

# 27 STEPS OF NATIONAL DECLINE

Part II of GOD AND NATIONS Series

by Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A., 30 April 2013 (2016 revision)

When a nation begins to decline, there are at least 27 identifiable steps, though a few apply only to Jewish or Christian nations. These steps are taken from the Bible, particularly Romans chapter 1, and observations of nations. They are generally sequential.

1. The reverential fear and love of Almighty God diminishes.
2. The people increasingly do not honor the Sabbath or LORD's Day as holy.
3. One generation fails to remember the LORD or pass on a vibrant faith to their children, and knowledge of His wonderful acts in Biblical history and their own history.
4. Impiety, unrighteousness, ungodliness, and wickedness start increasing unabated.
5. People wrong or harm one another, and injustice escalates unabated.
6. The Truth is suppressed, distorted, perverted, and opposed.
7. Many deny "that which is known about God," which He makes evident to/within them.
8. Many suppress the knowledge of the nature and character of God evident in creation.
9. They choose *not* to honor or glorify God as God.
10. They choose *not* to give thanks, or privately or publicly express gratitude, to God.
11. They lose the capacity to know and do what is right, develop futile speculations and theories, and become empty and vain in their thoughts and communications.
12. They develop an obscured and darkened heart, and become unintelligent.
13. They claim to be wise, while actually becoming fools, refusing wisdom or correction.
14. They reject "the glory of the incorruptible God," and cease to acknowledge God.
15. They idolize, worship and serve self, people, created things, and material possessions.
16. God partly withdraws His blessing and protection, giving "them over in the lust of their hearts to impurity"; sexual sin escalates, followed by sexually transmitted diseases.
17. Marriage and family breakdowns increase sharply.
18. Abortion or infanticide may be legalized; shedding innocent blood becomes acceptable.  
The foundations for fearing God, and respecting the sanctity and inherent value of human life, are largely abandoned; the government will be pressured to remove obstacles to absolute sexual freedom with no fixed boundaries or accountability.
19. They "exchange the truth of God for a lie," forming their own changing "truths."
20. Therefore, "God gave them over to degrading passions," to lesbianism, homosexuality, whereby they "abandon the natural function" of the opposite sex, and burn with desire.
21. "God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper" – many develop reprobate minds; pedophilia and sexually deviant behaviors multiply.
22. They're "filled with" greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, hatred for God, insolence, arrogance, pride; are untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.
23. The fear of God is gone! People give "hearty approval to those who practice" evil.
24. People demand absolute freedom to do what they want, with whom they want.
25. Absolute intolerance, open hatred, violent opposition to anyone who represents God.
26. God withdraws from the culture and protecting the nation; lawlessness takes over.
27. The entire culture (except the remnant who fear God) becomes corrupt and reprobate.

Every nation in history has gone through one or more periods of decline. Decline is inevitable; national self-destruction is not. Decline occurs because of the fallen nature of man, with our propensity toward sin, thus corrupting ourselves and our nations. There are three ways to prevent moral decline:

- (1) Healthy reverential fear of God in the leaders and the people, a high level of commitment to righteous self-government, righteous and just civil government, and correction or punishment of those who do evil;
- (2) external compulsion by religious leaders; or
- (3) external threat or force by civil government.

Any society can set up good moral standards, with aspects consistent with the Law of God. But the surest way of preserving high standards, moral integrity, and righteousness among a people – and freedom – is if it comes from within. If the people fear the Living God, and His Spirit is living within them empowering them to do what is right and be self-governing, and they are responding in obedience to Him, then they have the greatest possible capacity to steward freedom with minimal civil government. The generations who founded the United States called this Christian self-government.

The United States has been through cycles of careful building, followed by decline, followed by a spiritual revival and national reformation that restored the nation for a period of time. The first decline came during the middle of the colonial period until the first Great Awakening (1720-1755), which revitalized the colonies and led to the birth of the United States as a free nation. By the late 1700s, the nation was starting to decline, but was revived during the Second Great Awakening (1790-early 1800s). A partial awaking occurred in the late 1850s, bringing deep conviction of the sin of slavery, but it did not permeate the slave states. The hardening of hearts in the slave states led to the Civil War as a judgment of God for the sin of slavery, and resulted in over 660,000 Americans dead. Yet God was gracious after the judgment, gave wisdom (even to former slaves) to create countless inventions, and blessed the nation so generously that it became the most powerful and prosperous nation on earth.

Today the United States is on the verge of a spiritual, moral, cultural, and economic collapse. The current decline, especially since the 1960s, is the longest and deepest in its 400+ year history. For the first time ever, the country has declined through all 27 steps, with increasing evidence of the final steps. Most of our pastors, government leaders, judges, and people have lost the fear of God, the love and knowledge of truth, the capacity to discern good from evil, and courage to stand up for what is right in God's eyes. We are self-destructing as we worship self and pursue hedonistic desires with no limits; our governments sanction immorality; lawlessness and riots break out; and intolerance for Biblical truth and righteousness is encouraged by leaders. God-fearing Americans sense things are wrong, but don't know what to do, and are unaware of many judgments already afflicting us (see separate paper, "Causes and Evidences of God's Judgment on Nations"). A nation-wide spiritual revival and reformation are the only hope of recovery.

The 27 steps of national decline expounded upon below include pertinent Scriptures, information, or manifest evidence of that particular step.

1. The reverential fear and love of Almighty God diminishes.

- Commands and warnings (Deuteronomy 4:23; 6:12-18; 8:6, 10-11, 18-20).
  - Not treating the LORD holy; disobeying Him (Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers 20:6-12).
  - Ingratitude, complaining, grumbling (Exodus 14:11-12; 16:2-3; Deut. 8:12-14, 17).
  - Pride, arrogance, stubbornness of heart (Deut. 8:17; Nehemiah 9:16; James 4:6).
  - Unrepented sin and iniquity (Isaiah 59:1-2).
  - Rejection of Godly leadership (Numbers 14:1-4).
  - Leaders or people begin looking to themselves and others for wisdom, knowledge, guidance, and provision (consistent pattern, which is idolatry in many forms).
  - Gradual departure from the LORD, and more belief in lies (Exodus 32:1-8; Judges 2:10-13, 19; 3:7; 8:33; I Kings 18:17-39; Micah 2:11).
2. The people increasingly do not honor the Sabbath or LORD's Day as holy, but do their own pleasure, or violate it because of work, political, or community pressures (Leviticus 26:34-35, 43; II Kings 16:18; II Chronicles 36:21; Isaiah 58:13; Ezekiel 20:12-24).
    - For a Jewish or Christian nation, from this step forward, expect a subtle and gradual withdrawal of the blessings of God, His presence, His prevailing influence for good, His restraining power over evil, and His eventual judgment, including attacks by enemies and possible removal from your home and land. There will likely be a period of years of increased productivity and wealth for a nation of industrious, hard-working people, but it will be followed by national and economic decline.
  3. One generation fails to remember the LORD God, or pass on a vibrant faith to their children, and knowledge of His wonderful acts in Biblical history and their history (Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Judges 2:7-10; 8:34; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 9:17; 78:5-8, 10-11, 42; 106:7, 13; Isaiah 51:13; Hosea 11:1; 12:9, 13; 13:4-6).
  4. Impiety, unrighteousness, ungodliness start increasing unabated (Romans 1:18).
    - Some of the clergy and people of God fail to do justice and uphold truth, righteousness, and morality, and begin conforming to the culture as it declines (Ezekiel 22:26; Jeremiah 5:1-5; Hosea 4:1, 4-10; 5:1; Micah 7:1-4).
    - People become less disciplined and self-controlled, more selfish, and start craving evil things (Psalm 106:14; Hosea 9:10; 10:1; I Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 12:8; I John 3:4; 5:17).
    - Gossip, speaking wickedly about others increases (Isaiah 58:9; II Corinthians 12:20).
    - Contention and strife (Proverbs 6:12-14, 19; Habakkuk 1:3; I Corinthians 3:3).
    - Envy and coveting that leads to endless quarrels and conflicts (James 4:1-2).
    - Lack of caring for those who are hungry, needy, poor, homeless, or without proper clothing (Isaiah 58:3, 7; Jeremiah 5:28; Ezekiel 16:49; Amos 8:4; James 2:1-6).
  5. People wronging or harming one another, and injustice, increase unabated (Rom. 1:18).
    - Mistreatment of women, children, and orphans (Isaiah 1:23; 10:2; Hosea 9:13; Micah 2:9).
    - Devaluing and disregarding those who are righteous and humble (Amos 2:6; 5:12).
    - Lying, deceit, dishonesty, and distrust increase (Isaiah 59:3-4; Jeremiah 9:3-6, 8; Hosea 10:4).
    - Oppression of the poor (Isaiah 3:14-15; Jeremiah 2:34; Amos 2:6-7; 4:1; 5:11-12).
    - Swearing becomes acceptable (Hosea 4:2).
    - Inflated pricing of goods to make unjust wealth (Hosea 12:7; Amos 8:5-6; Micah 6:11).

