

Wherefore, Be the Nation - I Peter 2 continued

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Well, good morning again everyone - and it truly is a good morning. We are blessed, we are warm, we are dry, in the midst of a battle, our Heavenly Father has seen fit to continue meeting our needs and we truly are grateful of this.

I want to remind you again of the Kingdom Conference 2020, which will be March 26 through the 29th at the Maranatha Bible Camp and Retreat Center which is about 35 minutes northwest of Springfield, Missouri. We continue to hear from folks telling us they are coming and we are getting very excited to put faces with emails. Official registrations are still not open yet, but we want to hear from you if you are planning to attend.

I also want to remind you about Michael's Minutes on my website on the Comments page. Michael sent in another one this week and I'm telling you I just can't recommend this enough. Do yourself a big favor and go read Michael's Minutes this week. The insight that Michael has and the things he is saying is just spot on. The more people that are talking about the Kingdom of God and its present-day reality - and from each man's perspective is great. The Scripture says that one man planteth, another watereth, and God gives the increase.

Change will begin to occur when we speak the truth of the present-day reality of the King and His Kingdom and men's minds get changed about the errors and false teachings that have produced the society in which we find ourselves today. We are in the shape we are in - and we are headed where we are headed - yes - I really there are some strong outside forces that have affected what's going on - there is no doubt that there are those out there with vast sums of spending resources who are trying to force their slave agenda on us - but the reality is - they would have NO SUCCESS - ZERO on accomplishing their wicked deeds if the truth of God's Word was the prevailing truth in the world.

But it isn't. In every single area of life - every single one of them - whether spiritual / religious, economic, political, entertainment, you name it - every single area of life that we have all grown up in - and now is being passed to our children and to our grandchildren - has been turned to 100% the opposite of everything that the Word of God has to instruct us in. Men - even good men - or better men comparatively - have built to themselves religions - with teachings and doctrines - that are central to their

belief systems - and they've done it using teachings, theologies, and words that are not even in the Bible. That's is incredible at the least - and horrifying at the worst. That's how serious it is.

Do a simple search. Find out which English Bible was the first one to have the completed Bible. Wycliff was first, yes, but Tyndale is known to have the first completed English New Testament. This is the early 1500s. This rebel, this scoundrel, this law-breaker, this evil man as he was called by the other "churchmen" dedicated his life to making sure that the Bible could be read by the common, English speaking man. In fact, the following statement is attributed to him regarding his defiance to the roman catholic quote unquote "church" who had done all it could to make sure the Word of God was not available to anyone unless they were in the club, could speak Latin and believed in popery, quote:

"I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scripture, than he does [the pope does]."

Yes, I clearly see an agenda with which Tyndale may have done his translating. I see his disdain for roman catholicism and the pope's refusal to allow the common man access to the Bible - and yes - I see an argument to be made for why the English word "church" was not found in his translation - but irregardless of his agenda - he was 100% totally correct that the English word "church" should never be in an English Bible and this man was tortured and burned at the stake as a heretic because he refused to wrongly insert the word "church" and because he continued his life's work in making the Bible available to everyone.

Now, five hundred years later - the vast majority of people in this world - are playing something called "church" in greater, stronger, more prolific ways than anything the pope of the 1500s could have envisioned.

When I was in Bible college, I was told, "whether you like it or not, the Baptists came from the roman catholic "church." That made my blood boil to hear that and I stood up in the classroom and told the professor that maybe his Baptist "church" came from catholics, but mine didn't." It took me many more years to come to the understanding that the professor in that Bible history class that day was telling the truth.

Protestantism is just catholicism with a different twist and flavor. But all the world's catholic and protestant religions are playing "church and state" and the pope's of the 1500s would be quite proud.

Rapture? The word is not even in the Bible. It wasn't wrongly inserted, it never was there to begin with, yet a false doctrine has been created and men have fallen for its damnable deception - and still - not one man in a million knows that it's a lie.

"Render unto Caesar?" I have to brag on my middle daughter some this morning because she made not just her earthly father proud this week, but I'll assure you that her Heavenly Father was beaming with joy at her testimony. This past weekend, her Heavenly Father gave her the opportunity to speak for Him when she stood up for the truth regarding the complete twisting of the Words of Christ related to the phrase, "Render unto Caesar."

The words "Render unto Caesar" are not in the Bible. Not only are the words not in the Bible, the abominable lie that the principle "Render unto Caesar" was taught by Christ is not in there either.

