

THE TIME AT THE END B

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We are not going to look specifically at the signs that herald the end of this age, but we are going to investigate the social and religious attitudes prophesied for this time. The Bible has a huge amount of details that pertain to these end times and the Lord makes it very clear that he is not going to tolerate this situation much longer. There is a remarkable clarity about the word of God that so accurately identifies the troubles of our current times. The type of problems we are looking at are not new and have caused the end of many other civilizations in the past. The Bible bears record of these troubled times and it is interesting to compare notes with what has gone in the past. History truly repeats itself and we can see clearly that we are in the death throws of this age. The best aspect about all of this is in the fact that there is an answer to the problem. Unfortunately, most people don't want to hear it.

Lets go back about 4,000 years and look at Sodom. These people had corrupted themselves so much: God was no longer going to tolerate them. None were interested in the ways of God and they simply ran out of time.

GEN 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing [them] rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. *Two of Gods angels (messengers) had come to see Lot. (He probably didn't know they were from God at that time and offered them hospitality: they were new to the city and it wasn't safe: how many times do we feel the need to protect people from the world)?*

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as [is] good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. *The people of the city were so corrupt that the men knocked on Lot's door and wanted to use his guests for homosexual acts. It was so distressing that Lot offered his virgin daughters to them, but they preferred the men. Many of our modern cities will end up the same as law and order break down.*

9 And they said, Stand back. And they said [again], This one [fellow] came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, [even] Lot, and came near to break the door. *Lot took a stand against them and they accused him of judging them (where have we heard that before). The people of the city had lost all sight of their reason for being and their time was up.*

10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

11 And they smote the men that [were] at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. *The men of God used God's power to prevent the intended wickedness from happening. The Sodomites were struck blind and could no longer follow through with their evil intentions. (God also delivers today). Homosexual acts are an abomination to God and bring destruction upon those that won't repent of their deeds. There is a spiritual principle involved as well. Salvation requires the spirit of God and the spirit of man to come together in a sacred unity. But mankind refuses to acknowledge the sacred nature of this union and prefers to unite the spirit of man with the spirit of man... inventing and practicing false doctrine (a spiritual form of homosexuality... also an abomination to God).*

12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring [them] out of this place: *Come out of the city and be separate, are there any others who will take a stand with you? That is what you discover when you preach the gospel.*

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. *The angels reveal themselves and tell of God's judgment soon to come upon the city. Abraham had already bargained with God, that if ten righteous men should be found in the city... it would be spared... these men had now come to pass this judgment (Gen 18).* **14** And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. *Lot's son in laws thought he was joking... they had no respect for the message of life he offered them.*

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his

two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. *In the end only Lot and his wife and two daughters were wise enough to leave. All the others preferred their immoral and ungodly lifestyles and all it had to offer.*

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

&23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife **looked back** (5027) from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. *Once Lot and his family were safe, then came the judgment of God. Total destruction; no escape. Unfortunately Lot's wife doubted (she really didn't believe the words of the Lord) 'looked back' (5027 looked Heb... regarded with favour, pleasure or care)... she perished because her heart was entangled with the world.*

Pillar of salt. There is a wonderful prophecy involved in this statement. The city and land of Sodom was situated on very rich and fertile plains where the Dead Sea now exists. Lot's wife didn't just turn into a statue of salt. The word pillar also means monument (headstone on a burial stone). The great truth of this prophecy is evident today... the plains have become a salt encrusted wasteland instead of the rich and fertile land they once were. The woman was buried where she died and her burial place is now covered in salt. Who but God could have predicted this. The destruction was permanent... consider **Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. **7** Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

God asks us to keep apart from the natural and spiritual wickedness that is in the world.

2COR 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord (*agreement*) hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Once our righteousness is established (through receiving the Holy Spirit), we are encouraged in the same manner as Lot and his family. We need to be separate from the social and religious wickedness that surrounds us. It is a conscious effort we must all make... don't start your walk in the Lord well then slacken off... that is what happened to Lots wife.

God reveals his plan for mankind. This old way of life is coming to an end. The spiritual and social pollutions are going to be terminated and God's way will soon rule.

These are the words that the angels (messengers of God) speak today.

ACT 2:37 Now when they heard [this], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [even] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

We are the messengers of God today... how many just men will you find before God's judgment rains down upon the earth.