
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

JIMMY CARTER SAYS JESUS WOULD APPROVE GAY “MARRIAGE”



In a July 7 interview with *HuffPost Live*, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said: “I think Jesus would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else, and I don’t see that gay marriage damages anyone else. I believe Jesus would approve gay marriage. That’s just my own personal opinion.” Jimmy Carter is a longtime Sunday School teacher at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, though he doesn’t believe the Bible. In 1997, Carter rebuked the Southern Baptist Convention for targeting Mormons with the gospel. Carter loves modernistic theologians such as Barth and Brunner who denied the infallible inspiration of Holy Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, and other

cardinal doctrines. After his election to the presidency, Carter appointed pro-abortion activist Sarah Weddington to the position of assistant to the president. He has been promoting homosexual rights since the early 1990s. To say that Jesus would approve of gay marriage is ridiculous, since Jesus defined marriage as one man and one woman as “at the beginning,” referring to Genesis 2. “Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” (Jesus Christ, Matthew 19:4-5).

WORLD’S SMALLEST BIBLE IS IN ISRAEL

The following is excerpted from “World’s Smallest,” *Christian Headlines*, Jul. 8, 2015: “Scientists in Israel have created the world’s smallest Bible, a text so small that it could fit on the tip of a pen. CNN reports the *Nano Bible* includes 1.2 million letters of the Old Testament etched onto a minuscule disc. To read the Scripture, it would have to be magnified about 10,000 times. To create the Bible, scientists from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology used silicon that was 100 atoms thick and plated it with gold. The characters were engraved with a focused ion beam. The *Nano Bible* is now being displayed at the Israel Museum’s 50th anniversary exhibit.”



(Photo : Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)

The Nano Bible, a copy of the Hebrew Bible using nanotechnology, is on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem as part of the museum’s 50th anniversary celebration.

BELGIUM'S CULTURE OF DEATH

The following is excerpted from “Thousands of people in Belgium,” *Business Insider*, Jul. 3, 2015: “A healthy 24-year-old woman in Belgium made headlines recently when she announced that she was going to die by assisted suicide, not because of chronic pain or a terminal ailment, but because of her persistent suicidal thoughts. The woman, who gave only her first name, Laura, to the press is one of 50 people per year in Belgium who are allowed to get assisted suicides for psychiatric reasons alone. Belgium made history in 2002 when it legalized assisted suicide for people with unbearable pain, physical or psychological. Proponents of the law say it humanizes people with debilitating conditions by giving them the autonomy to end it all. Opponents of the law argue Belgian doctors often prescribe assisted suicide when the patient is not entirely out of other options. Since the law went into effect, about 10,600 people have taken their lives in Belgium via assisted suicide, about half of them between the ages of 70 and 90. But of the 1,924 people who were euthanized in 2014, about two to three percent were people suffering from psychiatric conditions, and many of them were younger, Professor Wim Distelmans, chairman of the federal commission for euthanasia, told Belgian publication *Humo*.”

CANADA COURT UPHOLDS HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA OVER RELIGIOUS FAITH



The Ontario Superior Court has upheld the decision to deny accreditation to a Christian law school because of its stance against homosexuality. When the 4,000-student Trinity Western University in Vancouver, British Columbia, wanted to open a law school a couple of years ago, the Law Society of Upper Canada barred accreditation. The Ontario Court “found that the denial of accreditation did violate Trinity’s freedom of religion, but that this violation was acceptable because of the greater good of protecting equality” (“Canada Court Denies Christian Law School Accreditation Due to University’s Rule against Gay Sex,” *The Stream*, July 5, 2015). This is the latest in a series of attacks on religious liberty in Canada. Ken Ham rightly observes: “[We] have been warning that legalizing gay ‘marriage’ is only the beginning of an agenda. From what we’ve seen and know about the LGBT movement, the leaders don’t just want legalization of their immoral behavior, but also want to force acceptance of this on everyone. They want everyone not just to tolerate their position, but to accept it while they themselves show intolerance for those who do not hold to their views” (*Around the World with Ken Ham*, July 7, 2015).

THE LOCATION OF SODOM

Dr. Leen Ritmeyer, architect and archaeologist, has made three reconstructive drawings of the ancient city of Sodom and its gate based on research done over the past two decades by Dr. Steven Collins, Dean of the College of Archaeology and Biblical History at Trinity Southwest University, Albuquerque, New Mexico. I understand that Ritmeyer has assisted some in the excavation. They believe that Sodom was located at Tel el-Hammam, almost due east of Jericho on the eastern side of the Jordan. This is in the plain of Jordan, which is the area where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea. It fits the Bible’s description of Sodom’s location in Genesis 13:10-11. Lot lifted up his eyes from Bethel, which is west of Jericho, and saw the region to the east, describing it as “the plain of Jordan.” From Bethel, Lot journeyed east to Sodom. The Hebrew word for “plain” in Genesis 13 is “kikkar,” which refers to a circle, a perfect description of the plain of Jordan. Ritmeyer reports, “During the excavations of Tall el-Hammam in 2013, a large gatehouse with pillars was found behind the main entrance to

