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humankind's first son who built the first city. The caveman myth contradicts the biblical narrative.

Truly, there were cavemen, but they were nothing at all like the evolutionists imagine. The New Testament encourages Christians with heroes of faith from the past *"of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth"* (Hebrews 11:38). Dwelling in caves was not characteristic of the mythical neanderthals, but of those who acted *"by faith"* (Hebrews 11:3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31), and for that were reduced to survivalism. *"They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented"* (Hebrews 11:37).

"David... escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him" (1st Samuel 22:1-2).

"While Jezebel massacred the prophets of Jehovah, ...Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water" (1st Kings 18:4).

"He arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of Jehovah came to him, and He said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" (1 Kings 19:8-9).

David became a caveman to hide from Saul's murderous wrath. A hundred prophets of God became cavemen to escape the persecution of Jezebel. Elijah became a caveman for the same reason.

What these men were doing was not primitive; it was advanced – advanced faith, that is. They had what so very many lack: a willingness to endure suffering rather than to disobey God.

Although the caveman trope is evolutionary fiction, cave dwelling represents the reality of persecution endured by the saints of old. Their examples strengthen all who follow. That strength is needed because *"all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"* (2nd Timothy 3:12).

REFLECTING WHO I AM AS A PERSON

Bryan Matthew Dockens

It has become cliché in recent years to apologize for inappropriate, even sinful, behavior with the line, "My recent actions do not reflect who I am as a person". Because of its popularity among celebrity apologies in the news, its use trickles into expressions of remorse between friends, family, and brethren – very likely without realizing how unhelpful and contradictory the phrase is.

The problem with "My recent actions do not reflect who I am as a person" is that one's actions absolutely do characterize the person. John the apostle wrote, *"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous"* (1st John 3:7). Necessarily, if it takes righteous behavior to be a righteous person, then unrighteous behavior is evidence of unrighteous character. Jesus preached, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them"* (Matthew 7:15-20). Just as bad fruit comes from a bad tree, so lies come from a liar – not a good person who happens to tell lies, fornication comes from a fornicator – not a good person who happens to commit fornication, theft comes from a thief – not a good person who happens to steal, and so forth.

As it is with action, so it is with words. Christ further taught, *"Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned"* (Matthew 12:34-37). Evil words emanate from evil in the heart.

Rather than deflecting accountability by saying, "My recent actions do not reflect who I am as a person", a sincerely sorry sinner may say, "My recent actions do not reflect whom **I want to be** as a person", or, far better, "My recent actions do not reflect **Christ**" (Ephesians 5:1)! That would be honest and humble.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"

PROVERBS 25:11

"There are no detailed Darwinian accounts for the evolution of any fundamental biochemical or cellular system, only a variety of wishful speculations. It is remarkable that Darwinism is accepted as a satisfactory explanation of such a vast subject."

– James Shapiro, professor of
Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology, University of Chicago

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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A CAVEMAN COULD DO IT

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Beginning in 2004, and appearing as recently as 2023, GEICO advertised auto insurance with the tagline, "It's so easy, a caveman could do it." The ads were memorable not only for promoting the simplicity of signing up for car insurance, but also for lampooning the culture of political correctness since a white-collar caveman in a modern setting would always appear and indicate displeasure at the implication that he lacked intelligence.

The caveman trope emerges from the evolutionary assumption that "early man" was primitive, illiterate, incapable of speech, and had not yet discovered such necessities as fire or the wheel. This notion diverges from Scriptural truth, however, in that urban dwelling was established in the second generation of human existence. Adam and Eve's first son Cain (Genesis 4:1) *"built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son — Enoch"* (17). A timeline for Cain's life is not presented in inspiration, but some information can be gleaned. After he killed his brother Abel, Cain's parents had a third son named Seth (25), who was born 130 years after creation (5:3). Cain named the city he built after his son and the average age at which antediluvian men became fathers was 117 years (Genesis 5:1-32). It is entirely plausible, then, that the city of Enoch was constructed within the first 250 years after creation. Regardless of the year, it was – Continued on page 2 –

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

[Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist)