

# God Works with Nations

- *The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, 10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it. Jer 18:7-11*

# A Disaster Comes to Israel

- *He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and **the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem**, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy*  
Ezek 8:3
- Ezekiel is taken up by a vision
- He is now watching at the door of the inner court of the temple.
- He sees an idol that has provoked God to jealousy

# A Vision to Be Remembered

- *Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand." 2 And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. Ezek 9:1-7*
- In the vision, God shows Ezekiel 6 men who have charge of the punishment of Jerusalem.
- He also shows Ezekiel a man with an inkhorn

# A Vision Never to be Forgotten

- *He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; 4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." Ezek 9:1-7*
- The Key Thought: *sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.*
- The righteous and devout are to be marked and spared.

# A Vision to Be Remembered

- *5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; Ezek 9:1-6*
- This is a vision. It is not an actual account.
- There is a principle here that God wanted known.
- When judgment comes on a nation, those who are sighing and crying over abominations will be spared.

# What to Learn from the Vision

- Since the mark that will protect is only placed on those sighing and crying over the abominations:
- 1. We need to learn what these abominations are.
- 2. We need to assess our own attitude toward them
- 3. If there are any discrepancies we need to repent
- 4. This should be an assessment we make often.
- 5. It is critical for those on the Lord's side.
- *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jas 4:4*

# This is Not an Isolated Incident

- *and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 2 Peter 2:7-10*
- Lot's attitude is made a template
- He is an example of the godly God will deliver.
- Those content living among them would be considered the unjust. God wants our heart.

# From the Very Beginning

- Then the Lord saw that the **wickedness of man was great** in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And **the Lord was sorry** that He had made man on the earth, and **He was grieved in His heart**.
- The **earth also was corrupt before God**, and **the earth was filled with violence**. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for **all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth**.
- 13 And God said to Noah, "The **end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them**; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Gen 6:11-14

# God Never Changes

- If God is grieved we should be grieved.
- If Lot was vexed and tormented we should be vexed and tormented.
- If those who sigh and cry over abominations are spared, we should sigh and cry over abominations.
- If friendship with world makes us enemies of God, we must not become friends.
- We are strangers, pilgrims, exiles and aliens.

# Ordinances of Nations & ...of God

- *According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord. Lev 18:1-5*

# Sanctity of the Home

- Doings of Egypt and the Nations of Canaan
- *'None shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the Lord.*
- *father, mother, aunt, step-brother or step-sister, granddaughter, grandson, aunt, uncle, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, It is wickedness. Neighbor's wife*
- *Descendants pass through the fire to Molech,*
- *Male as with a woman. It is **an abomination**.*
- *Any animal, **It is perversion**.*
- ***Don't defile yourselves with any of these things;***
- ***for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.** Lev 18:6-24*
- *Don't be deceived, evil companionship corrupts*

# Defiling Abominations

- *25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.*
- *26 keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations,*
- *all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and the land is defiled*
- *lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. whoever commits any of these abominations,*

- 2 gives any of his **descendants to Molech**, he shall surely be **put to death**. (Abortion)
- 6 person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them,
- 9 'For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. Lev 20:9
- 10 adulterer and the adulteress put to death.
- keep all My statutes and all My judgments, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. 23 And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them. Lev 20:22-24

# Spiritual Abominations

● you shall not learn to follow **the abominations of those nations**. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who **makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire**, or one who **practices witchcraft**, or a **soothsayer**, or one who **interprets omens**, or a **sorcerer**, 11 or one who **conjures spells**, or a **medium**, or a **spiritist**, or one who **calls up the dead**. 12 For all who do these things are an **abomination to the Lord**, and because of these **abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you**. Deut 18:9-14

# Habakkuk like Job wants to debate

- *Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man. Gen 9:5-6*
- *'So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. 34 'Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.''' Num 35:33-34*

# Assessing Ourselves

- Abominations are disgusting, sickening, sinister and frightening things.
- If we sigh and cry over them: Safe
- If we are entertained by them, talk of them as normal, feel nothing when we see them, we are defiled to some degree.
- *I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. 4 A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness. Ps 101:3-4*