- The wealthy or powerful use injustice, lying, violence, and murder to get whatever they lust after (I Kings 21:1-24; Jeremiah 22:13, 17; Micah 6:10-12; James 4:2; 5:6).
  - Employers withhold pay due (Jeremiah 22:13; James 5:4).
  - Rebellion begins to permeate the culture (Isaiah 63:10; 65:2; Hosea 10:3; Micah 1:5, 13).
  - Many corrupt the justice system, and there is no justice (Isaiah 29:21; 59:4, 8-15; Hosea 10:4).
  - Some government officials and judges become unrighteous, corrupt, and unjust, take bribes, don't provide justice for the poor and those without financial means, and eventually "hate good and love evil" (Isaiah 1:21, 23; 5:23; 10:1; Hosea 5:10; Amos 5:7, 12; Micah 3:1-3, 9-11; 7:3).
  - Murder and bloodshed increase dramatically (Jeremiah 7:9-10; Hosea 4:2; 6:8-9; 12:14).
  - Innocent blood is shed without justice (II Kings 21:16; Isaiah 59:7-8; Micah 7:2).
6. Many suppress, distort, pervert, and oppose the Truth (Romans 1:18, 25; Isaiah 59:14-15; Jeremiah 7:28; 9:3, 5; Hosea 4:1; John 8:44-47; Galatians 4:16).
- The Church diminishes its role as "the pillar and support of truth" (I Timothy 3:15).
  - Many reject and eventually mock the Bible, question its inerrancy and truthfulness, pervert its principles, and suppress, twist, and reject the commandments of God therein.
  - Many oppose anyone finding fault, and any reproof for sin (Hosea 4:4).
  - Some openly contend with and ridicule clergy and those who speak with true knowledge of God (Hosea 4:4).
  - Truth and knowledge from God are rejected by leaders and people; many question if truth exists and don't believe in absolute truth (Isaiah 59:14-15; Jeremiah 5:1-3; 7:28; Daniel 8:12; Hosea 4:6; John 8:44-46; Luke 7:30-35; II Thess. 2:7-12; II Timothy 3:7-8; 4:3-4; II Peter 2:1-2).
  - The ones who set their minds "on the flesh (are) hostile toward God"; they will not, and cannot, "subject (themselves) to the law of God" (Romans 8:7).
7. Many deny "that which is known about God" and His Law, which He makes evident to and within them (Romans 1:19).
- People find countless ways to ignore, suppress, and calcify their consciences (Jeremiah 3:1-13; Acts 7:51; I Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 1:15-16).
  - People start looking anywhere for the "truth" except the Bible (Hosea 5:11).
  - Leaders and people reject God's Law, have become lawless, but will accept any commands and laws from people (Lamentations 2:9; Hosea 5:11)
  - People refuse to "find fault," reprove, or accept reproof (Hosea 4:4).
  - Some start contending with priests, pastors, and true Christians (Hosea 4:4).
8. Many suppress the knowledge of the nature and character of God that is evident in His creation, thus denying "His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature" (Romans 1:19-20; Isaiah 44:2, 6-17).
- Many teachers, professors, school administrators, scientists, journalists, media personnel, government officials suppress the teaching, mention, or consideration of evidence of the nature and character of God in any sphere (e.g., USA).

