SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

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2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.¹ 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

MANY A TRUTH IS SPOKEN IN JEST

Every day we are observing great changes in our society – and the majority of these changes are for the worse! The words of the Apostle Paul (above) are deadly serious and accurately describe the moral fibre of the present generation. The newspapers are full of incidents in which at least one of the characteristics above are the root cause of the felony or tragedy!

To Bible students these traits are designated "*the works of the flesh*" which are described by the same writer, Paul, in another Epistle of eloquent prose:

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, <u>witchcraft</u> (Gr. *pharmakeia* = DRUGS), hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, *that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Back in November 1934, Cole Porter released a new song – "Anything Goes." One verse reads:

The world has gone mad today And good's bad today - And black's white today And day's night today - And that gent today You gave a cent today - Once had several chateaus... When folks who still can ride in jitneys Find out Vanderbilts and Whitneys - lack baby clothes! Anything goes!

This song, written in sardonic jest during the Great Depression, nevertheless spoke the *naked* truth about the changing times which began the moral slide into the gutter of depravity, which now pervades America and the whole world like a melanoma spreading its malignancy through a once healthy body.

IT ALL SOUNDS LIKE GREEK TO ME! Actually, to obtain a more *all-embracing* message from the Apostle, we will look at <u>some</u> of the wider meanings of the original Greek words.

"Now the works of the *rampant human mind* are plainly seen, which are these: 1. <u>Adultery</u>, 2. <u>Fornication</u> (*Gr. porneia*) = fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc. 3. <u>Uncleanness</u> = (*Gr. akatharsia*) = the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living + (morally) of impure motives; 4. <u>Idolatry =</u> the worship of false gods, idolatry; 1a) formal sacrificial feasts (and marches?) held in honour of false gods. 1b) of avarice, as a worship of Mammon. The remaining characteristics are readily discernible as being part and parcel of the moral fabric of this, the last corrupt generation to mar the face of Planet Earth. **THE RAINBOW PEOPLE**

As part of the New Year celebrations in a number of countries (notably Sydney, Australia), included in the light-show was a *rainbow* symbolizing the legalizing of lesbianism and sodomy (dressed up as 'same-sexmarriage to make it *politically correct*). Why a **Rainbow?** Here is one explanation – of the many!

The rainbow also has some pop culture significance for the LGBT community. Judy Garland, the star of "The Wizard of Oz," <u>has a large following as a gay symbol</u>, and is famous for singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in the movie.

Baker's rainbow pattern has since moved on from just flags. It's used to symbolize solidarity with LGBT movements. When the United States Supreme Court struck down part of the Defence of Marriage Act in 2013, the Empire State Building lit up in rainbow colours. And when the Supreme Court established the legality of gay marriage nationwide in 2015's Obergefell v. Hodges case, the White House also showed its rainbow stripes.



The White House illuminated in rainbow colours after 2015's Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage.

How appropriate this symbol is! The Rainbow first appeared after the world-wide flood at the time of Noah. Most children world-wide have heard the story. Hollywood made at least one feature-film of it! Has the world forgotten that it was because "the Earth was filled with violence" and that "GOD 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" that He sent the Flood and annihilated every living thing on the Earth!

The Rainbow was *the token that a world-wide flood would never again destroy every living creature!* Genesis 9:12 And God said "This is the token of the covenant

Genesis 9:12 And God said, "This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."

AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

The old wives' tale that there is a '*pot of gold*' at the rainbow's end has proved to be a myth over centuries of time. That doesn't stop the Godless believing the myth – but **they refuse to believe the TRUTH!**

The Apostle Peter had a warning for our generation: Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 5 For this <u>they willingly are</u> <u>ignorant of</u>, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are <u>now</u>, by the same word are kept in store, <u>reserved unto fire</u> against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

God did NOT promise that He would not bring destruction on a global scale again! Peter wrote that the heavens and the earth which exist now will be destroyed by fire. Peter is not alone!

This is not just a New Testament idea. The prophet **Malachi** ends the Old Testament with these words:

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down <u>the wicked</u>; for <u>they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this</u>, saith the LORD of hosts. 4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE!

Looking back to warn us of the future, **Jesus** said:

Luke 21:26 And as it was <u>in the days of Noah</u>, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also <u>as it was in the</u> <u>days of Lot</u>; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

THE LGBT 'TOWER OF BABEL'

After the flood, the descendants of Noah found '*a* plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.' They built a tower which would reach up to heaven – to thwart any plan God had of wiping them out again!

The *strong tower* the LGBT homosexuals have built for themselves *today* are '*pharmakeia*' = *anti-HIV* DRUGS which 'Big Pharma' is only too happy to supply (at great cost to governments) '*till death doth them part*. 1 million people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2016, bringing the total number of people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic to 35.0 million. [www.hiv.gov/Global Statistics]

THE RAINBOWED ANGEL

Revelation 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and <u>a rainbow was upon</u> <u>his head</u>, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 7 But *in the* days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Here is a vision given to the Apostle John telling him that the frightening things he was about to be shown would all end happily for those '*wowsers*' who followed the advice found in Peter's Second Epistle:

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherei<u>n the heavens</u> being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

So, what was **the Rainbowed angel** meaning when referring to "the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound {his trumpet} the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The <u>Trumpet visions</u> are about events which were instrumental in bringing the Jewish people to the present position of a sanctuary in **the State of Israel**.

- 1) WW2 bombs, shells, bullets affect 1/3 of the world.
- 2) A large maritime power falls. The British Empire.
- 3) "Chernobyl" = Russian for wormwood. Atom bombs, nuclear accident radiation kills millions.
- 4) SUN, moon and stars (*Remember Joseph's dream*). A third of *Jewish population* died in the Holocaust
- 5) Four powers from EUPHRATES loosed kill 1/3 men
- 6) Iran/Arabs defeat Israel- Jerusalem Earthquake!

And now the Climax of the Age – the 7th Trumpet The Rainbowed Angel's Mystery Message!

Revelation 11: 15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.... 18 and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Even so, Come! Lord Jesus". YBIC, Arthur Wright