

What say we mention Sodom today?

January 24, 2016: Sometimes it is good to get back to bedrock Bible basics, such as “God destroyed Sodom.” There is an engaging verse (or actually, part of a verse) in the Old Testament that the 6.9 billion inhabitants of the world (including 311 million Americans) would do well to become intimately familiar with. Here it is:

For . . . Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride. (Ezekiel 16:56).

The context of this verse – i.e. Ezekiel Chapter 16 – is the “word of the Lord” coming to the prophet Ezekiel directing that he “cause Jerusalem to know her abominations.” (Ezekiel 1:1, 2). That Chapter 16 then proceeds through 63 verses to describe a nation that was created, nourished, enlivened, strengthened and then destroyed by God. Given the length of that chapter, I will not read it all this morning, although you are certainly encouraged to do so. The chapter can be summarized this way –

- Verses 3–6: The birth, swaddling and rescue of newborn, infant Jerusalem at the hands of God;
- Verses 7–14: The maturing, multiplying, beautification, strengthening, enrichment and growth of Jerusalem (“And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God” – verse 14);
- Verses 15–34: Jerusalem abandons her compassionate and merciful God and relies on her own strength, forgets the “days

of (her) youth” (verse 22), commits a wide array of abominations and worships other gods;

- Verses 35–59: As a direct consequence, God abandons Jerusalem to her enemies, leading to her virtually complete destruction;
- Verses 60–63: Except that the Lord will remember “the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant” (verse 60) with a remnant. In other words, a small number are saved from that terrible end.

Now, if you know anything about the history of America, the overview I have just provided from Ezekiel 16 (about ancient Jerusalem) fits America to a tee! Indeed, any student of the American Revolution – which lasted for years – will tell you it was nip and tuck as to who was going to prevail in that conflict. Those that this nation now worships as the so-called “founding fathers” could just as easily have been tried, convicted and executed as traitors. Within a few short years, the War of 1812 (which some historians considered nothing more than an epilogue to the Revolutionary War) almost ended the toddler nation’s life. And no sooner was young America getting on her feet after all that then along came the devastating, bloody 4-year Civil War which again almost ended the grand American experiment. But beginning in the last part of the 19th Century (about a hundred years after birth), this country started growing strong, so much so that even the two world wars of the 20th Century didn’t slow her amazing growth and power. And through all those years, there was a strong strain of Bible-believing Christians, and God was greatly blessing this nation. But, as we know, we can no longer say that God is benefitting this country; indeed, it’s just the opposite.

So, returning to our text: **For . . . Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride. (Ezekiel 16:56).**

That is to say, America, as you strut your stuff on the world's stage, you overlooked one little thing: A frequent mentioning of Sodom in your daily activities. And that is really, really bad!

There are two things that immediately scream out from that verse:

1. Those words are addressed to a collection of people who are so far gone they don't even so much as mention Sodom; that word Sodom is simply not part of their lexicon. Sound familiar?
2. The very physiological act of verbalizing and uttering "Sodom" -- and all that that term signifies -- is healthy.

But we here at this church – as a public service to our neighbors -- are dedicated to helping you with this “no mention of Sodom” shortcoming you suffer from. And to that end, we have for a quarter-century talked early and often about Sodom, while recognizing that for all practical purposes, nobody else is doing so. Survey the 24/7 non-stop talking heads and tsunami of words flowing all around this country, and you don't find others who talk, care – or even at times know – about Sodom. All of which is another sign of your impending doom.

Today, we hope to make another installment in this church's diligent quest to “mention” Sodom and its many lessons; all information our fellow human beings urgently need in these dark days. These desperate times require nothing less. And keep in mind as we proceed that the Hebrew word translated “mention” in this text is *shemuw'ah* and it means “something heard, doctrine, fame, mentioned, news, report, rumor, tidings.”

A good place to start is the primary text of the story of Sodom, which you find at Genesis chapter 19, verses 1-29:

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

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

3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

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

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

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

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

8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

9 And they said, Stand back. And they said *again*, This one *fellow* came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, *even* Lot, and came near to break the door.

