

# The New Sodom, Gomorrah and Gibeah!

In 50 Years America Has Turned “Pink”! The Supreme Court recreated America into Sodom & Gomorrah yesterday as the Justices strongly reiterated the gay / lesbian lifestyle. The Justices threw the Biblical God out of this country, replacing him with a god made in man's image. What is the real significance of America's embracing of the homosexual lifestyle? What does the future hold? What does Almighty God say about and think about this cascade of events and governmental decisions? Is homosexuality so innocent and acceptable in God's sight?

William F. Dankenbring

NEWS BRIEF: **“Supreme Court gives big boost to same sex marriage”**, (USA Today, June 26, 2013).

“The Supreme Court delivered a double-barreled boost to the cause of same-sex marriage from Maine to California Wednesday by acting boldly in one case and backing off in another. Precisely a decade after it struck down all remaining state laws banning sodomy, the court declared a key section of the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional on equal protection grounds.”

The Justices then indirectly struck down California's Proposition 8, which forbade same-sex marriages. Reported USA Today, “. . . the justices took no stand on the merits of California's ban on same-sex marriage, leaving a lower court's decision that overturned Proposition 8 as the last word.”

The pot is now boiling over. Gay and lesbian couples throughout this formerly great nation rejoiced at the new reality that America now views same-sex relationships in precisely the same manner in which Sodom and Gomorrah viewed them. In the eyes of the Supreme Court, Gay/lesbian relationships are now legally identical to God's ordained heterosexuality. These activities were most assuredly considered normal in Sodom and were regularly practiced.

In the Clinton and Obama administrations, America's armed forces have been opened to unlimited male and female homosexual enlistments. At the same time Christians have been persecuted and considered potential threats to the nation. America's Constitution guarantees us freedom of speech, but anyone speaking out against homosexuality may soon be accused of a “hate crime” and fined or imprisoned. In

August 2013, a federal judge fined a photographer in New Mexico \$7,000 for refusing to photograph a homosexual wedding!

The homosexual flag now flies over America's foreign embassies. Nigeria has warned President Obama that if he sends homosexuals to our embassy there, they will be sent back and our embassy closed. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Cameron of Great Britain has announced that he is working on getting homosexual marriages accepted in every nation around the world.

On American television, sit-coms with homosexual themes and characters are proliferating on prime-time shows. The flood-gates have been opened.

### ***Gay Violence in the Military***

Noah Hutchings writes, "This past week while checking to see if there was anything worth watching on television, I accidentally watched a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff being represented by the highest commanding officers of our military branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. The commander-in-chief of our armed forces, President Obama, was absent for good reason. As far as I know, this meeting was not reported on any major TV channel, newspaper, or magazine. The reason being that our news media is now controlled by homosexuals.

"All commanding officers of our military services testified that the rape situation within every military branch was out of control. This past year there were more than 85,000 reported service-related rapes, and it was said that only ten to fifteen percent of the rapes are actually reported. This means there are approximately a million rapes per year now occurring in the Military.

"According to two documented articles I have on my desk, as reported by NBC News (6/5/13), the major portion of these rapes are men raping men. According to the testimony of our high command officers, the problem has gotten so bad they are losing control, and discipline now throughout the armed forces is rapidly deteriorating, with many soldiers committing suicide. All the high command officers testified that unless something is done, soon the armed forces of the U.S.A. will no longer be able to protect the nation"

Hutchings continues, "I served in WWII in the South Pacific war area, and any soldier even suspected of homosexual activity was immediately separated under guard until he could be given a mental health discharge. This policy must be reinstated.

"Fornicating Bill Clinton, impeached for lying about having sex with a woman less than half his age in the White House, opened the door for homosexual enlistment in the armed services. President Obama, who's sexual preference is bisexual (according to Larry Sinclair, a college roommate of Obama, in his book *Cocaine, Sex, Lies & Murder*), opened the flood gates. It is obvious that Congress or Mr. Obama is not going to do anything to save this nation from this serious, extremely wicked situation. It is up to

Christians to pray and tell their pastors to either sound the alarm or get one who will. We warned that this was going to happen on our program and in our publications. We are warned by Jesus that when He came again in judgment, it would be as it was in the days of Lot. Wake up! We are now living in Sodom, America.” (*Prophetic Observer*, July 2013).

