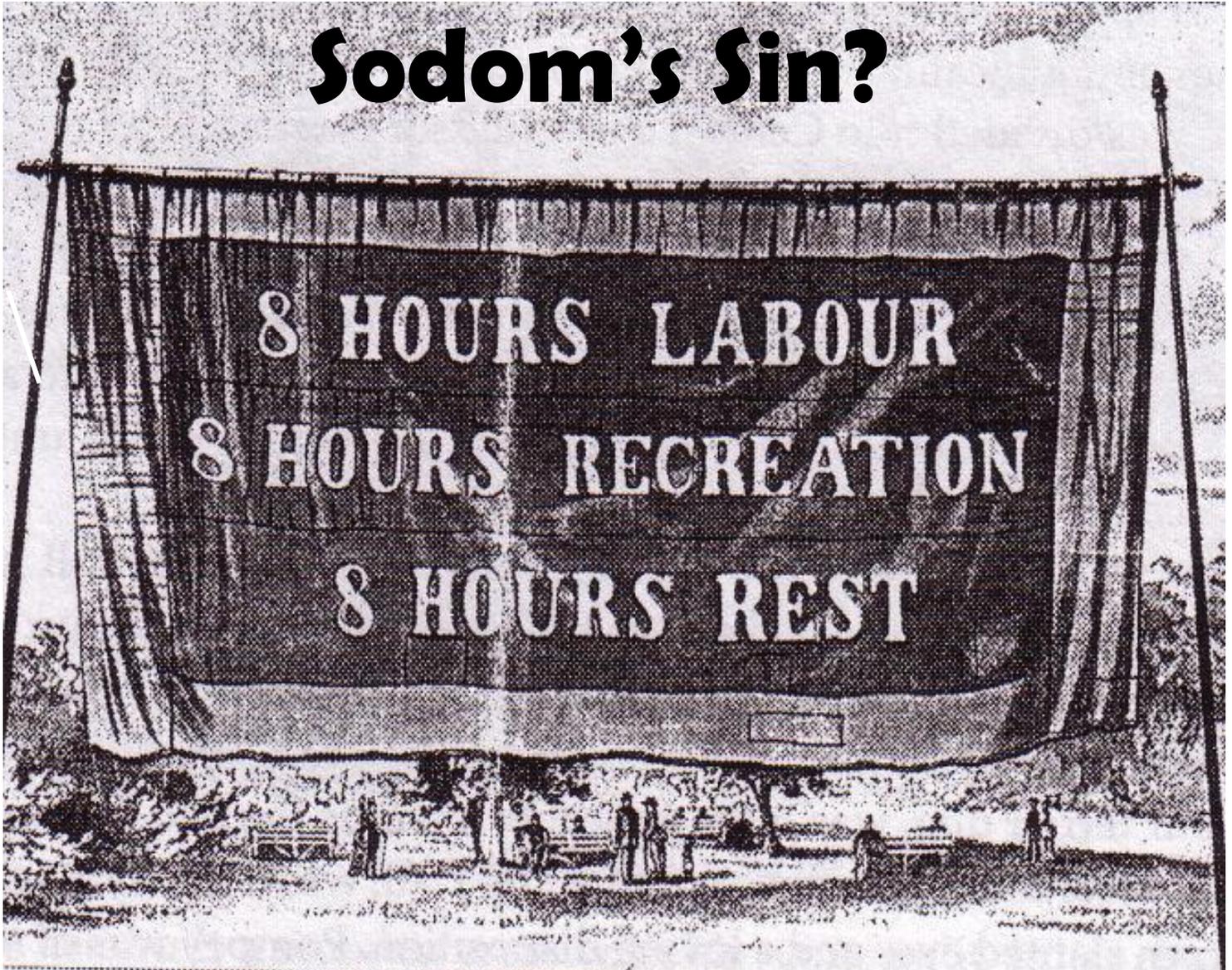


The Bible Guys

B R E A K F A S T C L U B

February 2007

Sodom's Sin?



