

IT'S TIME TO REMEMBER SODOM NO.22

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INTRODUCING THE SERIES

“Christianity and Time” is a Westgate desktop series viewing matters important to everybody from the perspective of life today and the prospect of Christ’s imminent return. The distinctive of the series is its prophetic stance.

The series is patently practical and essentially steers through the issues with scripture as its compass. The topics range from a study of the Armageddon (1) through studies on Love (15) and Religion(18) to this study on Sodom (22) and on to the last two studies on Terminus(23) and Trinity(24). The booklets are inexpensive and offer popular matter mixed with all the bible focus that these subjects deserve. The material is set out in sections while each study can be read in an hour the biblical material is researched enough to be of reference value.

These studies do not demur to hold up traditional theology or science theory or new moral mores to the light of scripture. There is a time ahead when the Lord will demand thorough root and branch change from the entire creation. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night amid normalcy but leaving the world unrecognizable in its wake. Momentous events lie ahead in the light of which this series is intended as a “jolt” and “early warning” of what lies ahead and a vibrant commentary and analysis of the times we now see emerging.

I commend this 22nd title in the series to a world spiraling towards judgment and due for a visitation of fire. God promised He would not destroy by flood but His anger with gross wickedness will not tarry.

This study focuses on the Genesis city of carnal culture-on Moses' testimony that God abominates that which is contrary to nature and the writings of Jude and John the Divine as markers of divine displeasure and promised judgment forerunner of the restitution and Messiah's kingdom.

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1. SODOM'S DESTRUCTION

The utter end of Sodom and Gomorrah where corruption and prostitution with praeter-natural liaisons reigned as a *modus vivendi* was destroyed by a volcanic explosion. Scientists put the event at 900BC but since it was co-terminal with Abraham it would be more like 2000BC. This was confirmed by Albright's 1924 expedition which found the high place adjacent with sherds flints etc dating from 2500BC but evidence of civilization in a compact area with 5 oases ended abruptly at 2000BC. There are vast beds of bitumen/ahphalt on both sides of the Dead Sea. Albright and Kyle showed that under Mt.Usdom there is a salt stratum 150 feet thick above which is marl with free sulphur. With the explosion from beneath the salt and sulphur were tossed high into the heavens red hot; its fumes suffocated Lot's wife and its salt fell over her and solidified on her. **Sodom was destroyed only 400 years after the deluge** which itself was the subject of

thorough geological investigation by Sir Leonard Wooley who dug below Ur finding 10 feet of pure clay-beyond what the Euphrates could deposit since creation and underneath that another era's pottery.

A CRY FROM SODOM THAT HAD TO INVOLVE ABRAHAM

...16-20 As the mighty ones rose up they were viewing over the land looking (*Hebrew pqv*) towards Sodom and Abraham was walking with them to put them on a direct route (*Hebrew jlv*) And the LORD said, "Shall I continue to hide what I am doing from Abraham?" *Abraham could hardly believe his ears. He was not an immediate party to the discussion between the LORD and the other men or men-like angels from heaven.*

*Then the LORD added **prophetic TORAH**, "Abraham is to become a great and powerful nation and all the gentile nations of earth will bring themselves happiness or blessing in him for I know Abraham as to the way he will command his sons and his household after him and they will keep the path of the LORD to do righteousness and justice in order that the LORD may bring about the oracle which is over him." God was commending the future faithfulness of a man to angels or messengers. Paul has a saying, "We are an academy for angels-O that we had more such academies!" ...20 Then the LORD said, "An outcry against wrong and for help of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the great sin for it is very burdensome. I will go down now and see if they are doing completely according to the cry that has come to Me, and if not I will relate personally. The LORD was saying that He would be gracious if the plea that reached him did not give the full picture. Someone in Sodom was praying because the*

situation had gone beyond control. Could it be that someone was Lot?