- The knowledge of God, His commandments, His hand in history, and the Bible itself are removed from textbooks, schools, and the public (Judges 2:10; e.g., USA).
  - The people flounder and “are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).
9. They choose *not* to honor or glorify God as God (Romans 1:21).
- Clergy, priests, and prophets falter and then don’t want to offend people, so they stop honoring God publicly, and become just like the culture (Hosea 4:5-10).
  - Schools administrators and teachers stop honoring or praying publicly to God, and saying “Jesus” name, and then prohibit their students from doing so (e.g., USA).
  - Government officials, military chaplains, public school administrators and teachers are prohibited from praying to or honoring Jesus Christ as God (Daniel 6:6-16).
  - Leaders lose understanding of the critical importance to the nation of honoring the Living God publicly, and discernment of how to respect the religious freedom of all citizens in ways that do not equate and honor false religions to true religion.
10. They choose *not* to give thanks, or privately or publicly express gratitude, to God (Romans 1:21; Psalm 50:22-23).
11. They lose the capacity to know and do what is right, develop futile speculations and theories, and become empty and vain in their thoughts and communications (Amos 3:10; Romans 1:21).
- The people “do not know” what is right or “how to do what is right” (Amos 3:10).
  - Righteousness is cast down (Amos 5:7).
  - People follow their own thoughts (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 10:4; Isaiah 65:2; Mark 7:21).
  - Those who reject core doctrines of the Christian faith, or the Bible itself, or lack knowledge of it, strive and cannot agree with those who believe the Truth within it; eventually they are unable to discuss issues in a peaceful, respectful, manner that brings them to a unified understanding of the Truth (Hosea 4:12; I Timothy 6:3-5).
  - Unending strife and no peace (Isaiah 48:22; 57:20-21; 59:8; I Timothy 6:3-5).
  - Swearing and deception flourish (Hosea 4:2).
12. They develop an obscured and darkened heart, and together become unintelligent, wicked, foolish, and without understanding (Romans 1:21).
- They “call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20).
  - People of integrity are despised (Job 2:9; Amos 5:10).
  - Leaders lead people astray and into confusion (Isaiah 9:16; Zechariah 10:2).
  - Government officials become stupid, unable to make wise decisions, unable to be unified, and the people increasingly distrust their leadership (Jeremiah 10:21).
13. They claim to be wise, while actually becoming fools, refusing to hear wisdom or heed correction; and they seek power and capacity to gratify their own desires (Romans 1:22; Psalm 81:11-12; Isaiah 5:21; Jeremiah 10:14; I Corinthians 1:18-21; 8:1).
- Some become prideful, believing God’s words are ancient and irrelevant, and their ideas, or the ideas of others, are superior to Biblical truth and God’s wisdom (Jeremiah 36:1-26; Hosea 7:8-11; Micah 7:3).
  - Blinded and deceived by own arrogance (Obadiah 1:3; Jeremiah 49:16; Isaiah 16:6).
  - Many trust in their own words & thoughts as if oracles from God (Jeremiah 23:36).

