



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 39
YEARS
1982- 2021



THE CORNERSTONE

December 2021



Ladies
Ministry
SLBC



**Join us for a Ladies Christmas Soup and Salad
Event as we celebrate the season with warm
fellowship, delicious food, and great fun!**

Sunday, December 5th, 2021

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SLBC Fellowship Room

Sign-up in the foyer to:

~ Let us know you will attend

~ Let us know you will bring a soup/salad/dessert



Missions for the Month



Christian Radio

BROADCASTER

Volume 55, No. 11, November 2021

Keeping Him Close By for over 59 Years



Sacrifice

by Bruce Munsterman, President

In sports, sacrifice means to give up an opportunity in order to allow someone else the acclaim that comes with scoring a basket or goal. In baseball, when one uses the word to describe a bunt or fly ball, the description indicates the batter put the ball in play to advance the runner to the next base or to score a run at the expense of the hitter not getting on base. In other games, a player might bypass the chance to take a shot in order to pass the ball to a teammate who might be more open or closer to score. The initiator sacrifices his chance in order to get a point in order to let another finish the play and even get the credit. In religion, a sacrifice often involves the killing of an animal presenting that creature to appease God for the sins committed by the worshippers. In some pagan observances, the offering of a person might be the requirement.

A Blood Sacrifice

In the Bible, the most remembered mass observance of a sacrifice, was just before the Lord sent the angel of death through Egypt. Whoever did not have the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of the entrance to their home, the firstborn son's life in that family would be taken (Exodus 12). However, sacrifices were established by the Lord right after the fall or disobedience of man. In fact, the next great sin of murder, was triggered by the bringing of sacrifices to God. Hebrews 11:4 indicates that Abel brought a blood sacrifice of an animal.

The Bible records Cain was upset that God did not approve of his offering but accepted Abel's (Genesis 4:4-5). Upset is a mild word, Cain was very angry and "his countenance fell," which means his face showed his rage. God graciously warns Cain that he needs to adhere to God's requirement (a blood sacrifice) and not bring the crops he had grown. Cain sought to show God how he had worked to bring an offering while Abel obeyed God by bringing a blood sacrifice out of faith (1 John 3:12 and Hebrews 9:22).

The Greatest Sacrifice

Jesus gave Himself as the greatest sacrifice to satisfy the need for a payment for sin that the offering of animals only represented. God had predicted a Savior would come in Genesis 3:15 right after Adam and Eve disobeyed in the perfect setting of the Garden of Eden. God warned the two the penalty or cost of disobedience would be death (Genesis 2:17). The bent toward sin has been passed down to all generations.

In Romans 6:23 Paul reiterates the penalty or "wages" for sin is death." Jesus came and offered Himself to fulfill all that was necessary to restore man's relationship with God that had been broken by disobedience (Romans 5:18-21). The giving of His life is the complete one-time sacrifice and nothing else is needed (Hebrews 9:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21). The only response is for a person to believe or trust that Christ's atoning work is the way of receiving forgiveness from God and not any effort of our own (Romans 4:5). The promise from God is whoever believes in Jesus Christ as the substitutionary atonement, not only has forgiveness of sins but also eternal life (John 1:12).

Acceptable Sacrifices

Because of Christ's complete work once and for all, there are no more sacrifices required to have a right standing before a Holy God. We rely, trust, or believe in Him and that His work is all we need. In response to this great love that God lavishes on us, we can still bring sacrifices but of a completely different nature. Paul says we can bring the sacrifice of our person in Romans 12:1-2. He told the Philippian church that their gift or possessions delivered by a fellow named Epaphroditus was "a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God" (Philippians 4:18c). The writer of Hebrews encourages believers "by Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15). So, today we offer our person, our possessions, and our praise as sacrifices attesting to our gratefulness to the Lord for His abundant grace to us.



