

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



*A Brief Review of
Two Great Christian Websites:
Does God Exist? and Apologetics Press*

One of the most useful Bible study tools on the Internet from our brothers in the church of Christ is John Clayton's

<http://www.doesgodexist.org>. Bro Clayton is a retired Indiana high school science teacher and a former atheist who studied himself out of darkness into the truth of obeying the gospel. He is also an active member at the Donmoyer Avenue church of Christ in South Bend, Indiana. I personally met him once at a Bible/Science seminar he was holding at the high school in Newberry, Michigan. I have learned much from the writings of bro. Clayton and his associates, and he has influenced me greatly in my own conclusions regarding the when of creation and reconciling the teachings of the Bible with some of the conclusions of science. In my mind his great strength is his willingness to study and go where the evidence takes him, regarding both the Bible and in science, without buying into anyone else's preconceived agenda.

I cannot praise another website by our brethren, <http://www.apologeticspress.org/>, in the same way. It seems to me that in at least one way they most decidedly DO have a preconceived agenda of understanding into which they attempt to compel the Scriptures to conform: that the universe and the earth must be relatively young in age. Neither bro. Clayton nor myself agree that one must



The Word of God!

Today's Sermon

One of our shepherds, Dwight Jones, is bringing us another message this morning in our series on matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and remarriage:

a.m. "Living in Adultery"

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

p.m.

Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning sermon.

conclude this in order to be faithful to the truth of creation as opposed to neo-Darwinian evolution. Nevertheless, the brethren who produce the Apologetics Press website reason correctly, it seems to me, on a host of other topics related to Bible study, not just how on how one reconciles the teaching of the Bible and science.

True science and Scripture are inclusive of one another — not exclusive. I highly recommend both of these extraordinary websites to all students of the Bible to use as tools in properly understanding God's word.

Sermon Series Reminder!

Continuing our Sunday morning sermon series on discerning God's will as it pertains to matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage, one of our shepherds, Dwight Jones, is presenting his third message (sixth in our series) this morning. All three of our elders are planning on taking turns to preach most of the remaining sermons.

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## **“REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE”**



### **The victims of continuing Islamic terrorism around the world**

The family of **Dan Alderete**, a former member here, who passed away from cancer in San Antonio, Texas on Friday, 27 November (the day after Thanksgiving).

There were two deaths' in Joyce Carter's extended family recently: **Peggy Bourgeois** (Joyce's first cousin), and **Presley Vincent**, (Joyce's step-grandson), who died in a car accident in Lafayette on Thanksgiving Day. Pray for Joyce and the other family members in their sorrow.

**Lester Lee** (father of the boss of Paul Moragne, Jr) – has pancreatic cancer and is having surgery tomorrow.

**Roger Waters** (Shirley Fowler's brother, of Granada, MS) – recently diagnosed with lung cancer. He has just begin his first chemotherapy sessions.

**Tim Woods** (husband of Jesse Fowler's niece) - has colon cancer that has metastasized into his lungs. Doctors do not give him long to live.

**Robbie Miller** (friend of the Molinas) - experiencing heart trouble on top of long-time kidney dialysis.

**Marvin Phillips** (well-known former minister at the Garnett Road church in Tulsa, OK, who led

the Soul-Winning Workshops there) - in hospice care with heart problems.

**Dan Ledford** (a preacher of the church in Alabama) - diagnosed as having a brain tumor. Alexis

The father-in-law of **Nancy Reece** (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) - hospitalized in Iowa with dementia and other problems.

**Martha Swint** (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) – age 82, suffered a recent heart attack.

**Kimberley Carter** - diagnosed with Epstein-Barr syndrome (mononucleosis).

**Larry Covington** (co-worker of Dorsie's) - hospitalized in an ICU in Jackson, MS with breathing difficulties and low oxygen.

**Paul Moragne** - recovering from gall bladder removal surgery last week in Bogalusa.

**Rose Acker** - is experiencing periodic brief hospitalizations for congestive heart fluid retention

**Ronald Molina** (Gerald's brother, in E. Tennessee) - receiving radiation treatments for prostate cancer.

**Roger Whitley** (in-law of the Moragnes) - suffering from emphysema in North Carolina.

**Angel Mangus** (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

**Jase Roig** (premature infant son of Colton Roig) - pray for God's healing hand to be upon through his long-term health problems of an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

**Jessica Jackson** (daughter of a friend of George Roig) - age 26, suffering chronic headaches and depression which have only recently begun.

**Marie Peterson** - recovering at home from recent surgery.

**Mildred Tymkiw** - continuing her recovery at

her daughter's home here in Slidell. Calls are very much appreciated, but not visits please at this time.

**Jerry Kimbrough** (former member here, now at the church of Christ at S. Baton Rouge) - diagnosed with cancer in his eye, and will be undergoing chemotherapy soon.

