

# REDEEMING THE TIME

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).*

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## Evangelical Creation Contortions & Contrivances

*Illegitimate Attempts to  
Conform Scripture to "Science"*

BY BRAD K. GSELL

**M**any modern Evangelicals, seeking to understand the Scriptures in ways which will not contradict science, and long eager to be viewed with respect by the enemies of the gospel, seem to be increasingly inventive in their interpretive contortions and contrivances when dealing with the account of Creation found in the Scriptures. The evangelical mouthpiece *Christianity Today* continues to print articles friendly to Darwinian evolution. In order to attempt to harmonize this with their stated belief in the Scriptures, these writers simply reinterpret the Bible texts to conform to changing scientific dogma — no matter how badly the rules of grammar and historic intent have to be twisted. Some things being set forth are outside the bounds of Biblical orthodoxy.

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## Is there NOT A CAUSE?

BY ROBERT W. ANDERSON

**I**n 1 Samuel 17, we gather around the classic story of David and Goliath, which has been retold across all the centuries and to all ages, from infant to hoary head. It will likely still be told around the campfires of heaven.

When young David arrived at the army encampment, he saw the giant Philistine come out, and heard Goliath's taunt waft across the valley: "... choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." (1 Samuel 17:8-10)

All the mighty soldiers, even the king himself, were silent. No one knew what to do. David heard the soldiers talking about the reward the king had offered: great wealth, marriage to the king's daughter, and to be tax-free for life. But when David began to ask, "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine...?" he did not have stars in his

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## EVANGELICAL CREATION CONTORTIONS ...

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The October 2013 issue carried a feature entitled: “Where Did We Come From? How Milton, Paley, and Darwin Help Us Answer the Question.” It is written by Andrew J. Wilson, an elder of the Kings Church in Eastbourne, on the southern coast of England.

William Paley is mentioned because of his familiar watchmaker analogy which says that just as it is not rational to look at a watch and believe that all the parts just came together by accident, we can’t look at our world and think it was all assembled by mere chance. However, most of the discussion is saved for Milton and Darwin.

Wilson states: “For Milton, Adam and Eve were real people, created in the image of God.... The Apostle Paul, and Milton after him, clearly believed Adam was a historical figure. But modern genetics has added huge scientific weight to Darwin’s view, through the study of

by Andrew J. Wilson

# WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

HOW MILTON, PALEY, AND DARWIN HELP US ANSWER THE QUESTION.

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pseudogenes, ‘jumping genes,’ retroviral insertions, and so on....”

Wilson asserts that “The first [the view of the Apostle Paul, which was held by Milton] leads to problems with science, and the second [Darwin’s view, which has ‘huge scientific weight’] leads to some big problems with Scripture.”

But do not be perplexed! Wilson offers the Christian “help” with this conundrum by means of a little fanciful thinking.

He writes: “There is no evidence to say that a pair of Neolithic farmers, formed directly by the hand of God in Mesopotamia, did not exist. There’s no evidence to suggest that they weren’t the first people, made in his image, with the soul-life of God breathed into them. There’s no evidence to contradict the claim that they knew God, and were tempted, and sinned, and were exiled, and had children, and died. Not only that, but Genesis doesn’t actually say that all human beings are biologically descended from Adam and Eve alone. The people Cain was scared of, and the woman he married, don’t seem to be related to him. And

if they weren’t, then we don’t actually know if they were created out of the dust of the earth, created out of creatures that already existed, or created in some other way.

“So I don’t think Milton and Darwin are impossible to reconcile. In fact, I can’t think of anything Milton (or Genesis) says about Adam and Eve that is contradicted by Darwinian evolution, as strange as that sounds.”

Yes, Mr. Wilson, it does indeed sound very strange — and the rules of logic would dictate that if what you write is true, some very unorthodox conclusions must be drawn and the integrity of God’s Word is shattered. Just a few obvious concerns are:

1. If some men were created “out of creatures that already existed, or created in some other way,” how do any of us know whether we are descended from Adam or from some creature?

2. If we are not all descended from Adam, are some of us exempt from the wrath and curse of God,

Of Man’s First Disobedience, and the Fruit  
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,  
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat....