### ***Wake Up, America and World!***

Homosexuality is rampant today, worldwide. Great Britain, Europe, and Israel also have formidable homosexual men and women who will not be restrained and who curse and flip their finger at God and His laws.

Homosexual activities were undoubtedly contributing of the “crying and shrieking” which God heard before He decided to physically annihilate the cities. Listen to the Biblical account:

***"And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know."*** [Gen 18:20-21 (KJV) ]

The Parallel Bible gives the Amplified Bible Commentary rendering:

***"And the Lord said, Because the shriek of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether as vilely and wickedly as is the cry of it which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."*** [Genesis 18:20-21 (Amp); Parallel Bible).

Do the sexual practices of homosexuality produce screaming and shrieking?

The normal practice of anal intercourse produces such shrieking, for the tissue in those body parts were never meant for intercourse. Additionally, some other practices homosexuals regularly perform produce extreme pain which causes such a crying out.

Was there evidence of man-boy lovemaking in Sodom? The historical Biblical account says:

***"But before they lay down, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, all the men from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know (be intimate with) them."*** (Genesis 19:4-5, Parallel Bible)

The men of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded Lot's house to demand that the angels come outside for public sex. Yes, I believe man-boy homosexuality was

practiced in Sodom. One pro-gay writer noted that our cultural “bias” against homosexual acts stemmed from the pervasive influence of Judeo-Christianity. (Cuttingedge Ministries, June 17, 2013).

Today, the world is under assault by the gay community who seek to control and rule the world according to their homosexual tastes and practices.

***“As It Was in the Days of Noah”***

Yeshua the Messiah declared, “But *AS THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt.24:37-39).

In the book of Luke, Yeshua went on to say, “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man” (Luke 17:26).

The Messiah continued: “Likewise *as it was also in the days of Lot*: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:28-32).

The cause of the Flood, and the catastrophe that fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah, are highlighted as SIGNS which also would occur at the END of the age, before the coming of Christ to restore order in the earth and to save mankind from self-annihilation!

***‘In the Days of Noah’***

What was the world like in the days of Noah?

In the book of Genesis, we read what the world was really like in the days of Noah, which caused God to lament the fact that He had even created mankind. “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart” (Gen.6:5-6). The Hebrew word for "great" here is *rab* and means “abundant,” in every way – size, shape, quantity – a “multitude, abounding, exceeding, vast, large, powerful.” Thus evil DOMINATED the earth at that time – it sat in high offices, governmental authorities, the powers that existed were wicked and shameful through and through.

The Hebrew for “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart” means, THE WHOLE IMAGINATION – the Hebrew signifies also the purposes and desires of the heart – EVERYTHING about mankind's motives, schemes, plots, conquests, lusts, ideas, dreams, fantasies – it was ALL WICKED, building on itself, feeding on itself, growing and multiplying, ALL THE TIME -- incessantly, continuously, without interruption!

Mankind's thoughts were exclusively evil and wicked – “continually,” or, as the Hebrew implies, “EVERY DAY.” And in verse 11 we read: “The earth also was CORRUPT before God, and the earth was FILLED WITH VIOLENCE.” Again, the word for “corrupt” here is *shatach*, and means, “to decay, ruin, cast off, destroy, mar, spill, spoil.” *Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* says of this word: “To destroy, to ruin, either by laying waste, as a country, region, or field . . . or by pulling down, as walls, a city, or by wounding, or by killing, both individuals and whole peoples.”

In other words, the earth was filled with destruction, of every kind, ruining the planet, including environmental waste and pollution – and it was filled with violence, murders, massacres, and even “ethnic cleansing” and GENOCIDE, during the times of Noah.

The *Jamison, Faucett, Brown Critical, Experimental Commentary* notes, “The corruption had not only become universal, it had assumed a colossal character in the two aspects of lust and cruelty; and so intent were the men of that period in devising means of indulging the lowest propensities of their nature, that not only did they commit deeds of wickedness, but the ‘very imagination of their thoughts’—those embryonic beginnings of emotional mental activity which give moral character to all that proceeds from them—‘were only evil continually.’ The language implies a prodigious excel of depravity.”