ABRAHAM MINISTERS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD (2)

...20-22 The men turned their faces and were walking towards Sodom and Abraham witnessed it standing on as he was before the face of God. *The presence of God in prayer is deeply reassuring to Abraham at a time when he fears for his extended family. The men had gone on-either by motion of the LORD or because they had been already previously appointed to go down on their own. We need to recall that God cannot bear to look upon sin -yet God had said, "I will go down" but "I was going down" and "I was to see for myself" would suffice for now as fulfilment of the intent since both the imperfect and the future are expressed in these terms though the future purpose is not prejudiced by the departure of the angels but delayed. The more important matter to observe is that Abraham is standing right in front of the LORD and ministering silently. He is sharing the sorrow of the "man of sorrows". This is a deep time of mutual understanding. The LORD has a friend on earth so dear that his company at this time is of great worth so that he relinquishes that of heavenly persons to maintain it a little longer. He is waiting till his beloved Abraham opens his heart.*

ABRAHAM SHARES HIS HEART IN INTERCESSION WHILST GOD APPEARS TO HIM (3)

23-33 Abraham was acting decisively in urging or urgent approach or sacrifice (*Hebrew $\nu\eta\eta$ is used for "offering sacrifice" but although Abraham had an altar back at Mamre-they had walked some distance by now and the only*

sacrifice Abraham had to offer was "prayer"-the offering of his lips) Will you indeed sweep away in a heap the righteous with the wicked?

*(a)...24 What if there are **fifty righteous** persons in the city, will you sweep away them away and not lift up the sins of the place on account of the fifty righteous in its midst?*

*Far be it from you (Hebrew *hl'ylj* for "God forbid") that you should do according to this oracle(of mine); to kill the righteous with the wicked and that the righteous should be (treated) as the wicked. Far be this from what you would own.*

Shall not the judge (Hebrew *fpvh* meaning "prince", "defender", "judge") **of all the earth do right?** *The LORD replied that if He found fifty righteous He would lift up His overwhelming anger against the place.*

*(b)...27-33 Abraham testified, or humbly prayed, "Behold now I have been willing (Hebrew *lay* "content", "foolish enough") to speak to the LORD and I am dust and ashes, ...28 if the number of fifty righteous is diminished by five will the LORD destroy the whole city for five people? God promised not to destroy Sodom if He found **forty five** righteous there!*

(c) ...29 Abraham added to speak again asking, "What if there are 40 found there?" I will not do it in anger if there are 40.

*...30 May the LORD not be angry -I will speak again-what if there be thirty found there? He said, "I will not do it if I find **thirty** there"*

*(d) ...31Abraham again apologised for being as bold or foolhardy as to continue but pleaded, "What if there are twenty?" God said, "I will not do show my wrath for **twenty**"*

*(e)...32 Abraham said, "May the LORD not be angry, I will speak with one final urgent word (Hebrew *m[p]*) "What if ten find themselves(Hebrew *mzmy*) there? God said He would not bring His wrath upon it for **ten**...33 As soon as the LORD had*

completed speaking to Abraham he was going and Abraham returned to his place. *This effective pleading of Abraham teaches men and women of faith everywhere the importance of standing before God in His mercy on occasions when He through his judgement men's lives hang in the balance*

TWO MESSENGERS COME TO SODOM Gen19.1-20

The fascinating first hand report we read of Lot's Sodom and the account of its destruction comes from the pen of Abraham who thereafter must have renewed his close ties with his nephew and brother in law. Lot as a chastened and grateful kinsman was spared not least because of the intercession of a godly friend.

And the two messengers came to Sodom in the evening and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom. *Officials and Judges sat in city gates to control entrance and to settle disputes. It may be Lot had a heavy day.* Lot saw them and rose up to summon them and they (*Lot and his fellow judges*) bowed down their faces to the earth.

This show of respect indicated that Lot was a leading official who could command others through his position. He said, **"Look I pray, my Lord, turn away** (*Hebrew פָּס "to turn from the gate in another or backwards direction"*) to the house of your servants and stay overnight and wash your feet and rise early in the morning and go on your way. They said "No, we will overnight in the square". *Now so low had social morality sunk that in Sodom the citizens had a law allowing beds to be brought into the streets that men might sleep in public with each other.* But he pressed them so much that they turned in to lodge with him and came to his house and he prepared a banquet for them and unleavened bread and they ate.

SODOM'S SIN SAMPLED

Before they lay down to sleep men of the city, men of Sodom encircled the house- from youths to aged men-all the people from the extremes or from everywhere. *They called and asked where the men who came at nightfall were and demanded that they be brought out into the street that they might cavort. Quite bravely Lot went out and closed the opening of the double doors behind him. He must have had an arrangement similar to our portal in the doors-which can be independently used. His appeal "My Friends, please do not do this evil. Look I have two daughters of my own who have not known a man. I will cause them to come out now to you and do for them as is good in your eyes only to these men don't do this impious act for that is the very reason they have come under the protection of my roof. ...9 In terrible incitement they said, "Come near" and to the non-cooperative Lot, "Get out of our way". They were saying, "This one came as a stranger and he will be a judge to condemn (us) this time we will do worse things to you than them" and they were pressing against the warrior-against Lot and they drew near to break the gate.10 The mighty ones put out their arms and brought Lot in to them to the house and shut the door. ..11 They struck the fleshly men at the door with dazzling blindness (The New Jerusalem Bible Has "dazzled" for the Hebrew רָמַס)-both small and great so they wearied in vain to find the door...12 And the mighty ones said to Lot, "Is there still any of yours here-son in law, descendants, and your daughters, bring them out of this place." ...13 The mighty ones revealed themselves as the "destroyers" of the place and gave as their reason the "outcry" which as Gesenius observes they extorted from others. The mighty ones had sampled how this took place-closely observing their deeds of darkness as they attempted to corrupt even God's messengers who entered the environs of*

the city. Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law who were to be married to his daughters and he said, "Rise, get out of this place for the LORD Yahweh is acting definitively to destroy this city" and it seemed as if he was joking to his sons in law. The night visit with such terminal news would have been unprecedented. But Lot was speaking about an act of Yahweh whom the men knew Lot respected for he had insisted on his daughters virginity till that very evening. Lot went home with a heavy heart. ...15 At the coming of the light of dawn the messengers in Lot's presence acted to hasten, saying, "Take your wife and your two daughters who are present or "found with you" let you be swept up in the depraved guilt or calamity of the city.

LOT APPEALS TO GO TO ZOAR AND ACKNOWLEDGES GOD'S PRESENCE & MERCY vv16-19

But he kept stubbornly delaying (*Hithpipel intensive of Hebrew hhm*) but the mighty ones took firm grasp of his hand and of the hand of this wife and of the hands of his daughters and lead them **in the tender affection and pity and compassion of the LORD** and they escaped and they guided them out of the streets of the city. ...17 And as they brought them out **he** said, "Make your escape-for your lives sake-do not look behind and do not stop in all the plain."...18 And Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please". ...19 "Look, please your servant has found grace in your eyes and your covenant which you have made with me is great to spare my soul and but I am not able to escape to the mountains lest the calamity weld itself to me and I die....20 Look at this little city near enough to flee there-and it is small; please may I deliver myself there-behold it is very small and my soul will live (*God's way*)*Lot associated small places with freedom to live*

aright. He was soon to learn that sin and temptation are not limited to big conurbations.

SODOM JUDGED IN GOD'S PRESENCE19.20-21.5

*He said, "I have lifted up your face also on this word not to destroy the city which you have been speaking of again and again". He advised Lot to flee there speedily for he could not act till Lot had come there-hence the city was called "small" instead of "destroyed". It lay on the southern shore which might be 10-12 miles south of Sodom. The sun was shining over the entire valley when Lot reached ZOAR. This delayed the Sulphur rain for 2-4 hours. And the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur or pitch (Hebrew *rpg* a word used of the covering of the ark. There it saved Noah-here it destroyed Gomorrah)The Strong One overthrew the cities and all the plain and all the inhabitants of the cities and "sprouting" vegetables of the productive earth. Lot's wife looked back and she became a fossil pillar of salt-a solemn reminder on the southern shore of the price of disobedience of the sort that looks back to the world from which the LORD would draw us.*

*It all fell on a lovely day and it **was during the springtime of the year**. And Abraham rose early at the place where he stood before the face of the LORD There is no travel verb so it seems Abraham had camped by the ridge where he could get an early view of what took place. ...28 He looked over the cliff upon the face of Sodom and Gomorrah and the face of the land of the plain and behold he saw a smoke of the earth rising as the smoke of a smelting furnace. ...29 And it happened in the destruction of the cities of the plain that God remembered and sent Lot from the centre of the overthrow when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt. Lot had*

moved around in the plain as he set his face towards the capitol.

