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THREE REMEMBRANCES

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The subject matter in this issue revolves around the spiritual condition of the generation of people that will exist on earth at the time of Christ's coming to rapture the church. Our text will be found in Luke 17:26-37. In the text are three remembrances. I believe the church needs to mediate upon these "three remembrances" as we approach this prophesied coming of Jesus.

The Synoptic Gospels

Theologically, this warning is in the form of a "three-fold cord," or trilogy similar to a pattern set by the Synoptic Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke, because of a common theme, are often referred to as the Synoptic Gospels.

1 – Matthew, a Jewish publican, presents Jesus Christ as the King of the Jews.

2 – Mark presents Christ as a servant. *"For even the Son of man come not to be ministered unto, but to minister."* Mk. 10:45.

3 – Luke, Paul's beloved physician, views Christ from the view of being the Son of man. *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* Lk. 19:10.

Each writer carries the same theme, but from a different perspective. However, the composite of the three lends a degree of fullness concerning the person of Jesus Christ, and who He really is. In a sense, using a crude example, a stool is dependent upon its three legs to be whole.

The Keys to the Scriptures

The question is asked, "What about the Gospel of St. John? The Apostle John's gospel should be considered in its own synoptic realm.

#1 – Gospel of John

#2 – Galatians

#3 – Romans

Within the confines of these three books lies the key to comprehending the Bible. Without that key of understanding, all your Bible study and reading is vanity. Romans was not the first book that the Apostle Paul wrote. Paul placed Romans first because of its content. It is the Magna Carta of our faith. If

new converts were first introduced to Romans, there would be far less backsliding in the church “as grace would much more abound.” (Rom. 5:20)

The Three Remembrances

In this 17th chapter of Luke, I believe there are three descriptions of what life will consist of at the time of Christ’s return. It is a trilogy that must be viewed from the perspective of synoptic truth. All three have the same common theme, but unless you view the three as a composite truth, you will not see the forest for the trees. There are three remembrances, or meditations, that you must consider as having a common theme before drawing any final conclusion.

#1 – Remember “*The days of Noah.*” Lk. 17:26

#2 – Remember “*The days of Lot.*” Lk. 17:28

#3 – “*Remember Lot’s wife.*” Lk. 17:32.

Man is a Triune Being

The Bible itself is a synoptic revelation of God (Elohim) who said, “*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*” Gen. 1:26. In a sense, a human being is a synoptic creature. “*I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” 1 Thes. 5:23. The person of God is always plural, and is the reason Jesus commanded all Gentiles to be baptized “*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*” Matt. 28:19. ¹

“Oneness” of the Godhead is False

Jesus was not a ventriloquist, talking to himself on the cross, when He said, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*” Lk. 23:34. Who was Jesus calling Father when He died and cried, “*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*” Lk. 23:46.

Jesus said of these “Oneness”, “Jesus Only”, “United Pentecostals” organizations and leaders, “*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*” Matt. 15:13-14.

The Bible is Synoptic

Through this synoptic view of the Bible itself, we may find a clearer picture of God than Moses, who only saw the “*back parts: but my (God’s) face shall not be seen.*” Ex. 33:23. Moses surely was ignorant relative to God the Father having a Son. Seeing the “*back parts*” of God, Moses never received a

¹ Only Jewish Christians, who already believed in the God of Moses, were baptized in Jesus’ Name. This name was a “*rock of offense*” to Jewish religion.

revelation of the composite God called Elohim. *“Hear, O Israel,”* Moses cried out to the Jews, *“The LORD our God is one LORD.”* Deu. 6:4.

The synoptic division of scripture is a trilogy carrying a central theme, understanding the Godhead by relationship in dealing directly with man.

#1 – The Old Testament – an introduction to God the Father.

#2 – The Four Gospels – the entrance of Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God.

#3 – The Acts and the Epistles – Literally the acts of the Holy Ghost and the revelation of the church.

We who are Christians today, are the only believers in history that have the privilege of viewing the Bible in a synoptic view of understanding.

