

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