2. GOD'S HOLINESS CODE

GOD'S HOLINESS CODE (A) - LEVITICUS 18 6-21

No one at all is to come near to any blood relation of his flesh to uncover their nakedness *I am Yahweh*

1. Do not be offensive to your father by uncovering the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother [*Hebrew ma "bestower of benefits"*] 2. Do not have sex with your father's wife; that is offensive to your father. 3. Do not have sex with your sister whether she was born in the house or outside of it; she is daughter of your father and mother. 4-5. Do not make your sons daughter or daughter's daughter naked for behold that would dishonour you. 6. Do not have sex with the daughter of your father's wife. She is your sister. Do not uncover her nakedness. 7. Do not have sex with your father's sister. She is a blood relative of your father. 8. Do not have sex with your mother's sister for she is a blood relative of your mother. 9. Do not offend the brother of your father by approaching his wife to have sex with her; she is your aunt. 10. Do not have sex with your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife. Do not uncover her. 11 Do not have sex with the wife of your brother; that offends your brother. 12. Do not have sex with a woman and her daughter 13-14. Do not have sex with the daughter of your son or of your daughter; these are blood relatives, it is evil intent [*Hebrew mmz*] 15-16. Do not take for a female rival (to your wife) your wife's sister to have sex with her above your wife whilst she lives. 17. Do not approach a wife to have sex during menstrual uncleanness. 18. Do not give your bed to the wife of your neighbour to have seed and make her unclean. 19. Do not give your seed to pass over to Moloch and do not profane the name of your God. *I am Yahweh* 20. Do

not lie with a male as you lie 'with a woman or wife. It is abominable (to God) [*the root is h[t used of "drunken men" and "addiction to error"-the prevailing idea is "addiction"]* 21. Do not give your bed to any one of all the animals to defile yourself with it.

GOD'S HOLINESS CODE (B) Leviticus 20 8-22

Keep my statutes and do them *I am Yahweh Mekadishecem* [*Literally 'the One Who makes you holy. The commands in them selves do not render a nation or church holy-but God's commands are His enablings and do by calling He separates; by blood He cleanses and by the Spirit of Holiness He sanctifies*] For any man who profanes father and mother shall be put to death. He has cursed [*Hebrew l/p 'shamed' or 'diminished'*] father and mother; his blood is upon him. If a man commits adultery with the wife of another man he shall be put to death and the adulteress also. The man who sleeps with the wife of his father has uncovered the nakedness of his father. Both must die. Their blood is on their own head. Their blood is on their own head. If a man sleeps with his daughter in law they must both die; it is profane, their blood is on their heads. If man sleeps with man as with woman he has done an abominable or detestable practice. [*The Hebrew b[t is used of the divine abhorrence Amos 6.8 of one abhorred by the nation Isaiah 49.7; of that which is in itself abhorrent Job 15.16]* and both must die; their blood is on their own heads. If a man takes to wife both a woman and her mother they shall be burned in fire (when they die) that no wickedness [*hmz used of sins of 'uncleanness'*] shall be among you. A man who yields to lie with an animal shall die and the animal shall be slaughtered. When a woman who comes near to any animal to copulate with it both woman and beast shall be slaughtered; they must die, their blood shall be on their heads. The man

who takes his sister, daughter of his father or mother and has seen her nakedness and she has seen his; it is a disgrace. He shall be cut off from the eyes of the children of his people. He has revealed the nakedness of his sister. He shall bear his sin. A man who lies with a woman during her period has uncovered the place of her outflow of blood as she has and they shall both be cut off from the midst of their people. Do not have sex with the sister of your father or mother for that reveals a relative's nakedness. They will bear their iniquity. The man who sleeps with his aunt has dishonoured his uncle; they bear their sin, they will die childless. The man who takes in marriage the wife of his brother has dishonoured him. They shall die childless. Keep all my decrees and all my judgments to do them and the land where I bring you to rest [*Literal Hebrew tbv 'to Sabbath' emphasising 'holy living' or 'living and worshipping'*] will not vomit you out.

