

## ***Crisis in America: The Supreme Court and Gay Marriage***

### **I. THE CURRENT CRISIS AND A NATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28**

- A. On Tuesday, April 28, the Supreme Court will hear arguments for and against redefining marriage and making it a federal law to legalize gay marriage regardless of what individual states may want. National leaders are seeking to mobilize millions to pray that the Lord will direct the nine Justices.
- B. In times of national crisis, the Lord promised to hear His people who repent and call out to Him. The Lord tells His people how to respond in a national crisis when there is no human remedy: return to God with repentance and humility to cry out for His mercy and deliverance.

***<sup>13</sup>When I shut up heaven and there is no rain...or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup>if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear...and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chr. 7:13-14)***

- C. Nine Justices will decide if our nation will honor the Lord or turn its back on Him and His ways. Many are calling this one of the most important decisions in the history of America. This ruling will be to marriage what the Roe vs. Wade decision was to abortion in 1973.
- D. The consequences of this decision are significant for people of faith and their finances, along with many social institutions including public education, civil liberty, and individual state's rights. Private business owners, universities, multinational corporations, non-profit organizations (including churches), and most social institutions will come under great pressure to support the gay agenda and thus violate their conscience, surrendering their religious liberty in various ways.
- E. If homosexuality is deemed by the Supreme Court to be the *biological equivalent of race* and thus deserving of protection against racism, then people not affirming the gay agenda can be accused, by definition, of being racist and bigoted, and thus guilty of crimes worthy of imprisonment.
- F. People opposing the *normalization of homosexuality* could then be lumped together with Nazis, the KKK, slaveholders, and Aryan supremacists. The Bible, because it regards homosexual activity an abomination, sinful and shameful (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10), will be classified as hate speech, and efforts will be made to ban it in schools and public libraries, etc.

***<sup>13</sup>If a man lies with a male...both of them have committed an abomination. (Lev. 20:13)***

***<sup>9</sup>Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites...<sup>10</sup> nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10)***

***<sup>27</sup>...men...burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful... (Rom. 1:27)***

- G. Love doesn't mean always agreeing with someone, but it involves contending for their "greatness" on God's terms. We are to love people so much that we commit to tell them the truth about Jesus.

## II. WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING ABOUT THE CRISIS IN OUR NATION

- A. David prophesied that the nations would rise up in anger against Jesus' leadership (2:1-3), seeking to remove the influence of His Word from society (2:3). They will see God's Word in a negative light, as though it were *bonds* enslaving them to godly ways and hindering the "human potential." The *rage* in society against Jesus will escalate far beyond merely voicing negative opinions against God's people and truth to *warring against God and His people* via hate crimes, prison, and death.

***<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>"Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." (Ps. 2:1-3)***

- B. *The Psalm 2 crisis requires a Joel 2 response, resulting in an Acts 2 outpouring of the Spirit.*
- C. The Spirit is calling the Church to *respond* in the way that the Scripture teaches—this includes turning to God with all of our hearts and praying for an outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:12-31). We are to return to God *with confidence* that He will respond with mercy and kindness (v. 13). The Lord desires to turn a "would-be disaster zone of judgment" to a "revival center of blessing" (v. 14).

***<sup>12</sup>..."Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." <sup>13</sup>So rend your heart...return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. <sup>14</sup>Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind?...<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; <sup>16</sup>Gather the people...assemble the elders... <sup>28</sup>afterward I will pour out My Spirit... (Joel 2:12-28)***

- D. ***Relents***: The Lord is willing to minimize, delay, or even cancel the judgment that has been decreed in heaven. There are *two stages to God's judgments*: first, a decree of judgment is established in His heavenly court; second, it is issued as He releases angels to execute the judgment (Ezek. 9).

***<sup>1</sup>Gather yourselves together [in sacred assemblies for prayer] ...<sup>2</sup>before the decree [of judgment] is issued...before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you...<sup>3</sup>Seek the LORD...it may be that you will be hidden [protected from judgment] in the day of the LORD's anger. (Zeph. 2:1-3)***

- E. ***Hidden***: I refer to "pockets of mercy" to describe a situation when people and/or geographic regions are "hidden" or protected in the time of God's judgment (Zeph. 2:3; cf. Ezek. 9:4-5; Amos 4:7).

***<sup>4</sup>"Go through the midst of...Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." <sup>5</sup>To the others [angels] He said..., "Go after him [the angel] through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare..." (Ezek. 9:4-5)***

***<sup>7</sup>"I also withheld rain from you...I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. (Amos 4:7)***

- F. ***Relents of His judgment***: In response to prayer, God is willing to relent or cancel the judgment that would have occurred (Gen. 18:22-32; Ex. 32: 9-14; 2 Chr. 34:22-28; Jer. 18:7-10; 51:6-8; Ezek. 18:21-28; 33:10-14; Dan. 4:29; Amos 5:14-15; 7:1-6; Jon. 3:4-10; Mal. 3:16-4:6).

***<sup>7</sup>The instant I speak concerning a nation...to destroy it, <sup>8</sup>if that nation...turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. (Jer. 18:7-8)***