Andy Woods—Pastor

Signs of the Times for 2021

(Part 22)

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We

selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live. As dealt with in the prior installments in this series, there are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of *Israel* and *international politics* and signs related to *economics* and *technology* and *spiritual* signs. In this installment, we continue to turn our attention toward the predicted *societal signs* of the last days.

6. Signs Related to Society

Revelation 9:20-21 says, “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to *worship demons*, and the *idols* of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their *murders* nor of their *sorceries* nor of their *immorality* nor of their *thefts*” (italics mine).

By my count here there are six sins mentioned that will dominate the world during the coming Tribulation period. If these sins are resident in a world and in a culture, God will always bring divine judgment. These are the big six sins that will bring the wrath of God to this earth during the tribulation period. I think if we are intellectually honest, we see these same sins dominating our world today and our culture. In fact, they are being mainstreamed. In prior instalments we examined *demon worship*, *idolatry*, and *murder*. Here, we continue to examine these societal sins by examining the sins of *sorcery* and *immorality*.

Sorceries

Revelation 9:20-21 condemns various Tribulation era sins when it says: “²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they did not repent of their murders nor of their *sorceries (pharmakov)* nor of their *immorality* nor of

their thefts.” Also notice Revelation 18:23: “and the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of the groom and bride will never be heard in you again; for your merchants were the powerful people of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your witchcraft (*pharmakeia*).” (Italics and underlining mine)

The Greek word translated “sorceries” or “witchcraft” in these verses is *pharmakeia*. What English word do we get from *pharmakeia*? From it we get the word “pharmacy,” which is the place where you can purchase drugs. Interestingly, in our culture, *pharmakeia* or drugs, which used to be taboo, are now becoming not only normalized and mainstreamed but also legalized. In some cases, such former contraband is now being publicly sold over the counter. When I was coming of age marijuana was always considered to be a “no-no.” It is interesting to watch how many of our states, like Colorado, have taken marijuana and assigned a legitimate use for it. Do you see what is happening? We are being gradually desensitized to the very things God hates.

Of course, what has taken the sin *pharmakeia* to an entirely new level in our day has been the mandatory COVID-19 “vaccination.” This “vaccine” has arguably married to the interjection of a drug into the body a tracking and surveillance capacity via microchip technology. Notice the words of Catherine Austin Fitts, an American investment banker and former United States Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. She notes:

The technocracy that they are pushing towards is what is called transhumanism. Essentially what you do is you use injections to inject materials into the body that create the equivalent of an operating system...and a receiver, and you can literally hook everybody up to the cloud...the Bible calls it, the mark of the beast...but you are basically talking about being able to digitally identify and track people in connection with their financial transactions. So, it is a world of zero privacy...you are now talking about a system where every central bank in the world can shut you off individually from transacting if they do not like the way you are behaving. Many people are familiar with the social credit system in China. It is very similar...if you install the smart grid in their car, their community, and now literally in their body, you have got 24/7 surveillance. And if people do not do what you say and behave the way you want, they can and will shut off their money. And they will also have spatial control. If they say you cannot travel more than five miles, that is it because you are in a complete digital control system, and it is controlled by the central bankers through the money. [<https://ratical.org/PandemicParallaxView/CAF-MrGlobal.html>]

The normalization of formerly illicit substances in addition to the marriage of tracking capacity with a coerced experimental drug masquerading as a “vaccination” is currently furnishing the background for the type of abuse of substances anticipated in the pages of Bible prophecy (Rev. 9:21; 18:23).

Immorality

Revelation 9:21 describes the immorality of the last days, when it says, “and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.” Revelation 11:8 depicts immorality even negatively impacting the city of Jerusalem in the last days. This verse says, “And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.” (Italics and underlining mine) Here, even the City of Jerusalem will have an immoral quality during the events of the Tribulation that can be likened to the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. We see the wickedness of this ancient city in the biblical text when all the men of the city surrounded Lot’s house and demanded that his two guests be released to them for a sexual purpose. Genesis 19:4-5 says, “⁴ Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;⁵ and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” (Italics and underlining mine). Notice that all the men of the entire city, both young and old, were involved in this horrific sin. According to Bible Prophecy, this is the kind of

immorality that will characterize the last days.

The fact of the matter is God has a sexual standard. The Bible says that this sexual standard is one man for one woman for one life! Heterosexual monogamy is the divine sexual pattern for humanity (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:24; Matt. 19:3-6). It is true that many people have fallen short of this standard. For such individuals, the grace of God is readily available. However, this does not alter the objective reality of the existence of this biblical standard. The standard is still there regardless of whether we have lived up to the standard or not. Any sexual activity outside of this standard would violate God's perfect will and blueprint for humanity. Today, every form of sexuality is being promoted except one, which is "one man for one woman for one life." In fact, mere articulation of this biblical standard today is considered intolerant, hateful, and bigoted. Conversely, if you promote anything other than this divine standard you are in vogue. As God's sexual standard is routinely discarded and violated, we are becoming desensitized to the very sins which will bring the wrath of God to the earth in the future tribulation period.

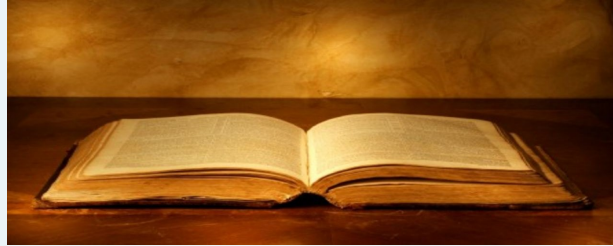
This issue of erasing of divine sexual boundaries goes far beyond merely the promotion of infidelity, adultery, and fornication. Today, bizarre, and deviant forms of sexuality, are being concocted by our Christ rejecting world. Of course, this is what the world was like just prior to the Flood when some of the fallen angels left their natural abode and began to procreate with human women (Gen. 6:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:18-21; 2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6-7). Such deviant forms of sexuality will resurface in the last days since Jesus analogized the Days of Noah and Lot to the days surrounding His return (Luke 17:26-30). Sadly, we live in a day, when even pedophilia, which involves sex with children, is being mainstreamed and normalized. For example:

A university professor has sparked outrage after claiming it is not immoral for adults to be sexually attracted to children and saying pedophiles should instead be called 'minor-attracted persons,' or MAPs. Allyn Walker, who is transgender and teaches sociology and criminal justice as a tenure-track assistant professor at Old Dominion University in Virginia, has penned a controversial book attempting to destigmatize pedophilia titled *A Long Dark Shadow: Minor-Attracted People and Their Pursuit of Dignity*, published by the University of California Press. Walker, who uses the pronouns they/them, said in a recent online interview with the *Prostasia* Foundation, a child advocacy group that promotes child sex doll usage for pedophiles: 'A lot of people when they hear the term "pedophile," they automatically assume that it means a sex offender, and that isn't true. 'And it leads to a lot of misconceptions about attractions toward minors.' Walker earned their PhD at CUNY Graduate Center in 2017, according to the university's website, and specializes in mental health, court systems, queer criminology and 'resilience to offending.' 'From my perspective, there is no morality or immorality attached to attraction to anyone because no one can control who they're attracted to at all,' Walker said during the November 7 interview. 'In other words, it's not who we're attracted to that's either OK or not OK. It's our behaviors in responding to that attraction that are either OK or not OK.' [<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10207985/University-professor-sparks-fury-claiming-sexual-attraction-children-isnt-immoral.html>].

Because of such deviant behavior found within the Canaanite culture, God predicted that the land would vomit out its inhabitants (Lev. 18:25; 20:23). Such normalization of perversion well characterizes the predicted end times scenario and will grow exponentially as we approach the end of the age. In our next installment, we will continue examining the *societal signs* associated with the last days.

(To Be Continued...)

Scripture for the Month



Luke 2:8-20KJV

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