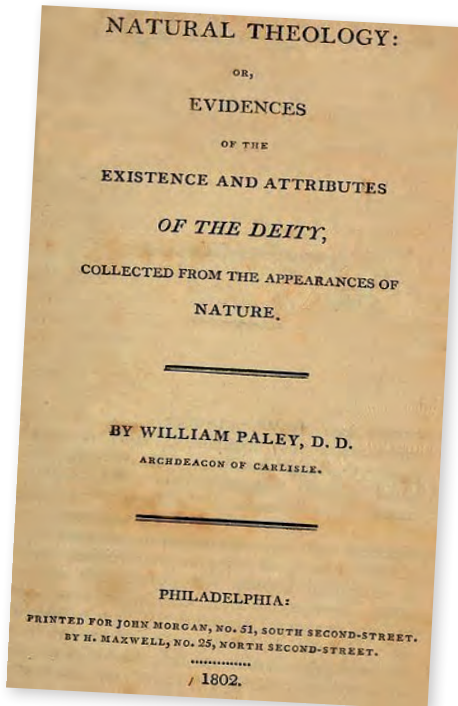
—John Milton in *Paradise Lost*

due to Adam's sin and his federal headship over his descendants?

3. Are some of us without the need of a Saviour?

4. Since Paul taught in the Scriptures that Adam was an actual man and the father of the ENTIRE human race (as Mr. Wilson admits), any other view (such as Mr. Wilson's surmisings) would place Paul in serious error and would make the Scriptures to be totally untrustworthy.

Scientific study has revealed some very amazing things about our



universe. These things can help us see more fully what the Scriptures teach concerning God's creation. However, to twist the plain teaching of the Scriptures beyond recognition, to supposedly conform to every hypothesis and theory which "the scientific community" may espouse at any given time, is a great offense to science as well as to the Scriptures. •



Mr. Brad Gsell is an elder and minister of music of the Bible Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC, and President of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions.

# "In the space of six days, and all very good"

True Christians have always believed the Scriptures to be the inerrant Word of God. Thus, they have held the Genesis account of Creation to be accurate and true. However, following Charles Darwin's first steps onto the Galapagos Islands on September 18, 1835, many have constructed fanciful schemes to try to harmonize the evolutionary hypothesis of origins with the Creation account in the Scriptures.

Darwin's publication of his *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, first published on November 24, 1859, gave opportunity for the enemies of God to conduct an unrelenting attack on the veracity of the Scriptures and indeed on the very existence of God. The use of these evolutionary principles in the intervening years has seen the commission of horrendously evil acts in the political, cultural, economic and societal realms, as one can easily imagine just by reading the full title of Darwin's book.

The Bible and Christianity are champions of true science. Science has improved all of our lives with the many amazing discoveries that have been uncovered and facts which have been proven by diligent investigation and testing.

Scientific pursuit can arise from a number of motivations. Often it springs simply from a curiosity and a quest for knowledge of the unknown. Most modern science is concentrated and funded with the purpose of bringing about positive change — everything from developing cures for diseases, to finding cost-efficient and renewable sources of energy.

Any *verifiable* scientific discovery is not in conflict with the Scriptures, since God is the author of ALL truth. Unlocking the mysteries of God's creation is merely the revealing of truth. For instance, our ancestors made the scientific discoveries (from testing and reproducing the results [they had no idea they were "scientists"!]) that eating spinach can be a safe, healthy part of one's diet, whereas the poison ivy plant causes a very uncomfortable rash. Through more advanced scientific examination, the wonderful vitamins and minerals in spinach were discovered, and urushiol was found to be the chemical culprit in poison ivy. Building on these established points of knowledge, further truth was obtained by examining how these vitamins, minerals and chemicals interact with our bodies, and why they produce the results they do.

Scientist Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) described science as "thinking God's thoughts after Him." Indeed, to "unlock" the mysteries of God's creation is a noble pursuit, provided that the knowledge gained is not used for evil.

The problem with evolutionary biology is that the "scientific method" can never be completed, since there is too much that is unknowable about what took place thousands of years ago (and particularly millions or billions of years ago, should the modern evolutionist be believed). It also is impossible for scientists to replicate the creation of the universe. Despite the advanced dating technologies, observations and amazing discoveries of all sorts, evolutionary biology is still predicated on the phi-

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## "IN THE SPACE OF SIX DAYS ..."

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losophy of naturalism and a strong bias against supernaturalism.

Much of the modern scientific establishment has set itself up as the final arbiter of truth, with little self-assessment as to the very great limits of its knowledge and understanding. There is no recognition that "cognitive bias," and the requisite acceptance of unproven foundational premises, obviously play a great part in affecting many of the conclusions and hard assertions which are made.

