

Abraham's Nephew 'Canceled'

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In the mid to late 20th century, it would have been unacceptable to vindictively punish someone for their point of view, or opinion on a matter. Instead there would have been a debate and, if it ended with an impasse, the matter would have been dropped and those involved would move on. Fast forward to the present generation and it is hard to see any comparison. Sadly, today's "cancel culture" will not tolerate debating anything that is contrary to, or calls into question, their reasoning processes. By operating under this dictatorial mindset, all other options, opinions, and perspectives are silenced, and those who do not comply are punished one way or another.

History confirms that once a society is deceived into believing "there is only one side to a coin", it is on a fast track to national disharmony which, if left unchecked, inevitably leads to a complete breakdown of everything previously considered "normal or decent behavior". At this point, it is only a matter of time before a society implodes upon itself.

Unfortunately, scoffers will predict that the outcome described above can never happen to countries like America. After all, today's modern societies are too "enlightened" and have such advanced technology. Nonetheless, if these same scoffers continue to "rule the day" unimpeded, it is certain that countries like America will end up in the dustbin of history.

A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it... (Prov. 14:6a; NKJV version used throughout unless otherwise noted).

A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, nor will he go to the wise (for advice) (Prov. 15:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

A proud and haughty man - "Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride (Prov. 21:24; emphasis added).

It is these same "scoffers" who are often behind the cancel culture movement and, if they are allowed to continue unchecked, there is no hope for peaceful discourse.

Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes, strife and reproach will cease (Prov. 22:10; emphasis added).

Until the scoffers within the cancel culture movement are seriously challenged, disharmony and disunity will continue to grow,

The devising of foolishness is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men (Prov. 24:9; emphasis added).

Anciently, there was an affluent society that operated under a "cancel culture". One of its citizens experienced a collective "shaming" which would have led to his death had he not been extricated from the city. This person's name was Lot, and he was a nephew of the patriarch Abraham. Even though Lot was being "canceled", he was still concerned for the people of this city because he understood the consequences of their oppressive and evil conduct. Because Lot had genuine concern for the well-being of his fellowman, God described him as being righteous.

....righteous Lot was oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked⁸ for that righteous man dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds (2Pet. 2:7-8).

When Lot attempted to stop those who were attacking his property and guests, he was shamed, falsely accused, and physically threatened.

Now before they (Lot's guests) lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, **all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.** ⁵And 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 (have sexual intercourse with them)."⁶So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, ⁷and said, "**Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!**" (Gen. 19:4-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one (Lot) came in to sojourn, and **he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them** (Lot's guests)." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door (Gen. 19:9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So Lot was threatened when he would not submit to the demands of the mob that surrounded his house. This group of self-righteous zealots felt justified enough to "cancel" Lot completely. This mentality of "the end justifies the means" would eventually lead to Lot's death, if God had not intervened to save him (Gen. 19:15-22). This same attitude is clearly seen in America and other countries today, and it will not end well for anyone,

Tonight while I (Josh Hawley) was in Missouri, Antifa scumbags came to our place in DC and threatened my wife and newborn daughter, who can't travel. They screamed threats, vandalized, and tried to pound open our door. Let me be clear: My family & I will not be intimidated by leftwing violence (Twitter account: Josh Hawley@HawleyMO).

The members protesting at his residence were a part of the group "ShutDownDC." The group reportedly went to Hawley's home to

protest his intention to contest the presidential election results when Congress meets on Wednesday" (by Megan Smaltz, KRCG staff, January 5, 2021).

Going back to the story of Lot, if there had been at least 10 people in Sodom who were not part of this "cancel culture mob", with its self-righteous and violent agenda, God would have spared the entire city. However, as we see from the Biblical record, this was not the case. In reality, these citizens were beyond rehabilitation and were destroyed as a consequence of their sinful actions (Gen. 19:24-29). They will come up at the time of the second resurrection, which will occur one thousand years after Jesus Christ has reeducated and rebuilt this planet (Mt. 10:15; 11:24 cf. Rev. 20:5-6). During this resurrection, these people will have an opportunity to genuinely repent and be restored in their relationship with God.

And Abraham came near and said (to The Lord), "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"²⁴Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?²⁵Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be (judged) as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (cf. Jn. 5:22, 26-27)²⁶And the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sake."²⁷Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:²⁸"Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all the city for lack of five?" And He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."²⁹Then Abraham spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" And He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."³⁰And Abraham said, "Let not the Lord be angry,

and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."³¹ Then Abraham said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."³² And Abraham said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten" (Gen. 18:23-32).

Scoffers aside, this same principle regarding a handful of righteous people applies today, because Almighty God does not change. Therefore, if the "cancel culture" continues to permeate any nation, it will eventually reach the point of no return to decency or normalcy. When this occurs, if there aren't 10 righteous people in any given city, the consequence could be similar to what Sodom experienced.

....scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His (Christ's) coming? For since the fathers fell asleep (died), all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old (created), and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water (cf. Gen. 1:2). ⁷But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition (destruction) of ungodly men. ⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years (for a human being), and a thousand years (for God) is as one day. ⁹(Therefore) the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward you, **not willing that any should perish (forever) but that all should come to repentance**

(of their sins) (2Pet. 3:3-9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Thankfully, God's word confirms that this planet will be spared utter destruction because there will always be some people who seek to trust and obey Almighty God, rather than attempting to cancel everyone who is opposed to the latest radical agenda. If we believe the violent behavior that occurred in Sodom can't or won't happen again, we are most deceived.

*For in those days (ahead of us) there will be tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be (again). ²⁰And unless the Lord had shortened those days, **no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days** (Mk. 13:19-20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

One of the problems associated with today's "cancel culture" is that its methodology is contrary to God's will, and therefore contributes to a future that will not work out well for humanity. Many people are becoming so unbalanced, and fanatical, that they believe it is justifiable to cancel Dr. Seuss's children's books. With this mindset, it is only a matter of time before God's word (the Bible) is "canceled", as the following prophecy indicates it will.

*"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That **I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.** ¹²**They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it"** (Amos 8:11-12).*

The "running to and fro" mentioned in Amos 8:12 certainly could coincide with the information age that we are currently living in.

*But you Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; (when) **many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase** (Dan. 12:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

This knowledge does not equate to the wisdom of God. Instead, it implies a great exchange of information, including cancel culture dogma which is misleading at best.

In conclusion, Lot represented God's value system which the citizens of Sodom attempted to cancel. This same process is alive and well in society today and it will end with the cancellation of God's word, which in turn will lead to the cancellation this present evil age, and the return of Jesus Christ to rule this planet in accordance with his Father's law and commandments (Gal. 1:4; cf. Isa. 2:2-4).

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