Behold this was the iniquity of Sodom:
pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness
(Ezekiel 16:49)

The Bible Guys

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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

What hath God wrought?

By David M. McNabb

“What hath God wrought?” With these four words, the world entered the telecommunications age. Did God invent the telegraph? Samuel Morse thought so! From that wonderful system of dots and dashes developed the wonderful world of communication we enjoy today.

Television, internet, radio – so many things help us in our daily lives, yet how often does God get the credit? 163 years ago, Samuel Morse tapped out a message attributing to God the miracle displayed in the ability to send an instant message by wire 40 miles from the U.S. Capitol to Baltimore.

It is the inspiration of the Almighty that enabled the modern miracle of technological advancement that began with the industrial revolution in the 19th century.

Today, we praise Bill Gates for his ingenuity, GE for their great products, Geico for saving us money on car insurance, and so on, etc.

The apostle Paul professed, “For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God” (Heb. 3:4). It is true that some man, or group, makes every product or invention that exists, but God is behind every idea. Elihu, Job’s wise counselor said, “There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding” (Job 32:8).

Who dreamed up cars? That was God. Airplanes? God. Trains? Yes, that too was God.

Let not man boast in his own great wisdom. “Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:16-18).

Let us be ever diligent to give honor where honor is due. All glory, honor and praise belongs to our God, and unto His Son Jesus, for “all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

Even as great as modern technology is, it is no match for the ability of God. God makes the weather – while man can barely detect meteorological trends. Hence the words of the prophet Jeremiah, “Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O Lord our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things” (Jer. 14:22).

Dear friends, I challenge you to step back from the creature comforts you enjoy each day, raise your eyes toward heaven with heartfelt thanksgiving, and declare, “What hath God wrought!”

They are not all Israel

By C. Eldon McNabb

Israel: born “Jacob,” son of Isaac, and grandson of Abraham; chosen of God, instead of his older brother Esau, to receive the covenants and the promises which had been given to Abram. Jacob, who purchased the birthright from Esau, and, with subtlety, obtained the “Blessing of the firstborn.” Jacob, to whom God said, “I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”

It is my hope to say something in this article which will help to open your spiritual eyes and cause you to understand how God views the descendants of Jacob/Israel, and how that, now, *concerning redemption*, there is no difference between the descendants of Israel and the Gentiles, who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:26-38). It is very important that we understand the prophetic roles which each shall play at this end of the Grace Age; who are “fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:14-19).

God called Abram out from among his people, and from his country, and by him began a lineage of descent which would continue unbroken unto the coming of “The Christ of God” (Luke 9:20). For about 2,000 years, a person could share in the promises and covenants which God gave to Abraham only if he was born into that family, or became a proselyte, by a stringent ritual.

During His ministry, Jesus insisted that His disciples refrain from offering, to the Gentiles, access to the benefits of the new message of the Gospel. Every Jewish person who accepted that gospel, was “born again” when Jesus breathed

on His disciples, and said, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” However the exclusion of the Gentiles from that blessing continued until something more than seven years after the “resurrection,” when the Jewish Church had reached perfection. During the forty days between His resurrection and His ascension, Jesus commanded His disciples to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” However, that work had to be done in its proper order, as Jesus also said, “Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Rom. 1:8).

Speaking of the grafting in again of Israel, Paul told us that the Jews would not be grafted in again until “*The fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*” Now, the same Paul told us, in Romans 2:6-11, “God will render to every man according to his deeds, – glory, honor, and peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God.” Just as surely as the Jews cannot be grafted in before the Gentile Church has been perfected, neither were the Gentiles grafted into the Jewish Church until “*the fullness of the Jews was come in.*”

There were several prophecies concerning the nation of Israel which had to be fulfilled before the exclusion of all but the descendants of Jacob could be lifted, but let it suffice for me to say that, you must have the “spiritual olive tree,” among the Jews, before you can graft into it. By the same measure, the grafting in again of the Jews requires that first there be the restoration of that “spiritual olive tree” among the Gentiles.

