

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—34
Wednesday—12
Contribution—\$1066

For meditation:
Proverbs 29.15–17
What recommendations for child-raising are given. What bad things can result from overindulgent parenting?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

What is truth? 2 of 2

In *Escape from Reason*, Frances Schaeffer goes back over the centuries and traces the steps by which men moved from viewing the world logically and reasonably to a perspective that is illogical and emotional. When men think rationally, they have been able to logically reason from what their eyes see to unseen realities, such as God's eternal power and His divine being" (Rom. 1.20). Realizing there is a God, they have been able to construct moral guidelines for living (Rom. 2.14–15). But when men turned from common sense and fact-based sensory experience, they became foolish, immoral, perverse, and self-destructive (Rom. 1.21–32).

Before God can live in our heart He must be known by our head. When rationality is repudiated, man ends up without an eternal God who created reality and becomes his own god who determines what constitutes reality.

And that's where we are in this country. God has been killed off, and each individual is free to decide for what is true for him/her. You can have as many genders as you want. You are the gender you "identify" with. You determine your sexual mores.. You decide your race. If you're powerful enough, you can draft and impose draconian measures to deal with a pandemic even when there's no science supporting the measures proposed. Killing a child—unborn or born—is the choice of the mother; killing the elderly is the choice of the family. If you "feel" the climate it is, no matter what the thermometer and barometer say. Etc.

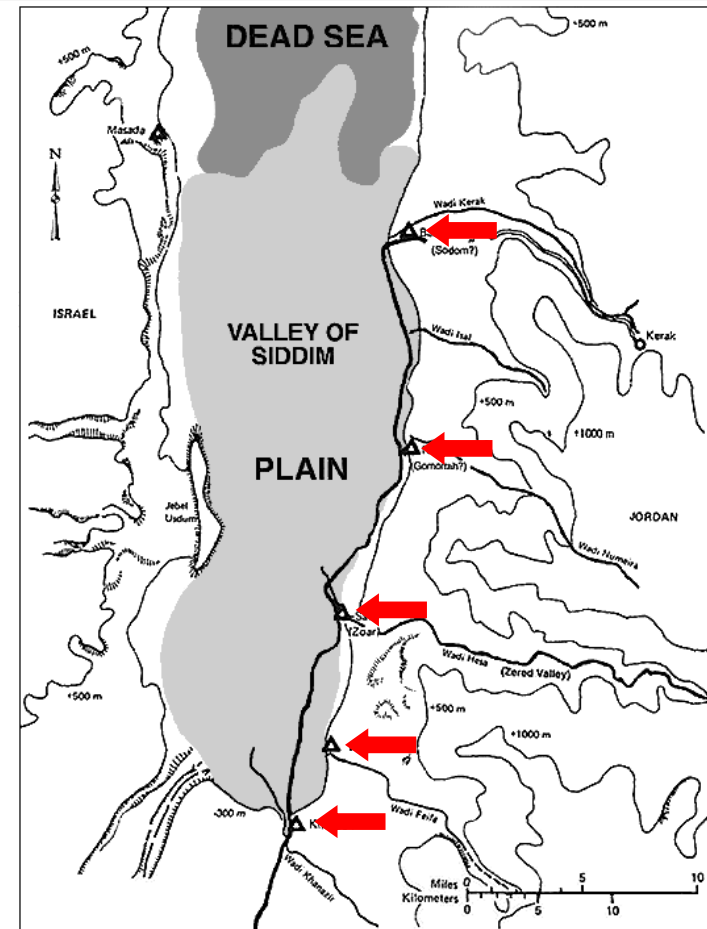
If man can deny the existence of reality, he can deny the existence of God. Deny reality/ God and what always happens is that truth and reality are determined by the strongest guy around. Might makes right.

kenny

NEXT: WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



ARROWS: LOCATIONS OF THE FIVE CITIES OF THE PLAIN?

Sermon: 2 Peter 2.1–3

False teachers and their damnable teaching

10 March 2024

The Jewish trial of Jesus

Galatians 6.14 says there were three victims involved in the crucifixion: Christ, the world, and Paul. “By which [the cross] the *world* has been crucified.” The world deserved to be crucified, and nothing demonstrates this more than the fact the world crucified the Son of God. The cross revealed the darkest capabilities, perversities, animosities, and cruelties—all done in the name of legal justice and religious rectitude—of which man is capable. The Jewish trial of Jesus was nothing more than an attempt to establish grounds to justify a verdict reached long before (see Jn. 5.16,18).

Commentaries spend a great deal of space detailing the ways in which the Jews trampled on their own legal precedents to condemn Christ. But there’s a problem with this; namely, we aren’t sure what Jewish legal procedures were at the time of Christ’s trial. The earliest written record we have on the matter comes from the end of the second century, long after Jerusalem had been destroyed and the Sanhedrin had passed out of existence as a judicial body.

There is no doubt, however, that the Jews convened a kangaroo court, for that’s how Isaiah 53.8 said it would be: “unjustly condemned (NLT), condemned to death without a fair trial (CEV), justice miscarried (PATTERSON), by a perversion of justice (NEW OXFORD). The conduct of the Jews constituted injustice in any court worthy of the name.

- They conducted the trial for their own agenda rather than on behalf of the people (Jn. 11.48).
- They ruled according to their emotions rather than in obedience to the law (Matt. 26.65).
- They actively sought witnesses who would lie on the stand (Mk. 14.55).
- No witnesses for the defense were called.
- Christ was placed under oath (Matt. 26.63) and asked to incriminate Himself (Mk. 14.61).
- A merciful verdict was never considered.
- After the verdict of “Guilty” was reached, Jesus was physically assaulted and ridiculed in the court (Mk. 14.66).

Two angels, high above, stood watching the scene unfold. And one turned to the other and said, “That’s what wisdom looks like” (1 Cor. 1.23–24).

kenny

The search for Sodom and Gomorrah, 2

Since the nineteenth century, finding Sodom and Gomorrah has been an on-going concern. Various sites around the Dead Sea have been proposed. Some have claimed, “When the archaeological, geographical and epigraphic evidence is reviewed in detail, it is clear that the infamous cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have now been found” (*Associates for Biblical Research*).

- William Albright placed the cities **north** of the Dead Sea, (*The Archaeology of Palestine and the Bible*, 133ff).
- *Young’s Analytical Concordance* says Sodom was “A city on the shore of the Salt Sea south of Engedi,” i.e., the **west** side.
- Merrill Unger wrote, “It is now known that these cities were situated in the Vale of Siddim (Gen. 14:3), and that this was the area at the **southern** end of the Dead Sea, no covered with water” (*Archaeology and the Old Testament*, 115).
- A site that has been recently championed, Tall el-Hammam, is on the **east** side of the Dead Sea.
- Others have looked for the ruins of the cities at the **bottom** of the Dead Sea. Ralph Baney, a Kansas City Baptist missionary, is one of the more notable among this group after publishing his findings and speculations in his 1962 book, *Search for Sodom and Gomorrah*.

Without a doubt, the ruins of sizable, ancient cities, some of which have been dated to the time of Abraham, have been found around the Dead Sea. City walls (some estimated to be 100 feet high), ruins of buildings, cemeteries with tens of thousands of graves, skeletons, evidence of cultivated fields, evidence of sudden destruction, etc. have also been found. But have Sodom and Gomorrah been definitively located? No, they haven’t.

First, the evidence offered by those who claim they’ve found Sodom et al. doesn’t rise to the level of the claim; no unambiguous evidence exists.

Second, if the cities were destroyed naturally, by volcanic activity (brimstone) and lighting, you’d expect to find ruins, but if God supernaturally cremated the towns, all that would be left would be ash.

Third, some archaeologists point to “burn layers” in the ruins they’ve found, but in every case, it’s just a very thin layer (a few inches) that surely can’t be the remains of a great city. Evidence for the location of the five cities may exist, but I haven’t seen it.

kenny

NEXT: THE SEARCH FOR THE ARK