In the study of origins and human development, any who dare engage in legitimate "scientific inquiry" which is not approved by the establishment are severely persecuted — rather than scientifically disproved. "Peer review" can be a very helpful step in scientific progress. However, when totalitarian control is exerted by a scientific establishment alarmingly tainted by political and philosophical — rather than scientific — concerns, huge problems present themselves.

To hear some in this so-called "scientific community," you would think you were listening to Radio Pyongyang, rather than to true scientists with a thirst for discovery, investigation and inquiry. The title of Ben Stein's 2008 documentary, "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," is not unfounded! Neither is the fact that large numbers of people, many of them well educated, simply don't buy the whole evolutionary scheme — much to the extreme frustration and irritation of those in the self-ordained scientific seats of power.

Unfortunately, many in the church have sold the precious truths of God's Word for a "mess of pottage." Theistic evolution, which

denies the claim that God created man directly (Genesis 1:26,27), and that Adam was a real man (Genesis 2:21-23), is now held by many in the evangelical world. Others hold the Creation story to be a "myth" which is simply teaching a truth, but not with details based in reality. Others allegorize Genesis 1 and 2, stating that the name Adam is not referring to an individual man, but is used to

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represent all mankind. Of course, the Scriptures quickly contradict these assertions. The Apostle Paul, in Romans, unequivocally states his belief in Adam as an individual — the first human being.

The Westminster Divines declared that "It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create or make of nothing the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good" (Westminster Confession of Faith 4:1).

Many today try to bend the language of Scripture (and of the Confession) to say that these "days" might each have been long periods of time. However, Moses tells us in the Second Commandment: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11). To believe that we should arbitrarily swing back and forth between obviously literal days, to periods of many years, is to wrest language out of its clear and usual meaning to support an unclear and unusual meaning.

These evangelicals make compromising adaptations thinking that they can devise new meanings for Scriptural language which is more in line with modern scientific thinking. Some believe they are furthering the cause of respectability by not conflicting with current scientific dogma. This is often done without any warrant at all being found in the text itself.

This is to cede to the doubters that all things have occurred merely by natural processes, and that scientists can really prove things which simply can never be verified by the scientific method. If we believe in the supernatural God of the Scriptures, who performed many mighty miracles, then we should EXPECT that many phenomena in the world will NOT follow the expectations and patterns of mere naturalism.

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3). •

# WHEAT & CHAFF

BY MARK W. EVANS

**W**hen the Lord was pleased to bring Reformation to break the chains of religious and civil tyranny, He began with the weak things of the earth. A scholar and Roman Catholic priest, John Wycliffe (1330-1384), studied the sacred Scriptures and realized that the popes and clergy lacked Biblical warrant for their claim to authority over men's consciences. Wycliffe was the "Morning Star" of the Reformation. The superstitions, corruptions, and usurpations of the Roman Catholic Church were brought under the light of God's Word, and the chains of religious and civil bondage began to break.

For centuries, popes, cardinals, legates, archbishops, bishops, priests, monks, and other clergy had ruled over men's souls. Kings and queens, along with their subjects, bowed before the pretensions of an ecclesiastical monstrosity that forbade the reading of the Bible.

In the face of imprisonment, torture, exile, and executions, the Bible ascended to its rightful place, the only rule of faith and practice. It dismantled a massive fraud and an elaborate commercial enterprise, which destroyed souls and chan-

neled the wealth of nations into the coffers of Rome.

Popes incited and clergymen led wars against rivals to their power. The horrors of the Inquisition, with its torture chambers and burning stakes, stilled the voice of doubters.

The Bible was a forgotten and illegal Book for the general population.

**"Flames could not destroy the truth, and humble believers came out of the dungeon of spiritual ignorance into the glorious light of the truths of God's Word."**

It was translated into Latin, a dead language to most, and was forbidden to be written in the language of the people. Even Doctors of Theology attained their degrees without reading and knowing the Word of God.

John Wycliffe read the Scriptures, proclaimed its truths, translated it into a known tongue, and weakened the grasp of the pope. Noblemen, longing for freedom from religious tyrants, protected Wycliffe from harm. Wycliffe's followers copied and distributed his translation and many were burned at the stake

with their Bibles chained around their necks.

Flames could not destroy the truth, and humble believers came out of the dungeon of spiritual ignorance into the glorious light of the truths of God's Word. The Reformation was beginning.

John Hus (c. 1369-1415), a Roman Catholic priest of Bohemia, was appointed to preach in Prague's Chapel of Bethlehem. A citizen founded the chapel in Prague for the unusual purpose of preaching God's Word in the language of the people. As Hus preached, his knowledge of the Scriptures increased, and he saw the folly and fraud of the religious system that claimed absolute authority over his soul. He unveiled the treachery and struck at the pope and his claim to be the "visible head of the Church." Christ alone, he discovered in the Bible, is the only Head of the Church.

Under Hus's preaching, the city, known for moral degeneration, was remarkably transformed into a city of moral uprightness. Hus denounced the corruptions of the clergy and noblemen. He saw in the Scriptures that Christ, not the pope, was the builder of His Church. He rejected the superstition of the priests' claim that they had the power to create Christ and sacrifice Him in the mass. By giving a certain sound to the trumpet of God's Word, Hus became the enemy of the pope and his clergy. They burned him at the stake on July 6, 1415.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) was also prepared by God to overthrow the massive errors that an apostate church had used to enslave the known world in spiritual and civil bondage. He struck at the system of self-righteousness that demanded the use of the mass, confession booth, rosary beads, hair shirts, fastings, worshiping of relics, pilgrimages, indulgences, praying to the dead, and other unbiblical devices, to attain peace with God. The Bible revealed

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## WHEAT & CHAFF

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that salvation was free because of Christ's keeping the law in the place of sinners and satisfying the infinite penalty for sin by His substitutionary sufferings on the cross.

At the same time Luther was striking at the heresy of salvation by works, Swiss Reformer Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) was shining the light of God's Word at Rome's tangled maze of salvation through the human intellect. In the place of the Bible, Rome's scholars studied Scholasticism, a complex system of thought, undergirded by such thinkers as Aristotle. Rome's scholars could spend a lifetime pondering the complexities of Scholasticism and never come to the truth. Zwingli studied the sacred Scriptures and counted Scholasticism a dark, confusing, unprofitable, and unbiblical philosophy. Heavenly truths from God's Word satisfied his soul. Indeed, it convicted him of sin and brought him to reject the superstitions of Rome, with its teaching of salvation by works, and taught him the Biblical doctrine of salvation through grace alone, by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.

The young priest and Bible student was appointed to serve at the Convent of Einsiedeln, Switzerland. This secluded place was renowned for "an image of the Virgin" that attracted many pilgrims. The image supposedly had power to perform miracles. A festival was held once a year and thousands made their pilgrimage to earn God's favor and, for a price, purchase an indulgence to receive forgiveness of sin.

J.A. Wylie, in his *History of Protestantism*, wrote of Zwingli's bold response to the crowds: "He stood up before that great multitude — that congregation gathered from so many of the countries of Christendom — and boldly proclaimed that they had come this long journey in vain; that they were no nearer the God who

hears prayer on this mountain-top than in the valley; that they were on no holier ground in the precincts of the Chapel of Einsiedeln than in their own closets; that they were spending 'their money for that which is not bread, and their labor for that which satisfieth not,' and that it was not a pilgrim's gown but a contrite heart which was pleasing to God."<sup>1</sup>

Wylie continued: "He preached to them the Gospel. He had pity on the many who came really seeking

**"When we consider our present religious and civil rebellion against God, we may wonder if the Lord is allowing another "Dark Age" to descend upon us.... Many have rejected the simplicity and authority of the Word of God and traded the Gospel that saves sinners for a Darwinian social gospel that supposedly saves society."**

rest to their souls. He spoke to them of Christ and Him crucified. He told them that He was the one and only Savior; that His death had made a complete satisfaction for the sins of men; that the efficacy of His sacrifice lasts through all ages, and is available for all nations; and that there was no need to climb this mountain to obtain forgiveness; that the Gospel offers to all, through Christ, pardon without money and without price. This 'good news' it was worth coming from the ends of the earth to hear."<sup>2</sup>

The young Reformer, in 1558, was called as the Preacher in the College of Canons at Zurich. In this center of Switzerland, he preached the Word of God. Wylie explained that there were two important principles: "The Word of God the one infallible authority, and the death of Christ the one complete satisfac-

tion." Upon this foundation, the Lord was pleased to bring Reformation to Switzerland and deliver from religious and civil tyranny.

Our country may trace its roots to the liberties that were secured through the teachings of the Bible and the sufferings of the Lord's people in the time of the Reformation. Egbert Watson Smith, in *The Creed of Presbyterians*, wrote: "At the time of the Revolution the estimated population of our country was 3,000,000. Of this number 900,000 were of Scotch or Scotch-Irish origin, 6,000 were Puritan English, while over 400,000 were of Dutch, German Reformed, and Huguenot descent."<sup>3</sup> All of these were heirs of the Reformation.