#1 – Daniel

#2 – Revelation

#3 – Luke 21 & Matthew 24

These three have a common theme as well, and should be read and mediated upon as a synoptic truth. The common theme is the coming world dictator, the Antichrist.

Doctrine of Hell

Jacob mourned the death of his youngest son, Joseph, after the brothers delivered his coat of many colors to the father, drenched in blood. *“For I will go down into the grave (Heb.-Sheol; world of departed dead; Hades) unto my son mourning.”* Gen. 37:35. The Old Testament does not teach what life beyond the grave consists of. No one in the Old Testament ever visited hell so he could speak authoritatively on the subject. Hence, the Old Testament is the last place you should look regarding hell and immortality.

Jesus Christ is the only person qualified to speak on the subject of hell. You ask, “Why is that?” It is because Jesus is the only person that visited hell and conquered death when He took the keys of death and hell away from Satan. *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”* Rev. 1:18.

Hell was never created for man. It was created for the devil and his angels. The Bible says, *“Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine (joy), are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are*

famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.” Isa. 5:11-14.

As you read this portion of scripture, it really sounds like some Pentecostal meeting I have attended, where the congregation literally worships their leader. The leader, of course, is a type of Nimrod who rules as a dictator. His authority and “tax exempt” status of a “non-profit religious incorporation” is granted by the Secretary of State. I was first introduced to this type of worship through Bebe Patten of Oakland, California. *“Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.” Isa. 5:13.* It is sad when you think that God’s own people are so dumb as to follow some man right into hell.

The cults and false prophets do not want you to know anything about the subject of hell. We are living in a positive generation. Their tender ears must not entertain anything negative. Hell is dismissed from their vocabulary because the subject of hell is definitely negative thinking. Robert Schuller would never encourage anything negative to disturb your positive outlook on life.

Jesus Explains Life and Immortality

The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus Christ has a mission to explain life and immortality of the soul. *“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2 Tim. 1:10.*

Folks invariably turn to Solomon, who spoke as a man *“UNDER THE SUN,”* whenever they wish to deny the existence of hell. As wise as Solomon was, he could not fathom life beyond the grave.

Solomon – “Under the sun”

A wiser man than Solomon has risen from the dead to tell us about hell. Had Solomon known there was a hell for the damned, perhaps he would have found a way to diminish the size of his harem. *“And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.” 1 Ki. 11:3-4.*

God did not choose a backslidden king of Israel, Solomon, to bring *“life and immortality to light.”* Solomon’s wisdom, whose understanding was that of a “man under the sun,” *“And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.” Ecc. 2:19-20.*

Solomon's wisdom UNDER THE SUN: *"This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."* Ecc. 9:3-5. Would you want such a man as King Solomon to explain immortality to you? Yet, this is where the Jehovah's Witnesses and the cults go for understanding regarding the doctrine of hell.

A greater than Solomon is here! Jesus! *"But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."* 2 Tim. 1:10. Jesus knows all things! Solomon was limited to man's wisdom "under the sun."

Jesus Went to Hades

Jesus spent three days and nights in Hades after His death on the cross. *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* Matt. 12:40. Jesus knew all about hell. *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."* Rev. 1:18. *"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)"* Eph. 4:8-10. He led captivity captive!

Jesus tells us what it means in Luke 16:23,26. *"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom (Gk.- symbolizing intimacy, closeness, or a place of honor)...And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."* Jesus is describing the place for the departed dead, where the righteous and the wicked are separated only by a "great gulf fixed," where each can communicate, but the wicked and the righteous are permanently separated, preventing anyone from crossing over from one side to the other.

If you want to know about the Amazon, you would ask a person who had been there. Solomon knew nothing about hell because he had never been there! Why inquire at his feet? *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison."* 1 Pet. 3:18-19.

What a sermon Jesus preached in Hades to "spirits in prison." Would you have enjoyed hearing Christ tell how He defeated Satan on the cross? *"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had*

they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” 1 Cor. 2:8. This world, by killing Christ on a Roman cross, thought Caesar had destroyed Christianity. Their leader was dead.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the most phenomenal fact of history. Even our calendars, AD and BC, are indicative of the impact of the resurrection.

Acts of the Holy Ghost and the Church

The final synoptic division of scripture is the Holy Ghost and the church. Daniel was the greatest seer, or prophecy teacher in the Old Testament, but yet never saw the church, nor was he cognizant of the Holy Ghost coming on the Day of Pentecost. If you want to know about these, one only need turn to Paul’s epistles, or the ACTS of the Holy Ghost. I didn’t intend to spend so much time on hell as I have. It probably is because the big preachers, like Robert Schuller never use the word. If there is no hell, believe Solomon’s philosophy, “as a dog dies, so dies a man.” Ecc. 3:19. Jesus would not be a popular preacher in our generation, either. His ratings on TV would go down every time He preached on hell!

The Three Remembrances

All this preceding was to show you that in the 17th chapter of Luke, you cannot take one part of a synoptic truth and establish doctrine. Doctrine evolves from the composite of the whole. Remember the three remembrances?

#1 – Remember “*The days of Noah.*” Lk. 17:26

#2 – Remember “*The days of Lot.*” Lk. 17:28

#3 – “*Remember Lot’s wife.*” Lk. 17:32.

What is the message Jesus is attempting to give us concerning the generation that will exist at the time of His return?

#1 – Remember “*The days of Noah.*” Lk. 17:26

In remembering Noah, they ate and drank as though the world would never end! Liquor stores and restaurant chains blot our country from coast to coast.

“*They married wives,*” implies multiple partners in marriage. I believe the Bible teaches a one-time marriage. “*But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!*” Ezk. 16:32. “*It hath been said (in Old Testament), Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: but I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*” Matt. 5:31-32. “*They married wives*” and committed adultery in Noah’s day.

Jesus later adds, *“And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”* The disciples understood what Jesus was saying, by their remark, *“If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.”* Matt. 19:9-10.

Aaronic Priests Marry Virgins

It is not good, unless you first married a virgin. The sons of Aaron, or the priests of Levi, were instructed, *“But he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself...They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he is holy unto his God...And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire...And he shall take a wife in her virginity. A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.”* Lev. 21:4-14.

Either Celibacy or a Eunuch

“If the case of the man be so with his wife,” Jesus, for the first time, introduces becoming *“eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake.”* Matt. 19:12. How many preachers tell a man planning on divorce to prepare for a life of celibacy, or become a eunuch? In other words, don’t even consider marrying again. *“They married wives,”* in Noah’s day, *“...until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.”* Lk. 17:27.

#2 – Remember “The days of Lot.” Lk. 17:28

Wed to Prosperity

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot,” instead of marrying wives, they became “wedded” to the prosperity message. *“They bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.”* Like Cain, they sought justification before God by the work of their own hands and ingenuity. *“But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”* Lk. 17:28-30.

Peter and John

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver

and gold have I none (how many of our TV evangelists have this testimony today?); but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Acts 3:1-6.

Peter and John became inseparable after performing this miracle upon the lame man. A miracle from God can unify brethren. Peter and John, who were given the gospel of the circumcision (Gal. 2:7), were not followers of the Apostle Paul. In fact, Peter admits to Paul’s “*as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood,*” (2 Pet. 3:16) and warns Apostle Paul, “*beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked (doctrine of eternal security as presented by John Darby and confirmed in the footnotes of a King James Scofield Reference Bible), fall from your own stedfastness.*” 2 Pet. 3:17.

Philip and Ethiopian Prince

The Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter are synoptic in truth with the three “little epistles” of John. All the cults, mind blowers, and religionists read the same Bible. They ALL come up with the wrong answers. Try reading the Bible and throwing your net on the synoptic side. To read, and not know what you are reading, is counter-productive.

“Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.” Acts 8:29-31.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses have the Watchtower to guide them in their reading. The Seventh Day Adventists have Mary Ellen White to guide them. The Mormons are guided by Joseph Smith, a 32nd degree Mason, and the Book of Mormon to guide them. The Christian Scientists have Mary Baker Eddy’s “Keys to the Scriptures” to guide them. Catholicism has the Apocrypha and the infallibility declaration of the Pope to guide them. The Southern Baptists have the disciples of Darbyism and the Dallas Theological Seminary, whose founder is Dr. C.I. Scofield, to guide them. But, this Ethiopian prince had Philip, the evangelist, to guide him. The *RIVERBANK NEWS* is dedicated to the task of guiding you through the scriptures.

God’s Code

In scripture, it is always Adam that is to blame. God is still calling “Where art thou, Adam?” (Gen. 3:9) How were the sons of God in the days of Noah? In the days of Noah, it was the sin of breaking “God’s code” that caused God’s reaction to speak out. “*My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*” Gen. 6:3. “God’s code” is recorded in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, “*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what*

fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

It is the breaking of this code that causes God to bring judgment. As Christians in this day of grace, we have only one sin that will send us to hell. It is all incorporated in this command, *“Touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”* Do you know what the UNCLEAN THING is that the Apostle Paul is talking about? Strange, with all the preaching of the gospel we have today, no one has heard about the sin of “Touching the Unclean Thing”!

I wish the church would get as concerned over the “touching of the unclean thing,” as they are over the blasphemy of the Holy Ghost. The sin of touching the unclean thing is the breaking of “God’s code,” whether by marriage (as in the days of Noah), or entrepreneurship or business (as in the days of Lot). *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”* 2 Cor. 6:14.

My own father married a sinner, thus “touching the unclean thing.” After I became a Christian and could understand what the Bible was saying, I told my father how that God sent a flood and destroyed the world over his sin. *“That the sons of God (sons of Seth) saw the daughters of men (sons of Cain) that they were fair; and they took them (heathen) wives of all which they chose.”* Gen. 6:2. Why do Christians go outside the church to marry the heathen?

My father was the son of a Baptist preacher, hence must have known better than to marry the ungodly. I told my father, “God destroyed the world over your sin! I will destroy your name!” I need a constant reminder of the horribleness of this sin! Jews, Catholics, Muslims, even the cults, have more consistency in their lives relative to marrying outside their religion, than do Christians. I was born with the last name, Hagglund, but changed it legally to Nelson to repudiate my own father for daring to marry “the unclean thing,” and for a sign of how serious I believe this particular sin is to the church. It is not fun to be raised in a home that is half-free and half-slave. I survived this environment, but my dear sister did not. Do you want your offspring to go to heaven? Don’t marry the heathen (the unclean thing)! God is on record of destroying such relationships, whether in business or marriage.

“Go Without the Camp!”

You will never hear a message like this one in your Sunday morning worship service. *“Let us go*

forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” Heb. 13:13-14. The *RIVERBANK NEWS* is glad to go without the camp to bring you what *“thus saith the Lord,”* rather than the traditions of “Darby-Scofieldism” that is discipleship by the Dallas Theological Seminary, and the introduction of the Scofield Reference Bible that pervaded every Bible college and seminary in America. Hence, we have a generation of Bible-thumpers that are *“teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”* Matt. 15:9. Nothing has changed in over two thousand years, except one thing. *“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin (Heb.-snare or trap) and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”* Isa. 8:14. To the 21st century Christian, the “stone of stumbling” and “rock of offence” (1 Pet. 2:8) is the baptism with fire that John the Baptist prophesied. *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”* Matt. 3:11.

#3 – “Remember Lot’s wife.” Lk. 17:32.

Leaving Father’s House – Too Much for Abraham

The final synoptic to these three remembrances is, *“Remember Lot’s wife.”* Where did Lot get his wife? Lot came out of the Ur of the Chaldees, just like Abraham. Lot was Abraham’s nephew, being the son of his brother, Haran. The family of Abraham was given over to idolatry. They had already been infected by Nimrod’s “One World of Baalism.” *“Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.”* Jos. 24:2. (NIV)

Our failure to see this clearly is because Genesis 11:31 says, *“And Terah took Abram.”* Quite the reverse is true, Abram took Terah, over the objection of God (Acts 7:4). In Biblical genealogies, they always list the oldest (or first born) as the head of the family. The call came to Abram, not Terah (Heb.-delay). Abram’s father was an idolater. All he accomplished was to delay the journey. *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.”* Gen. 12:1. That was the command from Almighty God.

This leaving your “father’s house” was too much for Abram! It is all right to have religion and the hearing of God’s voice, but to leave Pa?! It is strange how much God has to tolerate in man to accomplish His divine purpose.

Hence, Abram takes Terah, his father, Lot, his adopted son (per Josephus), and Sarai, his wife, and, *“and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan.”* En route for the Promised Land, *“they came unto Haran.”* Gen. 11:31. Terah must have liked the fishing, or else ran into some kinfolk! Terah soon forgot about his son’s visitation from the Lord, and lived long enough to

“delay” the journey.

Abram reminds me of a disciple who said, *“Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead (the heathen relatives) bury their dead.”* Matt. 8:21-22. God is a God of the living (saints), not the dead (sinners) given to idolatry. But, no way is Abram moving on until his father, Terah, dies in Haran. Gen. 11:32.

The Bible says, due to a famine, Abram had to go into the land of Egypt. The scriptures are very plain on Abram’s deceiving Pharaoh by lying about his wife, Sarai, calling her his sister to save his own life. What it doesn’t tell us is what Lot was doing during his stay in Egypt. To Lot, this visit was like a child’s first trip to Disney World. *“And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him.”* Gen. 13:1. There is no way to tell exactly how many seasons before the famine subsided, and it was safe to leave Egypt, *“for the famine was grievous in the land.”* Gen. 12:10. Meanwhile, young Lot’s life is being fully satisfied by this wondrous country along the Nile River.

Here is an example of two men who went down into Egypt of necessity, but only one would escape without the love of Egypt seeping into his soul.

If one spends too much time, especially at a formidable age, in the gambling Mecca’s of the world, one’s perception of the real world becomes distorted. With all the glitter and lights, it is a fantasy of the world created by the five senses. God’s voice is dependent upon a sixth sense, and you can miss God’s best. *“That the sons of God SAW the daughters of men that they were fair.”* Beauty is only skin deep!

Where did Lot get his wife?

Lot left the Ur of the Chaldees and lived in Haran until Terah died. Lot saw nothing in the land of his nativity that sparked any such idea of romance, until he saw these beautiful princesses of the Nile. It is not recorded what Lot did during his stay in Egypt. I think that it is naïve to believe that Lot never even noticed the beauty of these Egyptian princesses.

Lot’s backsliding began in Egypt. It was here that he was dazzled by all that he saw. I have a dear friend that came down to my church for salvation from Lake Tahoe. The splendor of the gambling casinos influenced his most formative years and shaped his value system. *“And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle...And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”* Abraham gave Lot the first choice. *“And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where...like the land of Egypt.”* Gen. 13:7-10.

At the time Lot made his choice, according to what he SAW, Abram had arrived in the land of Canaan. *“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes.”* Gen. 13:14. Abram was the captain of the ship that sailed out of the Ur of the Chaldees. The ship was dry docked in Haran until the death of his father, Terah. It was after Lot’s departure that God began showing the captain where this land flowing with milk and honey was located.

Lot “Pitched His Tent”

The next step in Lot’s backsliding is recorded in Genesis 13:12-13. Lot *“pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.”* *“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”* Ps. 73:3. Sodom is where Lot set his heart. *“The prosperity of fools shall destroy them.”* Pro. 1:32. In Sodom, not only did they eat and drink, but in addition were very prosperous. They BOUGHT (land), they SOLD (houses), they PLANTED (vineyards, orchards and gardens) and they BUILT (high-rise buildings, bridges and roads). Americans are the envy of the world because we believe in entrepreneurship and capitalism. If God spares America from judgment, He will need to apologize to Sodom.

