

Sodom

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Genesis 13:12-13, "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

We read of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah along with the other cities of the region in Genesis. Most people feel that the people of these cities were the worst of the sinners. Even their names bring the image of perversion and abomination to our minds. God destroyed them with fire as we read in Genesis 19. While we may think of these cities with disgust at the way that they lived, were they in a class by themselves?

It is amazing how that we can divide sins into certain groups and think that some are worse than others. People are sickened by some and tolerate others without any problem. While to us some are indeed worse than others, we need to remember that to God all sins fit into one group. A lie, or envy, may not be as bad, to us, as murder, but they will take a person to the same place. Jesus died for sin, all sin, and his people are to resist all of them. The evil one wants us to think

that some are acceptable, but remember that he is a deceiver. The so called "little sins" will separate a person from the Lord, just like the big sins.

As far as Sodom and Gomorrah are concerned, were the sins committed there any worse than those committed around our world today? I heard someone say years ago that if God didn't punish America for the sins in it, then he would owe Sodom and Gomorrah an apology. The Lord doesn't owe anyone an apology for he will judge every nation for the sins of its people. No nation is above the reproach and judgment of God.

America has been called a Christian nation, but is it? I think it would be more accurate to say that it is a nation with Christians in it. We are in some ways like the nation of Israel. God has blessed us like he did the Israelites of long ago. They were blessed, given freedom, victory and the knowledge of God. For a time they served God and kept his laws. As long as they did this he kept them safe and free. Then they went after the things of the world and forgot about God until trouble came, then they called on God to save them.

Hasn't America done the same thing? We have been blessed to have freedom, and able to worship God, and was strong and free. Then we have tried to be like the rest of the world, and I'm afraid that we have achieved that aim. Now we remember God when

things are bad, remember 9-1-1? All of a sudden it was alright to call on God - at least until things settled down. Then God was unconstitutional once again and we no longer heard of leaders calling on the Lord.

What a shame when a nation wants to keep God out of schools, and public life, yet want him to bless it when problems arise. Maybe those problems are sent to cause us to remember him. Pray for a nation that has a government and leaders that seem embarrassed to talk about God, but is not the least bit embarrassed to promote abortion, gambling, and the homosexual lifestyle, telling us to be tolerant and to accept it as normal. Have you noticed that marriage is under attack? People who are married often have a harder time financially than those who live together. I have heard some say that they live together because they draw more money than they would if they got married.

I don't believe that there was anything going on in Sodom and Gomorrah that is not going on in America. The only difference that I can see is that in Sodom and Gomorrah it seemed that all the people were involved in these sins. Here in America there are many Christians who live for the Lord. As God didn't destroy Sodom until Lot and his family got out, maybe he is waiting until the church is taken out before judgment comes to America.

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....IT WAS HIS SON, HEROD ANTIPAS, WHO ORDERED THE BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AT THE INSTIGATION OF HIS WIFE, HERODIAS, WHO HATED JOHN FOR VILIFYING HER MARRIAGE TO HEROD ANTIPAS WHILE SHE WAS STILL THE WIFE OF HALF-BROTHER HEROD PHILIP! HEROD AGRIPPA I, A GRANDSON, KEPT FAMILY TRADITION ALIVE BY KILLING THE APOSTLE JAMES AND IMPRISONING PETER. HIS SON, HEROD AGRIPPA II, COMPLETED THE FAMILY ROLE OF VILLAINRY BY FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROMANS WHEN THE JEWS BEGAN THEIR REVOLT AGAINST ROME IN A.D. 66—A RECORD OF WHICH ONLY A HEROD COULD BE PROUD!

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