The *Adam Clarke Commentary* states, “They were in a state of wickedness. All was corrupt within, and all unrighteous without; neither the science nor practice of religion existed. Piety was gone, and every form of sound words had disappeared. This wickedness was *great [rabbah]*, ‘was multiplied;’ it was continually increasing and multiplying increase by increase, so that the *whole earth* was corrupt before God, and was filled with violence, profligacy among the lower, and cruelty and oppression among the higher classes, being only predominant.”

How similar the world then was to OUR WORLD, TODAY!

### *World of Violence*

The word violence in this verse is *chamac* in Hebrew and means, “violence, wrong, unjust gain, cruelty, damage, false, injustice, oppression.” The earth during Noah's time was filled with wrong, injustice, oppression, and violence – and the world today is filled with the very same thing – the very same EVIL SYSTEM! Governments plunder, rape, destroy, steal, and oppress their people. Nations become enslaved. Freedoms and liberties are lost. Violence, extortion, fraud, and wickedness fill the earth. Part of the cause of these heinous evils and horrendous crimes, is the repudiation and

rejection on the part of mankind of the moral, spiritual and ethical LAWS OF GOD, which themselves produce justice, righteousness, equity, peace, goodness, and genuine concern for one's brother. However, another vitally important factor caused God to become nauseated and furious with the world before the Flood.

In an issue of *Inside Israel Newsletter* (vol.13, no.7), Rabbi Chaim Dov Keller is reported as writing in the "Jewish Observer", "The Midrash (Acharei Mos) tells us that the Generation of the Flood was wiped out only *because they wrote marriage contracts between males just as they did for conventional couples.*" We can better understand the cultural expression "only because" as meaning "the singular primary reason" in importance as the cause why God brought the Flood upon the world at that time in antiquity.

Homosexuality has once again risen to the top in today's foul, bestial, corrupt world, with gay marriages being legalized in state after state, and the Obama administration endorsing homosexual conduct in society and the military.

How did it happen? How do we suddenly find ourselves confronted by such a different, upside-down world and society?

### **The Gay Agenda**

After the Supreme Court's recent monumental gay marriage rulings, the media reported that America has had a rapid change of heart on the issue over the past year.

But that's not exactly true. The nation didn't get to this point overnight. Ten years ago, CBN News began exposing a secret, long-term strategy to convert America into a pro-gay culture.

The 2005 film "Brokeback Mountain" was one of Hollywood's biggest and boldest attempts to gain sympathy, if not outright support, for those practicing the homosexual lifestyle. But it is not just an isolated effort. There is a well-planned propaganda campaign at work – a campaign laid out all the way back in the 1980s. The movie Brokeback Mountain looks like a big, bold, manly Western movie. But instead of the usual "boy meets girl" romance, this film's about "cowboy meets cowboy."

"It is very, very propagandistic because the entire purpose of the movie is to make homosexuality seem like something good and appealing, and to make people who are opposed to homosexuality bigots and homophobes," said David Kupelian, author of *The Marketing of Evil*.

There have been homosexual movies for years, but they are usually marketed to gay and art-house audiences. That was not the case with "Brokeback." "They are marketing Red State, Bush-country America," Kupelian said.

But the way the studio did that was by opening it up in just five Blue State cities where there were large, built-in gay audiences. Consequently, the first showings had blockbuster numbers.

“And they get these high numbers and all the buzz going,” Kupelian said, “and then pretty soon it's sort of like the emperor's new clothes effect: we're all looking at that -- even middle, Christian America, saying, 'Everybody else says this movie is so great. I need to go see it to see why it's so great.’”

### **The Homosexual Agenda**

Is there an actual agenda at work here? Authors Alan Sears and Craig Osten, in a book called *The Homosexual Agenda*, warn about a complex and well-thought-out strategy to make America "gay friendly" and hostile to those who resist.

These Christian authors quote extensively from *After the Ball*, a 1989 gay manifesto that laid out this agenda. Many gays deny such an agenda exists.

