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From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It is the evening of the 2nd day, *kaf beMar Heshvan, Parashas Khayei Sara, tav-shin-ayin-zion*, the evening of the 1st day, Sunday, 20 November 2016, webcasting from Harei Yehuda, the hills of Judea, origin of the word Jew, where the Jewish religion is constantly under attack by...Jews.

Maybe it was a coincidence or deliberately planned, but last Friday, the newspapers put the spotlight of an interview in *Israel Hayom* newspaper with the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, former Chief Sephardi Rabbi of Israel Shlomo Amar who pronounced on sodomy as an abomination. This was Erev Shabbos Vayeira when we read the ancient Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

And for using the Biblical description, he was tongue-lashed by the Enlightened. I think several complaints have been filed with the police against him for incitement to, I presume, hatred and who knows where that can lead to.

This is standard operating procedure in what is understood today to be Liberalism, which reminds me that political parties and ideologies have a lifespan, and what we are witnessing these days, maybe, is the death rattle of Western liberalism after four centuries, which is about right. In the Torah, one can trace a series of historical epics spanning four hundred/four-hundred-plus years. We just read last week of the first Covenant Between the Parts in which HaShem tells Abraham that four hundred years in the future, a people will come from his loins.

And so it was. Four hundred years later, or 430, depending on how you count, both numbers appear in the text, the Children of Israel escaped Egypt; twelve tribes that fifty days later became a nation.

Then forty years in the desert, and Aaron the first High Priest passes from this world. The first High Priest in the Temple then takes up his post some 440 years later. The period of the Judges lasted that long. It took over four centuries for the tribes who settled around the Land to congeal enough as a people to deserve their first national king. (And when one looks at European nationalism, we see the same process of nation-building over four hundred years.)

The First Temple stood for 423 years; the Second Temple stood for 418 years. According to my one-volume Columbia Encyclopedia, the entry on the Roman Empire says it lasted 400 hundred years. That's ten generations. If a generation is forty years, that's ten and the Torah also teaches that there were ten generations between Adam and Noah, then ten generations between Noah and Avraham.

And if we can mark the birth of modern Liberalism from the late 17th century and early 18th century, the age of John Locke and the Glorious Revolution in England, Thomas Hobbes and Edmund Burke, if we mark it from then to the present, that's four centuries and it sure looks like Western liberalism is going the way of all flesh. For sure, the Liberalism of Thomas Jefferson and his contemporaries -- he was born in 1743 and died in 1826 -- is not the liberalism of today.

I spent years reading his writing, his correspondence as a leading figure in the American Revolution which of course concerned that period and his five years in Europe, his years as first secretary of state and his presidency. His affairs were manifold, though I remember one solitary reference to homosexuality, though I forget the word he used. He did not use that one because the word was not coined until the 1880s, I think, by a German psychologist, but it was clear in Jefferson's mind nonetheless that this was a negative behavior.

Versus today, when liberals are those who say critics of this behavior are hateful bigots. To repeat, Liberalism today ain't what it used to be.

It also used to be a fighting doctrine. I think one reason a generation ago I could not find a publisher for my work on the Barbary Shore was my discovery that Thomas Jefferson, Patron Saint of American Liberalism, was the No. 1 war hawk in the United States calling for the violent suppression of Muslim hijacking and enslavement in North Africa. It was flaming liberals like Jefferson who ignited the American Revolution, and they were the ones in Jefferson's time who were most gung-ho for smashing the misnamed Barbary Pirates.

That was the popular nickname for them, but Jefferson learned when he reached Europe that these were not pirates but the official fleets of Muslim city-states who justified their capture and enslavement of Christians with the jihad. These "pirates" who did not get drunk on rum and prayed at sea three times daily on their prayer rugs spread out on deck were not your usual pirates.

So it was reassuring today, to learn that Mike Pompeo, 1st in his class at West Point, then Harvard Law, will be the new CIA director who has openly spoken of bombing Iran's nuclear facilities – just like Israel did when took out Saddam's in 1981 and Syria's in 2007.

Of course. Iran has attacked the United States in acts of war repeatedly since 1979 and the proper response should have been to declare war and destroy the enemy's military capability, starting, in this case, with his nuclear plants, just as Israel did.

Less pleasing was the news that Trump is considering James Mattis for Secretary of Defense, evidently a serious fighting general, though he could be problematic for Israel, for he seems to be an antiJew, how much of antiJew I don't know. He is of the opinion that the US suffers in its relations with the Arabians because of its support of Israel.

Which is an ignorant statement. That's what the Arabs tell him, but it has no meaning. Relations between the Arabs and US are a function of their mutual defense concerns and business, oil markets, weapons sales, you name it.

It is also ignorant for ignoring the reality that Muslims don't just hate Jews. They hate Christians too. One wonders if General Mattis knows that inside the golden Dome of the Rock built on where our Temples stood, as decoration there are verses painted all around the bottom of the dome cursing Christians.

