

The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Our proud American countenance doth witness against us. We are declaring our sin as Sodom. We are not hiding it. Woe unto us for we have rewarded evil unto ourselves.

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American Pride: The Sin of Sodom?

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In light of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we have seen many displays of patriotism and American pride. Many people have called on Americans to hold our heads up and be proud - to continue doing what we normally would. On the other hand, we have some preachers telling us that the attacks were just a preview of things to come - if Americans do not repent. We also have heard many people say that God owes an apology to Sodom and Gomorrah if He does not destroy America soon due to the increased acceptance of homosexuality. But why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and is America guilty of the same?

Homosexuality in Sodom and Gomorrah

In the Genesis 19:1-13, we see the men of Sodom were guilty of homosexuality:

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.

Homosexuality is Sin

In Leviticus 18:22, God makes it clear that homosexuality is sin:

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Sodom's Sin is Very Grievous

God does tell us that Sodom's sin is very serious:

(Genesis 13:13) But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

(Genesis 18:20-21) And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; {21} I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me;

and if not, I will know. Sodom's Sin

Many people, including Christians, believe that Sodom's sin was homosexuality. In Ezekiel 16:49-52, God tells us exactly what Sodom's sin was - and notice it does not explicitly mention homosexuality:

(Ezekiel 16:49-52) Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. {50} And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. {51} Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. {52} Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

Homosexuals like to point out this passage to try to prove that homosexuality had nothing to do with God's reasons for destroying Sodom. Let us examine the passage more closely - and let us see if we see America in it.

The first thing God mentions is pride. Recently, we've seen lots of signs proclaiming our American pride. In recent years, we've also seen an increase in "Gay Pride" events. I wonder if Sodom had any "Gay Pride" marches? America certainly is guilty of pride. Christians should never express pride in anything for we should know best that we are nothing without the grace of God. I am not proud to be an American; rather, I am blessed to be an American, for I did nothing to be an American. It is only by God's grace that I was born and raised in this greatest of nations. I love my country because it is the greatest in all the earth. I get giant goose bumps during the singing of our National Anthem. I am bothered when I see people talking during the singing of our National Anthem or when I see a worn, tattered, and neglected flag.

In Proverbs 16:18, God warns us that pride leads to a fall:

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

God also warns a proud people that they shall fall and no one will help them up:

(Jeremiah 50:31-32) Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee. {32} And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his

cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

As Sodom was guilty of pride so is America.

The next thing God mentions is fulness of bread. Certainly America has an abundance of food. Even most of our poor have more to eat than most of the rest of the world. I don't know the exact figure, but I have heard that America produces a preponderance of the world's food supply. As Sodom was guilty of fulness of bread so is America.

An abundance of idleness is the next thing mentioned. It doesn't take long to figure out that with all the TV's, computers, video games, sporting events, and the like, America certainly has an over-abundance of idle time. As Sodom was guilty of an abundance of idleness so is America.

God next says that Sodom did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. Some may argue that America differs at this point with our welfare programs, soup kitchens, charitable organizations, and social security. But if you examine the effects of these programs, you will see that America is just as guilty as Sodom. American programs only increase reliance on the government. These programs - with few exceptions - do not teach the poor and needy to provide for themselves. These programs do not give a hand-up - only a handout. These programs do not strengthen, but weaken. As Sodom was guilty of not strengthening the hand of

the poor and needy so is America.

In verse 50, we see Sodom was guilty of haughtiness. Haughtiness is an even worse form of pride. It causes the proud person to look down on others with scorn. Americans many times look down on those from so-called third-world countries. We think they are like that filthy, foul-smelling, drunk who lives in alleys or under bridges. We treat them with disdain. As Sodom was guilty of haughtiness so is America.

The next thing mentioned was that Sodom committed abomination before God. As we saw earlier in Leviticus 18, homosexuality is an abomination to God. In recent years, more and more homosexuals have "come out of the closet" and are open about their sin. Many American theme parks have "Gay Days" where the homosexuals oftentimes commit lewd acts in public. Many American cities organize "Gay Pride" marches where the homosexuals parade around and commit lewd acts for everyone to see. As Sodom was guilty of committing abominations before God so is America.

After examining this passage, we see exactly what Sodom's sin was - the reason why God destroyed Sodom - and we see that America is guilty of the same.

Conclusion

We are flying our American colors high. More and more homosexuals are coming out into the open. God warns us about this in Isaiah 3:9: