

PROPHETIC UPDATE

THE AMERICA-LOT PARALLEL: THE **ABUNDANCE** OF IDLENESS

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HOSE FAMILIAR with the four gospels are aware of Christ's discourse in which He revealed numerous signs that would occur prior to His return. He compared the days approaching His return to the events found in the biblical narratives of Lot and Noah.

Luke records Christ's prediction in Luke 17:26-29:

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise, also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all." (KJV)

Ezekiel rebuked Judah and Jerusalem for the same sins that brought God's wrath on Sodom:

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore, I took them away as I saw good."

- Ezekiel 16:49-50 (KJV)

Ezekiel points to several activities in Sodom that are not mentioned in the New Testament. He speaks of pride and calls the population "haughty," which is like saying they are arrogant or feel superior and above others. This was a wealthy city along a major trade route. Jewish history indicates that the city had numerous strangers and out of town visitors passing through, often spending the night. There are stories about how the people in Sodom would manipulate visitors to steal their possessions and wealth. Ezekiel also indicates that the people of Sodom were unfriendly and unhelpful to the poor within their own city. He alludes to "the abundance of idleness."

LOCKDOWNS AND LAZINESS

Idleness can be defined as "a state of inactivity and inaction; to be lazy and indolent." This "lazy spirit" is evident from coast to coast in the United States, especially among the younger generation, many of whom seem to have little work ethic. After the initial COVID lockdowns, when towns were beginning to open for business, the majority could not get workers back on the job, as they were now accustomed to staying home and collecting a government check. Many businesses are closed and others are limiting their hours. Local managers and store su-

pervisors are telling me they have a shortage of workers. Over half the nation wants to work from home, and the younger generation is now refusing to work in fast food restaurants for minimum wage, and are requiring at least \$15.00 an hour to flip burgers, which will raise the cost of food.

Paul warned that in the last days, men would give attention to "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1). In Sodom, both the old and young men were meeting after sunset and committing *abominations* with each other. An entire mob was intent on beating the door of Lot's house down to have sexual encounters with two male strangers (angels in the form of men). This is an historic example of what Paul warned of to occur in the last days.

IDLE CHURCH MEMBERS

When churches were shut down and the world's nations went into lockdown, the people became used to not getting cleaning themselves up and going to church. Week after week, most Christians sat in pajamas, drinking coffee and eating their breakfast burritos, lazily soaking in someone's message through social media to satisfy their spiritual appetite. It takes about 21 days to form a habit. This lack of church attendance went on for weeks, and in some regions for months. Now, tens of thousands of Christians do not attend any service, either on Saturday or Sunday. It is easier to stay home and watch television on a couch instead of putting gas in your car and joining in the local fellowship.

One of the parallel signs of Lot's-day is "the abundance of idleness" or the "abundance of laziness." Many in the next generation have their iPhone glued in their hand and sit at a laptop hours every day, doing nothing but reading other people's gossip and watching videos.

In Proverbs, the word "sluggard" is used to identify a lazy person. A sluggard loves to sleep (Prov. 6:9) and will end up in poverty (Prov. 13:4). A sluggard always uses the weather as an excuse not to work (Prov. 20:4). Because he is too lazy to plant seed, he will never have a harvest, causing him "to beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4). A sluggard will think he is smarter than seven other men and cannot reason with others (Prov. 26:16). In the Torah, God promises to bless the "works of your hands" (Deut. 2:7; 16:15). *God blesses work and not laziness.*

In Paul's day, men were the breadwinners in the family. Paul boldly taught that if any man could work but was too lazy to do so, then he should not eat (2 Thess. 3:8-10). Discover your gifts, using them to bless others and to bless yourself. 🙏