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FOREWARD

Much of Bible prophecy concerns a time that is spoken of as "the last days, the latter days, the end time, or the day of the Lord". These periods overlap in prophecy, and it is clear they are talking about a turbulent period in human history that will, in the end, require Christ's intervention if mankind is to be saved out of the catastrophic events foretold to come.

Of special interest are the prophesied events to come upon Israel. They include prophecies regarding all twelve tribes of ancient Israel, not just the tribe of Judah alone that largely makes up the modern nation of Israel. But where are all those other tribes? We know about Judah – the Jews – but where are the rest? Overwhelming evidence points to their dwelling in those nations that are occupying much of Western Europe, the United kingdom and especially the UNITED STATES!

The title of this booklet, "National Punishment", points to a central focus of all "end time" prophecies. The purpose of the booklet is to outline what, not only America, but all nations who call themselves "Christian", have done to bring God's wrath down upon them.

National Punishment is not the author's idea of what may come if modern day Israel does not repent – it is God's clear warning – and it is foretold throughout the Bible. The purpose for our national punishment is clear – it is to turn God's chosen people, and the rest of the world along with them, to a right way – the way of peace and happiness. That time is coming; but before it does America, right along with all other nations, is about to experience great NATIONAL PUNISHMENT. This booklet will make it clear why that is about to happen.

EDITOR, World Watch Today



INTRODUCTION

Why National Punishment?

"The Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets saying "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments"...but they would not hear God."

(2 Kings 17:13-15)

In my lifetime, the high tone of American culture has collapsed into a cesspool of immorality. It has only taken 55 years to shift from being self-sacrificing to being completely self-absorbed. Lying, cheating, stealing, hating, envying have all found their place in the way we do things in America. We have aborted over 50 million of our children. Our marital institution has taken a horrible beating. The Ten Commandments have been pushed out of our schools and public institutions and into the closet, while other things have come out of the closet that should never have been tolerated. We lead the world in violent crime, divorce and drug abuse; and our economy is in steep decline. We have turned our backs on God.

Our political leaders, sports figures, and movie actors unabashedly parade their immoral lifestyles for millions to see. Pastors and priests engage in unspeakable sins. Most of our churches ignore or minimize the law of God, replacing His great Commandments with the message of a "false and impotent grace".

The prophets tell the story of Ancient Israel and Judah – nations who rejected the Ten Commandments and embraced every vile behavior imaginable. We are repeating the very same sins today, and we will suffer the same consequences – war, disease and ultimately captivity at the hands of our enemies.

Jesus Christ tells us in Luke 16:31 that we need to pay careful attention to Moses and the prophets. Paul tells us that the history of ancient Israel was written down for "our admonition" (I CORINTHIANS 10:11) so that we may not repeat their sins and suffer their consequences. The lesson for us is clear: God corrects those He loves (Hebrews 12:6). His justice and character (ROMANS 11:22) demand that He punish our nation for the continual violation of His Commandments.

Times of great trouble are before us (Daniel 12:1). We need to stop the moral slide we are in, and turn back to God's way as written down in his book, the Holy Bible! Turning back to God is our only hope for escaping the pain and suffering that is about to strike our nation. Bible prophecy doesn't hold out much hope that our nation will collectively turn things around. Our best advice to individuals who wish to escape all that is sure to come is to *Repent*, *Watch*, *and Pray so that you may escape the punishment that is already beginning to fall from God's powerful and fatherly hand* (Luke 21:36; Jeremiah 30:7).

The chapters of this booklet reveal our national sins. The evidence is overwhelmingly against us. Our sins are as the sins of "Sodom and Gomorrah".

Steven LeBlanc



1

Treacherous Pastors, Decadent Priests

"The religious leaders do a horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers...they are like the inhabitants of Sodom & Gomorrah."

(JEREMIAH 23:14-16)

The prophets tell us that in ancient Israel false prophets and priests engaged in shameful behavior. They refused to teach the people the absolute importance of the law of God. Many who hold positions of leadership in churches today repeat the same sins, and teach the people that that law of God has been done away. Numerous pastors and priests live private lives of sexual promiscuity, drunkenness and opulence. God is FURIOUS with our nation's spiritual leaders:

- ★ Almost forty percent of Pastors polled said they have had an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry.