When we consider our present religious and civil rebellion against God, we may wonder if the Lord is allowing another "Dark Age" to descend upon us. We see not only the papacy, but much of professing Protestantism steeped in unbiblical teachings and practices. Many have rejected the simplicity and authority of the Word of God and traded the Gospel that saves sinners for a Darwinian social gospel that supposedly saves society. Our need is for repentance of our folly and a return to the soul-saving doctrines of the Scriptures. "What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord. Is not my Word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces (Jeremiah 23:28,29). •

<sup>1</sup>J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism* (New York: Cassell and Company, originally published 1878), vol. I, pp. 434,435.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>Egbert Watson Smith, *The Creed of Presbyterians* (New York: The Baker and Taylor Company, 1901) pp. 119,120.



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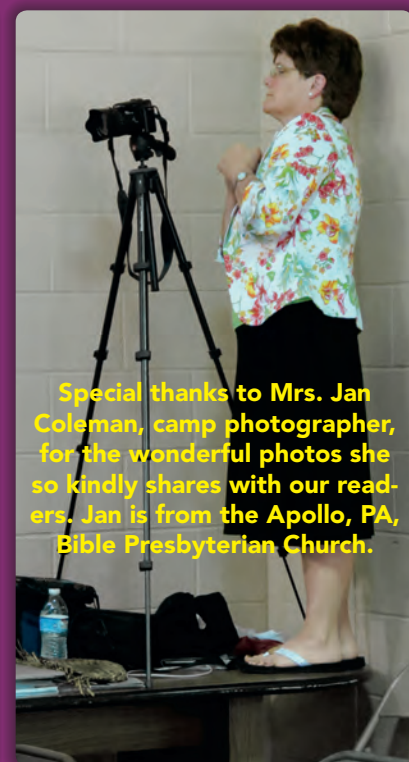
# FAITH PRESBYTERY, BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2013 SUMMER CAMP







*Theme:*  
**THE FAITH HALL OF FAME**  
**HEBREWS II**



Special thanks to Mrs. Jan Coleman, camp photographer, for the wonderful photos she so kindly shares with our readers. Jan is from the Apollo, PA, Bible Presbyterian Church.



## IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

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eyes, carried off by dreams of great rewards. He continued with words that abruptly changed the direction of what the soldiers were saying: "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (verse 26).

David started with the reward to the man who would kill Goliath, but his mind immediately leapt ahead to what was really important to him — removing the reproach or disgrace with which Goliath's words covered Israel; and, more especially, the dishonor shown to the God of Israel. The soldiers were thinking materialistically; David was thinking theistically. Israel's army had their affections set on things on the earth; David was thinking of things which are above.

But David's brothers seemed embarrassed by his words. They thought to quiet him by imputing bad conduct and motives to him: "And Eliab his eldest brother heard ... and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle" (verse 28).

In reply to their unjust accusations, David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" (verse 29). This is the very center point of the Scripture's account: "Is there not a cause?" That great penetrating question of David about a cause ought to resonate, reverberate and resound again in such a time as our own.

If you read this verse in the New International Version, they have replaced "Is there not a cause?" with

the words, "Can't I even speak?" I find this translation very disappointing. The Hebrew word does have a great breadth of meaning, being translated variously as "cause" or "word" or "speak." But "cause" fits much better in this context. To think David said "Can't I even speak?" robs the story of its grand central thrust. It changes the center of gravity from God's honor to a resentful David's personal right to speak his mind. It has David going out against

**"The army of Israel into which David walked on that day long ago was a reflection of the national religious character and condition. There was nominal religion, but there was no sense of dedication to a cause.... God used the question and actions of a youth to light the lamp of the cause of God and to energize an army in its behalf against the Philistines."**

Goliath merely to show his right to talk, instead of to defend a cause come down from heaven. To my mind, the new translation unfortunately cheapens the account.

Now consider the setting of this story. The Philistines had migrated to Palestine. They were idolaters, unprincipled, grasping, greedy and acquisitive. And they were making a land grab for Israel's territory, which God had given them and they had won by their own exertions in battle with the Canaanites in the time of Joshua. The Philistines were after not only the land, but also their service. Goliath's challenge said that if he won, the Israelites would become the servants of the Philistines. The picture of the Philistine people painted in the books of history leads us to recognize

that different "Philistines," by other names, have been found in many generations. Their counterparts are in the world today. They grasp for what they have not made and dishonor the one true and living God. There was a "cause" back in David's time, and there is a "cause" in our day.

Still looking at the setting from which David voiced his question, there — across the Elah valley from the Philistines — was the encampment of the army of Israel. The Philistines were Sea people; Israel was an Elect people, the people of God. God had bestowed the land of Israel upon them in fulfillment of His promise to their forefathers. But specially favored as they were by God, there had been many moments of unfaithfulness and apostasy from Him. They had turned away from Him, then returned and looked for deliverance, only to turn away yet again. The history of the nation recorded right up to this chapter was of a mixed character — faithfulness mixed with unfaithfulness, holiness with worldliness, dedication to God mixed with self-seeking. In spite of the presence and steadfast service to God by good men and women in Israel, faith and devotion to Him was

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## REDEEMING THE TIME

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## IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

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enfeebled, greatly flawed and broadly inconsistent.

The army of Israel into which David walked on that day long ago was a reflection of the national religious character and condition. There was nominal religion, but there was no sense of dedication to a cause, until David arrived and voiced his question, then followed it up by running — running, mind you — to meet Goliath in hand-to-hand combat. God used the question and actions of a youth to light the lamp of the cause of God and to energize an army in its behalf against the Philistines.

When David appeared on the scene and heard the voice of Goliath ring across the valley in defiance and challenge of Israel's army and their God, he heard no reply from the Israelite side. The Philistines' challenge went unanswered. All was quiet on Israel's mountain. All the men of might had lost not only their hands, but also their voices. All was quiet until David, to the chagrin of his brothers, started asking probing questions: "What shall be done? Is there not a cause?"

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a cause as "a principle or movement militantly defended or supported." If we think of Bible Christianity as a cause, it is something to be militantly, vigorously, firmly defended and put forward. David's cause, God's cause, required speaking out — lifting up voices like trumpets. Even today it demands that men say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."

David's cause had detractors. The detractor diverts attention. He diminishes the importance of a thing. Those in the army of Israel were detractors from the cause which David saw by the eye of faith. They only had eyes for being rewarded with

great riches, having the daughter of the king for a wife, living tax free. What would be given the man who killed Goliath was the first thing David heard when he entered the camp.

King Saul, who more than any other man should have taken the lead in God's cause, was a detractor. After David told the King, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine," Saul replied, "Thou art not able ... to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth" (verses 32,33).

**"If the cause of God is ever to come back with militancy, it will be because men bow human reason to divine revelation. If souls are ever to stand up for a cause in the way that David did, they must see and feel that it carries the sublime weight of God's authority."**

David's brothers were detractors. When David spoke up, they came back at him with attacks — attacks on their own brother — on his character. They thought they knew "the pride and naughtiness of his heart." They thought they knew his motive — that he had "come down that he might see the battle." The brothers were detractors. They drew away attention from a great cause by taking up unworthy and unfounded insinuations.

Goliath could shout his humiliating challenge across the valley of Elah, and it stirred not a word from the brothers. But when David merely asked a question, they immediately launched a verbal attack. Those attacks had to sting, but no one ever yet stood for the cause of God without enduring a shower of arrows. Many who call themselves Christians today

are more likely to attack and denigrate the fundamental Bible believer than to speak out against those who undermine God's Holy Word.

Finally, David's cause was not something he ferreted out for himself in the quieter hours of shepherding his father's sheep. David believed in a God who had revealed His mind and will. From Judean pasturelands he could look up into the heavens and say that they "declare the glory of God," and he could look into the pages of memorized Scripture, the very words of God, and say, "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." David put the right value on the God-revealed Scriptures. They were "more to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold." He had the right taste for them: "sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." He could say of God's words, "by them is thy servant warned," and that they were how a young man should "cleanse his way." (see Psalm 19:1-11 and Psalm 119:9).

From his youth, David displayed the first mark of a believer—humility before God. He had a cause because he had a Bible to which he subscribed as the very word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

In our day, the cause of God and of Christ widely lacks a militant defense, because of the loss of reverence for the Bible as the special revelation of the mind and will of God. If the cause of God is ever to come back with militancy, it will be because men bow human reason to divine revelation. If souls are ever to stand up for a cause in the way that David did, they must see and feel that it carries the sublime weight of God's authority. •



*The Rev. Robert W. Anderson is a minister in Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church.*



**FAITH PRESBYTERY, BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, met on October 25, 2013, at the Collingswood, NJ, Bible Presbyterian Church. The members joined in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Collingswood Church. The First Synod of the Bible Presbyterian Church met there in 1938. This meeting was a special joy as the **Abington, PA, Bible Presbyterian Church** was received as a new member congregation. **The Rev. Joe McKnight** was received as a minister, and **Mr. Alex Woehr** was licensed to preach the Gospel. A special service was held on Sunday, October 27, to install Rev. McKnight as Pastor of the Marcus Hook, PA, Bible Presbyterian Church. The photo above is of Rev. McKnight being received into the Presbytery.



**THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES** met From October 22-24, 2013, in Hardingville, NJ. We praise the Lord that the ACCC continues in its stand for God's Word.



# Religious Persecution in America

## *The Continuing Attacks on the First Amendment*

BY BRAD K. GSELL

**T**he unprecedented attacks on our First Amendment rights are accelerating. Honest, hard-working Americans and various religious groups are having to expend enormous amounts of resources to defend themselves against a government which is supposed to protect them.

As lawsuits mount, many Americans are oblivious to the fact that we are seeing the rapid and perilous erosion of the liberties concerning which our founders declared: "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

One of the most pernicious tactics being used by many in government to curtail religious liberty is to redefine what "religion" is. Such phrases as "freedom of worship" are subtly being substituted to limit the scope of our freedoms. We quoted syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer in our Spring 2012 issue of *Redeeming the Time*, who stated that government officials, using "secularist assumption[s]," define "religion [as] what happens on Sunday under some Gothic spire."

This is NOT what our Founders had in mind. Christianity is a part of EVERY ASPECT of a believer's life. No government bureaucrat, judge, legislator or administrator has the right to define the limits of a person's faith. In doing so, they are usurping the right held by God alone!

Following are just a few examples of cases before the courts:

### **Attack on Christian Chaplains:**

The Conservative Baptist Association

of America has filed suit in U.S. District Court against the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (a position in President Obama's cabinet), after two of its chaplains were drummed out of a program because of their Christian faith.

When Chaplains Dan Klender and Steven Firtko used Scripture in answering theological questions in an official Veterans Affairs / Department of Defense training course, instructor Nancy Dietsch ordered them: "Do not quote Scripture in this class!" and stated that this made her feel like she had been "pounded over the head with a sledge hammer." She stated at other times that if her students thought their religion was the only correct way, they did not belong in this program.

Another time, she threatened: "I have refrained from failing students in the past because I didn't want to [ruin] people's careers but I am about ready to fail people now." Chaplain Klender finally withdrew from the program following months of abuse and threats. Chaplain Steven Firtko was threatened with dismissal and was put on six months' probation. Shortly thereafter he received a letter on official stationery stating that he was being dismissed from the program because the "probation period is not yielding the results we both desire."

The suit filed by the Church states: "The actions of the Secretary within the San Diego VA-DOD CPE Center establishing a secular, humanist and holistic religion which excludes mainstream Judeo-Christian beliefs discriminates against CBAMERICA Chaplains, prevents them from practicing their religious beliefs, have forced them out of the program and will, if not corrected, prevent future CBAMERICA Chaplains from

completing the program and practicing their faith in the health care facilities serviced by the program."

### **Christian Business Owners Forced to Violate Their Beliefs:**

We have written previously about the federal government's mandate that forces Christian business owners to include abortifacients in their employee health care plans. The case now before the Supreme Court by Hobby Lobby and other Christian-owned businesses should be watched very carefully. If the Court rules against the plaintiffs, our First Amendment rights will have been fatally undermined.

However, this is just a sign of the growing trend of courts to give Christian businessmen the ruinous choice between violating their own consciences, paying huge fines or closing their businesses (and thus their means of supporting their families). Elane Photography v. Willock is a case in point. Elane Huguenin and her husband Jon own a photography business in Albuquerque, NM. When The Huquenins refused to take the

TEXICO CONFERENCE  
ADVENTISTS; and  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
Plaintiffs

vs.

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Defendants

COMPLAINT

COME NOW

Cruces Spanish

Injunctive Relief

1.

ELANE PHOTOGRAPHY

Vanessa WILLOCK,

No. 30

Court of Appeals

May 31,

Becht Law Firm, Paul Becht, Albuquerque, NM, Jordan W. L.

Tobias Barrington Wolff, Philadelphia, PA, Lopez & Sakura, LLP,

OPINION

GARCIA, Judge.