3. UNFORGETTABLE JUDGMENT CAUTIONS ISRAEL

Sodom was etched in the folk memory of Israel for generations - nay for thousands of years to come.

1. **Deuteronomy 29.23** And the LORD will separate him for calamity from all the tribes of Israel in accord with all the curses of the covenant written in this book of the **TORAH**. And he said "Later generations of your children who will rise after you and strangers who come from a distant land will see the afflictions of this land and the diseases [*Hebrew TAHELOA from HELAAH*] with which the LORD has afflicted this land. The entire land will be a conflagration of resinous pitch pine or cypress and salt. [*Presumably the fire is combated by salt but both act in unison to prevent cropping at that time*] You will not sow seed - nothing will be sprouting to life - there will not be any green

herb growing up in it. **It will be as the "overturning" or "sea-change" of Sodom and Gomorrah - the land of gazelles (ZEBOIIM) which the LORD overthrew in His wrath and hot anger.**

2. **Isaiah 1.9, 3.9 & 13.19** Your land is laid waste, your cities are burned with fire. Strangers eat up (the products of) your tilled land (*hmda*) before your face. It is desolate as changed for the worse by strangers. The daughter of Zion has left herself as a booth in a vineyard, as a hammock bed (*hml m*) in a field planted with cucumbers, as a besieged city. **If the LORD of Hosts had not left us a gain or victory, a coat of mail (*drc*), a polished sword (*f[m]*)... (*The word here is not simply a "remainder" or "remnant" but means a "victory snatched from the jaws of defeat. I hazard the guess that we are talking of the defeat of Sennacherib after a devastating campaign-and the bruises and slashes and wounds are those sustained in the conflict.*)... we should have been as Sodom ("Burning") belonging to Gomorrah ("overflowing with water") destroyed over and over again. The scenario of pillaging and incendiary flames and water damage following the endeavour to put out fires would have resulted in a situation not dissimilar to that of Sodom.**
3. **JERUSALEM HAS STUMBLERD 8-12** Jerusalem has tottered and Judah has fallen for their tongue and their heinous deeds are against the LORD to grieve or embitter or make the eyes of His glory troubled. **The stupor or shamelessness of their faces is witness against them and they teach their sin as Sodom. They do not "deny it" – woe to their souls for they build up evil by camel loads. We are told that gross**

revisiting the scenes of their past activities with civilisations that are fallen hyenas will howl in their castles; and jackals in their large magnificent places of delight. In a short time it is coming. Her days will not be drawn out

4. **Jeremiah 49.18 & 50.40** Edom will become astonishment. Every one who passes above or high upon her will be amazed [*mmv*] and whistle because of all its conquest. [*hkn* -of "wounding" -of "defeat" of "erosion" of "the heat of the day"-but mainly the "wound" this great desert centre sustained when Edom was defeated.] In company with other travellers in February of 1995 I whistled in the great echo chambers and not one of our travelling party did not turn to others and exclaim in amazement our surprise to find such a stronghold and such virtually impregnable fastnesses. **As the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah so will her inhabitants be promises the divine mandate of the LORD. No man shall live there nor shall any son of Man sojourn there.** *I can further affirm that prophecy has been secured by an edict of the present Jordanian government at this day-for a number of Bedouin who took up residence were expelled and Jordanian soldiers keep watch to ensure that no man takes up residence in these habitable places.* Behold like a lion coming up from the pride of Jordan to the pastureland of cattle I am constant -I will be sudden and rush upon him On that account the desert dwellers and the young of the voracious ostrich shall dwell there; it shall be no more permanently occupied and shall not be a habitation from age to age. **As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and her dwelling places declares the LORD no man shall**

live there and it shall not no son of man shall sojourn there from age to age. Watch it happen – a people shall come from the North and a great nation and great kings shall awake or lift the sword from the remotest sides or "thighs" (speaking of strength and Later empires as in the image of Daniel) of the earth. They shall grasp the bow and the spear; they shall be deadly or "daring". [rzk "fierce" or "cruel" - the word is like our Caesar or Kaiser of Czar] They shall have no mercy. Their voice shall rage like the sea. They shall ride upon horses-every man in battle order or in line and they shall come upon you O daughter of Babylon. T