 (STATISTICS ON PASTORS BY DR. RICHARD J. KREJCIR).
- ★ 37% of pastors in America say they have a personal struggle with pornography; 30% of 6,000 pastors surveyed had actively sought out internet porn in the prior 30 days. (Christian Science Monitor)
- ★ Moral scandals among pastors and priests are showing no signs of diminishing. The nation has grown numb to the immorality of our church leaders. Remember these?
 - * 14,000 member church pastor in Colorado resigns because of homosexual acts and drug abuse.
 - * Oklahoma pastor arrested for "offering to engage in acts of lewdness" with a male undercover police officer.
 - * Atlanta church pastor lives in a 5,000-square-foot house with five bedrooms, which he bought for \$1.1 million dollars.
 - ★ Nationally known Pastor admits to having an affair and fathering a child.
 - More than 100 students have claimed they were sexually abused at several Catholic schools.

- ★ A report commissioned by the Church of Rome (2004) said more than 4,000 US Roman Catholic priests had faced sexual abuse allegations in the last 50 years in cases involving more than 10,000 children mostly boys (BBC NEWS).
- ★ The divorce rate among ministers in the United States is 50%. (STATISTICS ON PASTORS BY DR. RICHARD J. KREJCIR).

Ministers cater to people's selfish instincts. The Apostle Paul warned of what we see taking place in so many churches today. He said, "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers who suit their own passions" (2 TIMOTHY 4:3).

Many who proclaim Christ as Lord love to be entertained with music and self-help, feel-good messages. They enjoy hearing about a false Jesus who requires little commitment, no deep repentance or overcoming in one's personal life.

In ancient Israel the priests failed to teach the people the Ten Commandments. Like then, the law of God is ignored in most churches today, replaced with a message of false grace, yet Christ came not to do away with the law but to bring out its full meaning (Matthew 5:17). God condemns the Christian leaders of our age; they do not honor the law of God before the people.

"Her prophets are arrogant, treacherous people; Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they do violence to the law."

(**Z**EPHANIAH 3:4)



2

Our Immoral Leaders

"Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah."

(Isaiah 1:10)

Sodom and Gomorrah are recognizable metaphors for a hedonistic and perverse society. The leaders of our nation, from politicians to celebrities, from pastors to parents, from actors to university instructors, have modeled deviant behavior and treated the laws of God with scorn. They are like the leaders of Sodom, encouraging and supporting vile behavior.

Our leaders treat the laws of God and His word with contempt; and our young people see this and follow their foolishness. God condemned the rulers of ancient Israel and Judah because they lied, committed adultery, took bribes, oppressed the poor, and did not teach the people God's Commandments. The greatest condemnation, therefore, falls on our leaders because they should know better. In a nation like ours with such vast material wealth, it is noteworthy that God tells us "to whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48).

Some time ago the conservative *Washington Times* wrote about the moral decline of our leaders:

"Social conservatives, the once-powerful force that focused the Republican agenda on moral virtue and family values, have suffered a diminished brand on the national political landscape, as a steady stream of their icons has fallen prey to the vices they once preached against.

"Extramarital affairs, gambling, alcohol abuse, prostitution and sexual pursuit of minors have taken a toll on the GOP."

News stories of the recent past reveal a nation led by immature, selfish leaders. Remember these?

- ★ President signs into law new rules allowing "gays" to serve in the military.
- ★ President engages in sex in the Oval Office, then lies to the American public about his behavior.
- ★ House Speaker has multiple "affairs" while in office, divorces, then remarries.
- ★ Former popular mayor marches in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade with his "mistress". This was an act of infidelity so bold the Daily News columnist Jim Dwyer compared it with "groping in the window at Macy's".
- ★ Famous female singer (known for her extreme promiscuity) writes children's books, teaching children about morality.
- ★ Christian leader caught engaging in homosexual acts and drug use.
- ★ Vice President believes the country is "evolving" and soon our nation will accept gay marriage.
- ★ Famous conservative radio talk show host has Elton John sing at his wedding.

Across the spectrum of government, education, media, and even in our own homes, most leaders do not teach the people they influence respect for the laws of God. So we are left with the consequences. God is saying that He punishes us by giving us what we desire, foolish leaders who are unstable. This describes the leadership deficit we are experiencing in our nation today.

"I will make youths (those who are immature) their leaders, and the unstable will govern them."