But I digress. We began with the controversial interview that appeared last Friday in Israel Hayom's Friday magazine with Rabbi Shlomo Amar in which he said he cannot rewrite the Torah that judges homosexuality a negative behavior. It is not to be recommended. And why?

Well, I'll give you my take when studying the parasha before Shabbos on Friday. We start with Genesis: 18:11-15, when the three angels pay Avraham and Sarah a visit to inform them they were going to have a baby. Sara laughs. The text tells us, by inference, that she was menopausal. She laughs at the news for herself, and for her husband who, she says "is old," another inference that perhaps Abraham was a member of, shall we say, the Viagra generation.

And then the angels look down on Sodom and we move to verse 17, to HaShem, Who is, so to speak, thinking out loud. "Shall I conceal what I am about to do now that Abraham is surely to become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by him? For I have loved him because he commands his children and his household after him that they keep the way of HaShem doing charity and justice," etc. Then Hashem says, "Because the outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah has become great, and because their sin has been very grave..." He descends to check them out and in the end destroys them.

What we have here is the story of the birth of Abraham's son Isaac who will be taught the ways of Hashem, which include teaching him how to teach the next

generation and then generations after... followed by the story of the men of Sodom who will have no children. This is what's wrong with their behavior. The tearing apart of the unique pleasure of procreation from the act itself.

Maybe Jefferson used the word degenerate, for that is an accurate one. To generate the next generation is the definition of procreation, and in this behavior the opposite takes place. There is no generation but its opposite, degeneration, which is why those addicted to this vice have been called "degenerates."

HaShem speaks of his love of Avraham who will, to repeat from internal dialogue between the references to Sodom, "*command his children and his household after him that they keep the way of Hashem doing charity and justice...*"

So maybe we are in the end times of Liberalism as it has been known for over four centuries that has now entered its degenerate phase.

As I concluded last webcast, it is no longer a question of left vs. right but sane vs. insane about this vice and lots of other things too.

Today's liberals are out of their minds.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Well, to continue where we left off, and as evidence of my speculation, the ADL, that quintessentially liberal organization, meaning Jonathan Greenblatt who now heads it, attacked Rabbi Amar for citing the Torah that calls what the men of Sodom did an abomination, a "sect of abomination," *toeva* in Hebrew, which word, when split apart into two words, would mean "to make a mistake in it." *Toeb* is to go wrong, be mistaken, and *va* means "in it." The word "abomination" in English is worse, I think, than *toeva* in Hebrew for this. An abomination in Hebrew is doing the wrong thing, making a mistake, which one can cease making if one finds the strength to stop the behavior.

Not easy, when I believe sexual perversions are the most powerful addictions in society, in a class with heroin addiction, cocaine addiction and alcoholism. And I will not be surprised if some day medical science investigates the chemical changes in the body of sodomites to be very similar to the chemistry of physical addiction caused by external substances such as nicotine, alcohol and heroin.

Last week, the Oxford Dictionary, bible of the English Language, reported that over the last year, there has been a 2,000-fold increase in the appearance of the word "post-truth," meaning feelings are the truth, no longer facts e.g. feeling the need to see a woman as president that trumps all facts known about this woman. The need to "break the glass ceiling" was the stuff of opinion pieces by lachrymose liberal opinionators, with nary a nod to the crimes this woman committed as secretary of state in running her secret, unsecured email and demanding pay-for-play payoffs from foreign dignitaries. For these crimes alone in office, she deserves a serious term in a federal prison.

And of course these crimes were completely separate from being an accomplice after the fact to a predatory, serial rapist.

None of this apparently had any impact on those who voted for her, and that scares the hell out of yours truly. The Trump victory was certainly a great relief and a pleasure but the fact remains that most of those who voted, voted for her and it is a fair bet there will be more of them in four years' time and eight years' time, unless the US and really the West sparks a revival of Western civilization in order to preserve itself.

On the bright side, perhaps, is the evidence that liberal Judaism, the Reform and the Conservative Jews, are going the way of the Sadducees, the Essenes, the Boethusians, Karaites and Samaritans, all of them rejecters of the Talmud that contains the key to survival. It shows the way how to adapt the Torah of 3,000 years ago to contemporary life in every generation.

Instead, we get the ADL's Greenblatt who said -- fasten your seat belts now - "The remarks of Rabbi Amar about the LGBT community and Reform Jews *distort the core values of Judaism*, a religion 'whose ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace,' which believes that every person was created in the image of G-d."

This is so irritating, this perversion of saying that Rabbi Amar's direct quote from the Torah is a "distortion of the core values of Judaism." He ought to be ashamed of himself, for he is the one distorting the plain sense of the Torah and its value in the matter of this unacceptable behavior. He is the distorter of the core values.

The Sodom episode follows directly from the announcement that Sara is going to have a son because Avraham is going to see to it that his offspring are taught and live according to the ways of Hashem.

Greenblatt says every person was created in the image of God. Yeah. Right. Does that include Adolph Hitler and Yasir Arafat too? There is a sloppiness here in his way of thinking that bugs me.