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

11 And they smote the men that *were* at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place:

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

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

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

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

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18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city *is* near to flee unto, and it *is* a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

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

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

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

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

Further dialogue on Sodom, using that primary text as a springboard, would consist of lessons and practical wisdom (a/k/a “mentions”). Keep in mind that Sodom is an instructive “example” to us. (Jude 7). Those lessons or “mentions” include:

- What sodomy is (Mention 1): As this is a G-rated sermon, and following the example of scripture, we won’t get into the nitty-gritty of the sex acts involved, both between humans and humans with animals. For centuries, sodomy was also called the “crime against nature” or the “unnatural act”, probably coming from Romans 1:26, 27 (“that which is against nature” and “leaving the natural use of the woman”). The British common law included the Buggery Act of 1533 (also known as the “Crime against Nature Act”) which criminalized “the detestable, abominable and

infamous crime against nature, committed with mankind or beast.” [The UK has come a long way!] Tellingly, sodomy was also a crime in the United States of America until very recently; and in fact many states still have laws on the books outlawing such behavior. In 2003, in a case called *Lawrence v. Texas*, the United States Supreme Court held that nonremunerative sex between so-called consenting adults in private was protected by the Constitution and therefore could not be criminalized under “crimes against nature” laws. Something tells me that James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, et al did not have any such thing on their minds when they painstakingly worked up the constitution, but such is life in modern day doomed America.

- The destructive nature of sodomy and Sodomites on societies (Mention 2): To keep this “mentioning” of Sodom on track, our next lesson is the damaging, harmful and injurious nature of sodomy and those who engage in that conduct on supportive societies. We get a flavor of this from the text, such as Genesis 19:24-25 and 29. It should go without saying that raining “brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven” and the resultant overthrow of cities tends to be a bit destructive. The Hebrew word here is *haphak* meaning to change, overturn, return, tumble, pervert, retire, turn again, turn aside, turn back, turn to the contrary; the idea includes turn every which way but loose. The word “overthrow” is defined this way: Overcome; defeat; vanquish; to put an end to by force; to knock down; overturn; topple; demolish; destroy; ruin.
- The destructive nature of sodomy on the individual (Mention 3): Any meaningful mention of Sodom must include the impact of that

behavior on individual human beings. The impact in old Sodom was immediate and painful death. Things haven't changed much. Reams of paper (and internet pages) have been devoted to health issues for Sodomites, both male and female. I have reviewed some of that literature. Without going into unnecessary detail and minutia, here are some highlights:

1. Promiscuity rates are off the charts;
2. Common sexual practices between Sodomites lead to numerous sexually transmitted diseases and physical injuries, some of which are virtually unknown in the heterosexual population;
3. Sodomites experience high rates of psychiatric illness (a/k/a demon spirits); and,
4. Life span is 20 years shorter on average.

A recent article in *Time* magazine was headlined: "Same-sex Couples not as healthy as Heterosexual Married Couples", to which I say "you think!?" Listen to this table of contents in one article on the subject:

- Issues affecting lesbians: Breast cancer; Depression and Anxiety; Domestic violence; Physical fitness; Substance abuse; Heterosexism;
- Issues affecting "gay men": Human papillomavirus (HPV); Depression, anxiety and suicide; Eating disorders and body image; Hepatitis; Sexually transmitted infections; Substance abuse; HIV/AIDS;

- Issues affecting bisexual people: Body image and eating disorder; Mental health and suicide; Substance abuse; Cancer; HIV/AIDS;
- Issues affecting transgender people: Insurance coverage; Access to health care; Cancer; Mental health; Hormones; Injectable silicone; Sexually transmitted infections; Substance abuse.
- Honeycombed governments (Mention 4): Make no mistake; the federal government in this country is overflowing with Sodomites; and it's been that way for a long, long time. In my various readings on American and presidential history, I am continually surprised at the level of this permeation (to pass into or through every part of; to penetrate through the pores and interstices of; to be diffused through; pervade; saturate).

Here are some examples:

- The sure re-election of Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1964 was threatened by a last-minute published story that his closest aide (a fine family man from Texas) had been caught soliciting homosexual sex in Washington, D.C.'s YMCA. It turned out America was good with it.
- J. Edgar Hoover – himself a reputed homosexual of the first water, who lived as “husband and wife” with his long-time assistant Clyde Tolson (a good old-fashioned Iowa farm boy) for decades – ran the FBI for a half-century, him as Director and Tolson as Assistant Director. One of Hoover's favorite methods of keeping power was finding and

preserving dirt on presidents and other high-ranking officials, often involving homosexual activity.

- Near the end of his time in office, Nixon demanded of one of his staff members to “get rid of these state department fairies” that were accompanying him during a European trip.
- And, of course, we have been eye-witness to this homosexual infestation of government at the highest levels, dating back to our first trip to Washington, D.C.

And this is nothing new. As the primary text above shows, those old-time aggressive Sodomites operated without any governmental restraint; no police protection was on the scene outside Lot’s house. Why? The obvious answer is that the Sodomites controlled the government back then as well. Indeed, verse 11 says the Sodomite crowd included “both small and great” – “great” denoting those in positions of authority.

- Speedy end (Mention 5): Another thing we learn from studying, learning about and discussing Sodom is that it all will end very speedily. It appears from the primary text that the entire destructive event took just hours. For example, Genesis 19:5 starts the chronology off “when morning arose.” Verse 23 then tells us that the “sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.” So, this occurrence seems to have started in the wee hours of the morning, and by the time Lot had high-tailed it out of town and into Zoar just a few short hours had elapsed. And everything was said and done by day’s end, as we learn from verse 27 where we are told that Abraham got up early the next

morning to find nothing but “smoke” left where that thriving metropolis has just stood the day before.

- Gets God’s personal attention (Mention 6): While busy mentioning Sodom, we also find that this business is so serious that it gets God Almighty’s personal attention. Again, going back to the primary text, we see that the Lord himself personally visited that ancient town and personally inflicted the condign and altogether fitting punishment. The Lord didn’t leave these tasks to his warring angels.
- Sodomites are violent, organized and world-class communicators (Mention 7): Another reason it’s needful to speak of Sodom is to very clearly learn and understand that Sodomites are violent, well-organized and unmatched communicators. Verse 4 of the primary text shows us how quickly they communicated with each other and formed a riotous crowd (“from every quarter”) threatening the safety and security of Lot’s home. They got it done, folks, even before those inside Lot’s residence were able to get ready for bed that night. And this was in the days before I-phones, e-mail and textual messaging. Verse 9 gives more details of their violent nature; they physically battered Lot and tried to break down the door of his house. Specifically, they “pressed sore upon the man, even Lot” – that means they compressed, squeezed and weighed heavily upon Lot’s person by sheer physical weight and force, kind of like what you do to squeeze juice out of an orange – and then they topped that battery off by coming “near to break the door.” That’s world class and potentially deadly violence, not unlike stadium stampedes we have seen.

- God protects his people from any harm at the hands of violent Sodomites (Mention 8): A final thing to learn today from mentioning Sodom is the very valuable and comforting fact that God has promised to protect and preserve his chosen sheep from any harm, violence or loss at the hands of these Sodomites, notwithstanding their superficial, worldly power. Again, the primary text gives us light on this aspect, along with many more passages in the Bible to this effect, too numerous to mention now. We read at verses 10-11 that the Lord pulled Lot back into the house while he was under assault, closed the door and blinded the mob so they couldn't accomplish their intentions. Promise made; promise kept! Later God dispatched his angels to get Lot and his family quickly out of town (verses 15-16), and then kindly accommodated Lot's physical travel limitations by not overthrowing the "little" city (Zoar) that Lot could actually reach on foot (verses 17-22). And to put the finishing touch on this point, we have this New Testament verse written in the context of the Sodom story: **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. (2 Peter 2:9).**

So, our counsel to all of our neighbors this day is to mention Sodom – every day, and in many ways – and learn the resulting valuable, life-saving lessons. And by “mention”, we mean constantly chatter about it, study it and read it! So go out, mention Sodom, and have a nice day!

I love you.

Amen!