(Isaiah 3:4)



3

Evil Judges

"Her judges are evening wolves... that leave not a bone till morning"

(ZEPHANIAH 3:3)

The power of the judicial system in our country is staggering. Without question, the U.S. Supreme Court, lower federal courts, and many state courts are imposing enormous evils upon the American people. Here are just a few hideous examples:

- ★ Dating back to the 1960's, the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that prayer in public schools is unconstitutional.
- ★ In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in "Roe v. Wade" legalized abortion.
- ★ In California, judges have ruled that girls under 18 no longer need their parent's permission to get an abortion (PROCHOICE.ORG).
- ★ In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court invoked the "no establishment" principle in the First Amendment to strike down a Kentucky law allowing the Decalogue on the walls of public school classrooms. The result: The Ten Commandments are not to be displayed in public schools.
- ★ The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that suspected terrorists imprisoned in the United States have a right to appeal to U.S. civil courts.
- ★ In 2009, same-sex marriage was legalized in Iowa by decision of its Supreme Court, and in Vermont, New Hampshire, and the District of Columbia by legislation.
- ★ In 2011 the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled unanimously that "gay" couples may adopt or foster children.
- ★ In courtrooms across America many criminals are only receiving a "slap on the wrist" for their insidious crimes. For example, Vermont Judge Eric Cashman sentenced a rapist who had engaged in four years of systematic rape of a little girl to a paltry 60 days in jail.

In ancient Israel corrupt judges dominated the people. In the United States today, people have become passive in the face of judges who impose their foolish and evil decisions upon the nation.

Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Is God the "Lord" of the United States? Without question, depraved judges seek to oust God and His laws from our land, and we are paying a terrible price for it.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan."

(Proverbs 29:2)



4

Christians Embracing Paganism

"I saw women sitting weeping for Tammuz (a pagan goddess)...and there were twenty-five men at the entrance of the temple...they were bowing in the east in worship of the sun."

(EZEKIEL 8:14-18)

Did you realize that most of the Christian world has polluted the worship of God by incorporating pagan practices into their worship? By pagan, we mean religious practices that are nonbiblical. Ancient Israel did the same. A false Christianity led by the Catholic Church incorporated pagan practices — in direct opposition to the Bible — hoping to entice pagans to become "Christians". The following describe some of the false teachings that are deeply ingrained in the world's Christian churches today.

Easter The New Testament church did not celebrate Easter. Easter customs can be traced back to ancient spring celebrations surrounding Astarte, the goddess of spring and fertility. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words notes: "The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean [Babylonian] goddess, the queen of heaven." She is mentioned by that title in Jeremiah 44:17-19, 25 and referred to in 1 Kings 11:5, 33 by the Hebrew form of her name, Ashtoreth.

Sunday Worship In A.D. 321, Emperor Constantine declared that Sunday was to be the day of rest instead of the seventh-day Sabbath. This was done to incorporate the worship of Mithras (THE UNCONQUERED SUN) into Christian worship (THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY BY JUSTO L. GONZALEZ 1:122-123). Also, the Church Council of Laodicea circa 364 CE ordered that religious observances were to be conducted on Sunday, not Saturday. For apostatizers, Sunday became the new Sabbath. Those who rejected paganism continued to keep the seventh-day Sabbath, following the example of Christ and the Apostles (Luke 4:16, Acts 17:2).

Crucifix Members of the first century church never wore a crucifix because the second Commandment prohibits such a practice (Exodus 20:4). The crucifix did not make its appearance until the fifth century, and was initiated by the Catholic Church (Pagan Christianity by Frank Viola and George Barna, p.16-17 and Ante Pacem: Archaeological Evidence for Church Life before Constantine p.165).

Steeples Catholic Popes drew inspiration for worship from the obelisks of Ancient Egypt and Babylon. Religious architects began to build church towers and steeples that represented the pagan idea of contact between heaven and earth. (SEE PAGAN CHRISTIANITY BY FRANK VIOLA AND GEORGE BARNA).

Sacred Virgins The emerging Catholic Church adopted the pagan practice of burning incense and having sacred virgins, both nuns and priests (SEE PAGANS AND CHRISTIANS BY ROBIN LANE FOX P.71, 207, 27, 347, 355).

Communion The yearly New Testament Passover was replaced with a counterfeit "catholic communion" service that turned the symbols of Christ's suffering into a mysterious ceremony.

Pagan Holidays God made it very clear that Israel's religious practices were not to involve pagan aspects in any way (Deuteronomy 12:30-32). Paul warned that God's church should not obey the traditions of men (Colossians 2:8). Christ did not observe Christmas, Halloween, Easter or any similar pagan holidays. Instead, He and the apostles

observed the Holy Days given by God in the Bible (Leviticus 23:5-8). To learn more about God's Holy Days, request our free Bible Study course on the Festivals of God. It is clear from the Bible we are not to worship God using manmade and/or pagan traditions!

