

# The Sower

The Lord's Day-----August 13, 2017

## Arthur Church of Christ

415 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Arthur, IL 61951

**Preacher: Ron Bartanen**

### Times of Worship

9:30 a.m. (Bible Classes)-----10:30 a.m. (Morning Worship)----1:30 p.m. (Wednesday Bible Class)

New Web Site: <http://arthurcoc.com>

Check out the **Apologetics Press Website**

<http://apologeticspress.org>

## WAS THE BIBLE MISTAKEN?

(If you read the daily newspapers you may well have seen an article stating that the Bible is in error regarding the Canaanites. The area-paper we subscribe to (Times Courier/Journal Gazette) headlined an article saying that contrary to the Bible, not all Canaanites were slaughtered by the Israelites—that DNA tests have proven that the Lebanese are largely descended from the ancient Canaanites. Reporters have run with the story, as numerous papers across the land have given out this “fake news.” Last weekend I sent a “Letter to the Editor” proving the exact opposite—that Israel had not obeyed God in ridding the land of Canaanites. I had to limit myself to their required 300-words-limit, but

following is an expanded version of the article. To this date (Saturday, August 12) my letter has not been printed.)

Is the Bible false? Recently one of your news-headlines plainly said a Bible statement has been proven false. That interested me since I’m a believer in all of the Bible as the word of God. Have those who long to find incontestable evidence that would prove such finally found it? Does the DNA of the Lebanese, which shows them to be descendants of the ancient Canaanites, show the Bible to be mistaken? Where did God command the Israelites who entered Canaan to utterly slay all the idolatrous Canaanites? Actually, Israel

was to “drive out” the many Canaanite tribes (read Exodus 23:28-31 for one example). For those who were rebellious and would resort to their walled cities to fight against the Israelites, God instructed that “thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth, but thou shalt utterly destroy them” (Deuteronomy 20:16-17). The reason was their grossly immoral idolatry, lest Israel “do after their abominations” (v. 18). Only the rebellious that resisted being driven out would be killed. Such was God’s judgment upon them for their gross iniquity.

If reporters and editors had bothered to check their facts, they would realize that the truth is that the Bible teaches that all the Canaanites were NOT destroyed. By the time the book of Joshua was written, we are told, “They drove NOT out the Canaanites...unto this day...”, but rather enslaved them (Joshua 16:10). Judges 1:27-36 should be read, being informed that

the Israelites did NOT drive them out” from many areas and towns (cf. vs. 28 and 32). In fact, because of the negligence of Israel to even drive out the Canaanites, God plainly said, “I WILL NOT drive them out from before you: but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a snare unto you” (Judges 2:3).

The anti-Bible -biased delight in promoting “fake news” that would cause the ;uninformed to doubt the Bible as the word of God. There are always those in the media who learn of these false claims, and will run with them, willing to make the truths and facts of the Bible appear as nothing more than fables and myths. The sad fact is that once a lie is published, as in this case, many will believe it, and will never be convinced otherwise. Words are powerful, even when the words are false. -Ron

**“Every word of God is pure: He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.” (Prov. 30:5, NKJV)**

## EVIDENCE FROM BIOLOGY

Scientists have known for a long time that moths communicate with each other using hormones called pheromones. A female moth who is ready to mate releases a scent (pheromone) into the air, which is picked up by the male. It has been discovered that the pheromone is not released randomly, but in a series of pulses at a frequency of at least 1 pulse per second. The pheromone can be propelled for up to a meter from the female moth. This is like a human blowing out a candle from 60 feet away. Researchers have also discovered that the male is not only drawn to the female by the scent of the pheromone, but also by the pattern in which the chemical is sent. The male’s antennae receive, and then send, the signal to its brain with the same frequency as the female’s pulses. The scent itself acts as a carrier for a More Code-like message!

The more we study creation, the more we find that even the smallest details of creation reveal amazing complexities which point to a Master Designer.

Hebrews 2:8 (NIV): “...In putting everything under Him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to Him.” -----  
-----Logansport (IN) Lifelines

# FITLY SPOKEN WORDS

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” (Proverbs 16:24, NKJV)

The value of pleasant words to a discouraged soul is rather obvious to each of us. What should we make of the word “pleasant” in this context? Should we understand it to be words that are not necessarily associated with the truth of God, or a true understanding of a particular situation? I hardly think that is in view. The focus of the proverb puts stress on giving a sorrowed soul help in the time of need. From the Lord’s perspective, only the truth of God’s word can actually benefit the soul of man. Interestingly enough, in the next verse is a sentiment wherein man is warned about adopting words or a perspective that leads to death. A fitly spoken word can surely be of great help when a soul is burdened. (Proverbs 25:11-12). -Ron Thomas, Sullivan Lantern

## A PERSIAN PROVERB

There seems to be a mad rush to identify with every strange teaching that comes down the pike. The current rage is to deny we can “know” anything. I ran across the following Persian proverb:

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not is a fool—shun him.  
He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child—teach him.  
He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep—wake him.  
He who knows and knows, and knows that he knows, is wise—follow him.

Remember these things the next time you read or hear someone denying we can know the truth.

--Andrew M. Connelly, House to House/Heart to Heart

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

“THE WHY, WHAT AND HOW OF FAITH” will be today’s message, with Hebrews 11:1-6 as the reading.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Lyla; Boyd (having tests soon); Nadine; Linda; Rodger; Ron; God’s presence with our nation as we face the threats from ISIS and N. Korea; and those in our world suffering great persecution at the hands of ISIS and others.