"Thou sayest I am a King. To this end was I born!"

What king ever has told his citizens to pay tribute to other kings? What kind of a king is it that instructs his citizens to worship other kings? Apparently the only king in the history of kings is Jesus. He is the only king ever to tell His citizens to worship other kings.

No place, no where, in the Word of God, does God command His people to obey anyone else besides Him. The god of the so-called "church" is the most impotent, wimpish, cowardly god ever. And I'm telling you this morning, that the god of the so-called "church" resembles nothing whatsoever of Yahweh, God of the Bible and the Great Lawgiver for mankind, the Creator of the World and all that's in it.

In my over 35 years of ministry, I can't tell you how many people I have asked the following question: "What were the charges at the trial of Jesus?"

Those of you who are listening to my voice today, if you have been listening to me preach, hopefully you know the answer to that question. If the question was, "What were the charges at the OJ Simpson murder trial?" very few people over the age of 30 would be unable to answer the question in great detail. But give an answer to the charges against Jesus Christ? Very few know the answer.

It is utter nonsense to say that in Luke 20, Jesus was telling the people who were listening to Him that day, to, "Render unto Caesar" - as in pay taxes or tribute to Caesar,

then just three chapters over in Luke 23, where we clearly read the charges against Jesus Christ -

"We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King."

...it is utter nonsense to even begin to try to fix this clear contradiction in the Scripture by saying that the statement and supposed principle from Luke 20 is truth without explanation - and the charges listed in Luke 23 were false accusations.

Listen friends, naive people in the world can be fooled easily by a well-dressed, slick haired man with letters behind his name telling people that he is the mouthpiece of God - but a thinking man that reads these two passages of Scriptures shakes his head and says, "The book is filled with contradictions, therefore it has no value or credibility."

"Church" is a disinformation organization that when examined in the light of even just - common sense alone - has led more people away from the Kingdom of God than it will ever lead to the King and His Kingdom.

I admit it, I was raised in it. Steeped in it up to my neck. So thoroughly covered in it that it had a hold on every single breath I took - every single word I spoke was consumed with that organization. And the day I realized that if a man has not rejected nearly every single thing he was ever taught while in that organization - it was because he did not know his Bible.

We have English Bibles now, but I ask you today - how many people do you know that read - let alone study - the book for themselves? The reality is we may as well be right back in the days where men did not have Bibles for themselves and they had to rely on the hope that their "priest" was telling the truth in how to become a son of God according to the Scriptures.

When I asked my daughter if she had asked the people that her told her that Jesus had said, "Render unto Caesar," when I asked her if she had asked them what the charges were against Christ, she responded to me instantly with the Luke 23 passage.

Listen to me friends, if you do not get "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's" - if you do not get that correct - you are lost and are outside the Kingdom of God. I don't care how many times you've been baptised. I don't care by what method you were baptised. If you do not have the proper

understanding of the Luke 23 passage - you are not in the Kingdom of God. I know that's harsh. It's painful. But I am not your enemy this morning because I tell you the truth. The purpose of this message today is not a "Render unto Caesar" message - I just threw that in there because of what I was saying about all these theologies and teachings that men have developed for themselves over the years and the lies and deceptions are the reasons why we are in the shape we are in.

If men were solid in their faith - faith - belief system. If their faith - their beliefs - were grounded solidly on the Word of God - on the Rock - when the rains come and the winds blow and the storm rages - the house would stand. But friends, today's house has not stood. The house is on the brink of total collapse all around us - and it's because the house was not built on the Rock, Christ Jesus, His Kingship and His Kingdom.

Today's house was built on "our laws, and our treaties, shall be the supreme law of the land." It's our ways. Our evolved, enlightened knowledge. Instead of His ways are higher than our ways - it's our ways are higher than His antiquated, irrelevant, unknowledgable ways.

We have people who claim to be the mouthpiece, the spokesman for God on earth - telling people that God's Laws are of no value - and the people have bought it.

No outside influence has had greater success for destroying and warring against the Kingdom of God, than has the so-called "church" and the "churchmen."

The people of the world have been bombarded at every turn with the total lie concerning the "end times, the end of the world, the last days" all because men have refused to read and study the Word of God for themselves.

Two weeks ago, I told you I was so happy to have discovered some things about the Miles Coverdale Bible. Coverdale picked up where Tyndale left off after Tyndale was murdered, executed at the hands of the state, at the bequest of the "churchmen" of his day.