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen...For the customs of the people are vain"

(JEREMIAH 10:2-3)



5

Leading the World in Crime

"There is cursing, lying, murdering, stealing, and adultery. People break my laws, and there is one murder after another."

(Hosea 4:2)

Most Americans are not aware the United States' prison population has tripled over the past 20 years. An endless stream of murders, rapes and robberies are committed in America every day. God takes note of our evil behavior, which includes the shedding of innocent blood. Ancient Israel and Judah suffered national captivity and punishment because of their blood crimes.

We too will suffer at the hands of our enemies because we continue to allow evil to flourish in our country. Take a look at the consequences of a people that have abandoned the Ten Commandments:

- ★ America leads the world in crimes committed 12 million per year on average. (THEPERSONALSECURITY.COM).
- ★ America leads the world in the percentage of the population in prison. There are 2.2 million prisoners in our prisons; many are repeat offenders. (New York Times: U.S. Prison Population Dwarfs That Of Other Nations)
- ★ America leads the UN's list of nations in rapes committed. (UN STATISTICS).
- ★ America leads the world in murders per year (not including abortions or war crimes).
- ★ In America, 60% of convicted sex offenders are currently on parole or probation (U.S Department of Justice).
- ★ The distribution of on-line child pornography has been the fastest growing crime in America over the past decade. (U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE).

- ★ The Justice Department reports the alarming statistic that one in four girls and one in seven boys will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- ★ There are over 20,000 gangs in America. Gangs commit 80% of the crimes registered in the United States (2009 National Gang Threat Assessment released by the National Gang Intelligence Center).

Today, by way of comparison, the United States has 13 times more murders, 51 times more rapes, 80 times more robberies, and 12 times as many prisoners, but only 2.4 times the population of Japan (www.factsanddetails.com/japan).

At one time the Ten Commandments were honored in our schools, homes and churches. Today, we ignore those laws. We are paying a terrible price for our insolence.

"Make the chain (national captivity), for the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence."

(EZEKIEL 7:23)



6

Divorce & Fatherless America

"For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce..."

(Malachi 2:16)

Today we are seeing a mass exodus of fathers from their children's lives. Here is what is happening in America and to much of the western world:

- **★** 50% of our marriages are ending in divorce.
- ★ Forty percent of children growing up in America today are being raised without their fathers. (Fatherless America David Blakehorn.)
- ★ Almost 50 percent of households with children undergoing divorce move into poverty following the divorce. (The Effects of Divorce on America -- Patrick Fagan, Robert Rector).
- ★ Children of divorced parents are roughly two times more likely to drop out of high school than their peers who benefit from intact marriages. (Dealwithdivorce.com).
- **★** 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. (FATHERSFORLLIFE.ORG)
- ★ Girls in homes absent their biological fathers are 9 times more likely to be sexually abused.
- ★ Girls from fatherless homes are 6.6 times more likely to become teenaged mothers (FATHERSUNITE.ORG).
- ★ 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. (FATHERSFORLIFE.ORG).
- ★ 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless (mostly divorced) home. (Texas Dept. of Corrections).
- **★** 7 out of 10 long-term prison inmates come from divorced homes. (www.familylawcourt.net/tag/children).

Divorce is the single greatest cause of children being raised in homes without a father. Sadly, some must divorce due to various abuse or infidelity issues. It is interesting to note that 8 out of 10 troubled couples who made a decision not to divorce were happily married 5 years later (NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLDS).

We are quickly becoming a nation that ignores and abuses our children. God's punishing hand will fall upon us because of our neglect of the "fatherless". God hates divorce because it deeply hurts our sons and daughters. It is against God's will for us. Psalms 68:5 reveals that God is...

"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows"

(PSALMS 68:5)



7 50 Million Children Aborted

"They have built pagan shrines at Topheth, the garbage dump in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and there they burn their sons and daughters in the fire. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind..."

(JEREMIAH 7:31)

It may surprise you that at one time former President Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Al Gore, and the late Ted Kennedy were prolife. They all changed their views to support a woman's right to abort! Why the change?

By the early 1980's the pro-choice fundraisers began to raise huge amounts of money. Mr. Clinton, Mr. Gore and Mr. Jackson along with many other Democrats and Republicans abandoned their pro-life positions in favor of the more lucrative pro-choice position. Large sums of campaign money lured the Democratic leadership into the pro-abortion position. After all, it takes money to get re-elected!

