***The Abominations of Scripture

RV211-01***

We are studying "Ecclesiastical Babylon" in Revelation 17, and this is segment number 6.

**The Harlot Woman of Babylon**

The harlot woman of Babylon which John sees in his vision is the false religion invented by Nimrod centuries ago in Babel. This religion is based on the worship of idols which leads to abominable practices as idolatry always does. It is a shameless system of evil which appeals to the old sin nature of its devotees, and therefore, it has many followers. The religion of Babel finds various expressions in the religions of the world, but primarily in Roman Catholicism. None of those expressions of the Babel religion can bring peace to its devotees. That's the sad part about it. They all encourage the indulgence of the various lust patterns of the old sin nature. That in turn creates a sense of moral guilt. There's no peace in the hearts of the followers of these religious systems.

The true god of these religions, which are an offshoot of Babylon, is Satan himself. Babylonianism includes practices which God calls abominations. That means things which are spiritually disgusting and vile. These are loathsome things. Babylonianism is based on pantheism, polytheism, astrology, evolution, occultism, illicit and perverted sex, human sacrifices, and spiritism. All of those things are in full force in the world today.

**A Mystery**

The religion of Babylon is symbolized here in Revelation 17 by a woman whom God calls the harlot because she is unfaithful to true doctrine. He also describes this woman as a mystery. As we learned in the previous session, the word "mystery" means a divine secrets which God has kept from the knowledge of mankind, and now, in the age of the church, has begun to reveal. The divine secret here is about the religion from Babylon, and the impact of this religion is now revealed to mankind, and the full nature of it. The more you learn about the Babylonian system, and the more you study the system, the clearer the picture becomes, and the more loathsome and horrible and amazing it is what this system stands for.

So, in verse 5, after having preceded this declaration, this woman bears a name on her forehead. This name constitutes one of the mysteries of God. The name that she has on her forehead is Babylon the Great. The city Babylon, from which came the satanic religions, is represented by the harlot. The vile religion of Babylon has influenced all mankind to rebel against God and against His Word. The city is called great because Babylon was a great city with great influence, and it has great influence over the thinking of mankind. It is a great system of godlessness, and it is designed to lead people to worship Satan instead of God. It is a sophisticated system. It has great power, and it enjoys great luxury. It has wealth, but it is thoroughly morally corrupt, though it bears great prestige among people. As the Word of God indicates, what people look upon with great esteem, God (who looks upon the heart) reacts to with great condemnation. So, people are no guide to religious and spiritual truth.

**A Mother**

Babylon the great is a powerful commercial and religious center. It was in ancient times an imposing city, and it will still be that in the future. She is further described as a mother; that is, one who gives birth. And what she gives birth to here is described as harlots (the “porne”). A harlot is a mother who gives birth to numerous harlot daughters, namely the religions of the world, and to Roman Catholicism. The mother analogy indicates that Babylon is the fountainhead of false religions based on the principle of idolatry. And what comes from this harlot mother and her harlot daughters is to cover the earth with abominations. The word is "bdelugma" The "bdelugma" refers to things which God declares to be morally revolting and vile. From God's point of view, it makes him want to throw up. The harlot mother's religion from Babylon produces all over this world abominations that people pursue, and which God thoroughly and completely condemns.

**The Abominations of Scripture**

We're going to look at the abominations that Scripture declares. These are not just things that we think are bad, and not good in our society, but where the Word of God says that, from God's point of view, certain actions; certain practices; and, certainly thinking are abominations to God.

This is a very powerful word. When God says that something is a "bdelugma" to Him, it is a very serious matter. And those who are guilty of this kind of practice and thinking are in very serious trouble. It doesn't matter whether you're some unknown individuals, or whether you're some individual in great prominence, or in a position of great authority. To be guilty of abomination, and worse, to be guilty of promoting it, is to thumb your nose at Almighty God. When you perform an "abomination," you're thumbing your nose at God. God says that these things are morally revoltingly disgusting, and they will destroy the human beings who practice them.