(1) This appeal arose from the refusal of Elane Photography, LLC, to perform a wedding ceremony of Vanessa Willock (Willock) and her same-sex partner. Willock sought to compel Elane Photography to perform the ceremony based upon its policy of refusing to perform

job of shooting a homosexual commitment service, Vanessa Willock took them to court. The Huquenins were found guilty in several courts of violating the New Mexico Human Rights Act and ordered to pay attorney's fees and court costs to Willock.

New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Richard C. Bosson, in a concurring opinion, stated that the Huquenins: "are now compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives." But, he concluded: "... it is the price of citizenship."

The case has been appealed by the Alliance Defense Fund to the U.S. Supreme Court. No word has been received yet as to whether the High Court will hear the case.

**A Business License and Government Permission to Worship:** The city of Las Cruces, NM, has enacted Ordinance No. 16-131, dealing with the registration of businesses. According to the Adventist News Network, city officials, earlier this year, "threatened to take legal action if the Las Cruces Seventh-Day Adventist Church failed to comply with the requirements of

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, Secretary of the  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services, et al.,  
Defendants.

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Secretary is required to offer group health insurance to

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

NANCE OF SEVENTH-DAY  
LAS CRUCES SPANISH  
ADVENTIST CHURCH,

tiffs,

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

UCES, NEW MEXICO,

endant.

**PLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

NOW the Plaintiffs Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Las Cruces Seventh-day Adventist Church, and for their Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief against the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, state and allege as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The City of Las Cruces has enacted a sweeping business registration ordinance, Ordinance No. 16-126 et seq (the "Ordinance"), that unconstitutionally proscribes the free exercise of the Plaintiffs' religious beliefs.

**Y, LLC, Plaintiff-Appellant,**

**Defendant-Appellee.**

2013.

of New Mexico,

2012.

Lawrence, Washington, D.C., James A. Campbell, Scottsdale, Arizona,

Julie Sakura, Sarah Steadman, Santa Fe, NM, for Appellee.

C (Elaine Photography), to photograph the commitment ceremony (Partner). Elaine Photography denied Willock's request to photograph the ceremony.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
3686 Stagecoach Road  
Suite F  
Longmont, CO 80504-5660  
Plaintiffs  
v.  
ERIC SHINSEKI, in his official capacity as  
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
810 Vermont Ave., Washington DC 20420  
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
SECTION \_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_  
MAGISTRATE \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT**

Conservative Baptist Association of America Inc. files the following Complaint and in support avers as follows:

the business registration ordinance.... The ordinance ostensibly requires all pastor-led churches within city limits to register with the city, pay a registration fee and pass a discretionary review process before gaining approval to conduct worship services or provide pastoral care." It is interesting that many platforms for secular speech are exempted from the ordinance.

The court complaint states that "Even after the required application is made, the Ordinance contains no standards for issuance of a certificate, and the decision whether to grant or deny a certificate is wholly discretionary. There

is no timeframe for a ruling by the City upon the application, and there is no avenue for appeal if the City exercises its discretion to deny an application or to withhold a decision."

**W**e have been so blessed in America, but the decline of Bible Christianity is always accompanied with a loss of liberty. As Christians, we need to be in prayer for our country and use our influence to stand against these things. But, we also must NOT be discouraged. May we hold dear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). •



1



Men's Quartet (plus one!) which sang on the 20th Century Reformation Hour Broadcast in its early years.



2



3

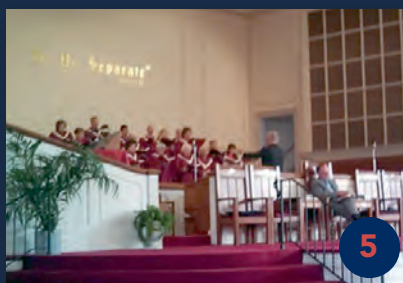
1. Pastor Christian Spencer presents a framed tribute to Dr. Carl McIntire to McIntire's daughter, Mrs. Marianna Clark. 2. 90-minute documentary on the history of the Bible Presbyterian Church was presented. 3. Dr. Ian Paisley, of Northern Ireland, sent a video sermon and congratulatory greetings. 4. Longtime Collingswood Elder Walter Platt, with his daughter. 5. Choir Concert under the direction of Keith McCoy. 6. Organ Concert by Brad Gsell.



4



Rev. John Mills receives an award on behalf of his grandson, Andrew Smith, who was wounded in Afghanistan while serving our country.



5



Melody Bjur singing at the banquet.



A room full of happy banqueters! The folks at this table are from the Marcus Hook, PA, Bible Presbyterian Church.