Many Democrats seeking office – those who were supposed to protect the poor, the underdog, and the vulnerable (there is no one more vulnerable than a baby in the womb) – sold out for the money. They are modern day Judases. What are the consequences of this choice?

- ★ Since "Roe v. Wade" (1973), 50 million children in the U.S. have been aborted.
- ★ 83% of women who get an abortion are unmarried. (PROCHOICE.ORG).
- ★ 93% of all abortions occur for social reasons (i.e. the child is unwanted or inconvenient).
- ★ An estimated 43% of all women will have at least one abortion by the time they are 45 years old. (ABORTIONNO.ORG)
- ★ 27 out of 35 studies published since 1957 have linked abortion with significantly higher breast cancer rates in women.

 (ABORTION-BREAST CANCER LINK BY JULIE FOSTER).

- ★ 64% of women say they felt pressured into having an abortion. (physiciansforlife.org)
- ★ At a time when many schools are not allowed to give students aspirin without parental permission, teenage abortion, the killing of an innocent life, is allowed without parental permission in over 20 states.

As Joseph Goebbels, Adolph Hitler's propaganda minister once said, "If you tell any lie long enough, often enough, and loud enough, people will come to believe it." We have told our teenagers, college students, and women that a fetus is not a child. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST LIES IN ALL HISTORY.

God gave the nations of Israel and Judah into the hands of their enemies (national captivity), because they sacrificed their children to idols. We do the same today. Abortion is no less than child sacrifice. Our nation will also suffer national captivity at the hands of our enemies, as the blood of over 50 million children cries out from the ash heap of self-interest that has become a monument to the character of our people!

"They poured out the innocent blood of their sons and daughters... the land was polluted with blood."

(PSALM 106:38)



8

The United States of Adultery & Pornography

"They are well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife.
Shall I not punish them for these things?"

(JEREMIAH 5:8-9)

Adultery is a serious offence against God because it breaks the trust and union (oneness) between a husband and his wife. Adultery is proudly displayed by our public officials and Hollywood and sports celebrities. It is made to seem exciting in movies and magazines. The prophets of the Bible reveal God is infuriated with our nation because of our infidelities.

Peggy Vaughan, the author of The Monogamy Myth conservatively estimates that 60% of married men and 40% of married women will commit adultery at some time during their marriages. The following statistics reveal the sordid sin that is destroying America:

- ★ 62% of the unfaithful men and 46% of the women met their illicit partner through work (Not "Just Friends": Protect Your Relationship FROM INFIDELITY AND HEAL THE TRAUMA OF BETRAYAL BY SHIRLEY GLASS).
- ★ 65% of marriages break up after the discovery of adultery (Frank Pittman, Private Lies: Infidelity and the Betrayal of Intimacy).
- ★ At least 1 in 3 ministers/pastors will be involved in an adulterous relationship at some point during their career (STATISTICS ON PASTORS BY DR. RICHARD J. KREJCIR).
- ★ One-third of divorce litigation is actually sparked by online affairs.
- ★ 8 to 10 percent of Internet users actually become addicted to cyber-sex (CBS News: The Early Show).
- ★ 30% of married people have had an online cyber conversation that has led to real-time sex. (Dr. Sherri Meyer)
- ★ More than 45% of Christians admit that pornography is a major problem in their home. Pornography viewing is a type of adultery (Pornography and Virtual Infidelity By Paul Coughlin).

- ★ 53% of men who attended Promise Keepers said they viewed pornography that week. (Focus on the Family)
- ★ How available is pornography? Hollywood currently releases 11,000 adult movies per year more than 20 times the mainstream movie production. (LA Times Magazine, 2002).
- ★ Is pornography big business in the U.S.? Pornography generates billions of dollars in sales in the United States alone, and economists have suggested that it has now reached the point where the outlawing of the industry, which has been tried on occasion, could have a major negative economic impact. (Wikipedia, Pornography)

The prophets tell us that adultery was rampant in ancient Judah (Jeremiah 23:10). God hates adultery, because it violates a covenant vow that includes Him as a witness to the marriage union (Malachi 2:14). Children who see adultery in their homes have higher divorce rates when they marry, and they also have more psychological problems than children raised in homes free of adultery. God's view on pornography is just as obvious. Anything that tears down or threatens a wholesome family environment is an abomination to Him.