1. **Sexual Abominations**

So, please open your Bibles to abomination number one, which is listed for us several places, but the one we will look at is in Leviticus 18. Here we have sexual abominations. Illicit and perverted sex is one of the easiest things for human beings to do. And God, in dealing with His ancient people Israel, wanted to protect them from these abominations, particularly because when they came into the land of Canaan, where Nimrod's Babylonian religion was in full force, they saw these things all around them. It was understandable that their old sin natures found this rather attractive. It was interesting to watch the pagans practicing their Babylonian religion. In Leviticus 18:19-23, we have certain sexual abominations; ceremonial uncleanness; adultery; giving children over to be trained as temple prostitutes; homosexuality; and, bestiality (sex with animals).

Verse 19: "You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity." This was ceremonial uncleanness under the Mosaic Law. To violate this was a serious abomination before God: "You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife to be defiled with her." Adultery is a defiling of two human beings, and an abomination with God. Remember that when God says that it's an abomination, but you do it, you thumb your nose at God. Don't kid yourself. Don't pretend that this is some innocence. Don't pretend you're acting in some kind of unknown sincerity, and not really understanding and realizing this. This is serious business. As we look through these abominations, you're going to see what trouble this country is in, and the horror of what is taking place in the highest echelons of the American government, and its influence on our society.

Verse 21: "Neither shall you give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech." That is the great god (another name for Molech – Baal worship, the phallic cults): "Giving them (here, in the sense of training them) to the temple prostitutes in the worship of Molech (one of the gods of Babylonian). Nor shall you profane the name of your God. I am the Lord."

**Homosexuality and Lesbianism**

Verse 22: "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female. It is an abomination." Homosexuality and its accompanying female side, lesbianism, is an abomination. Now don't pretend that it's an alternate lifestyle. It is not. Only the ignorant, who do not know God, and who don't know His Word say that.

Now it is no problem for the current president of the United States to have nominated Roberta Achtenberg, who has been appointed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a very high position in the cabinet, and at her hearings, to have behind her, her lesbian lover. Here is a woman guilty of a great moral abomination. The president of the United States says, "Let me thumb my nose at God with you. Who does He think He is, telling us that this is a vileness that is so revolting to deity that it is under the condemnation of death? Who does He think He is to tell us what our preferences should be in these matters, and that we should concern ourselves with the role model, or with the influence, or how you will go about your job when you are guilty of an abomination?"

What important thing do you want performed for you, or in your life, by somebody who is under the condemnation of declared by God of being guilty of an abominable thing? What care do you need? What concern do you have? What do you need that you want somebody who's an abominable person to perform for you? You'd want to think twice if you were a rational person. But only Christians who understand the significance of this word would say, "I don't want somebody under the condemnation of God, as an abominable creature, to be in a position of dealing with me, and providing me, and influencing me in any critical strategic way.

**Bestiality**

Verse 23 says, "And you shall not have intercourse with any animal, to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is a perversion." This word is "abomination." This is bestiality. It is very clear and very explicit.

Well, suppose that you do this. Suppose that you are a liberal, and of course, liberals have no problem with abominations. They protect themselves by not attending church services where they can hear about abominations so that they can be frightened into saying, "Maybe I should have a fear of God, and respect for Him." Beginning at verse 24-25, God says, "If you do these abominations, here's what I am going to do to you." On these practices lie the kiss of death. Verse 24 says, "Do not defile yourselves by any of these things." The abomination is a destruction to yourself: "For by all these, the nations which I'm casting out before you from Canaan land (the Promised Land) have become defiled, for the land has become defiled. Therefore, I have visited its punishment upon it so that the land has spewed out its inhabitants."

So, what God says is, "First of all, don't associate with these abominations. Don't associate with people who are guilty of these abominable things. The nations which were here before you, that I'm casting out, defiled themselves with these abominations. And the result was that the land itself (so to speak – the land being personified as a person) had the reaction to abomination of total disgust such that the land vomited them out. And the people that were in Canaan were destroyed by God.