In respect to covenants and the promises, the natural descent of God’s people ceased to apply when men began to be born again. It is, as Paul said, “Not as though the word of God has taken none effect, for *they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called.* That is, *they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed*” (Romans 9:6-8).

When Paul was in Corinth, “Crispus, the chief ruler of the synago-

gue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. Then spoke the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: **for I have much people in this city**” (Acts 18:8-11). Those people were Gentiles, neither were they born again, but the attitude of their hearts had come up before God, and He had already acknowledged them as “His people” (Gal. 3:6-14).

In Galatians 3:22-28 the Apostle Paul said that, “The scripture hath concluded all (Jews and Gentiles) under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But *before faith came, we were kept under the law*, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.* For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. *There is neither Jew nor Greek*, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: *for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

There are still notable differences between these three comparisons, but Paul was referring to the fact that “Every (person) shall give account of himself to God,” and submit to the “Circumcision of the heart.” He made special comments concerning the fact that God has special works in His plan which require the choosing of Jewish converts, and other works which must be done by Gentile converts. Outside of the historic and ethnic differences, it is “the election” which emphasized the differences between us (Acts 21:18-26; Romans 11:11-32).

In God’s infinite wisdom, He has ordained that there should be a principal group of Christian Jews built up, and brought to perfection, and then another lesser group of Gentile Christians built up, and grafted into that Jewish Church. That combined group was revealed as set apart from the rest of Christianity by Jesus, when He said, “Fear not little flock, it is your Father’s

good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). The large flock is the vast, worldwide, numberless people who have been born again. Following the glorious manifestation of God’s power in them, the martyrdom of that early, Jewish “Flock of slaughter” (Zech. 11:4-7) brought that era to a close, and for about 1,800 years, the “Church” lay desolate (Isaiah 52:1-2). Then, in the 20th century, God raised up the Church of God to fulfill many prophecies, and to bring forth the “Man of God” who shall prepare the Bride for the coming of the Bridegroom.

God has ordained, and the time has now come in which *God shall choose* a group of Gentiles to make up “The Bride, The Lamb’s wife:” (The Olive Tree), and then *He shall choose* a group of Jewish men and women whom He shall graft into that “olive tree;” by the work of Paul’s counterpart, from among the Gentiles (Romans 9-11). The first century Jewish Church, with the lesser Gentile Church which was grafted into it, together with the Gentile Church which is now being built, and the lesser Jewish Church which shall be grafted into it, are the direct fulfillment of Jacob’s four wives (Genesis 37:2). Leah portrayed the Jewish “House of God,” and her concubine, Zilpah portrayed the Gentiles which were grafted into that.

Paul used a term concerning those Gentile graftees which cannot be taken to mean “born again,” saying to that group of Gentiles, “I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2). Rachel, then, portrayed the Gentile “House of God,” and her concubine portrayed the “House of Israel” which shall be grafted into the Gentile Church just prior to the coming of our King (Ezekiel 43:10-12).

Paul was chosen of God, by Jesus Christ, to transfer the work of the gospel from the Jews to the Gentiles, partly because all but a few of natural Israel had become as salt that has lost its savor. They had become, in the words of Jesus, “good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” Yet, God intends to extend His mercy to a remnant of them once again, and very soon.

The Jews had the law, which was their teacher to prepare them for the coming of the seed of promise. They should have easily recognized Him

when He came, but their false doctrines and bad attitudes hid the truth from them. God sent His son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and, in so doing, hid Him from them (Hebrews 10:20). It was difficult enough for those who did believe in Him, to see Jesus for what He really was.

The Gentiles had no such “Schoolmaster.” Therefore, it was necessary for God to choose a man from among those who believed; train him, and teach him how to translate the truth of His word from its legal application to its application in the Grace Age, and to do it in such a way that the Gentiles could understand it. Paul’s approach to the Gentiles was effective, and in due time the Jewish dominated era of Christianity came to an end, as God intended, and today the roles are reversed.

We have an exceptionally insightful comment by The Apostle to the Gentiles, in the third chapter of 2 Corinthians. He seems to be speaking primarily about natural Israel, but one must readily see how it also relates to Gentile Christianity today.

Paul said, “God hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. But *if the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, was glorious*, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: *how shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*”

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: and not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel *could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished*: but their minds were blinded: *for until this day remains the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament*; which veil is done away in Christ. But *even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart*. Nevertheless *when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away* (2 Cor. 3:6-18).

That veil was *not* upon the hearts of those mighty Apostles and Prophets which Jesus sent forth into the world; carrying the glorious gospel which our Lord and Savior had delivered unto them. They carried copies of the Old Testament with them, presenting the

gospel of redemption, and the revelation of the Church to their listeners by explaining to them the prophecies in the writings of Moses, and Samuel, and David, and Isaiah, and all of the others who, by the Spirit of God, did prophesy of this wonderful Grace Age in which we so thankfully rejoice.

It is very easy to misunderstand Paul’s statement, “When *it* shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.” In fact, it can be understood only when it is directly coupled with the prophecy, in Isaiah 25:6-7, to which it refers:

Isaiah said, “In this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain *the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.*” When that Gentile “mountain” (nation) is fully formed, an anointed prophet of God, a deliverer, shall come out of that spiritual “Mount Zion,” “And shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Romans 11:25-32).

It is not Jacob/Israel only who are blinded to the wonderful things which have been revealed, and are yet to be revealed to God’s children, but they are not all Christians who are of Christianity. In Ephesians 3:1-11, Paul said that the message which God gave to him would “Make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” of Christ and the Church. All men everywhere who accept the blessing of following the leadership of God’s Church: “the Mountain of the Lord’s House” will get to enjoy the wonderful feast of the knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scriptures which God has revealed in “It.”

That is the moment in prophetic history of which Ezekiel spoke, saying, “Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, show them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordin-

ances thereof, and do them. This is the law of the house; upon the top of the mountain *the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.*"

That moment in prophetic history will occur in the next four years. Find "the mountain." It is time to begin to ask, and find your way to Zion, and watch that mountain, and learn, and your eyes and your heart shall behold that great event. 

Sodom's Sin

By David M. McNabb

With a daily barrage of propaganda, people around the world are being forced to accept the "homosexual lifestyle" as normal. The effort to legitimize homosexuality has gone from "I don't care what they do in private, so long as I don't have to see it," to "We can't allow them to be treated as second-class citizens."

That effort has succeeded in creating, defining and securing "gay rights" both in the United States and around the world. An ongoing struggle within the Anglican church has resulted from the American branch's elevation of V. Gene Robinson, who is openly homosexual, to bishop of the diocese of New Hampshire. The world Anglican community was outraged at the idea that a man cohabitating with another man could achieve such a high position, in a denomination where a heterosexual minister would be defrocked for cohabitating with a person of the opposite sex.

The entertainment industry has been essential to the spread of the homosexual message. Not only does one find a large number of homosexuals working in that industry, a great many television programs and big-screen productions include likeable, suave, and funny characters of that persuasion. Oddly (or not so oddly), the same programs contain "Christian" characters that are insane, weird, racist bigots. These shows accomplish two goals: normalizing, even glorifying homosexuality, while demeaning and vilifying Christianity.

As a result, the world has gradually allowed morality to degrade to such an extent, that "same-sex" relationships even enjoy legal status in an ever-

increasing number of places. In America, "same-sex" or "civil" unions are granted in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, Vermont, the District of Columbia, and, most recently, Rhode Island. In Massachusetts, the state Supreme Judicial Court mandated full-fledged "marriage" for homosexual couples.

Worldwide, civil unions are granted in the countries of Andorra, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Same-sex marriages are legal in The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Spain. The nation of Israel, while not granting marriage to same-sex couples itself, does recognize those performed in other countries. The first such marriage recognized in Israel on January 29, 2007.