He said the chief rabbi stigmatizes and excludes the LGBT community.

Yes. It is supposed to. It is meant to.

If it is a kindness to tell a smoker to stop smoking because it is bad to him and the environment -- people have been known to die, non-smokers, by inhaling secondary smoke. If it is right to tell a smoker that his addiction is not good for him and for society, it is no less right to judge an addiction to this vice which is likewise behavior that should not be engaged in.

I think Thomas Jefferson would understand that. Tolerance and compassion for the afflicted, the afflicted addicted, is praiseworthy. But that never must be confused with blessing the behavior, which is what Western society has done over the last generation.

And it is not a coincidence that this behavior has flourished at the same time that abortion has been blessed and literally scores of millions of babies in the womb have been killed in the West, so that now in Europe, all the predictions are for the disappearance of

the nations there that have been known for four centuries and counting. The Dutch, the Belgians, the Swedes, all seem to be going the way of the Druids and the Celts, the Etruscans and Visigoths.

At its most degenerate and pathological, Western culture now has produced that apotheosis of the feminist career woman Hillary Clinton, who has less than 2.1 children thanks to a Woman's Liberation Movement that defines women's liberation as liberation from being a woman and mother altogether.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Well, here on the home front, for what seems like the umpteenth time, enemies of the prime minister are accusing him of a crime in order to remove him for office. Having zilch in the way of intelligently opposing his policies, all they can do is paint him as a criminal. Early this month was the anniversary of the murder of Yitzhak Rabin and as usual Bibi was accused of inciting Yigal Amir and demanded an investigation into that charge.

And now he is being accused of ordering up three more German-built submarines in order to make a bundle of money, and to hell with national defense.

The charges of these Leftists are so out of this world. They basically accuse him not only of incitement to murder but the colossal stupidity of doing that in public, and now they are outraged that his lawyer was involved in the negotiations and the contract, apparently.

Embittered "Bogie" Yaalon is claiming he opposed the order for the three new subs, but Yoav Galant, Minister of Building and outstanding general in his own right, and even Bibi's nemesis Naftali Bennett came to his defense saying this accusation is nonsense. Galant says, as the prime minister says, the procedure for ordering the subs was both a military necessary and done through proper channels. Bennet too dismissed the accusation that Netanyahu is not only corrupt but does care that he harms national defense.

It is also so annoying, especially when more important matters are pressing, like the latest clash with Islam that is domestic. Hundreds of thousands of Jews are forced from sleep at 4 a.m. every morning these days as the call to prayer from mosque minarets blares out. The government wants to go do something about this, and I think it has looked into how Europe is dealing with the identical problem. There are laws in some the countries denying the Muslims the right to turn on this recorded wailing from loudspeakers in the dead of night.

On Friday, there were demonstrations in Arab towns here, all told a few thousand were marching in protest against pending legislation meant to defend people, mostly Jews but also some Muslims, from this annoying aggression of blaring loudspeakers at four o'clock in the morning.

The Arab protesters of course protested the legislation as “racism” -- and never mind that nobody’s race had anything to do with it.

I just hope an intelligent solution is devised and things do not get out of hand, which could happen if and when Israel takes a stand as it should. Israel has to declare that Israel is officially a Jewish state -- just look at the flag -- as surely as there are 56 officially Muslim states, and in a conflict between Islam and Judaism here, Judaism will prevail; and Muslims who object to that have to be told that if they don’t like it, they are free to leave and live with their fellow Muslims in all those other countries.

For sure, this is but another battle in the war between Islam and everyone else. Because they have the “correct” religion, as they call it, they believe they have the right to overrun the world, so this is just another episode in their imperial project. And one of their weapons is political correctness dictating a prohibition on any resistance to and criticism of Islam.

Look at what has just happened to Geert Wilders in Holland. He was fined 5,000 euros for saying he did not want any more Moroccans coming into the country to take up residence. This was called racism, and again race had nothing with what he said.

The collapse of Liberalism is also on display when in the name of respecting diversity, free speech itself becomes a crime. Early last month, the ECRI, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, another Brussels bureaucracy, told the British media to stop identifying the religion of criminals. Doing that, they said, only encourages Islamophobia. Indeed, the cringing French no longer mention the religion of Muslims who murder in the name of Islam or commit any crime.

Does this sound familiar? This was the message of Obama, the jihadi in the Oval Office who ordered all military literature linking Islam and terrorism destroyed, and insisted that the atrocities at Ft. Hood and in San Bernardino and at the Boston Marathon had nothing to do with Islam. Likewise the head-choppers in the Middle East.

Think of that: the president of the United States ordering fellow Americans to say nothing against Islam, this creep who released terrorists from Guantanamo to kill again, he who has also given Green Cards to almost a million Muslims.

Last week in Greece, he also warned against the rise of a “crude sort of nationalism or ethnic identity or tribalism that is built around an “us” vs. “them.”

Like his first secretary of state, this man too belongs in prison for his crimes.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *