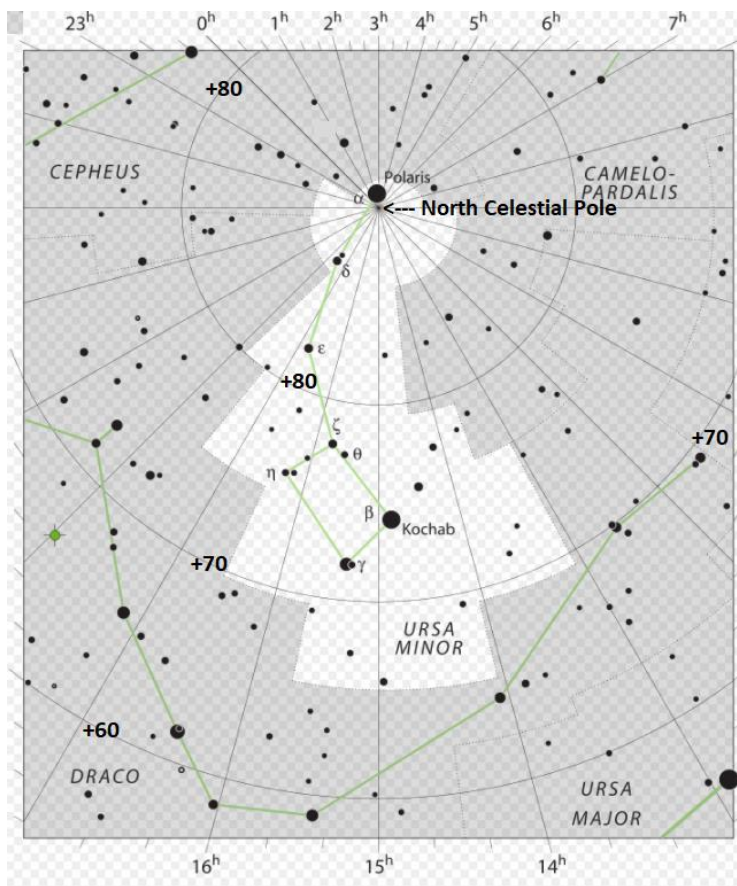


To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas
Sunday, June 25, 2023

*Psalm 148:1 Praise ye the LORD. **Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.** 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 **Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.** 4 Praise him, **ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.** 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: **for he commanded, and they were created.** 6 **He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.***



I want to talk about the stars today. They are amazing and speak to the absolute sovereignty of God Almighty, **the High and Lofty One that Inhabiteth Eternity whose name is Holy** (Isaiah 57:15). In that vein, I think it has become clear to all of us how sinful this generation has become and how they have no Pole Star. A Pole Star is a star, preferably bright, nearly aligned with the axis of a rotating astronomical body. Before GPS and advanced navigation systems, a Pole Star would aid and guide ancient mariners toward their destination. The Pole Star would keep them on course. Currently, Earth's pole star is Polaris, a bright magnitude 2 star aligned approximately with its northern axis that serves as a pre-eminent star in

celestial navigation.

It feels to me that this generation continues to keep sinking further and further down into the mire. I am at a loss to understand how far down we can go. I think this generation is about as low, filthy, and debauched as it can get and then it sinks. Ezekiel 8:7 *And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. 8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. 9 And he*

said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. 10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth. 13 ¶ He said also unto me, **Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.** 14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. 15 Then said he unto me, **Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.** 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. 17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? **Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here?** for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Mat. 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

Beloved, we discern the face of the sky and discern the signs of the times. I think we all discern that the Lord is coming in power, glory, and fury. It doesn't matter when, but the day is closer than when we first believed. Jas 5:9 ... Behold, the judge standeth before the door. Jude 14 ... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

This generation is at war with God on every front and loudly proclaim in every way possible that the sky is actually red! They are not satisfied with killing 1 billion souls since 1973 with their so called "right to choose." They are not satisfied with wars, hand guns, shot guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles, bazookas, warheads, missiles, tanks, land mines, napalm, helicopter gunships, fighter jets, bombers, nuclear weapons, poisonous gas, and every form of weapon of mass destruction. They say murder is okay. The standard is Ex. 20:13 *Thou shalt not kill.* They are not satisfied with their adultery where the majority of marriages end in divorce and remarriage. They say adultery is okay. The standard is Ex. 20:14 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* They are not satisfied with their fornication, that is so widespread and prevalent that this generation doesn't even know it is wrong. They say fornication is okay. The standard is 1 Cor. 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he (or she) that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.* Eph. 5:3 *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints...5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger... hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.* Online dating has further accelerated fornication and adultery so their whoremongery permeates every segment of society and every nation on earth.

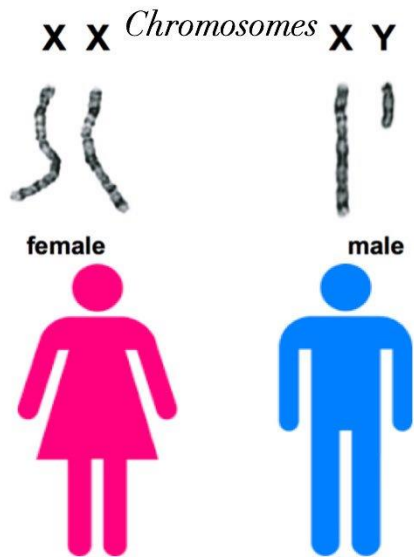
Fraud and theft are also common place beloved. It's not just that your home, car or business can be broken into but now social engineering can be used to get you to reveal personal financial information on the phone or you can be subject a phishing scam where you click on a link that steals your money or compromises your identify. 60 Minutes had a story a couple of weeks ago where they had a computer expert that faked the phone number and voice (deep fake) of the producer of the story to their assistant. The computer expert got the producer's assistant to give her the producer's passport number. The computer expert called the assistant with the producer's voice and said they were at the airport and needed their passport number. The expert said she was able to successfully trick people 100% of the time. They say stealing isn't that big a deal. I am in fear of apprehension of answering the phone or clicking on email links I shouldn't. The standard is Ex. 20:15 *Thou shalt not steal.*

And, as if these were light things (1 Kings 16:31), this generation has gone full on after the heinous sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, for which Christ destroyed them. This generation says homosexuality is just fine, because I'm living my best life being true to me. They say "god made me this way." The standard is Jude 7: *Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities*

about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh (homosexuality), are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 2 Pet 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly. Christ warned that these same Sodomite sins would reign when He returns. Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Lev. 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. 1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators... nor abusers of themselves with mankind (homosexuals)... shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Beloved, the “diversity, equity and inclusion” juggernaut has taken the world by storm. It is the rage in business, schools, colleges and every form of institution, at every level of society. They have the audacity to say that they *are under attack*? Under attack from who? Diversity, equity and inclusion is a marketing ploy to obfuscate and redirect the focus from clear sinful behavior of those who practice the sin to being a societal problem where people are not open-minded, accepting and loving enough. They transfer the responsibility from the sinner to society and thereby shut down any dissenting voice as being “hateful.” The truth is that those sins are ungodly and they will never, ever have peace with God and will die and descend hell.

And if all of that was a light thing, we now come to transgenderism. This is yet another open attack on the very sovereignty of God to create males and females as He sees fit. The LGBTQ community says gender is just a “social construct” and gender is actually “fluid.” They accusatorily say “What is a woman?” I will answer that. A woman is a biological female who was born with two X chromosomes (XX), while those who are biologically male and have one X and one Y chromosome. Encyclopedia Britannica says- *The sex chromosomes of human beings and other mammals are designated by scientists as X and Y. In humans the sex chromosomes consist of one pair of the total of 23 pairs of chromosomes. The other 22 pairs of chromosomes are called autosomes. Individuals having two X chromosomes (XX) are female; individuals having one X chromosome and one Y chromosome (XY) are male. A woman is someone who is born with ovaries, a uterus, and a womb.*



Gen 5:1 *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;* 2 **Male and female created He them.**
 Mark 10:6 **But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.** They want to make us ashamed so we will not say there actually are standards of God.

One of the people in this church in their mid-20's asked me how to address a letter. They asked me if the address of the addressee belongs in the middle of the letter and if the return address goes in the upper left. Their generation does not mail letters, there is email, text and websites and portals and such instead. They weren't taught how to mail letters. We have a generation where the standards of God are forgotten. This generation is removing the ancient landmarks. Prov. 22:28 *Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set.* With no landmarks, standards, or Pole Star anything and everything is acceptable.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion is just another aspect of the filthy conversation of this generation that vexes the Elect of God. That feeling you get when you are disgusted with seeing one more awful sinful and ungodly thing is being "vexed."

2Pe 2:7 *And delivered just Lot, **vexed with the filthy conversation** of the wicked:*

2Pe 2:8 *(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;**)*

Strong's Concordance - Vex

- 1) to tire down with toil, exhaust with labour
- 1a) to afflict or oppress with evils
- 1b) to make trouble for
- 1c) to treat roughly
- Great trouble
- pain

1. Filthy Conversation of the Wicked

- Barnes - *The corruption of Sodom was open and shameless; and as Lot was compelled to see much of it, his heart was pained. The word here rendered vexed, means that he was wearied or burdened. **The crimes of those around him he found it hard to bear with.***
- Gill - *The inhabitants of Sodom, who had no regard to the laws of God or man, or to the law and light of nature; but as worse than brute beasts, lived daily in the commission of unnatural lusts; and therefore their conversation is rightly said to be filthy, and was a grievous burden to righteous Lot: for to a good man, not only his own sins, but the sins of others, whether professors or profane, are a burden, and make him groan under them, being grievously fatigued with them, **as this good man was, and weary of life because of them, as Rebekah was, through the daughters of Heth.***
- It is not enough for them to engage in their unlawful deeds, but in addition to that they are constantly talking about and trumpeting the Sodomite sin so as to demand everyone accept it in all of its filthiness. They demand that laws and practices and mores of society bow to their filth. They demand that every television show, movie, song, tweet, newspaper, website, and communication promote their sin. They are as Nebuchadnezzar which demanded that three Hebrew children bow down, worship and serve his golden image (Daniel 3). We will not bow down to their filthy conversation and we will not be careful to answer them in this matter (Daniel 3:16).

2. Vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds

Barnes:

*For that righteous man dwelling among them. ...**meaning that he maintained his uprightness, or that he did not become contaminated by the vices of Sodom.** ...That compelled as he was, while living among them, to see and to hear what was going on, his soul was constantly troubled.*

*In seeing and hearing. Seeing their open acts of depravity, and hearing their vile conversation... Those who live among the wicked are compelled to see and hear much that pains their hearts, **and it is well if they do not become indifferent to it, or contaminated by it.***

Vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds. Tortured or tormented his soul — (Greek). [Trapp says it was like being put on the rack.] The use of this word would seem to imply that there was something active on the part of Lot which produced this distress on account of their conduct, he was not merely troubled as if his soul were passively acted on, but there were strong mental exercises of a positive kind, arising perhaps from anxious solicitude **how he might prevent their evil conduct**, or from painful reflections on the consequences of their deeds to themselves, or from earnest pleadings in their behalf before God, or from reproofs and warnings of the wicked. **At all events, the language is such as would seem to indicate that he was not a mere passive observer of their conduct.** This, it would seem, was "from day to day"; that is, it was constant. ...Lot is supposed to have resided in Sodom — then probably the most corrupt place on the earth — for sixteen years; and we have in that fact an instructive demonstration that a good man may maintain the life of religion in his soul when surrounded by the wicked, and an illustration of the effects which the conduct of the wicked will have on a man of true piety when he is compelled to witness it constantly. We may learn from the record made of Lot what those effects will be, and what is evidence that one is truly pious who lives among the wicked.

(1.) He will not be contaminated with their wickedness, or will not conform to their evil customs.

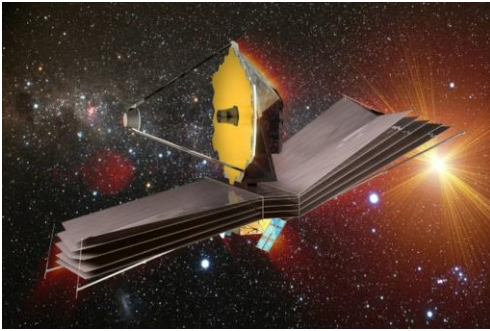
(2.) He will not become indifferent to it, but his heart will be more and more affected by their depravity. Comp. #Ps 119:136 Lu 19:41; #Ac 17:16.

(3.) He will have not only constant, but growing solicitude in regard to it — solicitude that will be felt every day: "He vexed his soul from day to day." It will not only be at intervals that his mind will be affected by their conduct, but it will be an habitual and constant thing. True piety is not fitful, periodical, and spasmodic; it is constant and steady. It is not a jet that occasionally bursts out; it is a fountain always flowing.

(4.) He will seek to do them good. We may suppose that this was the case with Lot; we are certain that it is a characteristic of true religion to seek to do good to all, however wicked they may be.

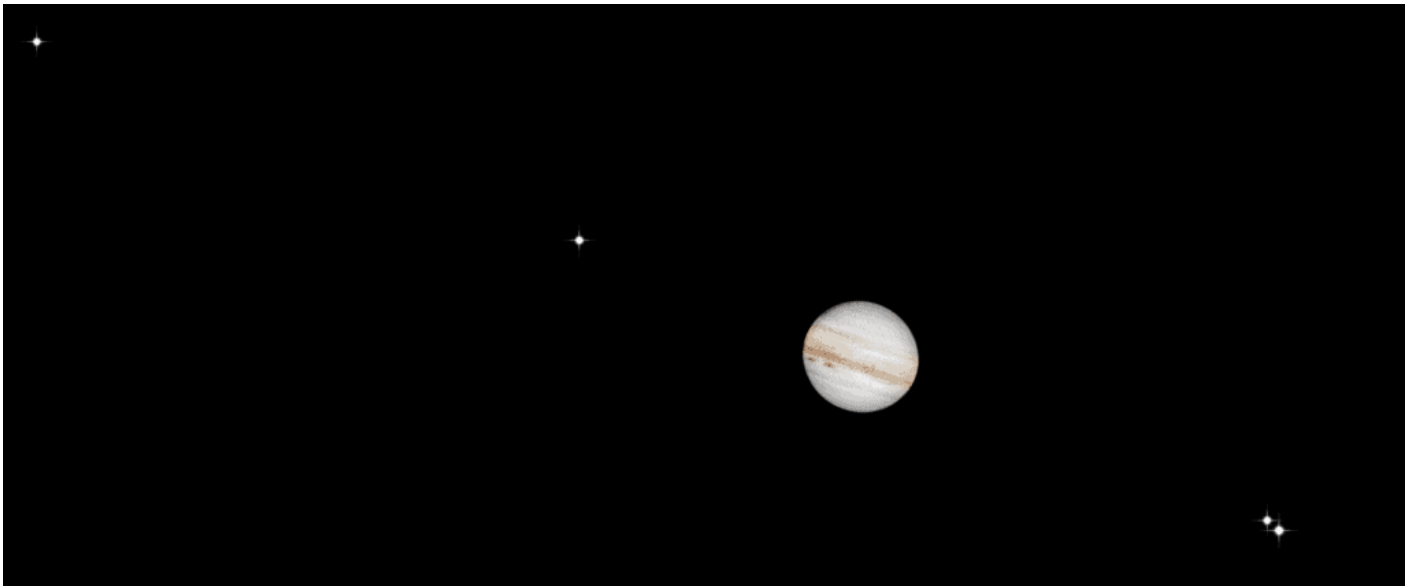
*(5.) He will secure their confidence. **He will practice no improper arts to do this, but it will be one of the usual results of a life of integrity, that a good man will secure the confidence of even the wicked.** It does not appear that Lot lost that confidence, and the whole narrative in Genesis leads us to suppose that even the inhabitants of Sodom regarded him as a good man. The wicked may hate a good man because he is good; but if a man lives as he should, they will regard him as upright, and they will give him the credit of it when he dies, if they should withhold it while he lives.*

James Webb Space Telescope – New Galaxies



Two weeks ago NASA released a new composite image from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). The image shows 45,000 galaxies. I have it displayed on a monitor at the front of the church. You can increase the magnification and zero in on any aspect of the image. The density of the image is truly amazing. We have never had a telescope that could give us this much detail. Before the JWST, images like this included smudges and blobs of gray. But, now, you can clearly see these are galaxies.