Gay activist Toni Broaddus, the executive director of Equality California, asserts, "There's no secret plan or even public plan at this point." But the authors of *After the Ball* discuss in the book about a 1988 summit of gay leaders in Warrenton, Va., who came together to agree on the agenda.

These authors are Marshall Kirk, a reportedly brilliant researcher into the brain, and Hunter Madsen, a Harvard-trained expert in public persuasion tactics.

The two men proposed using tactics on 'straight' America that are remarkably similar to the brainwashing methods of Mao Tse-Tung's Communist Chinese -- mixed with Madison Avenue's most persuasive selling techniques.

What is the purpose of this brainwashing?

According to Kirk and Hudson, it is to use “...the very processes that made America hate us, to turn their hatred into warm regard – whether they like it or not.”

First, they proposed homosexuals and their liberal allies should desensitize heterosexuals by getting homosexuality talked about as much as possible in the straight world.

“The main thing,” the authors said, “is talk about gayness until the issue becomes thoroughly tiresome... You can forget about trying right up front to persuade folks that homosexuality is a 'good' thing. But if you can get them to think it is just 'another' thing, meriting no more than a shrug of the shoulders -- then your battle for legal and social rights is virtually won.”

Sears said, "We're talking about a demand for a behavior that not only wants to not be condemned, but to have every affirmation from every possible point that it is correct, it's good and it's approved."

Now look at the media. Over the past decade there was a tidal wave of gays and gay themes – the Showtime hit "The L Word" follows the lives of a group of lesbians.

From shows like NBC's "Will and Grace" to ABC's "Modern Family", gay themed shows have taken a prominent role in primetime. "Desperate Housewives" and "The Office" even made time for the occasional gay guy subplot.

### **Gays as Victims**

Another point that Kirk and Madsen push is to "portray gays as victims of circumstance and oppression, not as aggressive challengers...Gays must be portrayed as victims in need of protection, so that straights will be inclined, by reflex, to assume the role of protector."

Benjamin Bull of the Alliance Defense Fund said, "Suddenly those who choose homosexual behavior...sodomy...are victims. It's crazy!" But have homosexuals won on getting themselves seen as a persecuted minority?

Turning to the movies, the wildly-popular "Saved" portrays born-again Christians as cruel homophobes trying to re-program poor, young misunderstood gays in their midst. "Trembling Before God" is about how Orthodox and Hasidic homosexuals are persecuted and not accepted.

"The Conspiracy of Silence" argues that some gay priests are hounded to death because they cannot act out their homosexuality. And the good, kind, understanding homosexual next door has been seen in so many movies and TV series that he has become somewhat of a cliché.

These days, roughly 30 regular homosexual characters are being beamed into your home by the major networks every week. As Kirk and Madsen put it, "The average American watches over seven hours of TV daily. Those hours open up a gateway into the private world of straights, through which a Trojan Horse might be passed."

Truly, America has been turning "pink" for decades, and now the chicken is coming home to roost. Where will this "gay agenda" lead our nation, and the world? Who or what is really behind it? Is it a sinister ploy of Satan the devil to destroy mankind, hook, line and sinker? What does history – and Bible prophecy – say?

### ***The End-Time Generation***

"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax (grow) cold" (Matthew 24:12). In this verse Jesus Christ tells his disciples about the coming "end of

the Age” and the signs of his coming return to earth. Language of the world today has become openly coarse and filthy as heard in conversations, TV programs, movies and printed matter. The normal filial love of many people has grown cold because of the constant violence, pornography, desensitizing movies and television, and the rampant growth of homosexuality.

Christ declared, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45).

The world today is becoming anti-Christian. The Gay Movement is extremely hostile toward Christianity because it condemns their wicked practices. God knew it would be this way. He knew contrary to men’s opinions, homosexuality leads to violence and gross cruelty.

Therefore, God’s Law expressly states: “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination (done what is detestable). They shall surely be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads” (Leviticus 20:13). Verses 15-16 say, “If a man mates with an animal he shall surely be put to death and you shall kill the animal. If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.”

This shows what God thinks about sexual immorality and condemns it. In Leviticus 18:22-23 God says, “You shall not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is an abomination. Neither shall you lie with any beast to defile yourself with it. Neither shall any woman stand before a beast to mate with it: it is perversion.”

