

#10. As we saw in #1, the Greek noun case endings afford

extremely accurate and economical means to indicate the

relationship between one noun and the other words in a sentence.

For instance we know that the word "these" **ΤΟΥΤΟΙΣ** word #134

in verse 7 above can refer to "certain men" **τινες ανθρωποι**

[words #50-#51] in verse 4, "a people" [**λαον** word #89] in

verse 5, and "angels" or malachim [**αγγελους**, word #100] in

verse 6 but can not refer to "Sodom and Gomorrah" in verse 7,

because Sodom and Gomorrah are treated as feminine nouns but the

nouns "certain men," "people," "angels," and the adjective

"these" are all masculine. Since "these" is an adjective and

adjectives agree in gender, number, and case with the nouns they

modify, this fact keeps one from construing verse 7 in a way

that would make the Bible contradict itself and contain error, as

we will explain. First, let's look at the exegetical problem.

Verse 7. *Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them,*

*since they in the similar manner to these...*which these? certain

men(v.4)? angels (v.6)? people (v.5)? all of the above? What

precisely is "similar" the exact physical nature of the sin? the

spiritual nature of the sin? the punishment?

Let's start again with verse 7: "Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and

the cities around them, since they in the similar manner to

these, the cities indulging in sexual immorality against the

course of nature and turning aside from the right way and going

after strange flesh, are set forth to lie in public view as an

example of undergoing the punishment of everlasting fire."