

End-Time Prep Series
Lesson 3: Out of the Cities Before It Is Too Late!
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr

Remember, all the commands of God are established law and statutes in the courts of Heaven. They all must be obeyed and not taken lightly. Those who minimize His commands and make excuses will be cursed like Israel. Those who allow God to work in them to do the commands and will of God will be blessed.

Philippians 2:13

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

With this type of spiritual power to do the commands of God we have no excuse.

God has given His remnant church explicit directions on the medical missionary work and the everlasting gospel evangelism. All those who are the true remnant of God are instructed to follow His instructions. These instructions are not suggestions but commands for the benefit of the gospel work and ourselves spirituality. We must always keep the example of the Israel before us. When Israel was obedient and following the specific commands of God they were blessed; but when they served idols and disobeyed God, they were cursed and eventually destroyed.

Get out of the cities

One of the explicit commands that God has given His remnant people in preparation for the end of time is to get out of the cities into the country and rural places to live, raise your children, and do God's work.

All who take heed to getting out of the cities will be blessed but those who remain in the cities will be cursed. Many will be overcome by the vice, crime, violence, and worldly influences. Also, at the end of time many will be swept away by the judgments of God in these centers of sin and vice.

Let's go to the Spirit of Prophecy by Ellen White and get more insights of why God wants us to take heed to this very important command.

“ ‘Out of the cities; out of the cities!’--this is the message the Lord has been giving me. The earthquakes will come; the floods will come; and we are not to establish ourselves in the wicked cities, where the enemy is served in every way, and where God is so often forgotten. The Lord desires that we shall have clear spiritual eyesight. We must be quick to discern the peril that would attend the establishment of institutions in these wicked cities. We must make

wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places.”
{Ellen White, The Judgment of God On Our Cities, July 5, 1906, Review and Herald}

“The world over, cities are becoming hotbeds of vice. On every hand are the sights and sounds of evil. Everywhere are enticements to sensuality and dissipation. The tide of corruption and crime is continually swelling. Every day brings the record of violence, -- robberies, murders, suicides, and crimes unnamable.

Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance, all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power.

One of the most subtle and dangerous temptations that assails the children and youth in the cities is the love of pleasure. Holidays are numerous; games and horse racing draw thousands, and the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts them away from the sober duties of life. Money that should have been saved for better uses is frittered away for amusements.”
{Ellen White, Country Living p. 5}

The Pagan Roman Empire greatly valued public mass entertainment and amusements for its citizens. These were distractions as a cover to the fact that the citizens were really under the oppression and control of the Roman monarch. Many of these entertainments were actually worship services to the pagan gods of Rome. They built many large coliseums throughout the empire to host various sporting events that were sometimes very violent. Many Christians were killed in front of thousands by beasts in front of roaring crowds at the Roman coliseums. These stadiums were part of multiple entertainment venues in the city center. They spent a large sum of money to build these centers.

In modern times, the large cities and its citizens also value public mass entertainment and amusements. They in partnership with pro teams pay millions of dollars in taxes for these massive entertainment venues. For example, the recently built new stadium in Los Angeles, CA called SoFi stadium cost a whopping \$5.5 billion! Unbelievable. Most of these same cities are filled with homeless encampments throughout the city, crime, and violence.

'It's just crazy': 12 major cities hit all-time homicide records, by Bill Hutchinson, ABC News, December 8, 2021

“At least 12 major U.S. cities have broken [annual homicide records](#) in 2021 -- and there's still three weeks to go in the year.

Chicago, the nation's third-largest city, leads the nation with 739 homicides as of the end of November, up 3% from 2020, according to Chicago Police Department crime data.”

Cities worldwide have become more evil and violent as those who were destroyed in the worldwide flood.

Genesis 6:5

5 And 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.

Genesis 6:13

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

During the time of Abraham and Lot, Lot raised his family up in a corrupt and wicked city; while Abraham, his wife, and servants chose to live in the country side away from the wickedness of the cities.