The first time (and every time) I pull out my telescope and aim it at Jupiter, I see a planet 10 times larger than earth just sitting out in space. It is just sitting there for anyone to come along and point a telescope at it. I always come away from the experience saying how it is just out there, suspended in space? Curl up your hand so there is a little hole and then from about 2 feet away look at the picture on the next page. That is what it looks like through a telescope.



NASA estimates the age of the universe at 13 billion years and the image from JWST is supposed to be at 600 million years from the “Big Bang,” which they say is the “infancy” of the cosmos. NASA says: *The sheer number of these galaxies was far beyond prediction from observation made before Webb’s launch.* The image captures a region of sky about 6 arcminutes across. The width of a full moon is about 30 arcminutes across. Said another way, the width of this image is about 3 fingers wide. The next time you are outside at night, hold up 3 fingers to the sky. That is what this is looking at.

Ge 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

Jud 5:20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera (The Song of Deborah).

Gill: The stars in their courses fought against Sisera - It seems as if it was in the night that this battle was fought, at least that the pursuit lasted till night, when the stars by their brightness and clear shining favoured the Israelites, and were greatly to the disadvantage of the Canaanites; unless it can be thought, as is by some, that the stars had an influence to cause a tempest of rain, hail, thunder, and lightnings, by which the army of Sisera was discomfited in the daytime, as before observed.

Job 22:12 Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!

Gill - *and behold the height of the stars, how high they are; ...according to Mr. Huygens a cannon ball discharged would be 25 years in passing from the earth to the sun, from, Jupiter to the sun an 125 years, from Saturn 250, and from the sun to the dog star [Sirius brightest star in Canis Major - 8.6 light-years from Earth, is the fifth closest star system known] 691,600 years; and if therefore it would be so long going to the nearest of the fixed stars, how great must be the distance of them from our earth, which are so much higher than the dog star as that is from the sun? But, though these are so exceeding high, yet God is higher than they.*

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.... 3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Barnes - That the God who had made the heavens, the moon and the stars, should condescend to notice man or creatures so insignificant and unworthy of notice. What is man? What claim has one so weak, and frail, and short-lived, to be remembered by time? What is there in man that entitles him to so much notice? Why has God conferred on him so signal honor? Why has he placed him over the works of his hands? Why has he made so many arrangements for his comfort? Why has he done so much to save him? He is so insignificant his life is so much like a vapor, he so soon disappears, he is so sinful and polluted, that the question may well be asked, why such honor has been conferred on him, and why such a dominion over the world has been given him.

That thou art mindful of him That thou dost remember him; that is, think of him, attend to him — that he does not pass away wholly from thy thoughts. Why should a God who is so vast and glorious, and who has all the starry worlds, so beautiful and grand, to claim his attention — why should he turn his thoughts on man? And especially why should he honor him as he has done by giving him dominion over the works of his hands?

***Psalm 147: 4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.
5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.***

How many stars are there? Using the Milky Way as our model, we can multiply the number of stars in a typical galaxy (100 billion) by the number of galaxies in the universe (2 trillion).

The answer is an astounding number. There are approximately 200 billion trillion stars in the universe. Or, to put it another way, 200 sextillion. Source: Astronomy Magazine.

*Psalm 148:1 Praise ye the LORD. **Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.** 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 **Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.** 4 **Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.** 5 **Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.** 6 **He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.***

The Lord God Almighty has forever established the stars and heaven and every single living thing. They are without number, and He is entitled to be praised and worshipped for His glorious work. Yet, sinful man gives the glory of creation to the amorphous, fictional creature "mother nature," and the glory of creation to a "big bang." How repulsive and unthankful is that? Rom 1: 20 *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: 21 Because that, 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.* The Lord God as Creator is entitled to establish rules for His Creation as He sees fit. Mat. 20:15 *Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?* And now this generation has declared war on God and His rules. It is as if this generation got together and decided they would change the laws of gravity. God is going to answer this rebellion. *Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 **For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.** 11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*

*Isaiah 14: 9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. 10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? 11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 **For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will***

exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms.

*Jeremiah 31: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. 35 **Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:** 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. 37 **Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.***

*Amos 5:8 **Seek Him that maketh the seven stars (Pleiades), and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.***

1Ch 16:31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

I love you all. Amen