



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will examine the idea that Genesis 1:27 supports an additional account of Creation and actually mentions Adam's

first wife. OF COURSE, THIS IS COMPLETELY FALSE, nonetheless, people continue to try to present this reading of Genesis 1:27, which they claim also explains vampires.

Modern-day vampires attempt to trace their origin to Genesis 1:27. In this passage, they say the mythical figure of Lilith, who was supposedly created before Eve, is referenced (don't worry if you don't see this when you read Genesis 1:27—you are not crazy—it is simply not found there). The legend of Lilith derives from a theory that Genesis has two creation accounts (Genesis 1:27 and 2:7, 20–22). The two stories they say allow for two different women. But get this, the name Lilith does not appear in the Bible, here, or anywhere. How then do people come up with the idea that there is such a woman named Lilith? It comes from man's wisdom and ideas, not from the Bible at all.

Some Jewish commentators (Rabbi), however, refer to Lilith as the first created woman, who refused to submit to Adam and fled from the garden. Eve was then created to be Adam's helper. After their expulsion from the garden, Adam reunited for a time with Lilith before finally returning to Eve. Lilith bore Adam a number of children, who became the demons of the Bible. After Adam's reconciliation with Eve,

Lilith took the title Queen of the Demons and became a murderer of infants and young boys, whom she turned into vampires.

Again...so is any of this true? Not according to a reading of the Bible! It is only when man's fanciful ideas are allowed to be presented as if they are fact, that this sort of nonsense gets included in a discussion of the Bible. There is a simple explanation for the mention of the Creation of mankind in Genesis chapter 1 and then again in Genesis chapter 2. The simple explanation is the fact that Hebrew writings often would provide a general discussion of an event and then immediately provide a more detailed account. It is similar today to a writer making a skeletal outline and then coming back and "putting the meat on the bones" so to speak.

Most often the simplest explanation is the best explanation. Those who look for the bizarre in the Bible are able to find things that simply put...are not there! When we give credence to these ideas without actually looking to see if that is what the Bible says, we are living on dangerous ground! Be like the Bereans and search the Scripture to see if the things people tell you are actually true!

jfb

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Bearing Fruit: Patience
Galatians 5:16-26**

P.M. — Devotional Thoughts

FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT

As I sit to write this article, the CFB National Championship game is to be played tonight. This means that it is narrowed down to 2 teams left who have a shot at being the National Champions of college football for the 2017-2018 season (of course there is one team out of the state of Florida who is undefeated and even beat the team that beat the team etc. but I highly doubt they would ultimately beat any one of the 4 teams that were in the playoff...yet still they will always be able to say "you never know"). So of 129 teams that potentially could have played for the National Championship, we have narrowed it down to only 2 (Alabama and Georgia). In the end, only one will stand on the platform as National Champions. How amazing will that be for the winner!

Jesus though also mentions that there will be few who find the ultimate goal—a home with God in heaven—as well. I think that perhaps today would be a good time to reflect on this concept. I hope we are not the type of people who take our relationship with God as just a casual relationship. God has always intended that His people be wholeheartedly devoted to Him. The potential for salvation is such a wonderful thing—it is truly amazing. And Jesus did clearly indicate that there would be few who would find this straight and narrow road to heaven that involves commitment and sacrifice (Matthew 7:13-14). For those two teams playing tonight, much effort and sacrifice has been made. Neither college football nor salvation is an easy road paved with few challenges or setbacks. So make certain that in your salvation you do not think you can simply slide by by taking the easy road.

Two things that I want us to consider regarding Jesus' statement that few would find heaven. First, I am glad such a situation is not dependent upon blind chance—anyone and everyone does have the choice and the opportunity to have an eternal home with God in heaven. Though it will be few, it is not that case that it will only be one (like the eventual national champion). Though it will be few, it will not be that you have no control over your eternal destiny (like a certain undefeated team from Florida). Second, I also want us to see that though there is other teaching by Jesus that would imply that not everyone who attends worship services with us will also be in heaven eventually, much of what Jesus is indicating in Matthew 7:13-14 has to do with the few being in comparison mainly with the world's population, including some who claim to be religious.

So what is my point exactly? I guess it is to point out that though we read that few will stay on the narrow path that leads to heaven, the good news is that we are the ones who determine whether we are on the path or not. Of course, God and Christ have made such a path even possible, but we don't have to worry that our home in heaven is based upon blind chance. Remember as well that God longs for many to be saved (II Peter 3:9) and He has made it possible for all who would choose to follow Him to be saved (John 3:16...God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that WHOSOEVER...). Rest assured that if you seek God's will in your life, you will receive the reward!

Yes, in CFB there are only two left, and only one will be crowned. And yes there was some luck involved in both teams arriving at this point and most likely there will be some luck involved in the game that determines the champion, but our life championship is not dependent upon any luck, rather it is based in a God of faithfulness rewarding those who seek Him!

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