In pitching his tent toward Sodom, Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain. I believe Lot learned in Egypt, while a guest in Pharaoh’s court, exactly the type of woman that would please him. Moving his tent from city to city on the plains of Jordan, Lot was busy looking for a wife that was similar to the princesses that he saw in Egypt. It is Lot’s eyes, or his own five senses, that he is limited to. Lot was a just man and religious, but spiritual communication with God for direction had been sacrificed when he lifted up his eyes and chose the well-watered plains of Jordan.

Finally, Lot finds his wife. Of course, her mailing address was in Sodom. She persuaded him to move even closer to Sodom.

Both Lot and his wife have at least one thing in common; their love for Sodom. The prosperity of the city continues to spiral upwards. With all the buying, selling and building that is going on in Sodom, any Broker-Realtor should believe he lives in paradise. The citizenry of Sodom prospered because of their own ingenuity. *“They bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.”* Lk. 17:28. As a result of all this entrepreneurship, *“they did eat, they drank”* and enjoyed the mild climate. Lot has been accepted into this exclusive county club style living, especially since he married one of the prominent physician’s daughter of Sodom. So far, Lot’s “eyes” have not deceived him in acquiring his heart’s desire; wealth and a beautiful Sodomite damsel for a wife. Our hero, Lot, seems to be on a roll!

Wealth Eludes Lot

However, riches seem to have eluded our Christian friend, Lot. In Lot’s entrepreneurship with these

men of Sodom, he had broken “God’s code” by intermingling his funds with those of the wicked men of Sodom. Lot has become so engrossed with these men of Sodom that he forgot what *“Touch not the unclean thing”* is. Like Bill Clinton, Lot didn’t know what is, is!

“Remember Lot’s wife”

“Remember Lot’s wife.” This is the final remembrance of this synoptic truth on Christ’s return. Is there a message for the men that will exist at the time of the rapture? Lot’s wife is so devoted to Sodom that she blocks out the voice of angels. Why would a woman who could not obey angels, submit unto her husband? Her refusal to obey the voice of angels, *“Escape for thy life,”* turned her to a pillar of salt.

Could it be Lot’s wife became a pillar or a monument to the student of prophecy of the type of woman that would exist at the close of this age of grace.

Lot’s Fat Head

Apparently, God has more patience with Lot. God told Lot, *“Escape for thy life; LOOK NOT BEHIND THEE, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD...I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”* Gen. 19:17-20.

God had told Lot to go to the top of the mountain, but he cried out for a little city, Zoar (Heb.-be brought low, to be small). Imagine a man telling God how to prosper his soul! “I’ll be happy in Zoar!” God knows better than you what is best for you.

Lot had to eventually leave Zoar, his little city, because after destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, God began destroying all the cities of the plain also. God *“sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.”* Gen. 19:29.

Lot truly was operating on his own intellect, to save himself. However, it does show a somewhat subdued Lot, as compared to when he first *“pitched his tent toward Sodom.”* Lot had to have a fat head to argue with God on where to flee.

Abraham’s Vow!

Abram refused the spoils of war at the hand of the king of Sodom because he refused to *“Touch the unclean thing,”* by the intermingling of God’s provided wealth with an ungodly Sodomite king. *“And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD (vow), the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.”* Gen. 14:22-23. I

would to God we had politicians that would give this vow to the Chinese when they offer money for our secret weapons of warfare.

Our hero, living in Sodom, had been warned in a dream that if he thought dealing with the men of Sodom in business was dismal, he hadn't seen anything to compare to these women entrepreneurs. These women could allow an "I-beam" to fall on you without any feeling of mercy.

"Remember Lot's wife"

"Remember Lot's wife" is a warning to all men attempting to engage this "new player" at the table of business. Clint Eastwood had to become mayor of the city of Carmel, CA before an all-woman-controlled council would permit an addition to his restaurant.

"If thou hast run with the footmen (the men of Sodom), and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses (the women of Sodom)? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?" Jer. 12:5. This 21st century businesswoman in Sodom has come a long way baby!

<i>"The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." Ps. 87:2</i>