**Shirley Ervin** - thanksgiving that she is healing following recent neck surgery and is striving now to return to normal activity levels.

**Stephanie Smith** (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

**Zach Steele** - suffering now from abnormal cells in his blood called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). It is what can be called a "second cancer." It's not cancer, but can be, and in his case is a result/side effect of previous treatments for cancer.

Zach will be having chemo and selective radiation treatments periodically for the foreseeable future.

**Rosa Nuñez** (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

**Jessica Fowler** (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - facing severe personal problems.

**Terri Jones** - pray that she'll come to feel better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

**Dale Epperley** - awaiting a new prosthesis that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

**Gerald Molina** - still seeing doctors for spinal stenosis.

**Sharon Honoré** (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

**Clara Leonard** - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

**Bobby Leonard** - awaiting test results from

his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

**Alexis Leonard** (Joyce Carter's granddaughter) - recovering very well following the surgical removal of recently implanted knee hardware.

**Devon Nelson** (Roig's grandson) - has recently enlisted in the U.S. Army (November 3), and has begun basic training at Fort Benning, GA.

**Marisol Vargas** - still gone to her parents' home in Costa Rica to care for her mother, **Maria Aurelia Alsaro**, who has recovered very well from two recent infections. Pray for Robert too, as he gets by in Marisol's absence.

**Pray for all who are travelling.**

**Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.**

**Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.**

**Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.**

**Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!**

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*The Old Testament Narratives:
Their Proper Use (continued)*

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

Principles for Interpreting Narratives

The Ruth Narrative (continued)

Again, we get a lot of important information implicitly from the narrative. This information is valuable to us, and helps us follow the narrative and interpret it. And yet it is information that is not made available to us explicitly.

3. The narrative tells us implicitly that this story is part of the background to the ancestry of King David--and by extension, therefore, to Jesus Christ. Look at 4: 17-21. The brief genealogy in verse 17 and the fuller genealogy in verses 18-21

both end with the name David. This David is obviously the focus, the endpoint of this portion of the narrative. We know from several other genealogical lists in the Bible that this David is King David, the first great Israelite king. We also know from the New Testament genealogies that Jesus, humanly speaking, was descended from David. Ruth, then, was multiple great-grandmother of David's, and an ancestor of Jesus! This is an important part of the teaching of the entire narrative. It is a story not just about Ruth and Boaz in terms of their faithfulness to the LORD, but also in terms of their place in Israel's history. They had no way of knowing it, but these were people whom the LORD would use in the ancestry of David and "David's son," Jesus.

4. The narrative tells us implicitly that Bethlehem was an exceptional town during the period of the judges because of the faithfulness of its citizenry. To spot this implicit thrust in the narrative is not easy or automatic. It requires a careful reading of the whole narrative, with special attention to the words and actions of *all* the participants in the story. It also requires knowledge of what things were generally like in other parts of Israel in those days in contrast to what they were like specifically in Bethlehem. This in turn requires a familiarity with the main events and themes of the Book of Judges, since Ruth is directly related to that time period by the narrator (1:1). A careful reading of Judges cause us to note that this period (about 1240-1030 BC.) was generally marked by such practices as widespread idolatry, syncretism (mixing features of pagan religions with those of Israel's true faith), social injustice, social turmoil, intertribal rivalries, sexual immorality, and other indications of unfaithfulness. The picture presented to us in the Book of Judges is hardly a happy one, though there are individual cases where God, in his mercy, benefits Israel, or tribes within Israel, in spite of the general pattern of rebellion against him.

What in Ruth tells us that Bethlehem is an exception to the general picture of unfaithfulness? Practically everything except 2:22, which implies that not all Bethlehemites practice the gleaning laws as they should. Otherwise, the picture is remarkably consistent. The words of the characters themselves show just how consciously

the people of this town manifest their allegiance to the LORD.

Remember that all the characters mentioned in the narrative, except for Ruth and her sister Orpah, are citizens of Bethlehem. Consider Naomi - whether in times of great bitterness (1:8-9, 13, 20-21) or ill times of happiness (1:6; 2:19-20) she recognizes and submits to the LORD's will. Moreover, Boaz consistently shows himself by his words to be a worshiper and follower of the LORD (2:11-12; 3:10, 13), and his actions throughout confirm his words.

Even the way people greet one another shows a high degree of conscious allegiance to the LORD (2:4). Likewise, the elders of the town in their blessings on the marriage and its offspring (4:11-12), and the women of the town in their blessing on Naomi (4:14) show their faith. Their acceptance of the converted Moabite, Ruth, is further implicit testimony to their faith. Finally, the inspired narrator attributes significant events to the LORD (1:6; 4:13).

Our Leaders!

Elders

**Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina**

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

**Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina**

Our Services

<i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i>	9:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Morning Worship</i>	10:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Evening Worship</i>	5:00 p.m.
<i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i>	7:00 p.m.
<i>Stitches of Love</i>	Tuesday 9:00 a.m.