



"I Am" hath sent me unto you.

Ex.3:14

Project Africa

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Most people are acquainted with Sodom and Gomorrah's sin and are familiar with Jude 1:7, "...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion." Let's also take a look at Ezekiel 16:49-50. "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me..." The Hebrew word translated "abomination" refers to something that is morally disgusting and is the exact same word used in Leviticus 18:22 that refers to homosexuality as an "abomination." It does appear that homosexuality was the primary reason for the destruction of the cities, but it was not the only sin in which the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah indulged. Notice that the Lord doesn't just speak of homosexuality or licentiousness; He also lists other sins in relation to Sodom.

The first term the Lord uses is "pride". They would not take instruction from anyone, not even God. Sodom adopted the attitude that they knew best for themselves.

The second term is "fullness of food". In Genesis 13:10, we read this description of Sodom, "And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere...like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt..." Lot decided to settle on those plains in Sodom. The area had abundance, luxury, "fullness of food", prosperity; Sodom supplied the easy life – a paradise on earth! It is interesting to note that today, as a result of Sodom's judgment, the fruitfulness of that soil was destroyed.

The third term the Lord mentions about Sodom is "abundance of idleness," or better translated, "prosperous ease" (ESV). They had peace and prosperity and were unconcerned as they enjoyed the abundant food that God gave.

A fourth description of Sodom is that she did not "strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." When the Lord used the words "poor and needy", He did not refer simply to those who had nothing, the down-and-outers of society. The term used here for "poor" describes the person suffering some kind of disability or distress. That includes one who is socially in need of protection. God bless those who help support these needy people!

Report by Roy Wanta

Benjamin's widows

Gladys Nuti is a seventy-year-old widow whose husband died thirty-four years ago. She solely worked hard to send all of her seven children to school. Four of them were able to go to the university and all were able to have decent jobs. Later, a very unpleasant thing happened. Four of her sons died mysteriously; therefore, the people believe she is a witch and used her witchcraft to kill them. The family has deserted her, and there is no one to turn to, leaving her to her faith. Even what she will eat for the day has become a very big problem.



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Benjamin's widows



Hagar Anane is a widow whose husband died twenty years ago. She was left with nothing but two boys to provide for. The boys have taken to drugs, and they don't take care of their mother anymore. This woman is sixty-seven years old and cannot do the hard work she used to do before.



Mary Dankwa was nineteen years old when she married her husband. They gave birth to two female children. There was some misunderstanding between them and the external family members dissolved the marriage, according to tradition. Because they loved each other, they came together as lovers and gave birth to two

other children, a boy and a girl, totaling four children. Without performing the necessary traditional rights for their marriage, when the husband died, the external family disowned the woman and the children, saying their marriage was dissolved a long time ago; therefore, Mary has no share in the man's property. Because life became so unbearable for her, she later went back to the husband's family members for help. The only help they can offer is to adopt the children, but as for Mary, they would not give her any help. She is not as strong as she used to be, and even if she has to work, she will need some help.



Rebeca Agyeiwaa, known as Ajara, was married to a Muslim. She decided to become a Christian, so when her husband died, she was ejected from the husband's house. According to the Islamic law, Ajara has no share in her husband's property. A Christian sister, for now, has given her a place to stay. Ajara will be

grateful to **"I Am" World Mission** and the good people of the United States if her plea for aid is considered. *Thank you.*

In reading the Bible, I found out that God's heart is on the orphan and the widows. Everyone knows how God feels about widows. Why would He feel that way? Very, very few people from this country have gone to see or even care about a struggling widow. Maybe, and I don't know, but maybe God looks into the eyes (soul) of the widow? *HE* sees the hurt; *HE* feels the pain; *HE* watches them struggle. What He sees is a soul. Do people see that?

When God sees all the fight has left her soul, who will ever make her whole? Who would gather all her scattered pieces? Would you? Who would mend her shattered mind? Would you? In the dead of night, as she lies there so late and still, God sees as she cries her tears and tries to soothe her broken will. As the Lord watches, who will help her? Will you? As the ache slowly ebbs away, she is still left alone with another day. God sees the fight has forever left her soul empty and sore. She tried to hold on, but it ripped right out the core. Silently, she tries to hold on. She clings on for dear life, but her will has been broken, as if cut with a knife. Softly dawn comes, and her day is filled with dread, for it is in times like these, she wishes she were dead.

The widow has a soul and is not like the material possessions we give so much attention to. I am glad to have a man like Pastor Benjamin that feels genuine concern about widows. If we can help employ widows or assist them in having a place to live, what a blessing! By helping those widows with children, their children have a chance to live without being orphaned.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27