- The thoughts and ideas of any person are viewed as equal to one another, and equal to or higher than God’s words (Acts 17:16, 21; II Timothy 3:7; 4:3-4).
  - Public leaders believe they have the wisdom in themselves to solve any problem, and become prideful and abuse their power (e.g., government arbitrary power, social programs); and the people put their trust in them (Hosea 10:3).
  - Government creates laws, policies, and statutes out of their own wisdom that are contrary to God’s Law (Ezekiel 20:18; Micah 6:16).
  - Many men become weak leaders, not fearing God or controlled by His Spirit (Numbers 13:25-29, 31-33; Judges 4:8-10, 14; 6:11-15, 25-27, 36-40).
  - Many women begin to despise and rebel against male leadership in marriage, the church, and government, viewing all men as weak or oppressive.
14. They reject “the glory of the incorruptible God,” believe and worship anyone or anything except Him, and cease to acknowledge God (Romans 1:23, 25, 28).
- Religions, theories, or ideas that *do not require* people to acknowledge the Living God, submit to Him, confess any sin, or be held accountable are embraced (e.g., the evolutionary theory or other man-made ideas about the origin of mankind).
  - Ideas for the role of civil government expand endlessly as it takes the place of a deity, as the supreme authority and ruler; people begin putting their trust in government instead of God, and look to it for provision; thus tax revenues are used in part to provide for some citizens who are not performing public service, creating dependency upon the government and loyalty to those in power.
  - Hatred arises against anyone who reproves or corrects leaders, idols (Amos 5:10).
15. They idolize, adore, revere, venerate, worship, serve, and do homage to self, people, their ordinances, material possessions, all the works of their hands, and the creation, “rather than the Creator who is blessed forever” (Romans 1:25).
- People idolize their own possessions, jobs, work, houses, creations (Hosea 10:1).
  - The people choose leaders they idolize, or who will provide for them, and are unwilling to hold them accountable (Acts 12:20-23, Herod; USA: Obama).
  - Leaders become obsessed with themselves and power (e.g., Saul, Ahab, Jezebel).
  - Officials and judges take bribes, fail to uphold the law, corrupt justice (Micah 7:3).
  - Government officials, legislators, and judges disregard the constitution they swore to uphold, reject any limitation on the exercise of power, make laws and policies according to their own thinking, and programs that will keep them in power – all of which are contrary to the unchanging Law of God, inequitable, not good for the people as a whole, and self-destructive for the nation (e.g., USA, 1930s-present).
  - Government expands to retain control because of increased lawlessness and public demands for government intervention.
  - Leaders fear leaders in power above them, and people fear their leaders, not God.
16. “Therefore God gave them over in the lust of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them.” God surrenders, yields up, and transmits them to the prison of the desires of their own corrupted hearts, to the lusts and forbidden desires they longed to fulfill (Romans 1:24). Thus God begins to withdraw His restraining presence, giving people (not fully submitted to Him) over to their own sin. Sexual sin escalates, followed by sexually transmitted diseases.
- Respect between men and women, husbands and wives, boys and girls, declines.

- People become less self-controlled, less able to control their lusts and secret desires.
  - Standards of purity and morality are ridiculed and then abandoned.
  - What was forbidden becomes permissible.
  - Immorality, adultery, other sexual sins become permissible, then acceptable, and are finally promoted for youth and adults, the unmarried and married (Hosea 4:2, 13-14; 7:4; Amos 2:7-8; I Corinthians 5:1; II Corinthians 12:21; Jude 1:7).
  - Girls and women seduce boys and men with their eyes and bodies (Isaiah 3:16).
  - Sexually transmitted disease infections multiply like plagues (USA: 20 million/year).
  - What was dishonorable becomes acceptable.
  - Adult pornography becomes permissible, then accepted and not prosecuted; but society may prohibit child pornography to keep up a façade of moral righteousness.
  - Many become consumed with impurity, self-gratification, pornography, sexual sins, dishonoring, mistreating, and shaming themselves and each other.
  - A “spirit of harlotry” takes over the culture (Hosea 1:2; 5:4).
  - “A man and his father resort to the same girl” (Amos 2:7).
  - Governments “enact evil statutes” and laws, promoting sin (Isaiah 10:1).
  - A spirit of rebellion rises to overtake the culture (Isaiah 1:4-5; Revelation 2:20).
17. Marriage and family breakdowns increase sharply (Proverbs 2:17; Matthew 19:7-9).
- Many men and women lose understanding of the purpose and mission of marriage and family; they may become unwilling to serve one another, or to admit sin, faults, and failures, or to love one another with truth and grace.
  - Many men fail to lead, love, and serve their wives and children selflessly; they may be more controlled by ambition and sexual passion than by the LORD.
  - Many women fail to respect and honor their husbands, may oppose their leadership, may seek to create a life independent of their husbands, and their inherent desire to rule over their husbands comes unleashed (“Your *desire* shall be for your husband” [Genesis 3:16], “desire” meaning to stretch or run after or over, to overflow).
  - Divorces increase and social problems with children and adults multiply.
18. Abortion or infanticide may be authorized – the shedding of innocent blood of preborn babies becomes acceptable as the price for unrestrained sexual freedom, personal ambitions, professional goals, and the pursuit or retention of power (Exodus 1:7-22; Deuteronomy 12:31; II Kings 17:17, 31; 21:6, 16; 24:2-4; Psalm 106:35-39; Jeremiah 7:31; 19:4-5; Ezekiel 20:26, 31; 23:36-45; Hosea 9:13; Matthew 2:16; I Corinthians 3:17).
19. They “exchange the truth of God for a lie” (Romans 1:25). They deceive by modifying or adding to the truth, changing it to fit each case, and then upholding their lies as “truths.”
- This is done in every area: education, media, law, government, business, etc.
  - Truth is thrown down (Isaiah 59:14; Daniel 8:12).
  - Everyone is expected to conform to new politically correct “truth” (Daniel 3:1-23).
20. “Because of this, God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural [against nature], and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error” (Romans 1:26-27). God surrenders, yields up, and

transmits them up to degrading, vile, pathological passions that bring suffering, dishonor, and shame.

- Lesbianism, homosexuality, and bisexuality begin to pervade the culture (Jude 1:7).
- HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases become plagues, but governments and health departments are unwilling to be honest about causes, or respond immediately with the necessary precautions required to protect the public, or say the behaviors are sinful, or create or enforce laws prohibiting the behaviors.
- Those controlled by degrading passions become inflamed, unable to see the indecency of the sexual acts they do (Genesis 19:1-9; Judges 19:18-28).
- Shameless public display of homosexual and lesbian relationships (Isaiah 3:9).
- Example: Judah and Jerusalem in the time of Isaiah (Isaiah 1:9-10).

21. "Furthermore, since they did not think it fit to retain the knowledge of God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper" (Romans 1:28). God surrenders, yields up, and transmits them to the control of their own reprobate minds, from which they do what is improper and not worthy of respect or sanction.

- Sexual deviant behaviors multiply (there at least 20 besides homosexuality).
- Pressure increases to lower the age of consent (as low as 12 in some nations).
- Pedophilia and child pornography may increase and become acceptable.
- Depraved people become bolder and demand public acceptance of their depraved ideas and sinful behaviors, and seek to silence anyone who opposes.

22. They are, according to Romans 1:29-31, "filled with all:

- |                   |                     |                          |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Unrighteousness | • malice            | • disobedient to parents |
| • wickedness      | • gossip            | • without understanding  |
| • greed           | • slander           | • untrustworthy          |
| • evil            | • hatred of God     | • unloving               |
| • envy            | • insolent          | • unmerciful."           |
| • murder          | • arrogant          |                          |
| • strife          | • boastful          |                          |
| • deceit          | • inventors of evil |                          |

23. The fear of God is gone! "Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them" (Romans 1:32).

- Consequently, as the greater part of the culture corrupts itself, it becomes politically correct to approve sinful and self-destructive ideas and behaviors. Spokesmen are chosen accordingly (Micah 2:11).

24. People demand absolute freedom to do whatever they want, whenever they want, with whomever or with whatever they want.

25. Absolute intolerance, open hatred, and violent opposition to anyone who speaks of, or represents, the Truth, righteousness, or the One True God.

- Prophets and those who speak true Truth, and the words of God, are prohibited from speaking or silenced (Jeremiah 11:21; 18:18; Amos 2:11-12; 7:13; Acts 4:18).

- The word of the LORD through a prophet is rejected or disregarded (I Kings 22:19-28; II Chronicles 16:7-10; 25:14-16; 36:12; Jeremiah 20:1-2; 32:1-5; Amos 3:7-8).
26. God withdraws from the culture and from protecting the nation (but not from those who fear Him), resulting in unrestrained lawlessness and violence.
- Self-control and self-restraint evaporate completely (except for the righteous).
  - A spirit of lawlessness takes over, with everyone doing their own will, and having unbridled contempt for churches, religion, law, government, and police.
  - Stealing, plundering, destruction, violence, and murder cannot be stopped.
27. The entire culture (except the remnant who fear God) becomes totally corrupt and reprobate, consumed by their lusts, controlled by evil desires, with no sense of morality, no respect for human life, and no genuine, selfless love for anyone.
- A spirit of death and murder consumes the culture.
  - Government cannot restrain or stop excessive violence and senseless killings.
  - Examples: Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:13; 18:16, 20-21; 19:1-29).

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Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A.  
Executive Director  
Global Life Campaign  
[www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com](http://www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com)  
[info@GlobalLifeCampaign.com](mailto:info@GlobalLifeCampaign.com)  
1-513-GLC-4100 (452-4100)