



Message

**What Does It Mean To
Sigh and Cry For The Evil
In The World?**

Neal Parker

Examples For Us To Learn

■ II Peter 2:4-11

– Fallen Angels, Noah and Lot are examples for us to learn.

■ Revelation 12:3-4; 20:1-3

■ Genesis 6:8-9

■ Genesis 19

Lot was tormented by what he saw and heard going on around him; *"...felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds."*

Ezekiel's Vision of Abominations

■ Ezekiel 8:1-4

- Ezekiel was among the initial captives taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and siege of Jerusalem.
- He is in a vision
- His audience are those who had recently experienced the entire event.



Ezekiel's Vision of Abominations

■ Ezekiel 8:5-18

- “Image of Jealousy” – Verses 5-6
- “All the idols of House of Israel” – Verses 7-12
- “Weeping for Tammuz” – Verses 13-14
- “Worshiping toward the Sun” – Verses 16-17
- God's judgment – Verse 18
 - "Therefore, I indeed will deal in wrath. My eye will have no pity nor will I spare; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet I will not listen to them."

Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:1-4

- One of the spirit beings who had "charge over the city" (verse 1) carried, not a battle-axe like his fellows, but a writer's inkhorn (verse 2), and he was also dressed differently, in linen. His is a different purpose. God charges him to go ahead of his fellows, saying in verse 4: "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."**

Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:1-4

- Those people who sighed and cried somehow found a place of safety from the terror, that would start in God's Temple / God's Sanctuary.**
- They had God's mark on them, protecting them from His judgment.**
- Sighing and crying over the abominations and the sins of the larger society, then, must be enormously important to us too, as we know there will be a similar Great Tribulation and Time of God's Wrath.**

Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:5-11

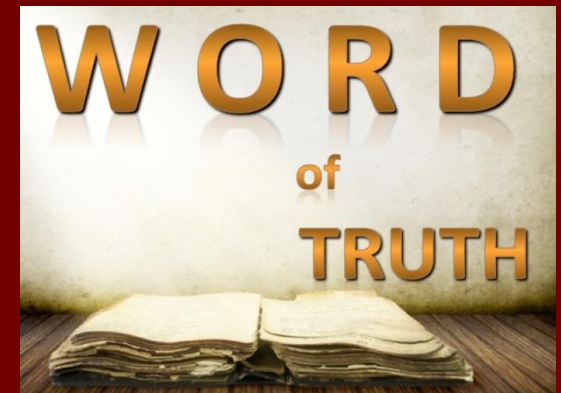
- **"Sigh"** - *Strong's #584*, and it means "to groan," "to mourn," and "to moan." Its rather interesting first use is found in **Exodus 2:23-25**: Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel *groaned* because of their bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

"Cry" - *Strong's #602* (used only four times in Scripture), and it also means "to groan," but it has another meaning as well: "to shriek." This word contains a great deal of emotional meaning. It involves a person's innermost feelings.

Four Elements of Effective Ways to Sigh and Cry

■ Know What God Considers Abominable

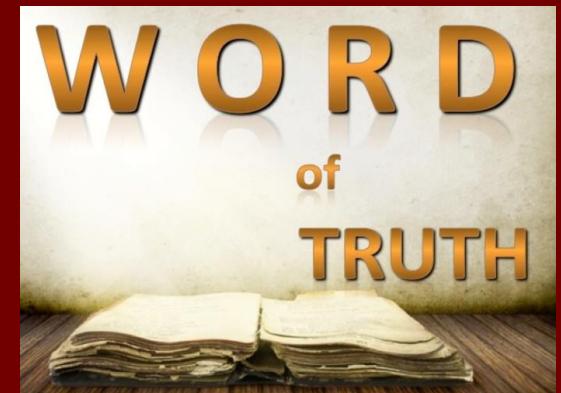
- John tells us that "sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).
- Romans 3:20, the apostle Paul tells us that "by the law is the knowledge of sin."
- Romans 7:7, he reflects that he "would not have known sin except through the law." So we must know God's law in order to identify sin properly.



Four Elements of Effective Ways to Sigh and Cry

■ Know What Those Sins Are

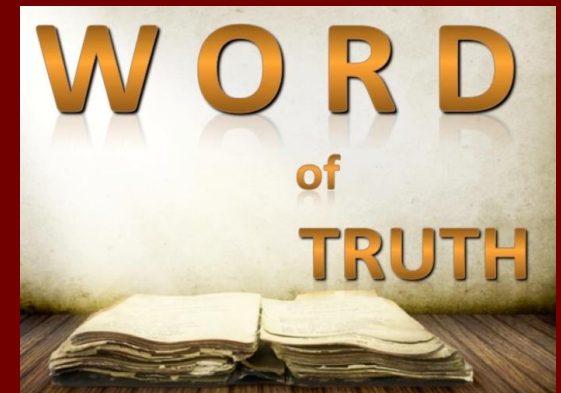
- We must be watching and listening attentively (II Peter 2:6-8).
- Matthew 24:38 / Luke 17:26-30, Jesus gave us a warning that while we are in the world, we are not of it. Could this be what was wrong in Ezekiel 8?
- Example of Liberalism and Conservatism in our society, today.



Four Elements of Effective Ways to Sigh and Cry

■ We Must Believe God

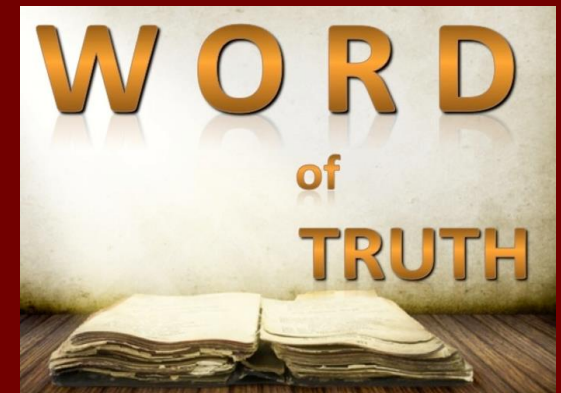
- We must need to believe how God defines sin and accept His definition of sin.
- John 16:20, "Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice."
- The world, rejecting God's standards, rejoices at injustice and sin. .
- Example of Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus and a few others.
- We must avoid partiality
 - Leviticus 19:15



Four Elements of Effective Ways to Sigh and Cry

■ Remove the Self-Righteous Attitude

- Lot, Peter writes, was oppressed by what he witnessed around him; he wrestled with it. There is no indication at all that he self-righteously gloated at the cities' destruction.
- Ezekiel 9:8; 11:13, Far from self-righteous, Ezekiel, like Moses, expressed concern for the people.



Putting This Together

Effective Sighing and Crying

■ Application To Our Life

In this present evil world:

- Let us sigh and cry over the Church, Our Nation and Our World's sins, praying that we use God's Word to understand exactly what those sins are.**
- Let us remain awake and alert to what is happening around us, fully understanding what God considers to be sinful, but not participating at all in those sins.**
- Let us not gloat in self-righteous glee in the wholesale death and destruction that we know will come, but rather pray for God's mercy and grace on all.**