This is dealing with the Old Testament Jew. But I remind you that we are dealing with a God who has the character of righteousness. In the Old Testament, His character of righteousness is expressed in specific context (in specific relationships) of the Jewish people and its dealing with the gentiles. But it is the expression of the character of God. In the New Testament, in the grace era, the character of God is the same, and His expression of His righteousness is in a different context. So, don't try to dismiss this, and say, "Well, these things are abominations under the Old Testament order, but they're not that today." Don't say, "Well, God won't react in punishment in this way like He did in Old Testament times." That's exactly what He's doing. He will spew these people out. Right down to modern times, societies have been totally destroyed, and the land in which they live has, as it were, simply vomited them out, and destroyed them through death for these abominations.

In verse 26-30, the people of Israel warned that if they practiced these abominations, their special relationship with God will not protect them from expulsion. So, if you think falling back on 1 John 1:9 is going to protect you in the long run from practicing these abominations, as long as you confess, 1 John 1:9 does not work unless you cease and desist? That's part of confession. Confession means, "I was wrong. I shouldn't have done it. I'm not going to do it anymore."

Verse 26: "But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments (doctrinal principles). You shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native nor the alien who sojourns among you. For the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled; so that the land may not spew you out should you defile it, as it spewed out the nation which has been before you. For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among the people. Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them. I am the Lord, your God."

The simple thing is that you don't thumb your nose at God. And God says, "The way you don't thumb your nose at Me is that you obey My moral principles. If I tell you that something is an abomination, and that it will defile your land and will bring your country down, then don't do it. And don't pretend that, because you have some special relationship to Me as My people, that you will escape the judgment if you pursue these things.

1. **The Abomination of Spiritism**

There is a second abomination that is part of the Babylonian system. Remember that I'm mentioning these abominations to give you an insight to what it means when it says that the harlot is the mother of abominations that cover the earth. It is the religion of Nimrod that says, "These things are all right." That religion is still saying the same things today.

Turn to Deuteronomy 18:9. You have the abomination of spiritism, dealing with the demonic world. This is a very prominent practice today: "When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable (the abominable things) of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes a son or daughter pass through the fire." This is the practice of offering your children in human sacrifice: "One who uses divinations." This is one who pursues fortunetelling in various ways: with tarot cards; Ouija boards; or, the innards of animals: "One who practices witchcraft." This is the practice of magic, using the power of demons to perform acts that would be described as magic:

"One who interprets omens" (or a sorcerer). This is one who is receiving signals from the occult world, or a sorcerer – one who manipulates demonic spirits: "Or one who casts a spell (or a medium or a spiritist); or one who calls up the dead." This is one who is dealing in necromancy – speaking with the dead, and the voice that comes through is the voice of a demon spirit: "For whoever does these things is detestable (that's the word 'abomination') to the Lord. Because of these abominable things, the Lord your God will drive them out before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For those nations (the Canaanite nations with their Babylon religion) which you shall dispossess listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so."

Such practices are an insult to the sovereignty of God by suggesting that God's will be circumvented in some way, and you can get around it. Some people think that you can get around it with a little bit of witchcraft; that you can get around it with a little bit of interpretation of the right omens; or, that you can find what is going to happen in the future. You may have a source of fortunetelling or divination. You've heard about the psychic hotline on television, haven't you? They advertise constantly. There is a very prominent movie star who has recently been on every morning on television. I sat there listening to how Madam So-and-So, the psychic, gave him insights, and told him what was going to happen. And sure enough, it took place. And he felt that this was a convincing argument because he is a spiritual barbarian. He does not understand that it was Satan who was promoting his well-being, and that it was Satan who was bringing about what the psychic had delivered to him upon Satan's instruction in the first place. This is part of the religion of Babylon to deal with the spirit world, and it's an abomination to God.

1. **The Abomination of Worshiping through Prostitution**

Abomination number 3 is in 1 Kings 14:23-24. This is the abomination of worshiping deity through prostitution: "For they also built for themselves high places and sacred pillars and Asherim polls on every high hill and beneath every luxuriant tree. There were also male cult prostitutes in the lands. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel."

We are not talking about the Canaanites at this point. We are talking about the people of God. We're talking about the chosen race of Israel. These high places (hills) were used by the phallic cults for sex worship of the gods. Babylon set up that system, and there they practiced every conceivable illicit and perverted sex act. Here, the special reference is to male cult prostitutes. And when you talk about male prostitutes (homosexuality), that means that we're talking about sodomy. Sodomy is what homosexuals do. That is the practice of engaging in personal moving through sewage of the body.