This lesson is so important that God goes on, saying, “Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. So I punished the land, and the *land itself vomited out her inhabitants*. You shall therefore keep my statutes and judgments. The native born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things. For all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you and the land became defiled. And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.” (verses 24-28, NIV).

Leviticus 18:29-30 adds, “For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off (put to death) from among their people. Therefore you shall keep My ordinances, so that you do not commit any of these *abominable customs* which were committed before you, and that you do not *defile yourselves by them*: I AM the Lord your God’.”

Homosexuality was one of the leading detestable practices of those nations. The United States of America has now legally endorsed perversion and wickedness. The U.S.

Supreme Court has legally endorsed same sex marriages and President Obama has endorsed the month of June as Gay Pride month (it was “June Brides” and weddings).

### *The Story of Gibeah*

The following account took place not long after Israel entered the Holy Land, within a generation or so. It is an appalling story of how quickly homosexuality can lead to the destruction of a population.

We read in the book of Judges 19:1, “It came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehem-judah.”

A concubine was a secondary wife status, but her children had no inheritance – just the children by the first wife were heirs. It was a custom generally recognized in those days of a man having more than one wife. In the beginning God created male and female, Adam and then Eve (one man and one woman to become as one) and commanded that they not be put asunder (split apart). The man was to cleave to his wife. One woman is enough if he is really going to love her, get to know her and take care of her. If you have more than one wife your attention is going to be divided and somewhat negligent.

His concubine had left him and went to her father’s house in Bethlehem-judah and was there for four whole months. The term “*played the harlot*” used here in verse 2 (KJV) does not mean literally that she fooled around with other men. Josephus, Jewish historian and the *Tanakh* say she grew tired of the way the Levite acted toward her—of all of his jealousy, ranting and railings, fighting and accusing—so she returned home to her Dad’s house.

We read in verse 3, “Then her husband took his servant and an extra donkey and went after her to speak kindly to her, “ to reconcile and to persuade her to come back. He apologized and spoke to her heart and the two of them reconciled. After spending five days of warm hospitality—food, drink, and a merry heart at her father’s house—the Levite was not willing to stay longer. The Levite refused to spend the night in a foreign city where there were no Israelites even though it was getting late in the day. At sunset, they came to Gibeah a town in the land of Benjamin. They stopped and rested in the town square, but no one took them in for the night. The people of Gibeah were not hospitable and ignored the travelers.

That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim came in from his work in the field, who was also from the mountains of Ephraim; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place were Benjaminites. When he looked up, he saw a wayfaring man in the open square of the city. He asked, “Where are you going and where do you come from?”

The Levite responded, “We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live. I have been to Bethlehem in Judah and now I am going to the house of the Lord. No one has taken me into his house although we have straw and fodder for our donkeys and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and the young man with us. There is no lack of anything.” “Peace be with you (you are welcome at my house)! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square.”

So he brought them into the house and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and did eat and drink. As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, *perverted men* surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man saying, “Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him [have sexual intercourse with him]. But the man, master (owner) of the house went out to them and said: “No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Since this man is my guest, don’t do this disgraceful thing. Look here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them as you please. But to this man, do not do such a vile thing.”

The men would not listen to him. So they sent the Levite’s concubine outside to them and they raped her and abused her all night long until the morning. At daybreak they let her go and she fell down at the door of the house where her master was and lay there until daylight.

When her master arose in the morning and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. He said, “Get up! Let’s go!” But there was no answer. Then the man put her on his donkey and set out for home. When he entered his house, he took a knife and laid hold of his concubine and divided her into twelve pieces together with her bones and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

Everyone who saw it said: “Such a thing has never been seen or done from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. *Consider it, confer, and speak up!*” “What we are going to do about this?” (Judges 19:3-30).

What he did was not right in defiling the body of a dead person. Apparently, he was so outraged and angry at this total lack of morality and detestable action which resulted in the death of his concubine in Gibeah – that he did this shocking thing as a wake-up call to all Israel to illustrate the severity and moral degradation caused by departure from God’s law. Everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes.

We read, “Then all the leaders of the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came out as one and assembled before the Lord in Mizpah, four hundred thousand foot soldiers (armed) who drew the sword. Then said the children of Israel, ‘Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?’ (Word soon reached the land of Benjamin that the other tribes had gone up to Mizpah).

“So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, “My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night. And the men of Gibeah rose against me (came after me) and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died. So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and outrage in Israel. Behold, you are all children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!’ All the people rose as one man, saying, ‘None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house. We will go up against Gibeah by lot. One tenth of the men from each tribe will be chosen to supply the warriors with food, and the rest of us will take revenge on Gibeah for this vile thing that they have done.’ All the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.” (See Judges 20:1-11).

The account continues, “Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying “What is this wickedness that has occurred among you? Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel.” But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel. Instead, the children of Benjamin at once mobilized twenty-six thousand swordsmen from their town, in addition to seven hundred chosen men from those living in Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel. Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair’s breadth and not miss. Israel had 400,000 warriors armed with swords not counting Benjamin. Before the battle the children of Israel went up to the house of God to inquire of God and asked God “Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?” The Lord said, “Judah first!” (verses 12-18).

Verse 18 is the first mention of the children of Israel inquiring of the Lord regarding what action to take. Up to this point the Levite and the children of Israel had acted on their own—“war with Benjamin”. The Israelites left early the next morning and camped near Gibeah. Then they advanced toward Gibeah to attack the men of Benjamin. But Benjamin’s warriors, who were defending the town, came out and killed twenty-two thousand Israelites in the field that day. They went up to Bethel and *wept in the presence of the Lord* until evening and *asked counsel of the Lord*, saying “Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?” The Lord said, “Go up against him.” This time they inquired of the Lord.

So they went out to fight Benjamin the second day. This time, when the Benjamites came out from Gibeah to oppose them, the men of Benjamin cut down another eighteen thousand Israelites, all of whom were experienced with a sword.

Then all the Israelites went up to Bethel to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the Lord and *fasted* that day until evening; and they *offered burnt offerings and peace offerings* before the Lord. And the children of Israel inquired of the Lord, (for the Ark of the Covenant of God was there in those days, and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron was the priest that stood [ministered] before it). The leaders asked,

*“Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin or shall I cease?”*

After being defeated two days in succession, the children of Israel sought God more seriously. They stopped trusting in their great numbers (own power and might) and humbled themselves by fasting, offering burnt offerings and peace offerings. The Lord said, “Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.”

Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. On the third day the Israelites assembled at the same place as before. When the warriors of Benjamin came out to attack, they were drawn away from the city. They began to inflict casualties on the Israelites as before, so that about thirty men fell in the open field and on the roads –the one leading to Bethel and the other to Gibeah. While the men of Benjamin were saying, “We are defeating them as before”, the Israelites were saying, “Let’s retreat and draw them away from the city”, as they had agreed upon in advance.

Then Israel’s men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba, and ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. The fighting was so heavy that the Benjamites did not realize disaster was upon them. The Lord defeated Benjamin before Israel, and on that day the Israelites killed 25,100 Benjamite warriors all of whom were valiant fighters. The appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city, whereupon the men of Israel would turn toward the men of Benjamin and fight.

We read, “When the Benjamites looked behind them and saw the smoke of the whole city going up into the sky, the men of Benjamin panicked, turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the desert. The Israelites surrounded the men of Benjamin and were relentless in chasing them down and overtook them. Who ever came out of the cities, they destroyed in their midst. Only 600 men escaped to the rock of Rimmon, where they lived for four months. The men then turned back against the children of Benjamin and struck them down with the edge of the sword from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to” (Judges 20:1-48).

Phinehas, grandson of Aaron, was still alive and serving as high priest in Israel at Bethel where the Ark of the Covenant was when this occurred in the nation of Israel. The whole tribe of Benjamin was covering up for the perverted men in Gibeah—rapists, murderers, homosexuals – and chose to fight for their “so called rights” instead of obeying God’s laws.

This historical account should show us how detestable the sin of homosexuality is in the sight of Almighty God! It is a crime against nature, and the God who made us male and female.