Jesus Christ said,

"But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

(MATTHEW 5:28)



9

The Abuse of Our Daughters

"A man and his father go in to the same girl, to defile My holy name".

(Amos 2:7)

As it was in Amos's day, so it is in our day...our hyper-sexed culture is doing tremendous damage to our girls. A healthy nation protects its daughters from being used, beaten, and abused sexually. A callous nation treats its daughters like prostitutes. Here's what's going on all around us:

- ★ 1 in 4 college women have either been raped or suffered attempted rape (Rogers University Study).
- ★ It is not unusual for college girls to have had 15 to 20 sex partners during the course of their college career. These are quick sexual encounters called "hook ups". (Unhooked by Laura Sessions; Prude by Carol Platt Liebau)
- ★ According to the U.S. Department of Justice crime statistics, domestic violence is about 40 times more prevalent among divorced or separated women. Men once prided themselves in protecting women; now many men beat women.
- ★ The National Organization for Women, our public leaders, husbands, Hollywood celebrities, and especially boyfriends encourage our women to get abortions. An estimated 43% of all women will have at least one abortion by the time they are 45 years old. (Fox News, see ALSO WEB SITES ON ABORTION STATISTICS).
- ★ 22 percent of freshmen girls become bulimic -- binge eating followed by vomiting or extreme exercise within six months of entering college. (Natural Treatment of Anorexia and Bulimia, FROM THE DIET CURE BY JULIA ROSS).
- ★ More and more women are experiencing body image obsession.

 The average U.S. woman is 5'4" and weighs 150 pounds, where the average U.S. model is 5'11" and weighs 117 pounds, which has become the icon of modern feminine beauty. This has led to much unhappiness and frustration among young women who cannot achieve this emaciated standard.

★ Our culture encourages men to "live" with women and not marry them; thus producing a rotating "partner" society. Many women remain single and childless or are single parents without the benefit of a husband or father in the home, which often places them below the poverty line.

Our obsession with beauty and sex has us in direct conflict with God's command: "Do not defile your daughter by making her a whore, or the land will be filled with prostitution and wickedness." (Leviticus 19:29)

Millions of unwanted pregnancies, an extremely high divorce rate, 1.3 million abortions each year (on average), living-together relationships outnumbering marriages, high teen venereal disease rates...we are paying a horrible price for our promiscuity. God's justice demands punishment for our national sin of abusing our daughters and allowing them to be damaged and used as throw away objects. God's holiness demands that we suffer the consequences of our evil behavior:

"I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot, Or your brides when they commit adultery, For the men themselves go apart with harlots and offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes; So the people without understanding are ruined."

(Hosea 4:14)



CHAPTER

10

The Living Together Lie

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

(GENESIS 2:24)

Living together, sometimes called "Marriage Lite", encourages selfishness in men and produces bitterness in women. Women are safest and most happy in a marriage relationship. Those who believe that living together prepares people for marriage believe a LIE! Here are some statistics that expose the negative aspects of "living" together:

- ★ The divorce rate in America is just over 50%! The divorce rate for those who marry their live-in partners is 80%! (Living Together: Myths, Risks & Answers by Mike and Harriet McManus).
- ★ Cohabiting men are four times as likely as husbands to be unfaithful; cohabiting women are eight times more likely to cheat as are married women. (Living Together: Myths, Risks & Answers by Mike and Harriet McManus).
- ★ When men do not offer marriage to their live-in partners, many women become depressed and are three times as likely to be depressed as married women.
- ★ Women are three times more likely to be physically abused in a living together relationship (Christiannewswire.com).
- ★ Children of cohabiting couples are 20 times more likely to suffer abuse than children living with married biological parents

 (THE FAMILY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM BY SCOTT LOVELESS, THOMAS HOLMAN).
- ★ Many women who have experimented with the "living together" arrangement have become bitter after wasting precious time in live-in relationships that have gone nowhere.
- ★ Married men earn 10 to 40 percent more than single men (Living Together: Myths, Risks & Answers by Mike and Harriet McManus).

In general, women see cohabitation as a step toward marriage; men, as available sex, companionship and sharing costs - without the commitment. Women often lose in cohabiting relationships.

Many single people are afraid of marriage. The ease with which marriages collapse and families are ripped apart has created a fear in millions of single people. We need to strongly encourage marriage. God destroyed Israel and Judah in large part because they violated the sacred marriage covenant and embraced whoredom.

Premarital sex is repeatedly condemned in scripture, along with all other forms of sexual sin (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13 and 18; 7:2; 10:8; and 1 Thessalonians 4:3). God will destroy those who persist in practices that debase or do away with marriage. Living together is anti-marriage. Cohabitation – living together – is a training ground for divorce:

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication,...are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

(Jude 7)



CHAPTER

11

What is Your Idol?

"Put to death... sexual immorality, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

(Colossians 3:5)

Worshipping a false god and bowing down to a statue are obvious forms of idolatry, but the most dangerous and subtle form of Idolatry is the idolatry of the heart. When God said, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3), He was not just talking about images that are worshipped, He was talking about anything that unseats His place as number one in our minds and heart. Idolatry is not a small thing in God's sight. It was the great sin that caused Israel and Judah to abandon God, leading to a time of terrible national punishment (2 Kings 17:7-23).

We are a nation that loves our many idols (Isaiah 2:8). We love our sports games, computer games, celebrities, television shows, hobbies, entertainments of all kinds, and money far more than we love God. What do you spend inordinate amounts of time doing? Do your children or your spouse complain you spend too much time with a hobby? Where does your disposable income go? We spend staggering amounts of money on our idols. Let's take a look at a small sampling of America's idols:

- » According to the A.C. Nielsen Co., the average American watches more than four hours of television each day. In a 65-year life, that person will have spent nine years watching television. Excessive television viewing takes time away from our children and spouses. It can be a form of idolatry.
- » Pornography is the fastest growing addiction in the United States (Porn Nation: Conquering America's #1 Addiction by Michael Leahy). Addictions can be "idolatry issues".
- » 13 Million Americans are addicted to shopping (CBS News – Shopping Addiction: A Serious Problem, Dec. 9, 2006).

- ★ We idolize sports in this nation, spending billions of dollars every year. We build huge sports stadiums to view our favorite teams. Massive numbers of hours are wasted every weekend watching sporting events.
- ★ The market research firm, NPD Group, tells us that gamers spend an average of 13 hours per week playing video games. Gaming is the "new" idol of our time. The study found that over half of all Americans regularly play some type of video game.
- ★ Celebrity obsession is everywhere...in magazines, in the media and on web sites. At its height of popularity more people watched the television show American Idol than all the evening news shows combined (FAME JUNKIES BY JAKE HALPERN).
- ★ We love spending money. We worship money. The average credit card debt per household with credit card debt is \$14,750 (CREDITCARDS.COM).

People always make time for their idols, but few people make time for God. Most who say they follow Christ spend very little time each week reading their Bibles or praying. The prophet Jeremiah describes the American people:

"Everyone is given over to greed, from the least to the greatest. Everyone deals falsely."

(JEREMIAH 6:13)



CHAPTER

12

Violating the Sabbath Command

"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your own pleasure on My Holy Day, and call My Sabbath a delight, the Holy Day of the Lord Honorable..."

(Isaiah 58:13)

God clearly stated one of the Israelites' most brazen sins that led to their national punishment and captivity was disobeying the Sabbath commandment (Ezekiel 22:26; Jeremiah 17:21-22, 27).

Today, many "Christian" churches that still believe the Ten Commandments should be observed, also teach that the 4th Commandment regarding Sabbath observance is not a MORAL law, so we do not need to observe it. This is a blatantly wrong understanding. Simply look at Isaiah 58:13 where it is made clear keeping the Sabbath is an honor issue. Those who keep the Sabbath honor God, those who do not keep the Sabbath disobey their creator; honoring God and obeying Him are moral issues. Ministers falsely claim that the Sabbath is changed to Sunday under the terms of the New Covenant. But nowhere do you see Jesus Christ or the Apostles changing the seventh day Sabbath to Sunday!

Sabbath is not Sunday By the fourth century A.D. the Catholic Church emerged and gained favor with Constantine the Great, the Roman Emperor. The Catholic Church, encouraged by Rome, embraced pagan customs including the day devoted to honoring their sun god. Constantine worshipped in this manner and it was very popular with the pagan masses of the Empire as well.

During this time, God's true church held to the original teachings of Christ and the apostles, continuing to keep the seventh day Sabbath. In A.D. 365, an edict by Catholic leaders at the Council of Laodicea stated that, "Christians

must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath (seventh day), but must work on that day, rather, honoring (resting) on the Lord's Day (Sunday, the day of the sun). If any were found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema (excommunicated) from Christ". (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 19, P. 148). For more information on this topic we refer you to, *From Sabbath to Sunday: A Historical Investigation of the Rise of Sunday Observance in Early Christianity*, by Samuele Bacchiocchi.