So, when you strip away all the pretenses and niceness of the euphemisms (the semantics), you come through with a sense of the revulsion that God has. Worshiping through prostitution was the common practice in the New Testament church. It was a big problem in Corinth, which was a great center of temple prostitution worship – male and female. That's why the apostle Paul had to deal with the matter of Christian sexuality so severely, because Christians, who had come out of that system, found it hard to detach themselves from this practice of Babylonianism.

1. **The Abomination of Child Sacrifice**

A fourth abomination is child sacrifice in 2 Chronicles 28:3. It would seem that we should not even have to discuss such a thing. Who would sacrifice a child? What kind of madness would drive a person to say, "That's an all right thing to do?" King Ahaz was the king of the southern kingdom, the kingdom of Judah. This was the more godly kingdom of the two. Periodically in the South, they would have some semi-decent king. But in the north (Israel), they were all bad. So, we're talking about Ahaz, the king of Judah, who unfortunately was a liberal. Because he was a liberal, he practiced the abominations of Babylonianism, because he considered this the freedom of the liberal.

2 Chronicles 28:3: "Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom, and burned his sons in fire, according to the abomination of the nations whom the Lord had driven out before the sons of Israel." A father is taking his sons, and doing exactly what the pagans under the Babylonian system were doing – putting their children alive in fire as human sacrifice. Here's the king of Israel. This is the head of the nation, and he is doing this? Who today would sacrifice a child?

A few months ago, we read about a family (I think it was in Illinois) where the husband and wife decided to take a vacation in Acapulco, Mexico, and they left home alone a five-year-old girl and a ten-year-old girl – two children to fend for themselves while the parents were going to be gone for eight or nine or ten days on this vacation. What is that but a sacrificial offering again of Babylonianism of a child? No, they didn't kill them. The children could have died. In fact, they got into a situation that so concerned them that the older girl at least had enough sense to call 911, which now exposed the parents to what they had done.

These parents, when they got back, were treated with loathsome reaction by their neighbors. The father's reaction was to hit the bottle of booze, and he went over the edge as an alcoholic. The final decision (the newspapers this week tell us) was that the parents have given both those children away for adoption. How does that grab you? Are we talking about child sacrifice? Exactly. They were sacrificing your children to the self-indulgence of those parents.

As the head of the nation, Ahaz was the moral tone-setter, and he followed the practice of Babylonianism with the human sacrifice of his own sons.

1. **The Abomination of Marriage with an Unbeliever**

Abomination number five is found in Ezra 9:10. This is the abomination of marriage with an unbeliever. What? It's an abomination to marry an unbeliever? It's an abomination before God? God wants to throw up when you, as a believer, marry an unbeliever? Ezra 9:10: "And now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments." Ezra is weeping out his heart. Why? "Commandments which You have commanded by Your servant the prophet saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the land; with their abominations which have filled it from end to end; and, with their impurity."

Because they practiced the religion of Babylon, they were filled with the abominations (the impurities) that we've been reading about in this session. They're coming into the land, and God gave them explicit directions on how they were to relate themselves to the people who lived there: "So now, do not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons." Don't give them in marriage to each other: "And never seek their peace or their prosperity." Don't be friends with them. Don't seek their peace. Don't try to get along with them, and don't try to do business with them, so that you can capitalize on prosperity that you can get from them.

Elsewhere in the Old Testament, God says, "Take those idols" (which the Babylonian system has exalted and has directed you to worship). "Take those idols and burn everything on that hill." Burn everything associated with worship. And burn the idols themselves, and walk away, and leave the gold and silver there. Don't pick it up and take it. It's filthy loot. That's interesting. Here, God says that seeking peace with people who practice abomination (unbelievers) is wrong to do. And if they're unbelievers, they're practicing the Babylon system in some way: "And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since You our God have requited us less than our iniquity deserves, and have given us an escaped remnant in this."

