

## THE LAW OF CUMULATIVE SIN by Dr. Scott Lively, June 27, 2021

Throughout the Bible we see evidence of a fundamental law that governs God's Creation regarding the cumulative effect of human sin, especially upon the Holy Land, but the entire earth as well, and, indeed all of Creation (Romans 8:22). It is a corollary to the Law of Sabbath which requires every seventh day (and year) to be a "Sabbath" or rest period: not primarily for the people, but for the land.

As one of the original laws of Creation (Genesis 2:1-3), the Law of Sabbath pre-dates but is an essential tenet of the Mosaic Code in Leviticus 23:3 and 25:1-12 which chapters establish God's worship-based time and order-keeping system of Feasts and Shemitahs (cycles of sevens) for what would eventually become known as Judeo-Christian civilization.

The Law of Cumulative Sin is most clearly recognized in its regulation of punishment for violating the Law of Sabbath, as detailed in Leviticus 26, the entirety of which is devoted to this topic.

Leviticus 26:2-13 first restates the Law of Sabbath and the promise of blessing for keeping it: *"You must keep My Sabbaths and have reverence for My sanctuary. I am the LORD. If you follow My statutes and carefully keep My commandments, I will give you rains in their season, and the land will yield its produce, and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. Your threshing will continue until the grape harvest, and the grape harvest will continue until sowing time; you will have your fill of food to eat and will dwell securely in your land..."*

Leviticus 26:14-39 then details a series of escalating punishments that grow more severe at each level for lack of repentance, ending with the final consequence: desolation from the land:

*"If, however, you fail to obey Me and to carry out all these commandments, and if you reject My statutes, despise My ordinances, and neglect to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant, then this is what I will do to you... But if in spite of all this you do not obey Me, but continue to walk in hostility toward Me, then I will walk in fury against you, and I, even I, will punish you sevenfold for your sins. You will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters....I will scatter you*

*among the nations and will draw out a sword after you as your land becomes desolate and your cities are laid waste....Those of you who survive in the lands of your enemies will waste away in their iniquity and will decay in the sins of their fathers."*

Importantly, Leviticus 26:34 clarifies the primary purpose of the desolation:

*"Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate, while you are in the land of your enemies. At that time the land will rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not receive during the Sabbaths when you lived in it."*

And finally, Leviticus 26:40-46 states that if the people finally repent after being removed from the land, they will be spared from total destruction by God, but will still be required pay for their sins through captivity until the land has been cleansed of the consequences of their sins:

*"But if they will confess their iniquity and that of their fathers in the unfaithfulness that they practiced against Me...then I will remember My covenant with Jacob and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. For the land will be abandoned by them, and it will enjoy its Sabbaths by lying desolate without them. And they will pay the penalty for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and abhorred My statutes. Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject or despise them so as to destroy them."*

Leviticus 26 was prophetic of the desolation of first Israel and then Judah, with, for example, the very specific and horrific consequence of cannibalism recorded in Samaria, the capital city of Israel in 2 Kings 6:28-29 and in Jerusalem, capital of Judah, in Lamentations 4:10. And it was prophetic regarding the remedy of the desolation of both Israel and Judah for the sake of the land as best recognized regarding Judah in 2 Chronicles 36:21 *"So the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation, until seventy years were completed, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD through Jeremiah."*

The Law of Cumulative sin can be seen throughout the Bible as a law binding upon all people, not just

the Hebrews. For example, when God promised the Holy Land to Abraham's descendants (through Jacob's line), He told Abraham *"In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete"* (Genesis:15:16). The accumulation of the Amorites' sin would not mature to the point of justifying God's wrath until that future time.

And in Ezekiel 35:15 we see a reference to the desolation of Edom that also references the desolation of Israel: *"As you rejoiced when the inheritance of the house of Israel became desolate, so will I do to you. You will become a desolation, O Mount Seir, and so will all of Edom."*

In other words, the growth of sin in a people or nation follows the same sequence as in an individual, as described in James 1:13-15: *"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."* It is the fruit of choices made by people and nations which ripens over the course of a season, until the time of harvest.

In the case of the Amorites (Canaanites), that harvest of death/desolation of the land is described in Leviticus 18:24-28 *"Do not defile yourselves by any of these practices, for by all these things the nations I am driving out before you have defiled themselves. Even the land has become defiled, so I am punishing it for its sin [primarily incest, child-killing, homosexuality and bestiality], and the land will vomit out its inhabitants. But you are to keep My statutes and ordinances, and you must not commit any of these abominations —neither your native-born nor the foreigner who lives among you. For the men who were in the land before you committed all these abominations, and the land has become defiled. So if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it spewed out the nations before you."*

Regarding the final judgment on the sin accumulated during the Age of the Gentiles which

will likely soon be unleashed as an early event of the thousand year Day of the Lord, John writes in Revelation 14:18-19:

*"Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out in a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle, 'Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe. So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.'"*

Importantly, the preceding passage invokes both the "Angel with Authority Over the Fire" and the symbol of the "Grapes of Wrath" – a clear association with Sodom per Jude 1:7:

*"[J]ust as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these angels indulged in sexual perversion and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire."*

And per Deuteronomy 32:32-33 *"their vine is from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are poisonous; their clusters are bitter. Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras."*

[Note: **While this discussion has focused on the consequence of Sabbath-breaking, it is in the next section that we discover why. It is because Sabbath-keeping (obedience) was in essence a "pressure release valve" for accumulated sin, the only other remedy for which was total sincere repentance (a form of sacrifice) which must occur BEFORE sin accumulates to the point of triggering wrath per Lev. 26:40-46. It is the sin itself that brings the wrath, which is why "Gay Pride" is so dangerous, and why the sudden trend of "celebrating" abortion elevates it to the same level of extreme provocation of God.**

***Pride and Celebration are the very opposite of repentance.***

WOKE Americans *"parade their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have done evil to themselves"* (Isaiah 3:9).

To be continued...