With this tremendous effort to change public opinion on what has traditionally been abominable in almost every corner of the world, the believer's mind may easily be drawn to the biblical account of the city of Sodom. The Word of God says that "the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly" (Gen. 13:13). Later, in the story of the destruction of Sodom and the other cities of the plain (Gen. 19), an event is described that deals with some of the specifics of the Sodomite wickedness. The men of Sodom saw the two men of God whom Lot received into his home. They came to Lot's house, demanding Lot allow them to sexually abuse his guests. Lot refused, and the angels caused the men of Sodom to be blinded, ending the threat. Shortly thereafter, fire fell upon Sodom, and the wickedness that abounded in the city ceased to exist.

Given only a small insight into life in Sodom, the homosexuality described becomes the defining characteristic of their culture, and, therefore, influencing common opinion about what it must have been like.

That being true, as we see the changing attitude toward homosexuality, and the legitimization of "sodomy," one could easily say that the world – and especially the United States – is beginning to become like Sodom. Nevertheless, with a closer look at the Scriptures, we might find a cultural shift to-

ward Sodom long before 1973, when the American Psychiatric Association stopped classifying homosexuality as a mental disorder.

In Ezekiel 16, God addresses the abominations committed in Jerusalem. He is not speaking to the heathen, but to Jerusalem, the city which He chose to put His name there. In verse 46, He says that Jerusalem is the younger sister of Samaria, and the older sister of Sodom. As the Lord recounts her wickedness, He declares that Jerusalem's sin exceeded that of her sisters. "Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways" (Ezek. 16:47).

Then, He tells Jerusalem that she has exceeded the sin of Sodom, describing, specifically, just what Sodom's sin was. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good" (Ezek. 16:49-50).

Nowhere here does the Lord God mention homosexuality, because that on which we have chosen to focus our attention was not the root of the problem, but merely a symptom. The emergence of that same symptom in our generation reveals to us that the root causes have been developing for a long time. What was the real problem in Sodom? Pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness – these were the heart of Sodom's transgression: and the transgression of our generation.

Pride is the chief sin. It is through pride that the iniquity of Lucifer manifested itself in his insurrection against God in heaven. It is to man's pride that Satan plays, often successfully causing him to fall prey to foolishness. God has promised to abase the proud and exalt the humble. It is a spiritual law well expressed in Proverbs 29:13: A man's pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

America began as a humble nation, honoring the providence of God for every good thing that come to pass. They knew that God had helped defeat the British. So apparent, in fact, was God's hand to General George Wash-

ington, that he wrote in a 1778 letter to Thomas Nelson, “The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.” In the next great defining moment of American history, as the war between the North and the South waged on, Abraham Lincoln said, “We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this; but God knows best, and has ruled otherwise. We shall yet acknowledge His wisdom and our own error therein.”

But that attitude towards God’s will being done in this nation has been eroded by the winds and rain of pride. Today, it is not to God’s mighty arm we hold, but the strong arm of the government. It is in military might we trust, and not to the protection of the Almighty. The colors of the American flag may not run, but neither do her feet run with the preparation of the gospel. Completely absorbed in the American way, and the American dream, the people of America – and of the world – have set about to fulfill the lust of the flesh, rather than the will of the Creator. That attitude resulted in the destruction of Sodom, and in the judgment of God upon Jerusalem.

Fullness of bread is the second great sin of Sodom. In the account of the men who came to Lot’s house looking to abuse his guests, we see no description of their eating habits. However, the Lord, by the prophet Ezekiel, shows that gluttony prevailed in Sodomite culture. Solomon asked the Lord, “... Feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’” (Pro. 30:8,9).

Lot chose to live in Sodom, in the plain of Jordan, because he saw that “it was well watered every where ... even as the garden of the Lord” (Gen. 13:10). Having such a fertile land, food was plentiful – and the people of Sodom took advantage of the abundance.