What Ezra discovered when he got back from Babylon was that the people had intermarried left and right with these Canaanite pagans. They were married up to their eyeballs with these pagans. They had exchange sons and daughters left and right. Ezra says, "What has their God left for you to do? We all deserve death. That's the penalty. But you haven't done that to us. To many of us, You have. But you haven't treated us with what we deserve. You exercised grace: "Shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations?" Now that we're coming back from Babylon, are we going to do it all over again, or have we learned our lesson? "Would You not be angry with us to the point of destruction until there is no remnant, nor any who escape?" Yes, God destroyed a lot of the Jews. He saved enough of a remnant to come back. But Ezra is telling the people: "If you do this again, I don't think God is going to give us a second shot at it. He's not going save any of us.

The Jews were surrounded by pagans who were practicing the harlot religion. God said, "Don't imitate them, and the first way you do that is by not intermarrying with them. Stay out of family relationships with them. Marriage, for those who understand the principle, begins with two people who have a spiritual intimacy. Our society says that it begins with physical intimacy. No, it does not. It begins with two people who find an easy camaraderie in spiritual things. They have an easy exchange of the things of God. They're on the signal of God's thinking.

You can't do that with a person who is practicing abominations. You can't do that with someone who is a pagan personality. He may be nice. She may be attractive, but if they are nothing but pagans, they are an enormous threat to you. Marriage has to begin with spiritual intimacy, or it's going to go nowhere. Once you have the spiritual intimacy, then you get intimacy of your personality. Then you have closer ties intellectually, emotionally, and in your wills. You get to know a person on that level, and then, when the marriage commitment has been made, then comes the intimacy on the physical level. If you follow that order, you have the possibility of a high degree of a very happy and successful marriage.

1. **The Abomination of Idolatry**

The next abomination is the self-evident one on the abomination of idolatry. Deuteronomy 17:2-7: "If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God by transgressing His covenant, and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun, or the moon, or any of the heavenly hosts which I have not commanded, and if it is told you, and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly." Under the theocracy of Israel, for someone to worship idol gods, or to worship the heavenly luminaries, was a social problem that the government, as a theocratic government under God, had to look into: "And behold, if it is true, and the thing certain, that this abominable thing has been done in Israel, then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates; that is, the man and the woman, and you shall stone them to death."

The abomination of idolatry had upon it the death penalty: "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death. He shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness." In the Old Testament, you can never put a person to death without having an eyewitness. I think it is wrong today to exercise capital punishment against anyone on the basis of circumstantial evidence. Unless you have more than one witness who said, "I saw him kill that person," you cannot accept that that one witness may be lying. You have to have the corroboration of two or three detached witnesses. This principle provided safety for the exercise of capital punishment so that the innocent were not executed.

Furthermore, God says one more thing to protect the innocent from being executed. Verse 7: "The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put to death." The witnesses are the first ones who are going to cast the stones to crush the life out, because if they have lied, they are guilty now of murder themselves. And if that comes out, they will be executed: "And afterwards the hand of all the people shall purge the evil from your midst."

Go over to Jeremiah 44:2 for the abomination of idolatry: "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'You yourself have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day they are in ruins, and nobody lives in them. Here, Jeremiah is pointing out God's message that He has destroy the cities of Jerusalem and the surrounding cities of Judah. Why? "Because of their wickedness which they have committed, so as to provoke Me to anger by continuing to burn sacrifices, and to serve other gods whom they had not known; neither they, you, nor your fathers." God said, "I destroyed their cities. I tore apart their social fabric because of this abomination of idolatry."

"Yet, I sent you all my servants (the prophets) again and again, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing which I hate. But they did not listen or incline their ears to turn from their wickedness so as not to burn sacrifices to other gods." They thumbed their nose at God, who repeatedly called it their attention that the Word of God forbad what they were doing.

So, God's wrath against idolatry was here demonstrated by the physical destruction of Jerusalem in the towns of Judah. God had repeatedly warned them that they should not practice this core features of Nimrod's religion – the worship of idols. God's prophets proclaimed that idolatry was an abomination, but the leaders of the nations and the religious leaders said, "That's bigotry. We believe in multiculturalism." That's a good word. ... Everybody's culture is equal. Baloney. American culture is superior to any culture in the world. To the extent that American culture retains its Christian heritage and viewpoint, it is the greatest culture in the world.