Genesis 13:12-13

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.

13 But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Land (Hebrew): 'erets [eh'-rets] in this context is referring to the countryside or wilderness of Canaan. Abraham did not raise Isaac up in a city but in the countryside.

What happen to Lot and his family as a result of living in the wicked city of Sodom?

There was an occasion that a confederacy of kings overthrew the city of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 14:11-13

11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram.

Notice where Abraham lived, "in the plain of Mamre," the country side.

Abraham received the message about Lot. With God's help, Abraham and his men were able to overtake Sodom's enemies and rescue Lot. This whole experience of being taken captive as a result of living in the evil city of Sodom should have been a wake-up call for Lot. He should have taken himself and his family out of Sodom immediately. But sadly, Lot remained and raised his family in this evil city.

There is a parallel between Lot and the disobedient professed remnant who remain in the cities today. Many are caught up in the devices of Satan in these cities like Lot. Many who raise their children in the evil cities like Sodom are overcome with the ways of the world and city life. They become street wise and Bible ignorant. They know the ways of the city life, but are ignorant to the will and ways of God.

Later, God urgently warned Lot to get out of Sodom because it was going to be destroyed by fire and brimstone.

Genesis 19:12-15

- 12 And the men (two angels) said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, **bring them out of this place:**
- 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.
- 14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.
- 15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Right before the destruction, Lot was reluctant. He lingered. The angels had to grab hold of his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters to get them out of Sodom. Sadly, as they were running away from the city, Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Her heart was still in the city. That was where her house and many her assets were and some of her rebellious children.

Where did the angels' tell Lot to escape to? Was it another city?

Genesis 19:17

- 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

They told him to escape to the mountain, a rural and wilderness countryside away from the cities. This was a direct command from God. It was NOT a suggestion.

What was Lot's response to God's command?

Genesis 19:18-20

- 18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:
- 19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:
- 20 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.

Sadly, Lot still did not learn his lesson. He disobeyed God and went to the city of Zoar to live.

There are many professed remnant who are doing exactly the same thing. They get out of the big city like New York with a population of 8 million and move to another "smaller" city like Charlotte, NC with about 1 million people. This is not what God is talking about. Charlotte has just as much sinful devices, violence, and crime as New York City. Charlotte is NOT the country nor rural. It is a major city in the South. It is the largest city in North Carolina.

It wasn't until after he witness the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, that Lot got out of Zoar which was also destroyed as God said. Lot finally went to the mountain countryside.

Lot's selfishness, covetousness, greed, lack of faith, disobedience, and hesitancy had detrimental results for him and his family.

The professed remnant who continue to remain in the cities are like Lot; selfish, covetous, greedy, and faithless. Their disobedience and hesitancy will have detrimental results for themselves and their family.

If you have not made that move to the countryside. Now is the time. You must ask, seek, and knock. God is not going to just drop a deed of a country property from the sky.

A.S.K = Ask, Seek, & Knock principle:

Matthew 7:7-11

- 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
- 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
- 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
- 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Asking is not going to "Go fund me" first. For example, if you are looking for a countryside property, have a plan of action. Do the work of the an evangelist and medical missionary now where you are. Write down a missionary plan of action when you get out to the country. Go to the Lord in sincere prayer. In faith seek. Look for property that fits the missionary plans. Keep doing the Master's work. God will lead you and set up things for you but you must move in faith. When God opens the path, you must knock and be obedient to God's providence. I am not saying that Go Fund Me is wrong, but it is wrong not to go first to Christ. If you are not doing the work of God now and expect Go Fund Me to be your path to country living and ministry, you will be disappointed. You must go in faith and God will provide.

We must go forward in faith as if we have thousands of dollars. Advance in faith and do not doubt or fear. Remember doubt or fear will automatically cancel out faith.

What are some more benefits and blessings of country living in prepping you, your family, and others for the final crisis? To be continued....