

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 30, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 33:50-34:29 – Drive out the Canaanites and divide the land among the tribes.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 – Answers to various questions about the resurrection.
- ✓ Psalm 29:1-11 – The power of God over all nature.

REFLECTIONS:

Numbers 33:50-34:29. Atheists often attempt to make much hay out of the fact that God ordered the killing of the Canaanites. However, they fail to tell the whole truth regarding the nature of God or the nature of the Canaanites. For example, they often *fail* to tell their audience that God was willing to wait about 430 years because the ‘sin of the Amorite [a Canaanite people group] has not yet reached its limit’ (see Gen. 16:15). In other words, God gave them 430 years of common grace before their evil reached a point where the land would be ready to vomit them out because of the saturation of evil (Lev. 18:25). It was only after Israel’s lengthy enslavement in Egypt that the time was finally ripe for the Israelites to enter Canaan “because of the wickedness of these nations” (Deut. 9:4-5). There comes a time when any nation can reach a point of no return and be ripe for judgment, but only as the last resort. Certainly, a righteous God would not allow such evil to continue to grow unchecked and spread over the lands, destroying God’s people as well as civilization as we know it. Atheists likewise do not seem willing to take an honest look at the wickedness of the Canaanites. The Canaanites were guilty of incest, adultery as part of temple sex, bestiality, homosexuality, and child sacrificing. The sexual acts of the gods and goddesses were imitated by the Canaanites as a kind of magical act, the more sex on the Canaanite high places, the more this would stimulate the fertility god Baal to have sex with his consort, Anath, which meant more semen (rain) produced to water the earth. Let’s add to this the bloodlust and violence of the Canaanite deities. Consider the activities of Anath, the patroness of both sex and war, as described by the world renowned archaeologist William Albright:

The blood was so deep that she waded in it up to her knees—nay, up to her neck. Under her feet were human heads, above her human hands flew like locusts. In her sensuous delight she decorated herself with suspended heads while she attached hands to her girdle. Her joy at the butchery is described in even more sadistic language: “Her liver swelled with laughter, her heart was full of joy, the liver of Anath was full of exultation.” Afterwards Anath “was satisfied” and washed her hands in human gore before proceeding to other occupations (*Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*, 77).

I could go on and on and on, but I think you get the point. How long should God allow this evil to continue? How many babies sacrificed at the altars before putting an end to it all? Atheists also like to aver that the Canaanites did not know better. However, this argument fails on several



accounts. All respected ethnologists recognize that the earliest settlements of any and all people around the world demonstrate conclusively that they all believed in one God and had very high morals; this is beyond question and without any fear of contradiction. There are tribes in America, Africa, Australia, and the Arctic that date tens of thousands of years before the Canaanites in our text, and they would have been absolutely appalled at this activity. For example, the American Indians living in North Central California at about 10,000 B.C. believed in one God who was eternal, omniscience, omnipotent, all-good, created all things ex nihilo and the source of human moral laws against incest, adultery, lying, and stealing. However, just as the Word of God declares in Romans 1:20-23, man does not like such a transcendent holy God and so displaces Him with all of the religious and superstitious activities (animism, totemism, magic, fetishism) which are found in the strata *after* the earliest strata. Again, the earliest strata universally and without exception demonstrates monotheism and high morality (for extensive incontrovertible documentation, see “The Origin and Growth of Religions, Facts and Theories,” by Wilhelm Schmidt). This knowledge of God and high morals is accessible by natural revelation in creation, which the Canaanites had plenty of access to just like everyone else. There is no excuse for suppressing God and morality which are revealed in natural revelation (Rom. 1:20), let alone sacrificing one’s children as one engages in the heights of sexual orgies. It is no surprise that the Bible teaches that those who suppress the revelation of God in natural revelation ‘are without excuse’ and so stand condemned. Such swine would never have appreciated let alone have accepted the pearls of God’s grace. They have already rejected Him and His grace manifested in natural revelation. I would add that many of the activities taking place in the Word of Faith movements are strangely like those we find in aboriginal cultures that have rejected God, e.g., fetishism, animism, and even polytheism (Finis Dake). As a matter of fact, the oldest cultural strata, like those of the pigmies, demonstrate a higher concept of the basic nature God as such than understood by many modern Charismatics, Bible believers, and even doctrinal believers. What does this tell us about the diabolical perniciousness of suppressing Total Truth?

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 In verses 50-58, Paul touches on the Rapture. He notes that the Rapture of the church was a mystery in that it had not been known in the Old Testament but now was revealed. The dead in Christ will first be raised, and then the living will be instantaneously transformed. The “trumpet,” as in the Old Testament, signaled the appearance of God. It is the last blast for the church because this appearance shall never end. Like the dead (42-43), the living will exchange the temporal and imperfect for the eternal and perfect. Finally, death’s power will be removed for those who belong to Christ.



Psalm 29:1-11. In this psalm David describes the Lord's omnipotent control over nature in a terrifying storm. As *Esse*, God is in absolute control of everything moment by moment as He gives all things existence, even storms. David concludes with noting that the demonstration of the power of God over all nature was to be an encouragement to His people, for God shares His strength with His own people (11). Of course metaphysics teaches that no power has any existence apart from God. Deism is false.

All because of Christ,

Pastor Don

