
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

FASCINATING FINDS AT ANCIENT SHILOH



Aerial view of the excavations at Shiloh
(photo credit: COURTESY ASSOCIATES FOR BIBLICAL RESEARCH)

Shiloh, north of Jerusalem, was the site of the Tabernacle for nearly 400 years, from the time of Joshua to that of Samuel. Jerusalem was still a pagan city, and Shiloh was God's appointed place of worship. Every morning and evening a lamb was sacrificed on the brazen altar. The Tabernacle and the Levitical system pointed to Jesus Christ and His vicarious atonement on Calvary, Christ "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The Tabernacle was a major way that the law of Moses "was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that

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THE STATE OF "GENDER AFFIRMING CARE" FOR YOUTH IN THE U.S., ENGLAND, AND EUROPE

The following is excerpted from "Increasing Number of European Nations Adopt a More Cautious Approach," *Forbes*, June 6, 2023: "Increasingly, European nations are adopting a more cautious approach to gender-affirming care among minors. In March, for example, the Norwegian Healthcare Investigation Board announced it would revise its current clinical recommendations with respect to 'gender-affirming care' for minors. The updated guidelines would restrict the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and transition-related surgery to clinical research settings. Norway joins other European nations, such as Finland, Sweden and the U.K., in introducing limits on the provision of gender-affirming care to minors. In the U.S., a partisan divide is shaping up between states that allow for and guarantee access to youth gender-affirming care and states that ban or severely restrict gender-affirming care for minors. There doesn't appear to be much middle ground. Thus far this year, 12 states have either banned or severely limited gender-affirming care for minors. It's expected that more Republican-led states will soon follow suit. At the same time, five Democrat-led states have passed legislation designed to legally protect transgender healthcare coverage and access for minors. ... In the U.S., talk of introducing guardrails is sometimes met with being branded 'transphobic' or a 'science denier.' ... But caution with respect to gender-affirming care for minors may be warranted, as European experience indicates. ... In Europe there has been a gradual shift from care which prioritizes access to pharmaceutical and surgical interventions, to a less medicalized and more conservative approach that addresses possible psychiatric comorbidities and explores the developmental etiology of trans identity. ... From puberty blockers to cross-sex hormones to surgery, the rules across Europe tend to be either stricter than many jurisdictions in the U.S. or in the process of tightening."

FASCINATING FINDS AT ANCIENT SHILOH

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we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). Scott Stripling and the Associates for Biblical Research have completed four seasons of digs and have unearthed fascinating evidence supporting the biblical record. The following is excerpted from “Archaeologist Excited by Recent Finds,” *CBN News*, Aug. 30, 2023: “This year, Dr. Scott Stripling brought us up to speed on what’s happened here since we first visited this project [in 2019]. He says, ‘Since then, we’ve come way down, five meters or so, maybe six meters in some places, and so now we can see the various structures that are here, and indeed we can now say that this is very likely the gate that’s referred to in the Bible, and that’s pretty big stuff. ... the Bible tells us that Eli (the high priest at the time) is in the gate of Shiloh when he gets the news that the Ark of the Covenant has been captured, that his sons have been killed. He falls over backward and dies in the gate.’ ... The next stop on the archaeological tour was a nearby bone deposit. Stripling described how meaningful the site was for the excavators. ‘The people working over here ... are uncovering evidence of the (Jewish) sacrificial system. ... The pottery and the bones. They tell an unmistakable story that matches what we read in the biblical text.’ As we stood over the site, Stripling said, ‘This is unexcavated; underneath your feet and my feet is about (4 feet) of solid bone, waiting to be excavated. Bone on top of bone, on top of bone. And we have micro stratigraphy in this area so we can see that the deposition is laid down over a long period of time, just like the Bible says.’ When asked what kind of bones would be found there, he replied, ‘Sheep, goat, cow--and disproportionately from the right side of the animal.’ ... ‘Why is the right side so significant?’ he asked. ‘Well, the priests are the ones who live here, and Leviticus 7 tells us that the right side of the animal is the priest’s portion. So ... you got a hundred thousand bones and they’re disproportionate. Give me another explanation. It just happens to coordinate with what the Bible says.’”

NEW MEXICO JOINS 31 OTHER STATES SUING SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES ON CHILD SAFETY ISSUES



Meta is accused of ignoring safety risks in favor of profit.

