to get into. I am reading this to my kids for homeschool and we are well over halfway through it and it has just started to be enjoyable. I am glad we have toughed it out because the story is inspiring and I know we will all learn a lot about being saved by grace and not trusting in works.

This series of books is captivating! I enjoy them every bit as much as my children do. Even my nearly 14-year old son cannot put them down! We own about 4 of them now - but my children have requested the entire series. Little-by-little, hopefully we can do that for them! The books are exciting, moving, and are great faith-builders. The missionaries featured become heroes in the eyes of my children. I cannot recommend this series high enough. Hope you'll give it a try!

Thanks for writing such a great book. I really enjoyed reading it. I liked the way you put it together with all of the details given and the way it was written and the way John Wesley's trials were presented as it was GOD doing everything. THANKS!!!

I know Wesley was a very influential man and important in his impact on modern church history. I also didn't expect to agree on every point theologically as I am a Calvinist and he an Arminian. That being said, about halfway through the book my kids asked me, "Why are we reading about this guy? He was a jerk." I couldn't honestly disagree. The one incident that got us was where Wesley had drawn up a list of things Christians must do to live rightly. One of his followers tried to follow them too closely and became ill and then died b/c he fasted too much. His father wrote Wesley an angry letter accusing him of being instrumental in his son's death. Wesley's response? "One can never be too holy." Really?!? I know from my daughter's history book that he wasn't even a Christian at the time. I had also heard glowing words spoken of his mother. She really needed to go back and read Ephesians 5. I have enjoyed reading the earlier collection of books from the Benges, particularly 1-10. But this one I cannot recommend.

This is a book written for a young audience, but I find it to be satisfying while reading it; not like it is a book for babies. I am reading the book for a report for a class I am taking, so I am happy that reading it is going fairly fast.

My kids needed non-fiction books for book reports at school and this series was great for my 8 and 10 year old.

If you have ever wondered how Methodism came into being, this is the book for you! I was personally brought up as a Methodist in England and had NO clue about some of what we read in this book! Needless to say, sadly Methodism has definitely moved away from its roots. John spent

his early years in Epworth, twenty miles from London. His parents, Susanna and Samuel, married in 1688 in the same month that King William III and Queen Mary ascended the throne. Samuel was a rector of a Church of England church. John's parents were very strict. Susanna could speak and write both English and French which was very unusual for women in that era when only 1 in 4 women could sign their name. Samuel, not money savvy, was always in debt. Before the devastating fire of Feb 9th, 1709, Samuel spent 3 months in Lincoln Debtor's prison. The fire changed everything. The family was homeless and penniless. John was sent to live with a family that just 24 hours previously he was not even allowed to associate with. It was one year before the family was reunited. What was this about Old Jeffrey, a ghost, in the rectory? Later in life, believing he was called to Georgia, John found himself on the boat, Simmonds, in 1735. He was onboard with Moravians sent out by Count Zinzendorf. What did he write in code that was not deciphered until the 1930s?! Encountering a storm, John was surprised that the Moravians were not afraid to die like he was! John, although extremely legalistic and expecting others to follow him, did not have a personal relationship with Jesus and was challenged by the Moravian leader, Bishop August Spangenberg. How did John end up with a warrant over his head and escaping back to England? The Holy Club was the start of the Methodists with many folks looking to John as their founder and leader. It wasn't until John got a hold of "by grace you are saved through faith" that things began to change. Once he began preaching this "radical" message, most of the Church of England churches did not want him in their pulpits! New Year of 1738-1739 was spent with a group of Methodists meeting in Fetter Lane. Seven members of the old Holy Club were present including George Whitefield and Charles Wesley. The power of God came upon them about 3am! On April 1st, 1739 after trying to preach indoors due to being handed the reins by George Whitefield who was headed to the Georgia Colony, John preached his first sermon outdoors. (Prior to this he had really been digging in his heels against preaching outside.) It took off! People were convicted, Pentecostalism had hit! In these days of heightened persecution it is important to know about and remember the persecution that John Wesley and Methodism experienced. Was John Wesley perfect? Absolutely not! He eventually married but had no clue how to be a husband and sadly the marriage failed. God continued to use John though and throughout his lifetime he traveled over a quarter of a million miles and preached to thousands and thousands of people. To some this book may be a little "dry" but it is well worth taking the time to read. Important happenings in history were also occurring at the same time, one of them being the Boston Tea Party. Great for kids to understand and discuss the good and the bad of John's story. John Wesley 1703-1791

We have greatly enjoyed each book that we have read in this series, until we reached the one on John Wesley's life. It was painful to get through and left we feeling discouraged and frustrated with his life. He practiced extreme legalism, publically shamed a girl who did not marry him, may have been too influential is an overenthusiasm for fasting which lead to a young man's death, copied and published another man's work with no initial nod to the original author, and neglected his wife. Hmmm. His zeal for preaching to the masses and enabling lay ministers is admirable, but was too little to help our family enjoy this book.

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