We are being bombarded to be interested in other people's cultures. Because universities are run by cowardly administrators all over this nation, we are having groups of maggot-headed students who are rising up. Recently in California, they said, "We want Mexican Chicano studies. We need to have that as our heritage." You want to learn about a loser culture? You want us to spend academic time teaching you about that? They are saying, "We want black studies." In one of the major universities of the east, they had hired a man who was a hood off the street as a professor to teach black studies. These always degenerate into anti-Americanism. Whoever is the teacher is some guy who is not making it, and who has a club to beat against the American system. This man became so terrible; so vile; so filthy in his language; and, so aggressive against the American system that the university fired him. The ACLU came along and said, "You can't do that. This is a tenured professor." He's got no scholarship. He's got no background. He's just a hood off the street. But universities have knuckled under because they think that all culture is equally good.

Well, that's what these prophets were saying: "Well, we can't treat these people like that. We can come in and destroy them. That would be bigoted. We must respect their religious practices." So, the people refused to turn from the idolatry, and they dared God to judge them. That's what they were doing. That's what's happening in the White House. That's what's happening in the Congress. That's what's happening in the institutions of this country. Abominations are being practiced, and they are saying, "What are you going to do about it, God?" Well, one thing He does is that He sends a lot of rain, and floods you up to your eyeballs.

Please note Jeremiah 14:15-19. Notice the tie of this practice of idolatry to the Babylonian system: "Then all the (Jewish) men were aware that their wives were burning sacrificed to other gods. What a pitiful statement! I am seeing, within the Christian community, men who are not spiritual leaders. They cannot control their wives. They cannot direct their families. Men who are torn within the innermost recesses of their hearts, knowing that what they're going along with is not right, and yet, they are unable to have the manhood to stand up to the evils that the female is pursuing. All these men were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly, encouraging one another. Women were talking to women to encourage one another in their evil, convincing one another that the loathsome things they were doing were right.

This included all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, who responded to Jeremiah. "These people had gone down to Egypt to find protection. Now they were practicing the Babylonian religion as it was expressed in Egypt: "As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord (these people are saying to Jeremiah), we're not going to listen to you. (We're sick and tired of your preaching; haranguing us; bugging us; and, telling us that God doesn't want us to do this.) But rather, we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven" (Semiramis). Now the queen of heaven, of course, is the virgin Mary: "And pouring out libations to her just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings, and our princes did in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem."

They said, "Your political leaders did this, and your religious leaders did this. We can do this – worshiping this queen:" "For then, while we worshiped her, we had plenty of food, and were well-off and saw no misfortune. But since we stopped burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven, on your advice, and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything, and have met our end by the sword and by famine. And said the women, 'When we were burning sacrifices of the queen of heaven and were pouring out libations to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in our image, and poured out libations to her?"

They said, "Our husbands knew this. They didn't stop us. So, why are you condemning us, Jeremiah? The men are supposed to be the leaders in spiritual things. They have tolerated it." The women were right about that. But you can see the direct tie again to Babylon's religion.

1. **The Abomination of Cross-Dressing**

Then there is an abomination which is very prominent today. It's called cross-dressing. Turn to Deuteronomy 22:5. For those of you who are the more scholarly type, this is the practice of transvestism. Phil Donahue had a big program a couple of years ago about cross-dressing, and he came out dressed as a woman. Is that an OK thing to do? Is that a triviality? "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God." What is this passage telling us? It's telling us that it is an abomination before Almighty God to obscure the distinction between the sexes. Men should dress as men, and women should dress as women. Cross-dressing here, of course, may also suggest the practice of homosexuality and lesbianism because they do that.

Have you ever been in a public place and gone into a men's washroom, and in comes a lesbian dressed as a man? That's a real kooky-kinky situation. And I've been in it. Here is the abomination in its extreme expressions. God says, "When you blur the distinctive roles of males and females, it is an abomination. In part, it's an abomination because this is one of the things that leads to homosexuality and lesbianism. A boy can grow up without a clear role model of what is to be a male; or, a girl can grow up without a clear role model of what it is to be a female. In the ancient world, transvestism was practiced as part of the Babylonian system of worshiping their gods.