5. **Ezekiel 16. 46,48-49, 53,55**“And your big sister is Samaria – she and her daughters that live on your left hand and your small sister that lives on your right is Sodom and her sons. But you have not walked in their ways and done their abominations but as if it was a small thing you have become corrupt beyond them in all your ways. As I live”, whispers the LORD God, **“Sodom your sister – she and her sons have not done as you and your sons have done” “Behold this was the iniquity of Sodom your sister – pride [mʷag], sufficiency of bread [t[bv] and easy prosperity [tʷ/v] of undisturbed rest [fʷv] was the issue with her and her daughters but she did not strengthen the hand of the poor and the abysmally needy.”** *The LORD spoke of Sodom as rising up against the generation of which He was part.*
6. **Ezekiel 16.53** **When I return their captivity – the captivity of Sodom and her daughters and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters then I will return your captivity in the middle of them.”** *This*

promise was either fulfilled in the days of Ezra or is now being fulfilled as Jews come back to their land in the midst of Gentiles that represent the ancient Samaritan and Sodomite people of Jordan where Lot's heirs settled as Ammonites.

7. **Zephaniah 2.9** I have listened to the reproach or scorn of Moab and the reproaches of the sons of Ammon [*The son of Lot by his younger daughter Genesis 19.30 - whose descendants lived between the Arnon and the Jabbok*] who have poured scorn on my people and made themselves great against their borders. *Moab had sought enlargement at Israel's cost and made incursions into Israel's territory.* **Therefore as I live whispers the LORD of hosts the God of Israel at that time Moab will be as Sodom and the sons of Ammon as Gomorrah-a possession of nettles and sold out to salt or barrenness and a desolation for an age.** The remnant [*rav*] of my people shall spoil it and the remaining pre-eminence [*rty*] of my people possess them. *The prophet sees two stages of change in Moab's suzerainty.*

4. JESUS & N.T. WRITERS ON CORRUPT SODOM

We read in 5 different contexts of Jesus' remarks on Sodom.

1. In Matthew 10:15 He bids His disciples visit Israel's towns and proclaim that the kingdom has come near and heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and drive out demons giving patent evidence of His kingship. The Lord also directed that the disciples look for one righteous person (like Lot) and if one is not found He said the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah would be more tolerable.

2. Then in Matthew 11.24 the Lord says that Sodom would have remained for two more millennia and its people would have come under the gospel auspice had the gospel come 2 millennia earlier ***because they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes.*** The Lord predicted a more bearable judgment for Sodom than Capernaum. The Lord added that from the wise and learned judgment and repentance remained covered and cloaked yet to babes they were unveiled. Jesus was saying that had ***the power of the resurrection would have incentivised Sodom toward repentance and He also alludes to Nineveh's repentance through the preaching and the story of Jonah which itself was accompanied by a glowing foretaste and sign of resurrection power. The Lord's last call to Sodom in the divine rescue of her people by Abraham's 318 men went unnoticed and its corruption mounted higher still. It was given over to its culture of lust.*** Had the outpoured Spirit touched Sodom it would have been a scene of utter repentance but as Genesis 6.3 God's axioms are "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" and "the judge of all the earth will do right"(Genesis 18.25) and "The Lord is not ***willing*** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"(2Peter 3.9) and the Lord "knows the hearts of all men"(Acts 1.24, 15.8) and "He knows all men and what is in man"(John 2.24, 4.64) and the Lord knows the world's spiritual ontology and is its seal and passport by His death (2 Tim 2.19). Sodom did indeed have a king as had Gomorrah and Abraham as a prophet testified to them. Yet did the situation decline lamentably though they were spared. Wives considered lost came back, servants were returned to them all to no avail - in fact they might have lived longer had they remained un-rescued. In Genesis 14.12 we read that Abraham rescued Lot and enabled him to get back to Sodom. Abraham had been in Canaan 10 years and was 85 when Ishmael was

born so there were eleven or more years of patience with Sodom and Gomorrah whose king had met Melchizadek. If that were the pre-incarnate Christ bearing the symbols of atonement and peace with God the worldliness of Sodom's king is the real reason for sorrow. He might have repented like the king of Nineveh and his city with Him but that did not happen. Sodom was given sight of Christ and knowledge of His mighty acts and His manner of peace by sacrifice but there was no repentance- no sackcloth and ashes even when Lot went a second time to the city.

3. Luke records the Lord as advising his disciples to say on entry to a city "The Kingdom of God has come near" and if there is no response of repentance to say the same at their leaving. The gospel message is both an invitation and a condemnation Luke 10.12 .

4. Further Luke adds in 17. 29 that on the day Lot left Sodom the citizens were eating, drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. It is very significant that by comparison with Noah's earlier violent days they were more immoral-for in those days they were eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage. It would appear that Sodom and its circle of cities had given up on the marriage vow. People were sexually promiscuous in the most corrupt manner-so we speak of their way of life as corruption in extremis - Sodomy.

LESSONS FROM PETER AND PAUL

The apostle Paul states "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants we would have become as Sodom and comparable to Gomorrah city of "culture" and "depression" (Romans 9.29). Surely there is a parable in the names "Conflagration" and "Culture" -"judgment" and "culture" go together like a horse and carriage. Peter adds another lesson

and says “If He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly (and rescued distressed Lot) He knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment”(2 Peter 2.6-9).

JUDE’S SODOM MEMORANDUM 3 (Jude 7)

The men of Sodom & Gomorrah are described as “hypnotised” in their same- sex culture 8. Jude shows the pentapolis was as one-following the "fashion" [τροπον] of Sodom. It is still so. Numerous ‘alternative lifestyle’ sinners live hypnotised-dreaming it is alright. But the men of Sodom had a rude awakening. They were “polluting” their bodies μιαινουσσι -“painting ivory with scarlet”- making the beautiful grotesque. (Leviticus 20.13) Such falsetto living has deeply penetrated cities worldwide. Billy Graham once said, *“If God doesn't judge America he will have to apologise to Sodom & Gomorrah”*- “conflagration & Inundation”. Gen 19(v7) Sodomites “went behind”[οπισω](not after) strange flesh.” (This being literal speech of the actual homosexual approach)The people of Sodom are "set forth" [προκεινται In this very sense Thucydides speaks about a penalty advised before and Aeschylus and Sophocles also use the term.] as a "specimen" [δειγμα literally "a sample of merchandise"] Sodom is Gods bazaar –every culture must buy into & digest this judgment. Sodom is “God’s full cup of wrath”[υπεχυσαι]_There are 30 biblical warnings from Sodom -which tends to underscore the fact that everyone should put this "memo" somewhere where it can never be forgotten.

*When I stand before the throne
Clothed in beauty not my own
Then LORD shall I fully know
Not till then how much I owe.*

5. HOMOSEXUALITY & LESBIANISM TODAY

These lifestyles are practiced with abandon and characterize a substantial minority of most western societies. The words “gay pride” fit together to characterize a movement that spearheaded the libertine cultural change. Because every man and woman has equal rights before the law democracies have moved fast to entitle the gay community to every economic and family privilege that so called “strait” couples enjoy. A Christian Institute study completed some years ago on “sexual activity” found that 90% of behaviour was heterosexual, 6% celibate, 3.5 bisexual and less than 1% homosexual. Clearly with the increase of same sex partnerships and the exploitation of the divine ordinance of marriage to mean something quite different the balance of such figures would now show an upward trend in homosexual sexuality. Expletives are easily exchanged between those who observe New Testament teaching on man-woman and man to man and woman to woman relationships and those who choose to create a second culture or believe they are differently created. The hiatus is largely because Christians cannot absolve themselves from the laws of righteousness and what **God** calls *abomination* biblical Christians are bound to regard with deep displeasure the practicing sexual use of man by man and woman by woman. This scripture regards as sinful –and for people of the book to do otherwise is to deny that there is any holy fear of God before our eyes. In June 2013 as this article was in production the international “Exodus” movement which encouraged gays to begin to escape from homosexual

bonds and activity dissolved itself with apologies to the gay community. This came in the wake of the parliamentary bill extending marriage to the gay community which yields umbrella rights, protection and acquiescence. The laws of parliament do not, however, weigh equally with God. Where they breach God's commands to man on which basis each life whether heterosexual or homosexual will be judged we must each either await the Great White Throne or bow today to the call of the Holy Spirit to live pure and holy before the law of God or if in default to repent of sin.

As a man called by the Spirit of God to declare the whole council of God I stand with the prophetic voices of Moses and Paul to remind our society that "If man sleeps with man as with woman he has done an abominable or detestable practice." [*The Hebrew b[t is used of the divine abhorrence Amos 6.8 of one abhorred by the nation Isaiah 49.7 and of that which is in itself abhorrent Job 15.16*]. Under the law of Moses as originally given both if Jewish would suffer death and the law of God maintains "their blood is on their own heads." While under our law no man on such account would suffer death the fact remains that each man and woman is responsible for their lives under God and this remains the reality. Paul writes to the Romans and states "Exchanging the truth about God for a lie results in shameful lusts which include exchanging natural sexual relations for unnatural ones and abandoning natural relations of man with woman and becoming inflamed with lust for a man or men and this not without physical penalty.(Leviticus 20 8-22, Romans 1.26-27). Some high profile gay partnerships graced with children grab headlines but health issues and moral issues and residual biblical belief, conscientious objection, social disapprobation and principled distaste is amenable to political correction.

This thing is not right in the sight of a holy God and the statutes of our creator and Lord.

LeVAY & INBORN HOMOSEXUALITY UNPROVEN

The INAH-3 cell group size in the human brain was thought to be smaller in the homosexual subject but labeling showed small INAH-3's were represented among heterosexuals. Besides the brain is a plastic organ responsive to experience. Laying claim to the genetic factor reinforces "sexual orientation" and has served well in arguing for law reform. The European convention on Human Rights is somewhat coercive under the insistence that sexual orientation is fixed at age 16. One of the bothering statistics is that as SIGMA (Social sexual Investigations of gay men and aids) has shown that just under 25% of gay men have between 10 & 100 partners in 5 years.

UN LAW FACILITATES LIBERAL SOCIAL PERAMETERS

The Lambeth resolution 1.10 upholds marriage as the physical union within marriage of a man and woman. The Quran Sura 26 165-6 and Sura 7.84 and the Sikh commentary the 5 evil passions with the 3rd precept of Buddhism on Dharma concur with the Torah and New Testament morality. As against this the UN Article 29 on Human Rights states **"Everyone is subject only to just requirements of morality, public order and general welfare in a democratic society"**. The concept of liberty under which national governments administer their constituencies is very broad - it seeks to ensure that everyone is free to do as he or she will within the law so long as that does not unfairly circumscribe the rights of others. The reality is that only within theocratic systems and strongly traditionalist Judaeo-

Christian societies can social mores readily incorporating different or altruistic ethics nationwide.

6. GOD'S LAST WORD - REVELATION 22.10-15

John is given a solemn warning “Do not seal the words of this book!” The Lord will have the warnings and absolute crystal clear directives of the Apocalypse open for all to see.. Few are willing to open the book and few ready to preach its awesome content and fewer still are ready to obey it. Its truths ought to be read by everyone. Special and urgent messages are warranted in our churches based on its great warnings. Three matters are emphasised in its final chapter.

1. Those who are justified and living sanctified lives are encouraged to continue in this vital lifestyle. Those who are unjust still and do not repent but flout the will of God in their lifestyle will face judgment v11.
2. God will reward works wrought from faith and fear of God and abhorrence of sin v12.
3. Christ is the Alpha and Omega. He is the sovereign and centre of life's purpose. His will is supreme and by that will we are saved by His atoning death and resurrection and through the sending of His Spirit into our hearts. However *six congregations* prepared to live outside His will are named as “dogs” (an eastern idiom for “scavengers of flesh”. These are sorcerers or addicts, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, creatures of lies and pseudo or hidden life” and they shall have no part in the joy of heaven **or any natural right to “the tree of life”** in accord with Genesis 3.21 and 24. This is tantamount to stressing that with sin comes death-and that death is one that follows the Great White Throne judgment and is named as the Second Death. It is instant upon hearing the words “Depart from me” from God Almighty.

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