Scripture reveals the importance of the Sabbath command:

- ★ It was Christ's custom to keep the Sabbath (Luke 4:16, 31).
- ★ Jesus Christ said that "one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law". Consequently, the Sabbath command is still in effect today (MATTHEW 5:18).
- ★ The Apostle Paul kept the Sabbath and taught the Gentiles by his example to do the same (ACTS 13:42-44; 17:2; AND 18:4).
- ★ The Sabbath is an identifying "sign" between God and His people. (EZEKIEL 20:12).
- ★ God created the Sabbath for all mankind (MARK 2:27).
- ★ When Christ returns to this earth and establishes the rule of God on earth all nations will observe the seventh day Sabbath (ISAIAH 66:23).
- ★ God does not change (MALACHI 3:6) He is consistent. Israel of old was commanded to keep the Sabbath, Christ kept the Sabbath, and the first century church kept the Sabbath. All nations will keep God's Sabbath in His Kingdom (EZEKIEL 46).
- ★ The Bible states, "There remains therefore a rest (Sabbath rest) for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9). For New Testament Christians this is still in effect.

★ The Sabbath is the TEST Commandment (Exodus 16:4-5). Will we reason around obeying God or will we yield to Christ as LORD OF THE SABBATH (MARK 2:28)?

Today, most Christian leaders have hidden their eyes from the Sabbath law, just as the corrupt priests did in ancient Israel. God poured out his indignation upon the people for disobeying His laws including the Sabbath command (Ezekiel 22:26-31). Our "Christian" nation will also reap the consequences of national punishment for refusing to obey the Sabbath command while claiming to worship the God of the Bible who demands that we worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24).

"They have hidden their eyes from my Sabbaths, so I am profaned among them."

(EZEKIEL 22:26)



CONCLUSION

The Punishment to Come

"And there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time."

(DANIEL 12:1)

America is rotting from the inside. Like the citizens of ancient Israel and Judah we are a stubborn and stiff-necked people (EZEKIEL 3:7). We ridicule the need for repentance preached by the prophets, and we flippantly dismiss the Ten Commandments from our public and private lives. Our leaders, our churches, and our families have lost their fear of God. Worst of all, we show no sign of a desire to change our foolish, corrupt behavior:

"Everyone is stupid and ignorant, without [biblical] knowledge" (Jeremiah 10:14, Holman Christian Standard Bible Translation). God is not just speaking of the people. "For the shepherds (national and regional leaders) are stupid, and have not sought the Lord" (Jeremiah 10:21).

The only way God will get us to pay attention to Him, and to move us to repent of our murders, lies, adulteries, paganism, idolatries, Sabbath breaking, extreme promiscuity and substance abuse is to bring upon our people unimaginable suffering to a degree and scale that has never occurred in all of human history. It will be the time of the final Holocaust, a Holocaust that will consume the United States, leaving millions dead, and the survivors completely broken.

God will punish us with disease, famine, war and actual captivity at the hands of our enemies. We need to understand that Bible prophecy can often be "dual" in nature. Prophetic statements often carry more than one fulfillment. Ancient Israel was punished for her sins; we will be punished in the

same way, because God's character does not change (Malachi 3:6). What angered God back then, STILL angers God today!

The Prophet Ezekiel reveals to us what lies ahead if we do not repent as a people:

"A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part [the remainder] into all the winds [slavery], and I will draw out a sword after them. Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury [last plagues] to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the [Eternal] have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them" (Ezekiel 5:12-13, KJV).

Notice: "In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste..." (EZEKIEL 6:6). This is speaking of a future high-tech war that will destroy many of our cities.

If you don't think this can happen to America you are either extremely naïve or arrogant. God is furious with us as a people because we continue to violate His Laws; hurting the innocent, cleaving to a culture that corrupts our children, ignores God, and destroys our marriages.

Take a look at your life. Do you wish to escape the great punishment that is going to engulf our nation in the near future?

If you would like to speak to one of our ministers, you can phone our toll free number and leave a message with information on how to contact you.

There are many other prophecies that concern the United States. For more information, please contact us and order our booklet, *The United States & Britain In Prophecy.* You may order or download the booklet Free from our website http://worldwatchtoday.org, or you may phone us toll free and request a Free copy be mailed to you, free of charge, at 1-877-449-6753.

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