

The Demise of Western Civilization

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As you are probably all aware, if you live in one of the main westernized countries, you've probably been bombarded this past month with all the various forms of celebrating what our western nations have come to call "Pride Month". To put it in biblical terms, it's basically a month set aside to celebrate the values and morals of Sodom and Gomorrah—sexual debauchery and gender confusion. Trying to jam it down the throat of the culture and normalize it, trying to get everyone to accept it. You see it in advertising where it has infiltrated the policies of HR departments of most companies through their diversity initiatives—basically trying to normalize and force participation of this kind of life style upon people. Even this past couple of months there have been a few companies, such as Bud Light and Target for example, which have pushed it so hard that they have wound up getting a major backlash from a number of their customers because of their stance on this.

In fact, in the month of June there was an event that took place at the U.S. White House in favor of this Pride Month celebration. By way of introduction, I would like to read an article that comments about this. This is from a news service called The Daily Wire; they are an online service and they do news articles and have a number of commentators that do video programs. They more or less come from a Judeo-Christian values perspective. I subscribe to their service—I certainly don't agree with everything they come up with, but they tend to be more founded in Judeo-Christian values than a lot of things in our society today. Periodically a number of their commentators will send out emails to their subscribers containing an article addressing various subjects. I would like to read to you an email that was sent out on The Daily Wire of June 13 of this year. It was written by one of their main commentators, Ben Shapiro. He titled it,

Biden's Ideological Coup; Destroying Our Value System.

We are seeing a complete ideological coup in the United States. The Judeo-Christian value system is being entirely destroyed in favor of Pride Progress, radical leftist gender, and individualistic nonsense.

Joe Biden put up this tweet: "Today, the People's House – your house – sends a clear message to the country and to the world. America is a nation of pride." The tweet showed an LGBTQ flag hanging from the center of the rotunda of the White House looking out over the White House lawn.

Your new regime is the Pride Progress regime. You'll be ruled by it. It's no longer a matter of "whatever floats your boat" or "live your own life behind private doors." That is no longer what the United States is.

The United States is now a place where the official doctrine is that boys can be girls and girls can be boys.

If you stand up to that, you could wind up in actual legal peril. This is a country where if you say that marriage is between one man and one woman, you could be criminalized. You could have your life taken away from you in a wide variety of ways, because this is the new regime.

There is no neutral position. The American flag was put aside and the Pride Progress flag was flown in its place.

This is a coup. It is a coup because, ideologically speaking, no American soldier has ever died for the Pride Progress flag, because no American soldier has ever served under the Pride Progress flag, and because that is not the elected flag of the United States.

No law has ever been passed under the Pride flag because it is not the flag of the United States. All you have to do to understand how sick and perverse this is, is to just replace the Pride Progress flag with the flag of the Vatican. If you put it up there, everybody would recognize that as a coup.

But a Pride Progress flag there? Everyone says, "Well, you know, that's just neutrality. It's secular neutrality."

It is not secular and it is not neutral. It is a religious movement, a fanatic religious movement dedicated to destroying all of its opposition through silencing and through, yes, the force of law.

When you see that flag hanging, it is no shock.

You've seen Barack Obama all the way back in 2015 lighting up the White House in gay Pride colors. When you see the giant Pride Progress flag centered above the seal of the president of the United States while the two American flags are shunted off to either side, that could possibly be a violation of the flag code.

When you see this, you recognize what is happening here: a complete destruction of one ethos and its replacement by another.

What he's referring to—what's happening—is basically a complete undermining of Judeo-Christian values. If you look at what we typically refer to as western civilization, even historically back through human history—what we refer to as a western civilization—are typically your nations that are founded upon a foundation of general Judeo-Christian values. By saying that I'm not suggesting these nations were truly faithful and always worshiping the true God, obviously that's not the case. But if you look at their foundation and history in comparison to world history in general, one of the reasons why western civilization has been more successful and has had a greater

prosperity and freedom compared to the rest of the world is that foundation in Judeo-Christian values. What we are seeing is all of that being completely undermined; we're seeing its destruction. What we're going to see in this sermon is the Bible literally, directly telling us that when you see this type of environment, when you see this debauchery and homosexuality extant and all this gender confusion, this is a direct sign (*we're going to see this stated in the Bible*) that God has basically stepped back and handed over a culture to Satan to let him take the reins for its destruction. We're going to see that directly stated in the Bible.