### ***The Sin of Homosexuality***

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul writes, “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shown it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the Creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that *they are without excuse*: because when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. *God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts*, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

“For this reason God gave them up to *vile affections*: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, *burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly*, and receiving in themselves that recompense (reward of their error) which was meet (due) [such as venereal diseases, STD’s, AIDS, etc.]

“Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a *reprobate mind*, to do those things which are not convenient” (Romans 1:18-28).

Paul continues, “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such thing are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” (Rom.1:32).

The apostle Peter also discusses this inflammatory issue. Peter tells us, “God spared not the angels that sinned but cast them down to hell to pits of darkness until judgment day. God spared not the old world but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; and *turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemning them to destruction, making them an example of those that should live ungodly*” (II Peter 2:4-6). ,

“The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished.” (verse 9).

The apostle Jude also warns us of the calamity which comes from the sin of homosexuality and licentiousness. Jude writes, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. *As Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh*, are set forth as an example suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 6-7).

This is what is ahead for the world, if we do not REPENT of these dastardly, evil, abominable and detestable SINS!

God means what He says! God's Word will not be mocked. As a man sows, so shall he reap!

### *God's Law Versus Homosexuality*

The Bible, the Word of the living God and our Creator, consistently tells us that homosexuality is a sin. Sodom and Gomorrah were punished with a fiery destruction because of this rampant sin (see Genesis 19:1-13). God's Law, the Torah, states: "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an ABOMINATION" Leviticus 18:22).

The apostle Paul was inspired by God to write in Romans 1:26-27: "For this reason God gave them over to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error [disease such as AIDS] which was due."

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, the apostle Paul declares unequivocally, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals [Greek, catamites, those submitting to homo-sexuals], nor sodomites [male homo-sexuals], nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Homosexuality is described as an abomination. Romans 1:26-27 teaches explicitly that homosexuality is a result of a continual rebellion against God. When people continue in disbelief, the Bible tells us that God "gives them over," allowing them to experience their sinful desires and the resulting consequences. First Corinthians 6:9 proclaims that homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God. Homosexuality is immoral and unnatural. It is a perversion of the "natural order" and, more importantly, of God's view of sex and God's laws concerning human sexuality.

This is serious. God means what He says. A rebellious world ought to take note, and careful heed, of these divine warnings.

As the apostle Jude wrote, "As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these [the rebellious angels], having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7). The fire was "eternal" in the sense that it eternally obliterated and totally consumed to ashes those wretched cities noted and infamous for their vile behavior.

With all that said, the Bible does not describe homosexuality as a greater sin than any other. All sin is offensive to God. Homosexuality is just one of the many things listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 that will keep a person from the kingdom of God.

According to the Bible, God's forgiveness is just as available to a homosexual as it is to an adulterer, idol worshipper, murderer, thief, etc. God also promises the strength for victory over sin, including the sin of homosexuality, to all those who will believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation and call upon God for spiritual help to be overcomers (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Phil.2:12-13; 4:13).

While the Bible declares that God hates sin, and all workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5), the Bible nowhere singles out homosexuals as special objects of God's hatred. He desires that all mankind repent of their sinful ways and shameful deeds and disobedient actions, and turn to Him with thoroughly humbled and repentant hearts and minds, like Job (Job 42:6) and David (Psalm 51:1-2, 10-11).

God does not hate the sinner who is willing to repent and change his evil ways. God declares: "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Says the Lord GOD, and not that he should turn from his ways and live?" (Ezek.18:21-23).

God's Word thunders, "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, says the Lord GOD. Therefore turn and live!" (Ezek.18:30-32).

The simple truth is that God hates wickedness. Homosexuality is a form of wickedness, deviancy, and perversion. It is contrary to nature and God's laws ordained for our well-being and success in life. Homosexuals, and all sinners, would do well to learn this valuable lesson, before it is too late, for the day of judgment is truly drawing close..

The bottom line is, as we are told in the book of Revelation, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev.21:8). According to the laws of the Creator, sexual immorality includes the lawless sin of homosexuality. God means what He says. As the apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be deceived. God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal.6:7)

The judgment of this world lingers not. The time to repent and seek God is now.