America is much like Sodom in this way as well. Immigrants have been brought to tears as they take their first steps into an American supermarket. However, the last 20 years have seen the amber waves of grain become an epidemic of obesity. In 1991, only four states had an obesity rate above 15 percent, and none above 20 percent. In 2000, 22 states had rates higher than

20 percent. By 2005, only 4 states had obesity prevalence less than 20 percent, while 17 states had prevalence equal to or higher than 25 percent, with 3 of those states having prevalence equal to or higher than 30 percent (Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Virginia)! God ties gluttony and drunkenness to stubbornness and rebellion (Deut. 21:20). Why? Because, being full, one tends to deny God. As was the case with the church at Laodicea, America has developed the attitude, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,” not knowing that she is “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).

Abundance of idleness rounds out the great sins of Sodom. The psalmist said, “Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening” (Psa. 104:23), but the labor unions called for 8-hour days. God said that man should work six days and rest on the seventh, but the labor unions brought us the weekend. With 40 hours to work, and 56 hours to sleep, that leaves a full 72 hours for recreation! Hallelujah!

Nevertheless, the old English idiom rings true, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.” With so much free time on our hands, Americans have had plenty of time to devise mischief. All of this leisure time has created the opportunity for us to relentlessly pursue all of the things which only the very rich could once enjoy: things which King Solomon called “vanity.” This time-vacuum must be filled with some activity, and the flesh is quick to monopolize it: filling our lives with music, sports, amusement, alcohol, drugs and sex.

Having the time to kill, we need to crowd God out, so that we can both engage in these activities, and also not be encumbered with the guilt. This precipitates the rise of doctrines like evolution, which eliminates the existence of God, and prosperity, which teaches us that God wants us to be happy. These are just two of the doctrines that grant us the privilege to pursue the desires of the flesh unencumbered.

So, why did God destroy Sodom anyway? The answer is clearly given in 2 Peter 2:6, that God turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, “making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly.” Have we learned nothing from their example?

The worst part is that professing believers are equally culpable. In Sodom, while Lot’s immediate household were convinced to flee, the rest of his family thought the whole thing was a joke. Likewise, many of the “household of faith” are ensnared by the lure of the pleasures of sin. Their failure to fulfill the will of the Father is the greatest insult of all. As the foolish virgins, these Christians will fail to see the trouble coming and shall be punished with the wicked.

In place of Christ-like humility, professed believers express pride: pride that God wants them to be rich and trouble free. Christ did not declare that we would be without trouble, only that we have the benefit of casting on Him our every care and living with the peace of the assurance of His presence. It is the meek that shall inherit the earth, not those who boast themselves in their fortune.

Obesity is not only a problem for the worldly people of our society, but is also prevalent in the churches. The Word of the Lord says, “Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!” (Eccl. 10:17). The blessings of God will be upon His people when we refrain from overeating, and consume that which is to the nourishment of our bodies.

Finally, the Lord’s wisdom dictates, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,” (Eccl. 9:10). We must not relish in idle time, but seek to work for the Master while we yet live. We must labor to enter into His rest, the rest we shall enjoy with Him for 1,000 years.

These three sins caught the children of Israel. They grew impatient with Moses, while he was receiving the law on Mount Sinai. They fashioned a golden calf – a god they could **be proud of**. “And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, ‘To morrow is a feast to the Lord.’ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the **people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play**” (Ex. 32:5-6).

Paul admonished us, “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters,

as *were* some of them; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:6-7).

The Lord is again preparing to rain the fire of His just wrath on the wicked, and upon the children of disobedience. Even now, the adversary, the instrument of God's wrath, is plotting against the true worshippers of God. When the attack is made, the faithful believers who were diligent to prepare themselves unto the day of the Lord will be spared, but the foolish shall be overtaken together with the wicked. Be not as Lot's daughters and sons-in-law, who perished with the inhabitants of Sodom, but take heed unto the messengers of God.

Think not that this admonition is to the ungodly sinners. The Word of the Lord comes to you today, oh children of God, as it did in the days of old. "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye" (Ezek. 18:30-32). 

Some Pertinent Facts

By C. Eldon McNabb

There have been some very interesting and important things going on recently in the legislatures of our country, both Federal and otherwise.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: There is somewhat which could be said about the recent, 6 years or so, campaign to remove all of the public displays of the "Ten Commandments." Actually they are mostly symbolic in the minds of most Christians. For instance, very few Christians make any attempt to "keep" the Sabbath which the Apostle Paul said, in Romans 14, was altogether up to the individual's conscience. It is the restrictive things which Israel was commanded to either do, or not do, to which the atheist among us object, as well as the obvious contradiction of

their denial of the existence of the Creator. It is merely a small part of the national effort to hide God away, out of sight, so they can justify their decadent ways.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN LEGISLATION: The flagrant, and unconstitutional ruling by the Federal Judiciary, in 1963-1964, to take the reading of the Bible, and Christian prayers out of the public schools was the first major move, in the U. S. to outlaw Christianity in America. They have now begun to pick up the tempo, with ever increasing pressure to eliminate the mention of God, altogether, from any public place. Furthermore, the pressure is on to force the homosexual lifestyle on even kindergarten students in the schools, and to force it even into the privacy of the church and the pulpit.

THE DAILY SACRIFICE SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY: On January 2, 2007, a very important piece of legislation went into effect, which is another big step in their plan to *neutralize* Christianity. The legislation requires that any claim of deductions for financial support to any religious work must be supported by receipts. That may sound as if it is harmless, but it is exactly what the prophets of the Bible call for. In Daniel 9:26-27, Daniel told us that, *in the midst of the seven-week period* following the ascension of our Lord and Savior, as the New Testament covenant was being confirmed by many, that He would "cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease." That passage, together with Dan. 12:11, also prophesies of the midst of the last seven days of the Grace Age when, just 1290 days before the end of the 2,300 days, a similar event must also happen to Gentile Christianity. We publicly declared this date for that event on our chart of coming events: "The Last Seven Years" on March 15, 2006, although I left it a little less specific in the December issue of "The Bible Guys."

In Philippians 4:17, Paul showed something about what the daily sacrifice is, saying to the church at Philippi, "I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God." This new legislation of January 2nd is the beginning of the government taking away of the New Testament version of the daily sacrifice.

That is just one step in the government's plan to "break the financial back" of Christianity and immobilize it. Effective immediately, any donation which a Christian gives must be given in the form of a check, or by an electronic transaction in order for it to be accepted by the government as deductible.

Apparently the desolation of Christianity has moved into the position of top priority on the government's agenda.

THE BONDAGE OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE: The government in America has been pushing for years to force all residents to participate in *their* health care. In 2006, the state of Massachusetts became the first state to mandate universal health care. Then, before January of 2007 was over, Texas mandated that all girls in the state, when entering the 6th grade, must submit to an inoculation for a venereal disease which causes cervical cancer in women. The law was put into effect immediately. Why can they not simply mandate that all single people refrain from sexual activity, for then, the disease, with all of its emotional distress, would simply go away.

NATIONAL I.D. CARD: Another very important development, perhaps the most striking one, is a 2005 law which is called "the Real ID Act of 2005." (Also, the technology for marking all of us beneath the skin is already available to them.) Several states: Maine, Georgia, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Vermont and Washington State have balked and intend to pass resolutions declining to participate. However, the Federal Government will win, because they have every intention of "marking" every resident in the country, and perhaps the world.

How long will it take for that to evolve into a means of forcing the "Mark of the Beast" upon us? Well, the law has already been overwhelmingly passed by the Congress, and date is set for compliance, by the states, for May, 2008.

The imposition of the universal mark is nigh at hand, although not yet "at the door."

Do you have a plan? What requirement would the government have to impose upon Christianity before we simply say "No," and depend on God to protect us, and to sustain us, and to be our healer? 

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