

Debate on the Existence of God

Kyle Butt, who preaches for churches of Christ, and is associated with Apologetics Press will be meeting Dan Barker, a former Assembly of God preacher who has turned atheist, on the subject of "The existence of God." The debate will take place at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina on February 12, 2009. Let us all pray for Brother Butt's success in this effort.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

| Date | Morning | Evening |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 02/02/09 Monday..... | Exodus.....15-16 | Mark.....05 |
| 02/03/09 Tuesday..... | Exodus.....27-18 | Mark.....06 |
| 02/04/09 Wednesday..... | Exodus.....19-20 | Mark.....07 |
| 02/05/09 Thursday..... | Exodus.....21-22 | Mark.....08 |
| 02/06/09 Friday..... | Exodus.....23-24 | Mark.....09 |
| 02/07/09 Saturday..... | Exodus.....25-26 | Mark.....10 |
| 02/08/09 Sunday..... | Exodus.....27-28 | Mark.....11 |

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 201-6093. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com. Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
 Ladies Bible Class 3rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

OUR PLEA: BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
 P.O. Box 381
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The Informer

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE? (3)

Jerry D. McDonald

Last week we began looking at Mr. Barker's objection to the 32 virgins being given to the Priests as their part of the spoils from the Midianite destruction. The atheist/agnostic looks at this and claims that these virgins were used for sexual purposes. Even though there is no textual or extra Biblical evidence of this atheists/agnostics continue to argue for it. What arguments do they have in favor of their position?

Moses said "But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves" (Num 31:18). Based on these words they conclude that Moses was telling them to use these virgins for sex. In their critical commentary on Numbers Keil & Delitzsch wrote:

"The object of the command to put all the male children to death, was to exterminate the whole nation, as it could not be perpetuated in the women. Of the female sex, all were to be put to death who had known the lying with a man, and therefore might possibly have been engaged in the licentious worship of Peor (Num. 25: 2), to preserve the congregation from all contamination from that abominable idolatry" (*The Fourth Book of Moses, Numbers*, p. 184).

Moses had them keep only the virgins because they had not known men and had no chance of carrying on the pure bloodline. If these people were used solely for sex then why keep just the virgins? Why not keep the non-virgins as well? This is a question that cannot be answered by the atheist. Virginity had nothing to do with what these virgins were to be used for, what it qualified them for was life. John Gill wrote:

"Ver. 18. But all the women children, etc.] The females among the little ones: that have not known a man by lying with him; which might be pretty clear, and easily concluded, from

their age: keep for yourselves; either to be handmaids to them, or to be married among them when grown up, and become proselytes, and initiated into their religion” (*Exposition of the Old Testament, Numbers*, p. 430).

“What is the origin of the "mighty men" giants known as nephilim?” Your choices are (A) They were the offspring of God’s angels and young women. (B) They were the result of an earlier, botched creation. (B) They were monsters from the evil nation of Nephi. (C) They were part of the "blessing of Abraham" that ensured military victory to God's chosen people.

The answer that Mr. Barker is looking for is (A) “They were the offspring of God’s angels and young women.” Mr. Barker is the one who does not know his Bible! He, like other critics of the Bible, thinks that Genesis 6:1-4:

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown” (Gen 6:1-4).

The Bible no where states that the “sons of God” here were the giants. The fact that “giants” were in the land in those days has nothing to do with the fact that the sons of God took wives of the daughters of men. Angels did not have a sex, in other words they did not reproduce. Jesus said “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Mat 22:30). Angels are not able to reproduce. They do not take wives and they do not produce children.

The Bible critic does not understand Hebrew literature. The Old Testament doesn’t always go in chronological order. Sometimes it simply inserts facts into the narrative, and here is one such place. The narrative tells about the children of God seeing the daughters of men and going in and taking them as wives. Because of this God said that his Spirit would not always strive with man and that man’s days would be 120 years. Then out of no where the statement is placed in that there were giants in the land in those days. So where did the giants come from? That is a question that we will start off with an respond to next week.

News & Notes

THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep

Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Gary Cooper, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreysse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace. Sandy Sarchette has ovarian cancer and will have to start taking treatments every week for six months. Fred Fife from the church in Sullivan was taken to Barnes Hospital last Sunday with chest pains. He had a stint put in several years ago and they thought it was going bad. However, they released him on Wednesday and sent him home. He is now down with a virus. Let us keep him and his entire family in our prayers. Jerry McDonald had bronchitis but is on antibiotics and is better, and is back at services.

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| <p>THOSE TO SERVE February 01, 2009 A.M.</p> <p>Greeters.....David Shanks & Danny Keeney Announcements.....Jerry McDonald Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks Lord’s Supper....David Shanks & Danny Keeney Sermon.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....Leroy Thomas</p> <p>P.M.</p> <p>Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace Sermon.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge Devotional.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....David Shanks</p> | <p>THOSE TO SERVE February 8, 2009 A.M.</p> <p>Greeters.....Gary Wallace & Elwood Runge Announcements.....Andy Shanks Song Leader.....Danny Keeney Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace Lord’s Supper.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald Sermon.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....David Shanks</p> <p>P.M.</p> <p>Song Leader.....Danny Keeney Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas Sermon.....Thomas McDonald Closing Prayer.....David Shanks</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Song Leader.....Danny Keeney Opening Prayer.....David Shanks Devotional.....Thomas McDonald Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge</p> |
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FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children’s Home this week are “Sugar,” and “Canned Soups.”

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For February 01, 2009: “Balanced Christianity.” The P.M. lesson will be “Paul’s Greeting To Philemon.”

A.M. For February 08, 2009: “Can We Trust Our Bible?” The P.M. Lesson will be announced.

Videos

Don’t forget about the videos “Obsession” and “Expelled” that are available to the congregation. You can find them in the church’s library.

Traveling

Jerry and Andrea McDonald will be going to South Carolina for the debate between Kyle Butt and Dan Barker on February 12, 2009. They will be back the following Saturday.

Men’s Business Meeting

Don’t forget about the men’s business meeting on February 5th here at the building. All of the men

are encouraged to attend to help make the decisions for the church here in Belle.