

# Epiphanies and Apostrophes I

## Where to Start?

Epiphany — an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

Apostrophe — borrowed from Latin *apostropha*, borrowed from Greek *apostrophé* "turning back or away, (in rhetoric) turning away from a group of hearers to a single person," noun derivative of *apostrophéin* "to turn back, turn away, avert," from *apo-* APO- + *strophéin* "to turn, twist"

As a literary device or figure of speech, an apostrophe is when the speaker addresses someone who is not present or something inhuman.

The obvious is evident! There's little, nothing, or it may simply be the "tip of an iceberg", that can be "revealed" that has not been revealed regarding societies disregard for a moral compass. If that is a fair statement, it is easily seen that the nation's lack of a moral compass can be traced to... (wait for it!), ADVERTISING. There are numerous publications that *make no bones* about what their advertising is attempting to accomplish: "The Marketing of Evil" (Kupelian). In his book, Kupelian reveals the marketing strategy of two men set out to force immorality on the society. Paul Rondeau of Regent University said, of these two men, "Kirk and Madsen's 'war goal,' is to 'force acceptance of homosexual culture into the mainstream, to silence opposition, and ultimately to convert American society.' In like manner, other companies like Black Rock or Vanguard believe that "Behavior is going to have to change...you have to force the occasion. If you don't force behavior, or, whether it's gender, or race, or any way you want to change the composition of your team..." Consider how companies are moving the society to rely on kiosk machines, online ordering, and robotic machinery, which limits social contact and encourages isolation. When human interaction is limited and man's best friend is indeed his dog, the compassion and empathy for one's fellow human beings diminish, and the individual and the family suffers to the point of destruction.

There are numerous statements in the scriptures that resonate, or should resonate, in the mind of the godly, i.e.,

- 1) "And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5) to which the Lord said, "And as it came to pass in the days of Noah, even so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." (Lk. 17:26-27). Why Noah, alone? "Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah" (Gen. 6:8).
- 2) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there were any that did understand, That did seek after God. Every one of them is gone back; they are together become filthy; There is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And call not upon God?" (The 53<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, vs. 1-4). The apostle Paul referenced the Psalmist (a 1000 years later), saying, "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none that understandeth, There is none that seeketh after God; They have all turned aside, they are together become unprofitable; There is none that doeth good, no, not so much as one: Their throat is an open sepulchre; With their tongues they have used deceit: The poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Rom. 3:10-18), to establish that Jew and Greek are "all under sin" (Ibid.) Can immorality in the nation, and others, etc., get any worse? Apparently so.

What can mankind learn from these examples?

- 1) Concerning Israel's history, the apostle Paul said, "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as

some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us make trial of the Lord, as some of them made trial, and perished by the serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and perished by the destroyer. Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:7-12).

- 2) In like manner, the Hebrew prophet said, “Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good tidings preached unto us, even as also they: but the word of hearing did not profit them, because it was not united by faith with them that heard. For we who have believed do enter into that rest; even as he hath said, As I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he hath said somewhere of the seventh day on this wise, And God rested on the seventh day from all his works; and in this place again, They shall not enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some should enter thereinto, and they to whom the good tidings were before preached failed to enter in because of disobedience” (Heb. 4:1-6).
- 3) The benefit of these examples is summed up in the epistle of Jude, saying, “Now I desire to put you in remembrance, though ye know all things once for all, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire” (Vs. 5-7).

The “aged” of our society see the demise of the nation as a result of the absence of a moral compass. The young, haven’t a clue. They are being reared in a “rights,” “give me what I want” society and refuse to recognize the rights of their Creator to command and direct in godliness and righteousness. As a result, they fail to follow the example of Noah, of whom it is said, “found favor in the eyes of Jehovah” (Gen. 6:8). ret