What we are witnessing is the demise of western civilization. If you're looking for a title for this sermon it's:

The Demise of Western Civilization

That is what we are watching. To start off with, as I've mentioned, the Bible directly tells us that the environment that we are witnessing today in our western nations, is stated in the Bible as a sign that God has stepped back and handed over a culture, because of their disobedience, to Satan. Allowing him to take the reins and go wild with them. In Romans 1 we'll see this directly stated in the Bible. As we read through this, there are three different times in the verses we're going to read, the language:

We gave them up, or we gave them over.

It's basically saying He gives them over to a debased mind, to follow debauchery. Just think about the spiritual forces, the war that is going on behind the scenes in our world. We fight not against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers.

The book of Job gives us a really good idea of how this works; we won't turn there, I've covered this many times in the past. It explains how God is taking Satan as a servant and he's like a dog on a leash and God always controls how much leeway he gives in the leash. It explains here, when a culture has rejected God and insists on going their own way, He gives Satan greater slack in the leash and allows Satan to run with it. He tells a culture, "If you insist on going your own way, I'm going to let you reap the rewards of that. You're not going to enjoy it but I'll let you have your way—it's going to go badly."

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*
19) *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*
20) *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead ... (NKJV)*

If you look up the Greek for *godhead* it's really referring to "His divinity or nature", it's not referring to a trinitarian concept.

- 20 continued) ... so that they are without excuse,
21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
22) Professing to be wise, they became fools,
23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
24) Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, [that's the first reference, I mentioned this is stated three times in these verses] *in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*
25) *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*
26) *For this reason, God gave them up [that's number two] to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. (NKJV)*

What's being described here is lesbianism and homosexuality.

- 27) *Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*
28) *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over [that's reference number three] to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*
29) *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,*
30) *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*
31) *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*
32) *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (NKJV)*

As I mentioned in the introduction, we have a culture that is trying to force these kinds of values upon us. So even if you don't take part in it, they want to approve of those who practice it. It's referred to as, "You should be an ally". In other words, if you're not a part of the life style, you should promote it, be in favor of it and cheer for it. That's what they call being "an ally". That's what the culture is trying to turn us into. As we're going to see there are numerous examples in the Bible where it attaches this kind of gender confusion and debauchery with the destruction of a society. You're basically seeing a society on the brink of self destruction. The reason being, as this chapter is laid out, once the rebellion gets to this level, God gives them up. He steps back and says, "If you want to do your own thing, have at it."

What happens is the loss of the basic foundation of male and female; something so obvious as just the basic that there are only two genders. People become confused over issues like that and that's what is happening.

We'll see numerous times in the Bible this is correlated with the destruction of a society. In Leviticus 18, we see another example of this. We're going to read through this chapter and if you have a New King James like I do, it has the subheadings in it. You will see over chapter 18 it talks about the laws of *sexual morality*. What I want you to notice as we read through this, in the later part of this chapter God states that committing all the sins that He is laying out are the reasons why He is kicking the Canaanites out of the Promised Land. He's saying, this is why I'm wiping them out, because they performed all these sins—they practiced this. He warns the Israelites, if you take on these sins you're going to get thrust out of the land as well. Your society is going to collapse too. I want you to pay attention as we read through this, it is talking about the laws of sexual morality but most of what's covered here is not the simple rule that sexuality should be confined to a marriage—which is what the Bible teaches—this is way further into the issue of debauchery. This is not just that they had committed relationships and couples were just fooling around before they got married. That's sin but this goes way beyond those types of things. The majority of this chapter goes into defining incest on pretty much every combination. It gets very specific on nailing down every form of incest you could think of. It also addresses homosexuality and bestiality. What we are talking about is very depraved, debaucherous behavior that just throws away basic morality.

Leviticus 18:1 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

2) *"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: I am the LORD your God.*

3) *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.*

6) *None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. (NKJV)*

Notice that emphasis on "your kin" because most of what's covered here is different versions of that. He's basically forbidding all forms of incest.

7) *The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness.*

8) *The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness.*

9) *The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.*

- 10) *The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness.*
- 11) *The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she is your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness.*
- 12) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father.*
- 13) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother.*
- 14) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.*
- 15) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness.*
- 16) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.*
- 17) *You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness.*
- 18) *Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.*
- 19) *'Also, you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.*
- 20) *Moreover, you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.*
- 21) *And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. (NKJV)*

Notice it's referring to passing your children through the fire to Molech. This is basically child sacrifice. Today we think of it more clinically and call it "abortion", but it's basically the same thing. When you have a society of rampant sexual immorality the natural result is you wind up with a lot of unwanted pregnancies and children. We do that today through what we call "abortion". Back then they didn't have the science to do it that way, they just did it through child sacrifice, throwing the child into the fire. But it's still the murder of children—it's just done in a different manner. You can see we have this same culture he is describing here going on today.

- 22) *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.*
- 23) *Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.*
- 24) *Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. (NKJV)*

The reason He is wiping out the Canaanites and is done with their society, is because of all this perversion. This correlates with the end—the destruction—of a civilization.

- 25) *For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.*

26) *You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you.*

27) *(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled),*

28) *lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you.*

29) *For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people.*

30) *Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God. ” ’(NKJV)*

We see the same signs of this when you see this rampant gender confusion, sexual debauchery, this is an indication of a civilization on the brink of destruction and God is about to bring about its end. We'll see this several times throughout the Bible. We see another example of this in Genesis 19 where we see the famous story of Sodom and Gomorrah. To fully appreciate this story, you need to understand the end of chapter 18. I'm not going to take the time to read it but I will summarize it because it puts a little more context into what happens in chapter 19.

In chapter 18 God has a conversation with Abraham, basically gives him a “heads up” that He is aware of what is going on in Sodom and Gomorrah and He's about to go and destroy it as a result. Abraham is thinking, “My nephew Lot lives over there and I don't want him to get caught up with this.” So, he starts negotiating with God. This plays out with the numbers over time and just to make a long story short, it ends with an agreement between Abraham and God that if God finds ten righteous people there, He promises that He won't wipe out the city. If there is at least ten people who are righteous and try to live a good life. We know as a result of the fact that He still burns up the city and takes Lot and his family out, there's not even ten people in this area who are living a righteous life at all. So that puts a context on what we are about to read.

Genesis 19:1 *Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.*

2) *And he said, “Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.”*

And they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.”

3) *But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.*

4) *Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. (NKJV)*

Notice how that's worded. It says basically *everybody from around the area*. You could argue if that was every single person from around the area or not—you might debate

that issue. But let's keep in mind, there weren't even ten righteous people in the city. So obviously what is happening here is representative of the entire area and the culture of what is taking place. Whether it's every single person or not, it's representative of the culture and the conduct of the area and of what is taking place.

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 know them carnally."

6) So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him,

7) and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!

8) See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

9) And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

10) But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

11) And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door. (NKJV)

Once again, as we know how the story ends, God brings down fire and brimstone and wipes out the city. If you notice the behavior, also notice what happens. First of all, Lot—we'll talk about this later in the sermon—while he is certainly better than the people around the area, look at what his solution to the problem was. They were wanting to commit homosexual rape on the men who were there, but his solution was not to do that. "Take my daughters and just do heterosexual gang rape on them." I certainly wouldn't want to be Lot's daughter and be treated like that. We can see how the culture has very much affected his character. He's better than the culture around him but he's honestly, just a milder version in terms of how it has perverted his character. Notice also, all he did to them was suggest not to do homosexual rape, do heterosexual rape. Their response was, "This guy judges us, how dare he say this." Think about that—you can see a lot of similarities in our culture today. If you suggest something is wrong with this kind of culture, you're full of hate, you're a hateful person, you're phobic and bad. And you're like, "No I'm just suggesting that people shouldn't act this badly." But you're put down because you're supposed to be "an ally". You're supposed to praise it, you're supposed to be a part of it, approve of it and cheer for it and if you don't, you're a bad person. Don't we have the same kind of culture today? That's exactly what's happening here and why we are watching the demise of western civilization. We are on the verge of self destruction. I would not be surprised in the next few decades if we see the collapse of a lot of western nations from within. They don't need an external force to attack; we'll destroy ourselves from within.

We're going to see here, that oftentimes we talk about the fact that the structure of society is based on the family. The breakdown of the family is what causes all manner of social problems and a society to cave in. What I want you to see throughout this sermon is, what we're seeing with the demise of a society, with rampant debauchery and homosexuality and gender confusion, that is kind of the end of the movie you might say. What we're going to see is where this starts in the progression of how it begins in a minor way and slowly works its way there. It starts with the undermining of biblical gender roles and then the undermining of the family structure. Then slowly works its way, over time, to absolute collapse. Notice first, Exodus 20. I want you to see how just the family structure itself is aligned with the successful survival of a culture and of a nation. I gave a sermon on the 5th commandment about a year ago and I commented that the promise of the 5th commandment is not about individual long life. It's not the issue that *if I honor my parents that guarantees I'm going to live a long life*. No, it's about the survival of a nation and its national security because of how important the family structure is to it. Let's read here Exodus 20:12.

Exodus 20:12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. (NJKV)*

He is attaching this specifically to, this is the very important way that you extend your time living in the Promised Land. The whole issue—the whole covenant, Israel's part of the agreement—God's part of the agreement was, I'm going to bless you, I'm going to give you this land and look after you. Their part of the agreement was, they would obey Him and follow His commandments.

What is interesting, all ten of these commandments are important. They're all His instructions, they're all things they are required to do. But this one He specifically ties to, you want to live long in the land, then this one is pivotal to that.

Because the family structure is very important to a successful society. Once your nuclear family falls apart, your society is in trouble. If you just think about it, if you're going to raise children to where they are going to grow up with a healthy respect for their parents and honor their parents and be well behaved, what is fundamental to that? Mom and dad have to have a good relationship and get along with each and be setting the right example. Because if a child is raised in chaos and mom and dad are fighting with each other and dysfunctional, that's going to mess up how the child's raised and have a multigenerational affect. Where this comes back to is, mom and dad have to be setting the right example in how they raise the children. This brings it back to the subject of marriage. What we're going to see is, from the Bible's perspective the critical issue with marriage comes down to biblical gender roles.

I gave a multiple sermon series on this several years ago, I want to say, back in 2016 and they're all on the website so I'm only going to touch on the subject today. One of the things I mentioned in that series was, if you go into a bookstore today anywhere in the U.S., you're going to find that a section in the store will be about relationships, marriage, self-helps and such and you'll find all sorts of books and material there. As I

mentioned in that sermon series, there can be anything from edifying and helpful information to pure garbage and all things in between. There will be a lot of different angles that they will look at—information that in many cases might be helpful in helping a marriage relationship. But the interesting thing is if you look at what the Bible focuses on, whenever it focuses on marriage, there is a very clear focus, very consistent focus when it talks about it and that's gender roles. It flies in the face of everything that our culture is talking about today. It starts with the concept that there are 2 genders. There are men, there are women, there is no such thing as in between roles and those gender roles are uniquely different. There is a role for a husband, there is a role for a wife and they are uniquely defined as different and they are not interchangeable. If they are correctly done, they work well together and create a synergism that creates a productive, healthy family. Let's briefly look at this, in Ephesians 5:22.

Ephesians 5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

23) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

24) Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28) So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

30) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

31) "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32) This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33) Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (NKJV)

What you'll notice as you read through particularly the New Testament, through Paul's and even Peter's writings on the subject, you'll always see it defined as not just spouses do X, it's always, husbands here are your roles and wives here are your roles and if you're both performing, this it will work well together".

It doesn't teach it as unisex, as something that is interchangeable and all the same. You're probably aware that our society just thinks that is just anathema; that is just sexist and archaic to even suggest such a thing, that there could be separate roles. This is where it starts. You start with basically rejecting those roles and then it gets to where we are today where there is no such thing as gender. Gender is just a spectrum and you just identify with whatever you want to. Men can be women and women can be men

and we get into insanity. Everything is just blurred and we wind up with chaos and a complete societal breakdown. This is at the core of where the problem is.

In Genesis 3, I want you to see, as I mentioned, it starts off with the undermining of biblical gender roles. That is the beginning of the problem, it ends up with societal destruction. It's a slow process that undermines over time. We're going to start off with where everything went wrong in the Garden of Eden and you'll see that this is fundamental to the process. Before we read this section in Genesis 3, I want to get some context in Genesis 2:15.

Genesis 2:15 *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

16) *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*

17) *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

18) *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (NKJV)*

Continuing to verse 21).

21) *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.*

22) *Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

23) *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

24) *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

25) *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (NKJV)*

There's a reason why I started in chapter 2. I'm going to add a little speculation and opinion. But what I want you to see is when we read through chapter 3 how Satan played upon the weaknesses of both the man and woman—he was very strategic; he knew what both of their "hot buttons" were and played upon that to get them both to sin. I want you to see the total breakdown in how gender roles should have played out because that was fundamental to where everything went awry. I read this is to notice God created Adam first. There's some gap in time between when He creates Adam and when He creates Eve—the Bible doesn't tell us how long that gap of time is. It records for us that God gives Adam the instructions of, "You can touch everything in the garden but the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, don't touch that." There is no recording of God directly having this conversation with Eve present. When He has this conversation Eve hadn't been created yet. This is speculation but we're going to see it's very consistent with what the New Testament says about gender roles. As we're going to see in a minute the New Testament very much says the husband is supposed to be the

spiritual leader in the family. Teaching spiritual principles is a responsibility given to men and men are supposed to be the leader of the family. Not that women shouldn't study and have their part as well, but that leadership role is given to the man. It would be very consistent with that to speculate that when God created Eve, He entrusted Adam with the role of passing this information on to her, because that is very consistent with what we are about to read in the New Testament. Regardless of how it happens we know from when chapter 3 starts, Eve is obviously already familiar with these instructions. We can tell that with her conversation with Satan in the Garden. Let's notice what plays out in chapter 3 because we're going to see the inherent weaknesses of both men and women that Satan played upon. He was very strategic; he knew exactly how to play this game.

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*

2) *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;*

3) *but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "* (NKJV)

So obviously Eve is aware of the instructions. Either God may have told her that directly or may have entrusted Adam to do it. But either way, Eve was aware of it.

4) *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.*

5) *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

6) *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

7) *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.* (NKJV)

If we analyze what took place, we will realize that Satan was very skillful in how he went about this. He understood the psychological make up of both of the parties involved and he knew how to play the chess game to his advantage. Also keep in mind—and we're going to read this in the New Testament in just a minute—the New Testament definitively tells us, *Eve was deceived by this, Adam wasn't*. We can get some insight as to what's going with this. If we look at the logic of the argument that Satan makes to Eve. This should actually sound very familiar because it's an argument that plays out in our culture all the time. It tells us it's just the psychology of women—Satan knew what he was doing and knew how to punch the buttons of both sexes. What does he approach Eve with?

“Eve, God is cheating you out of equality. He knows if you eat this, you’ll be equal with Him and He is cheating you out of your equality—He’s oppressing you. Eve, you’re in need of empowerment, eat this fruit, it is empowering.”

Does that argument not sound familiar? That is exactly how women today get sold on the most ridiculous ideas in the world. Don’t get me wrong, I’m going to pick on the men in a minute. Let me just show you how this argument plays out in our culture today.

“Kill your children through abortion, it’s empowering. Be sexual promiscuous, sleep with lots of men, make an Only Fans account and expose yourself through pornographic pictures to the whole world, it’s empowering you.”

The most self-destructive, evil things in the world can get sold, but how is the packaging done? Men get talked into lots of evil things too. But how is it packaged to women? It’s almost always packaged as *empowerment*. You’re being victimized and being cheated out of equality and you need *empowerment*. He punched this button because it’s been working for thousands of years. It is something that appeals to the psychology of women. They think more emotionally.

He got the man too. It wasn’t like Adam performed well. Adam totally failed in his role as well. As we’re going to see in the New Testament. Adam wasn’t deceived. Eve sincerely believed what the snake told her. She’s thinking, “I have enlightenment and been empowered” and she thinks this is true. We know for a fact from the New Testament that’s not what Adam thought, so what was going on with him? He’s obviously appeasing her. I’m going to try not to get graphic with this, but I want to be honest. What are the obvious weaknesses of men? Their visual appeal to women and particularly their sex drive. All we have to do is look at history and just look at advertising. How often do you see products marketed to men and in one way or another there is an attractive woman in a bikini or some outfit and they are using sex appeal to appeal to men and talk them into things. Men have an inherent weakness with the level of testosterone that they have and their visual appeal to women that if they start letting their hormones do their thinking for them, they don’t do logical or intelligent things and they get led into being very, very stupid. Not only is it the sex appeal but the desire to appease or impress a woman they care about. All you have to do is look at the example of Solomon. The wisest man who ever lived and what was his downfall? His wives; he was seduced by their beauty and “I want to be with all these beautiful women”. Then he lets his lust and sex drive, drive him and then he wants to appease them and make them happy so he starts building temples to their gods. Totally leads them off path, regardless of how wise he was because that is an inherent weakness of men.

Adam has a naked woman standing in front of him, talking him into doing this. He also has a wife who has been emotionally deceived by what the snake told her. What he should have done was just taken a stance and said, “Don’t you remember, God said don’t do this”. This was a very black and white issue, it’s very simple, God said “Don’t do it.” there’s really nothing else involved. What he likely would have heard was, “Adam, you never listen to what I have to say, you must not love me, you never care about my

feelings”. That could have gotten a lot more complicated and he’s trying to avoid these things—he’s appeasing and goes along with it. As we’re going to see, even in the example of Solomon and examples with Ancient Israel, very often this happened where Satan used women he deceived, to get to the men and play upon their weaknesses. This is typically how this plays out.

To reinforce what I mentioned about gender roles, in 1 Corinthians 14 and you’ll see why I speculate that God probably gave Adam the instructions to instruct Eve and to pass on to her the instructions that He had given about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Again, that is just opinion and speculation—but this is what I base it upon.

1 Corinthians 14:34 *Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35) And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.* (NKJV)

He’s speaking more of teaching in church, it’s not that women don’t have brains or have opinions, that’s not what I’m trying to say. I’m pointing out the fact of the role of spiritual leadership that the husband is supposed to have in the family. This is emphasized several times in the New Testament. In 1 Timothy 2 is where we will see that we can know conclusively from the Bible that Eve was deceived. When Satan approached her in the Garden and gave her his sales pitch, she sincerely believed the line of bull that he gave her. Whereas Adam wasn’t sucked into that, there were different motivations that caused him to go astray.

1 Timothy 2:11 *Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12) And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.* (NKJV)

This is how we know conclusively that Adam wasn’t deceived but Eve was. As I mentioned, they both messed up and we didn’t read the rest of the story but once God confronts them, nobody takes responsibility for their behavior. Both parties start pointing the finger and blaming everybody else but themselves. But they both messed up. You see the undermining of the roles that should have happened. Eve doesn’t go and ask Adam about any of this or discuss it with him, she just takes action and then goes and tells him, *I found empowerment and enlightenment* and starts leading him and then he doesn’t take a stand and try to be a leader, he appeases and follows along and everything falls apart.

As we’re going to see, in the Garden of Eden this is where everything starts to go wrong. But society’s destruction happens in Genesis 6 when we have the flood. I want you to see the same correlation of the family structure and the undermining of it, played

a big role in this as well. In Genesis 6; this is—to give you a broad number—1600-1700 years after the Garden of Eden. We'll see in Genesis 6 what led up to the flood.

- Genesis 6:1** *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,*
2) *that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*
3) *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."*
4) *There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*
5) *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.*
7) *So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."*
8) *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. (NKJV)*

This is where we wind up with society's destruction and God saying it has gotten so evil, I have to wipe it out. To understand the dynamics of what is happening, the first thing we have to do is unpack this phrase "sons of God". A lot of wild speculation and concepts come about from these couple of verses. It says the "sons of God" get with the daughters of men and then they have children and it connects this with everything going awry and society becoming so evil that God says He just has to wipe it out. We have to understand what this getting at because people make wild speculations that this must be about angelic beings somehow mating with human women and you have these hybrid offspring and just wild theories as a result which is not at all what this is talking about. The key to understanding is realizing the phrase "sons of God" is used numerous times throughout the Bible and it can refer to human beings or spirit beings, but the distinction it's making is those who are trying to faithfully obey God versus those who are not. That's the distinction playing out. Keep your finger here in Genesis 6 but let's look at a handful of scriptures so you understand how this phrase is used. Beginning with Matthew 5 we will quickly look at a handful of scriptures that use this phrase because I want you to see the trend of how this phrase is used. The distinction of what this phrase is getting at refers to, those who are obeying God versus those who don't.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. (NKJV)*

It says we will be called *the sons of God*, those who are following God's instructions to be *peacemakers*. They are going to be referred to as *sons of God*. So, the whole issue is who is obeying Him. Turn to Galatians 3—just quickly look at a few scriptures for you to see there is a very clear trend in scripture.

Galatians 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus*
27) *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
28) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
29) *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NKJV)*

Again, you see this concept of *sons of God* are those who are faithfully obeying God and following His way. We're going to see the Bible will contrast *sons of God, children of God* with *children of Satan*. Let's look at one more example in Romans 8:12.

Romans 8:12 *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*
13) *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
14) *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*
15) *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*
16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
17) *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)*

The contrast with this is children of the devil. Turn to John 8:42.

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.*
43) *Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.*
44) *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (NKJV)*

You see this contrast—*sons of God* are those who are trying to obey God and follow Him faithfully, being *children of the devil* is not the issue of the devil created them or is responsible for their existence, they are following his way of life. They're following his character; they're being more molded into his image in terms of how they're behaving. That's the distinction here. The term, *sons of God*, is also used to refer to angelic beings in the same type of context. Turn to Job 1 and we'll see a couple of references because I want you to see it's used the same way with angelic beings just like it is with humans.

Job 1:6 *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. (NKJV)*

There's a meeting with the angels and he says the sons of God came before the Father and Satan came too. Satan's not included in the definition of "sons of God." Satan is a created angelic being as well, but when he rebelled and went in the other direction and in an evil way of life, he no longer meets the definition of "sons of God" because it's about those who obey Him. Look in Job 2:1 and we'll see the same thing again.

Job 2:1 *Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. (NKJV)*

That same contrast, we have the *sons of God*—the righteous angels and then Satan because he doesn't meet that definition. With all that in mind turn back to Genesis 6 and we can have a context of what is happening here. We'll start back in verse 1 because I want to unpack this as we read through it.

Genesis 6:1 *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
2) that the sons of God [those who were righteously following God] saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful [notice the human weakness there, they're being sucked in by beauty and visual appeal and where they are going to go wrong]; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. (NKJV)*

Notice *the daughters of men*, if you're contrasting this with the *sons of God*, what you obviously have is those descendants of Adam and Eve as the world grew, who've tried to follow the true God and tried to be righteous versus those who have rebelled and gone their own way. So now you have the same mistake Solomon made. You have the men who were trying to faithfully follow God, who look at women who are not and saying, "she really is pretty though, I really would like a girl that pretty" and not thinking that her value system, her way of life and how she conducts herself is not in line with God's way. It doesn't matter how nice looking she is, this is a bad idea. They're not thinking with the brain so they start making bad decisions. That's what is happening here.

*3) And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
4) There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (NKJV)*

Notice right after they have these children together and form these marriages, what happens in the next verse?

5) 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. (NKJV)

It ended badly. It probably took a period of time for this to play out but the end result of this was a train wreck.

6) *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

7) *So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."*

8) *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. (NKJV)*

Notice what happened here, you have the *sons of God*—men who are trying to live a righteous life and follow God and what happens? They get seduced with their lust—*those women are nice and attractive; I think I want to get with her*—and not thinking: “Is her value system trying to follow God and live a righteous life? Is this someone I should plan my life with?” If you had been thinking logically like that, you wouldn’t go down this road. This is something the Bible warns us against repeatedly. Let’s notice a brief section of this, turn to Deuteronomy 7. There are warnings on this in both the Old and New Testament, we’re just going to notice one reference that Moses warned Israel about—about this very thing—and what the result would be.

Deuteronomy 7:1 *“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2) and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.*

3) *Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.*

4) *For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. (NKJV)*

Unfortunately, in the past, sometimes these scriptures got interpreted as somehow a racial issue of interracial marriage—that’s not the focus of what Moses is talking about. Notice his logic is not, you’re going to mix your bloodlines, it’s they have very pagan practices, they worship other gods and if you enter into marriage with them it’s going to wind up corrupting you because you’re going to have to figure out how to get along with them and how to raise the children. All these other issues are going to come up and you’ll wind up compromising your values and going away from God to just try to make peace and get along with each other. You just look at the example of Solomon and that’s exactly—the wisest man to ever live—is his undoing because that’s the weakness of men. As I mentioned, you see this trend that starts in the Garden of Eden, how did it start with undermining gender roles? When one of the things being, the husband is supposed to be the spiritual leader and what do we have in Genesis 6? What’s the final straw that is the destruction of society? Tearing apart the family structure, the

abandonment of the proper biblical gender roles and it results in a society becoming so evil that God has to destroy it.

What we're seeing in our culture today—rampant debauchery, gender confusion—we could easily look at that and say, “that’s just someone saying, I want no part of that” but we have to remember where it starts. It doesn’t start that severe, it starts with compromising basic gender roles and then slowly over time works in that direction. The Bible directly tells us, these very issues are going to be a problem at the end time as well. In Luke 17, I want you to notice the examples that Christ ties to the end time.

Luke 17:26 *And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*

27) They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28) Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29) but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30) Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (NKJV)

Obviously, His focus is on the fact that the society was going on, day to day life was normal and the destruction came upon them quickly. But if we look at other things in these stories, what happens? The basic undermining of basic gender roles. Society slowly becoming so evil that it’s then just full of complete debauchery. Where even just the basic foundation of society that there are men and women and the roles they’re supposed to play, totally falls apart and society gets destroyed. We are specifically warned about this in terms of the end time—turn to Isaiah 3. We’ll see where he is describing what the end time is going to be like and I want you to notice the specific reference to the breakdown of the family and biblical gender roles. If you read through Isaiah 2—it starts off a section addressing the millennium and you’ll see the rest of the chapter clearly addressing the day of the Lord. That theme carries into chapter 3, so it’s that very end time frame that we’re talking about. We’re going to break into the context and start in verse 8.

Isaiah 3:8 *For Jerusalem stumbled, And Judah is fallen, Because their tongue and their doings Are against the LORD, To provoke the eyes of His glory.*

9) The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.

10) Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

11) Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, For the reward of his hands shall be given him.

12) As for My people, children are their oppressors, And women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, And destroy the way of your paths.” (NKJV)

Notice the family structure has fallen apart. You don't have proper male leadership—the spiritual leader of the family—and you have wild, unruly children. You have the complete breakdown of the nuclear family. This is what ultimately results in a society falling apart to destruction. What we in the church of God need to be aware of—an observation I've made over the years just watching the culture and environment that we see in the church of God—often we see how far astray the culture around us has gone. For example, I doubt any of us would be in favor of the Pride Month celebration and the transgender issues and homosexuality and that kind of thing. We clearly see that as debauchery and want no part of it. But often what can happen to us in the church of God, is sometimes we become milder versions of the culture around us. We become infected and influenced by the culture around us and we're not as evil and as bad down the road as where the culture has gone but we unfortunately have moved in that direction more than we realize. We have allowed the culture to affect us. That is exactly what happened to Lot. Turn to 2 Peter 2 because this is what we in the church of God need to be on the lookout for. I don't think any of us want to embrace the culture that we are in but we need to be aware of how it may have affected us.

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6) and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7) 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)— (NKJV)*

In other words, he was very affected by the culture around him. We've already seen, he has the mob coming around his house demanding that the angels be sent out to them because they want to commit gang rape in a homosexual manner with the men that are there—the angels. But what is Lot's solution? Don't be so evil to do homosexual gang rape, do heterosexual gang rape—take my daughters. I wouldn't want to be his daughter to be treated like that; that's a weak response to it all. He's not as bad as the culture around him but this is not "Father of the year" material. It is pretty embarrassing the way this guy behaved. Let's look at how it affected the whole family and see that living in this environment, even though they were much better than the culture around them, they were very affected by living in the environment that they were in.

Genesis 19:30 *Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. 31) Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.*

32) *Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.*”

33) *So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.*

34) *It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.”*

35) *Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.*

36) *Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. (NKJV)*

What played out here is what we would typically refer today as date rape. They drugged him and had sex with Lot. Think about this. There is a whole slew of dynamics that show you just how far off the track this whole family wound up. They let the culture around them greatly affect them. They weren't as bad as the culture around them; they could look at the rest of the culture and say, “Look how bad these people in Sodom and Gomorrah are.” and that was true. They hadn't a lot to brag about either in terms of their own character. That is what we need to be aware of. As I mentioned from the beginning of this sermon, what we're witnessing today is literally the demise of western civilization. The culture that we're watching, the debauchery, the gender confusion—these are all clear indications that we are in Romans 1 territory. We are at the end of a civilization and it's just a matter of time before all this caves in and it all falls apart. That's not something we are going to be able to change or alter. What we can do is try to guard our own spiritual condition and be aware of how that culture might be affecting us. It ends with this severe debauchery and gender confusion; it starts with just compromising on biblical gender roles and compromising on the roles that the Bible plays out in Paul's Epistles and Peter's writings as well about how the family structure should be. As we go forward from this sabbath, looking at the culture around us, we are living in dire times. We are watching the demise of a civilization and we're just going to have to trust in God to get us through whatever is going to happen in the years ahead. What we need to be aware of is watching the influence the culture has on our personal character so that we don't fall into the same bad example of Lot. Let's be aware of where it starts and be guarding our own character.