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY DROPS BAN ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The following is excerpted from “Baylor University Drops Ban,” *Houston Chronicle*, Jul. 7, 2015: “The world’s largest Baptist university has dropped a ban on ‘homosexual acts’ in its sexual conduct policy. After years of appeals from students, alumni and others, Baylor University revised its policy, dropping the ban on gay sex to ‘state more plainly the expectations of the university,’ a Baylor spokeswoman said Tuesday. ‘These changes were made because we didn’t believe the language reflected Baylor’s caring

community,’ spokeswoman Lori Fogleman said in an email. ... Baylor’s previous policy called ‘homosexual acts’ a misuse of ‘God’s gift,’ along with sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest and adultery. ... The school’s updated policy, approved by Baylor’s board in May, is far more vague than its last one. It says the university will be guided by ‘the biblical understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God.’ Sex, the policy says, ‘is to be expressed in the context of marital fidelity.’” **Concluding Comment:** It is not an act of “care” or compassion to authorize something that God plainly forbids. Furthermore, it is impossible for homosexuals to express their sexuality “in the context of marital fidelity” when the Bible only endorses such a context for a man and a woman.

NEW ZEALAND PASSES ONEROUS BILL LIMITING FREEDOM OF SPEECH

New Zealand has passed legislation on “cyber-bullying” that has the potential to destroy freedom of speech and religion in that country. The Harmful Digital Communications Bill “will censor posts deemed offensive, racist, abusive or show religious intolerance” (“Mind Your Manners: New Zealand Criminalises Online Trolling to Prevent ‘Hurt Feelings,’” *Breitbart*, Jul. 2, 2015). That covers almost everything! All that is necessary for action to be taken is for an individual to claim that he has suffered “serious emotional distress” by something published on the Internet. Further, the (allegedly) aggrieved party can remain anonymous. Laws designed to protect people’s feelings can do nothing but destroy every semblance of freedom of speech and religion. We have no doubt that there will be a line of aggrieved queued up to take advantage of this new law, and the real bullying will be the nanny state’s bullying of those who don’t kowtow to political correctness. Last week, a Christian couple in Oregon, Aaron and Melissa Klein, were ordered to pay \$135,000 to two lesbians for “emotional suffering” because they refused to make them a wedding cake in 2013.

THE LOCATION OF SODOM

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the Middle Bronze Age city. This reconstruction drawing shows what the main gate of Tall el-Hammam would have looked like. The drawing shows a right angled pathway through the gatehouse with a space at the side where the elders and judges of the city would have congregated. Many other exciting finds were made, such as melted potsherds and burnt skeletons, that testify to a terrible and fiery destruction, reminiscent of that described in Genesis 19.” Whether or not Tel el-Hammam is Sodom, there is no doubt that Sodom and its sister cities were located somewhere in that area. Dr. Ritmeyer’s reconstructive drawings are based on actual archaeological research and are beautifully done, bringing ancient Bible history to life. I have licensed some of them for my PowerPoint presentations. Dr. Ritmeyer also has an excellent new book *Jerusalem: The Temple Mount*. See <http://www.ritmeyer.com/2015/05/04/the-search-for-sodom/>

THE AMAZING SEA URCHIN SPINES



The following is from Jonathan Sarfati, "Sea Urchin," *Creation Magazine*, Jan. 2014: "[R]ecently biologists and engineers from Australian universities have analyzed the sea urchin spine's ingenious structure under a powerful tool called micro-computed tomography (microCT). Each spine is a single crystal of calcite (CaCO₃). This is normally a soft and brittle mineral, but it is highly strengthened in several ways. It is a hollow tapered cylinder, which saves weight and materials without sacrificing much strength. Some magnesium ions replace calcium ions, which produce an irregularity that impedes cracks from propagating (the same principle explains the greater strength of metal alloys). So any fractures are more like in glass, a non-crystalline solid, than a crystal. This fracturing absorbs energy and protects the main spherical shell (called a *test*) of the animal. There is also a small amount of organic material (glycoprotein) with the mineral crystal, which makes a huge difference to toughness. The strength is further enhanced by its very fine structure. The crystal contains finely spaced radial wedges connected by bridges. The thin edges direct stresses to the outside, and the spaces stop fractures from spreading through the whole spine. The

researchers say, 'Overall, the spine is highly porous with an intricate structural hierarchy.' However, in a popular report, the researchers paid the obligatory fact-free homage to evolution. They called this amazing structure an 'evolutionary feature' that was 'optimized' and 'survived hundreds of millions of years.' Yet they also say 'the finding could offer clues for creating new bio-inspired materials and more efficient engineering designs.' This should have been a clue that the original was designed as well!"



*The Black needle sea urchin
(Diadema setosum)*

CONCLUSION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.