The following is excerpted from “This Might Be Facebook’s Lowest Moment Yet,” *PJMedia*, Dec. 7, 2023: “Almost every day of my life it seems I have some new reason to think I’m the best dad in the world for keeping my kids off of Facebook and Instagram--and today is another one of those days. Investigators in New Mexico created a fake account for a seventh-grade girl named ‘Issa Bee,’ complete with AI-generated photos of her. Issa quickly attracted ‘thousands of adult followers who deluged her with both invitations to join private chat groups and sex content featuring both children and adults,’ according to the *Wall Street Journal*. With allegedly no effective

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safeguards in place to prevent child exploitation, this week New Mexico Attorney General Raul Torrez filed suit against Meta--the parent company of both social media platforms--alleging that **the company 'has allowed Facebook and Instagram to become a marketplace for predators in search of children upon whom to prey.'** The suit also holds founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg 'personally responsible' for the decisions that created **platforms that have 'enabled dozens of adults to find, contact, and press children into providing sexually explicit pictures of themselves or participate in pornographic video.'** Among other, equally lurid offenses, including allowing 'users to find, share, and sell an enormous volume of child pornography,' and serving 'underage users a stream of egregious, sexually explicit images--even when the child has expressed no interest in this content.' ... Torrez's lawsuit joins a long list of other states fighting similar legal battles against Meta for enabling child predators--32 states now that New Mexico is on board."

WINGED TROOPS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 20, 2023: "We have long known that the community within a honeybee hive divides the labor among specialized workers. There are scouts who search for food. Nurses tend the young. Some bees specialized in cleaning. There are even undertaker bees who remove and dispose of dead members of the hive. Scientists have now discovered that honeybee colonies also have brigades of specialized 'soldiers.' These bees often seem to be sitting around, not doing much. In fact, they have only one duty--attack large intruders. It appears that these bees are fed and cared for by the hive members while they wait for the alarm. Should a raccoon, bear or human threaten the hive, thousands of soldier bees swarm around the enemy and sting. Soldiers have been well-known members of ant and termite colonies. However, up to now, they have never been confirmed in honeybee hives. The universal need for soldiers for protection among social insects reminds us that some things are universal in this world. These soldiers are not responsible for a bear's attack on the hive. Nor are human soldiers who follow just war principles responsible for human war. Humanity's greed and lack of love for others cannot be abolished by getting rid of armies. Rather, greed, theft and the need for protection remind us that we are not what God intended us to be. The solution lies not in denying reality, but in returning to our Creator through the forgiveness of our sins as made possible by Jesus Christ. Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF: 'Soldiers swarm to rescue,' *The Argus* (Fremont, CA), Mar. 17, 1991."

*Honeybees at hive entrance*

PASTOR EXPOSES SOUTHERN BAPTIST MEGACHURCH FOR ITS COMPROMISE WITH HOMOSEXUALITY

First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, which recently changed its name to First Orlando, is facing two ways in regard to homosexuality. On one hand, the church allows practicing homosexuals, even those in same-sex marriages, to participate in all aspects of church life, even in ministry. They are baptized and they participate in baptisms of their friends. They are on greeting committees and other ministry teams. A prominent example is Joe Mills, a man who has been affiliated with First Baptist since about the time that he “married” his male partner in 2021 (“Is a Southern Baptist Megachurch Now Affirming?” *The Christian Post*, Dec. 12, 2023). On the other hand, when challenged about this, the church claims that it is not “affirming” of homosexuality, that it does not allow homosexuals to be members, etc. In contrast, Beulah Baptist Church of Winter Garden refuses to play religious politics and word games. The church is one of many that have left the Southern Baptist Convention over the deep and growing spiritual and doctrinal compromise. Beulah’s senior pastor, Casey Butner, does not mince words in warning about what is happening in the SBC. Butner told the *Christian Post*, “Basically, Joe Mills was a member [of First Orlando], and they removed his membership [when the questions started]. ... Joe may not [currently] be officially on paper as a member, because he doesn’t agree with the Southern Baptist doctrine of marriage,

but he certainly is doing and participating in every way at First Baptist Church as a full blown member would be afforded. [He is] able to interact and be around the inner circle of the church, in a way as if he was a trusted Christian. He’s in the baptismal [pool] baptizing people, and though he would say he didn’t, the video footage shows that he did.” Butner continues, “David Uth, the senior pastor [at First Orlando] is just simply acting more like a chameleon. And whatever pragmatically works best to try and be the largest church in Central Florida. Numbers are the end goal, and they are very slick in being able to ease in a liberal, progressive agenda with their methods. They would keep things a bit ambiguous so that they can flip it to the left or to the right, in whichever conversation is most advantageous for them. ... I’m definitely an Ezekiel 33 type guy who believes with all of my heart that I will be blood guilty before God if I did not warn, and so part of the faithful job description of a pastor, according to Titus 1:9, is not only to speak sound doctrine, and hope to live, but also to refute those who contradict it. And I just see it as being faithful.” Butner warned in conclusion, **“We have a plague in America. American Christianity is no Christianity at all. We’re too comfortable. We have our tax ID statuses and we have freedom of religion or freedom of speech. We need New Testament Christianity, not American Christianity.”**

INFORMATION

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.
