

*The Articles of*  
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# Four Little Things

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*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, 31). God created everything on this earth, and when He had finished creating it He said, "it was very good." Everything that God created is very good, and it's all here for a purpose. Job makes it known that one of those purposes is to teach us (Job 12:7-8). I would like to draw your attention to a passage in Proverbs in which the writer tells us of four small, but wise creatures that we should learn about.*

*Proverbs 30:25 "The ant is a people not strong, Yet they provide their food in the summer;"*

The first little creature taken into consideration is the ant. We can go outside and utterly destroy an ant bed. Ants are small and weak, but they are very wise! The ants are prepared. They store up food in the summer so that they can eat in the winter (Proverbs 6:6-8).

We too are to prepare for the future. Amos gave a strict warning to the nation of Israel. *"Prepare to meet they God" (Amos 4:12). Remember, if you would, the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). There were five who were prepared and five who were not prepared. The five prepared virgins went into the marriage feast, while the five who were not were left outside. Note verse 13: "Watch therefore for ye know not the day nor the hour." Always be prepared!*

*Proverbs 30:26 "The conies are but a feeble folk, Yet go they forth all of them by bands;"*

The second animal spoken of is an animal called a cony (other translations call it the rock badger). I don't know about all of you, but I've never seen a cony. Basically a cony is a very small creature, somewhat like a rabbit, with small, round ears, and short feet. As you can well imagine, these are very frail creatures. Despite this, however, the cony is smart enough to know that he will be safe among the rocks.

We need to take refuge in the rock as well. We all know the story of the wise man and the foolish man (Matthew 7:24-27). What made the wise man wise? He built on the rock which wouldn't wash away. The sand, on the other hand, washed away at the first sign of trouble. What is the rock that we are to take refuge in? Psalm 31:1-3 says *"In thee, O Jehovah, do I take refuge... for thou art my rock and my fortress."*

*Proverbs 30:27 "The locusts have no king, Yet go they forth all of them in bands."*

Locusts, much like grasshoppers, are very small and can easily be disposed of. Though small, locusts banded together are united. When they swarm together they are very strong and devour everything in sight. If you've ever seen a locust swarm on television it's an awesome sight. There are, on average, 40-80 million locust in a swarm.

The lesson for us is, I'm sure, very clear already. The church today must be united in order to accomplish its goal. The only way we can become stronger is by banding

together. Paul wrote to the Ephesians about unity. He told them that it's something that they would have to work at. "... *giving diligence to keep the unity of spirit in the bond of peace ...*" (Ephesians 4:1-6). "*Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Proverbs 30:28 "*The lizard taketh hold with her hands, Yet is she in Kings' palaces.*"

Again, this is a very small creature. The lizard here is probably more like a gecko in size, some translations even call it a spider. The size and frailty of it, again, show the weakness of it. Despite its size, this lizard works with its hands.

We also must work. We must work in order to be saved. We have to do something, God isn't going to save us for nothing (Acts 2:40). It's also a task we must work toward to stay saved (Luke 9:62).

We must always strive to be like these four creatures. We need to be well prepared like the ant, we need to find refuge in God like the cony finds refuge in the rocks, we must be united with those of like faith like the locust, and we need to work like the lizard. Take the advice of these wise creatures (James 1:5).

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