So, your children should not be reared in ways which blurs for them their natural roles as male and females. The boys should not be forced to play with dolls, and the girls should not be forced to run around with little toy machine guns. You should not seek to blur the distinctions.

A prominent magazine (Time, Newsweek, or something) came out with a big Front-Page headline a few weeks ago that said that studies have shown that there is a difference between males and females. I wonder how much money they spent on that. Wouldn't that have helped our mortgage? Did you know that? There is a difference between males and females. Now, they're not just talking about physiologically. They're talking about temperament. They're talking about thinking. They're talking about how you act and how you respond. When you say, "I don't like that; I'm for unisex; and, I want to oppose that," then you're guilty of an act of abomination. And with abomination always goes the thumb to the nose as you look up toward God. It's no joke.

1. **The Abomination of Using Money from Sinful Sources to Finance God's Work**

In Deuteronomy 23:18, here's the abomination of using money from sinful sources to finance God's work: "You shall not bring the hire of a harlot (money you receive by being a prostitute) or the wages of a dog." Here, this expression, "the wages of a dog" refers to a male prostitute: "You won't bring the money you earn as a female prostitute or as a male prostitute into the house of the Lord your God for any votive offering." You have made a promise to God: "I believe, God, that You want me to do this, and I'm committing this amount of money to this purpose." Now you bring to pay your vow to God abominable money – money which was received through an act of abomination. Both these, the Word of God says, are an abomination to the Lord your God. You do not take money which has been brought to your possession in an abominable way by violating the principles of biblical integrity, and then use it to pay a financial commitment that you have made to God, because that's an abomination. The offerings to God's work are to come from money which He has supplied to the believer.

In the latter part of the 1930s, and the early part of the 1940s, in the suburb of Cicero, just outside of Chicago, was the headquarters of Al Capone. All of you are well-acquainted with him, and his reputation during the era of prohibition, and the vile, abominable creature that he was. But he was a man of some emotion, and of some sensitivity. In the city of Cicero was the Cicero Bible Church. The pastor was Billy McCarrell. I had a little acquaintance with him because when I was a teenager, during the summer months, the Cicero Bible Church would, on its adjoining parking lot, put up a huge tent, and they would run revival meetings. They would run evangelistic services under the tent. Some of my cronies and I would be up there playing our musical instruments along with the music, and supplying some things in connection with those meetings.

Well, somewhere along in the process of these evangelistic meetings, one of Capone's leading henchmen wandered in; heard the gospel; and, got saved. This was the worst thing in the world that could happen to a criminal organization – one of its people gets saved. This guy got saved in a transformed way. It was evident to his associates. More importantly, the quality of the reformation and godliness was evident to Al Capone himself. Capone was impressed. This guy was now doing goodness where he had been an agent paid to do badness. While he now wanted to separate himself from the organization of Capone, because he no longer could fit in, Capone was impressed with what they had done down at this little dinky Cicero Bible Church, and what Billy McCarrell had done in preaching the gospel, and the transformation of whatever it was (the power) over one of his prized agents.

It was Capone's custom that he was always aware of the fact that he kept control over people by giving money. That's how he kept the little average guy attached to him: "Make your booze in the bathtub. Bring it to me. If it's good, I'll pay you for it." He had all these little stills going around, which made it hard for the government agents to kill off. When there was some kind of a social need (people needed food), he was the one who gave the money, and he advertised himself as the great philanthropist.

So, it was a very natural thing for him to send a large contribution to Cicero Bible Church. It came as an expression of appreciation from Al Capone for what they had done for this man who had been on his payroll. What should Billy McCarrell do with the money? That money was an abomination. He knew how it had been secured – through illegal and violent means. He knew the heartache that that money was the product of. Therefore, he sent it back to Capone with a note expressing that they, as a Christian organization, were not free to accept money from an organization such as his. Billy McCarrell did the right thing. The Word of God said, "It is an abomination to pay your financial commitments to God with money which has been dishonestly secured.

But now here's another business factor that is a loathsome abomination to God, and we'll pick that one up next time.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1993

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