I told you about the statement in the introduction to Coverdale's Bible where he told the readers that they would do well to understand who wrote the words, who the words were written to, when the words were written, the words before and after, etc., so much more eloquently stated than what I came up with more than 30 years ago:

"Not one Word of the Bible was written to me, but every Word was written for me..."

Two weeks ago I was a little short on time, so I didn't get to tell you some of the other things I read from Coverdale and his translation, so let's take a few minutes this morning and do so.

If you recall, we had been discussing first Peter chapter 1, specifically verse 5 where Peter had told the elect, the exact same elected ones that Christ was referring to in Matthew 24:22 -

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Then, in verses 18-22 of I Peter 1, he said -

[18] Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

[19] But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

[20] Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Clearly, Peter was referring to the exact same thing that John was talking about in I John 2:18 when he said - to the first century saints - approximately 2,000 years ago -

[18] Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

So I went to the Coverdale Bible of 1535, I thought I'd take a look and see how he translated some of these passages. I went to I John 2 and looked at verse 18. Now for me, one who simply takes the Words of the Bible, examines who wrote them, when they were written and to whom they were written - I just don't have a problem understanding that when John said,

"Little children, it IS the last time..."

...I just don't have any trouble understanding that. John was telling the saints in the first century - THEY were in the last time. Peter called it the last time. Peter also called it the last days. Paul called it the last days. That's because it means the last times, the last

days of the Old Covenant world. So, I just see it very clearly that we cannot separate the last time - the last days - from the first century. In reading the context of these passages, the urgency with which they were written and the urgent message that was being sent to the reader is very clear.

But listen to how Coverdale translated - it is the last time - from I John 2:18 -

Little children, it is the last hour, and (as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come) even now are there many become Antichrists already: whereby we know, that it is ye last hour.

Our modern Bibles say - it is the last time. Coverdale thought it should be translated - "it is the last hour." But somehow, some way, and I can't do this with the word "time" - but men have taken this passage of Scripture and have managed to convince people that thousands of years have passed since this little book was written - and today - WE - are in the quote unquote "last time." Coverdale, not only said it as "it is the last hour" - but he even clarified it further in the end of the verse and said - "whereby we know, that it is YE last hour - your last hour. The last time, the last hour, the last days - was THEIRS. "Your last hour." This makes it even clearer that the fulfillment was in a specific generation, a specific time period - and Coverdale takes it down to the urgency even of an hour.

I often quote Luke 21:22 and I may have told you, maybe I didn't I don't remember, but - and not that this matters at all - I don't particularly care for the language of the KJV in this verse:

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

I think you know me well enough now that I can make this statement, without sounding irreverent but I don't like this because it sounds "ghetto" to me. "For these be the days..." I understand that's old English, but it actually sounds "ghetto" to me - I think the word they used to use was "ebonics."

To me, had I translated it, I would have said,

For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

I went to Coverdale's 1535 translation and looked up Luke 21:22 and instantly had the biggest smile on my face:

For these are the days of vengeance, that every thing which is written, may be fulfilled.

Wow. Not only is that clearer English to me, but even the message we are supposed to know from that passage is even clearer. The modern quote unquote "churchmen" when he reads these passages, he has to undertake a series of messages telling people why these Words do not mean what they clearly say. Again, what's the purpose of people even having their own Bibles if, when they read something that says something so clearly - someone has to come behind them to tell them what they are reading doesn't really mean what it says?

I've shared my wife's testimony with you before. I'll not go into the whole thing but I'll just remind you that before Teresa came to Christ, she was not a "church-goer." She did not have any pre-conceived ideas of things that were in her mind already concerning the Word of God. When she saw these passages for the first time - she immediately understood that they were referring to the days of the first century.

As she began to grow in Christ, I would tell her that not everyone believed these passages for simply what they say and it literally blew her mind that people could read passages such as these and think they were meant for thousands of years later. The reality is, passages such as this one, and the multitude of other passages that we read - on nearly every single page of the book - require someone to come up with a myriad of reasons why we should not just believe them for what they simply say.

Coverdale Bible, Matthew 24:

And Iesus wente out and departed from the temple, and his disciples came vnto him, to shew him the buyldinge of the temple.

But Iesus sayde vnto them: Se ye not all these thinges? Verely I saye vnto you: there shal not be left here one stone vpon another, yt shal not be cast downe. And as he sat vpon the mount Oliuete, his disciples came vnto him secretly, & saide: Tell us, whe shal these thinges come to passe? and which shal be the token of thy comynge, and of the ende of the worlde?

Iesus answered and sayde vnto them: Take hede, that no man disceaue you.

For there shall many come in my name, and say: I am Christ, and shall deceive many.

Ye shall hear of wars, and of the noise of wars: take heed, and be not ye troubled. All these things must first come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For one people shall rise up against another, and one realm against another: and there shall be pestilence, hunger, and earthquakes here & there.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they put you to trouble, & shall kill you, and ye shall be hated of all people for my name's sake.

Come on, who is talking? Jesus. Who is He talking to? His disciples. Put yourselves in their shoes as we read this text. If He was not answering their questions, if He was not telling them the truth - that these things were going to happen to them - then they were being lied to. Is this really the conclusion we want to come to? The reality is that Jesus - if you examine His life and ministry - NEVER - not once ever - did He allow untruth to go without being exposed. If His Words were not meant for His disciples - in the first century - He would have made that clear. The Bible is not a mystery book. The Bible is not the DaVinci code. It's not an Agatha Christie novel. It is not meant to keep people in darkness - it is the way out of darkness! The only "code" or "key" that a man needs to be able to understand the Word of God is

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things shall be added unto you."

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Again, what is faith? Some mysterious, hidden gift that one receives from a ghost? No.

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Faith is a system of belief - and Godly faith is a system of belief that comes about when a man is presented the truths contained in the Word of God and chooses to embrace them as his own, to allow them to change his life because he has found the King and His Kingdom and desires to walk in that faith - that belief system that comes with hearing

and embracing the Word of God. But if you spend your life developing a faith - a belief system - that was built on someone having to tell you that nearly every single Word you have read from the Scripture doesn't mean what it says - yeah - it's faith - but it's not Godly faith -

God is a spirit, and they that worship Him, MUST - M U S T - must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

We get the letter of Word correct and the spirit of the Word correct. For those who would bristle at such a statement - and I have resistance to this many times in the past - "We can't know everything there is to know about the Bible and God and Christ,

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

I've had people quote that verse to me many times before. Then I always ask them to keep reading. What does the next verse say?

[10] But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

I showed you a while back how Luke claimed to have perfect knowledge of all things, even from the beginning. But somehow, the modern quote unquote "churchman" has convinced his followers that it is a futile idea to think that we can know and understand the things in the Scripture. This is what is meant by "wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction." It's taking verses out of context - and laying them on the table - and using them to lead people away from the simple Words of the Bible that lead men into truth and into the present-day reality of the Kingdom of God. Back to Coverdale's Matthew 24 quickly. Verse 10.

Then shal many be offended, and shal betraye one another, and shal hate one the other.

And many false prophetes shal aryse, and shal disceaue many:

Again, exactly the same as what Peter and John said years later - but in the same century to the same generation of people, nation, place, period, time.

and because iniquyte shal haue the vpper hande, the loue of many shal abate.

But whoso endureth vnto ye ende, ye same shal be saued.

That's interesting. I hope you caught that.

And this gospell of the kyngdome shalbe preached in all the worlde for a wytnes vnto all people, and then shal the ende come.

Whan ye therfore shal se the abhominacion of desolacion (wher of it is spoke by Daniel the prophet) stonde in the holy place (who so readeth it, let him marck it well)

then let the which be in lewry, flye vnto ye moutaynes:

and let him which is on the house toppe, not come downe to fet eny thinge out of his house:

and let him which is in ye felde, not turne back to fetch his clothes.

But wo vnto them that are with childe, and to them that geue suck in those dayes.

But praye ye, that youre flight be not in ye wynter, ner on the Sabbath.

For then shal there be greate trouble, soch as was not from the begynnyng of the worlde vnto this tyme, ner shalbe.

Yee and excepte those daies shulde be shortened, there shulde no flesh be saued: but for ye chosens sake those dayes shalbe shortened.

Then yf eny man shal saye vnto you: lo, here is Christ, or there, beleue it not.

For there shal aryse false Christes and false prophetes, and shal do greate tokes and wonders: In so moch, that (yf it were possible) the very chosen shulde be brought in to erreure.

Beholde, I haue tolde you before.

Wherfore yf they shal saye vnto you: Beholde, he is in the wildernes, go not ye forth: Beholde, he is in the chamber, beleue it not.

For like as the lightenyng goeth out from the East, and shyneth vnto the west, so shal the commynge of the sonne of man be.

For where so euer a deed carcasse is, there wyl the Aegles be gathered together.

Immediatly after the trouble of the same tyme, shal the Sonne and Moone lose their light, and the starres shall fall from heauen, and the powers of heauen shal moue:

and then shal appeare the token of the sonne of man in heaue: and then shal all the kynreds of the earth mourne, and they shal se the sonne of man come in the cloudes of heauen with greate power and glory.

And he shal sende his angels with ye greate voyce of a trompe, & they shal gather together his chosen from the foure wyndes, from one ende of the heauen to the other.

Lerne a symilitude of ye fygge tre. When his braunche is yet tender, and his leaues spronge, ye knowe that Sommer is nye.

So likewyse ye, whan ye se all thynges, be ye sure, that it is nye euen at the dores

Verely I saye vnto you: This generacion shal not passe, tyll all these be fulfilled.

The disciples, sitting there in private conversation with Christ, with nearly every single verse in His response to their question - clearly being pointed directly at them - you shall see, you shall see, you shall see - yet still today - there is not one man in thousands - and in the so-called "church" there is not one man in millions - that understands that Jesus was speaking to His disciples telling them that they - and their generation would see the fulfillment of the things meant for them.

Coverdale's I Peter 1:19-20 says,

but with the precious bloude of Christ, as of an innocet and vndefyled lambe, which was ordeyned before the worlde was made, but is declared in these last tymes for youre sakes,

For those of you hopefully that are wondering what Coverdale did with the Greek word ecclesia - wonder no more - what do you think he did? He did not use the English word "church." The English word "church" is not in the 1535 Coverdale Bible.

Now, I'm not going to stand here and tell you that these men, Tyndale and Coverdale had every bit of it correct. Not going to do that at all. Did Tyndale have an agenda? Sure he did. Did Coverdale have an agenda? Of course. Even though they understood the English word "church" should not be in the English Bible, was there any influence on their thinking from the world in which they lived? A world fully dominated by the divine right of kings and roman catholic popery? Who knows?

There are a lot of truths those men had that were not passed on to the generations that came after them. I don't know whether those men understood the wickedness and rebellion that the concept of the "divine right of earthly kings" brings. But I will say this, I do not believe that God has abandoned us. I believe that operating with the simple key - "Seek the Kingdom" - we can understand even more things than people like Tyndale and Coverdale and others who have greater testimonies than what most - even true Christians have - in this generation.

In our remaining time this morning, let's get back to I Peter chapter 2.

We have been dealing with the truth that what we were seeing in I Peter was the foundation of the New World - the people of God - those unique individuals that were living in the last days of the Old Covenant World - and getting ready to transition into the first days of the New Covenant World. Their supreme importance is such that there will never be another people like this. Their extreme significance in understanding the perfect Will of God for our lives - must be understood in order for us to achieve the Godly faith that is essential to bring men to the - now listen - I Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

[2] For Kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

[3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

[4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Without going into greater detail this morning, but we'll come back to it, I want you to know that "Kings" in verse 2 is capitalized in the 1599 Geneva Bible and even in the first edition KJV. I Peter 2:

Read with me again, please beginning in verse 1, since we were away from it last week.

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

[2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

[3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

[4] To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

[5] Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

[6] Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

[7] Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

[8] And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

[9] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

[10] Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Clearly now, we see, that these strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, had become the people of God. In times past, they were not a people. But now, they were the people of God. They were the people of God - chosen - because they believed that Jesus was precious. Not precious, as in what a cute little baby - but precious as in value - value of the highest estate. No other name, no other authority, given under heaven - whereby men might be saved.

Want to be the people of God today, like these people? Then, value the name, the authority of Christ higher than any other thing in life. Become totally immersed, totally buried into Christ by faith in believing and trusting in the simple, clear Words of God as we read them and study without twisting them into things they were never intended to mean.

Surely we can see, that finally, God has a people for Himself. A people that have embraced Him out of love and because they have understood the highest value of all in believing His Words. People that were not ashamed to call Him God. People that were

glad to show forth His praises. People who were glad to be known among the other nations as people who were peculiar, people who didn't do things the same way everyone else does them. People who understood that walking in the light means understanding that men do not have the authority or power from God to determine for themselves what is good and what is evil. These were people who understood the prophets, the prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah - and they believed that Jesus was the One Who was the fulfillment in the fullest and most complete understanding. This was God's Holy Nation, a people who in times past were not so, but now - because of their faith - their knowledge based understanding - had become the people of God.

Beginning in verse 11, Peter is now telling them how to build on this foundation. How to live as the people of God - who had now obtained mercy - where they once had none.

[11] Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

[12] Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The responsibility of this new nation, this new people, this peculiar people was to be a light to the rest of the world - the other nations. Among the nations - the people who are not the people of God - those nations, those people, have taken upon themselves to live in rebellion to the King and His Kingdom. That's why they still claim their own "nation status."

We need to see, right off the bat, I mean as soon as this new nation of God is established Peter tells them IMMEDIATELY - that the other nations speak against them as evildoers. Look at it again. It doesn't say they might speak out against you. It doesn't say they might falsely accuse you of something. It says,

whereas they speak against you as evildoers,

I want someone to tell me, how, before these people get out of the gate, before they even get started, how is it that the heathen, the ethnos, the other nations, how is it that they can speak against God's people as evildoers?

Aren't quote unquote "Christians" supposed to be the leaders in the communities?

Aren't they supposed to lead the way in "Rendering unto Caesar?" Aren't they supposed to run for offices and run the military and be the greatest examples of exemplary citizens in their states?

What could the heathen, the ethnos, the other nations, what could they possibly determine that this new nation, this new people, be doing that they were called evil people right from the beginning?

The simple answer is they were not evil. Because evil is defined ONLY by God and the Laws contained in His Word. The only way a man can be evil - is when He violates the Laws of God. God and God alone has the authority to define what is good and what is evil. It is the nations, it is the ethnos, it is all other nations or people outside of the people who have embraced Jesus Christ that take to themselves the power - out of rebellion - to define good and evil. And when they do this - they immediately define the lifestyle of the people of God as evil.

This is how you can quickly see who the people of God are who the people of God are not. If you are part of a nation, or part of a people, who have criminalized the behaviour of men who follow Jesus Christ - you need to change nations and you need to change nations as fast as you can.

Peter is telling these followers of Christ, the original nation of people making up the foundation of the New World - as you remain true to your calling - your Holy Nation - your separation from the other ethnos - they are going to see your obedience to the Laws of God as something evil - but don't you ever stop living according to good works. And what are good works? The God of the Bible is the only One Who has the authority to define Good and Evil. The new nation of God in I Peter 2 must continue its faith in Jesus Christ, obedience to the purpose for which Jesus was born - Thou sayest I am a King, to this end was I born - no matter what the other nations or peoples do or say - and in doing so - this will be the light of the world that will bring men out from the domains of darkness and into the glorious light of the Kingdom of God.

So Peter, how do we do this? Provide a blueprint. Verse 13

[13] Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the King, as supreme;

I have told this story many times before. When my children were very little - well - even to this day when they are not so little. But my wife and I have taught our children all

their lives - that they are citizens of the commonwealth of Israel. This Holy Nation, this chosen generation, this peculiar people of I Peter who were at one time not a people, but now had become a people - those people - had a name. Ephesians 2, verse 12, says the name of the nation of God is the commonwealth of Israel. My children were taught all their lives that they were citizens of the commonwealth of Israel. They weren't Missouri citizens, they weren't Indiana citizens. Those quote unquote "commonwealths" had taken it upon themselves to decide what is good and what is evil, then even by force and threats of force, have commanded men to obey their definitions - by these actions - they declared themselves to be the other nations, the other ethnos, who were not the people of God.

My children were taught to be the people of God. They were taught that Jesus Christ, the One Who came in the first century - is their King. So when my wife and I would read I Peter 2 to our children, when we got to verse 13, we would ask, "Who's your King?"

Without the slightest bit of pause or hesitation, our children would answer, "Jesus, King Jesus!" There was no doubt in their minds who the King was in verse 13 of I Peter 2.

How in this world, men today can read I Peter 2, which is all about God's Holy Nation, His chosen people, His peculiar people - people who were once not a people but are now the people of God - then say that those people were to obey the kings of the other nations? I don't get it. It's crazy. You can't read that chapter, identify those people, see that they are a Nation of people - then see that God is telling them to take to themselves the kings of the other nations. It doesn't make any sense at all.

"Take to yourselves and submit to the kings of the other nations - but in submitting to them - they are going to say you are evil." That's stupid. It's telling these followers of Christ - even if you submit and obey them - you are still going to lose. No matter what you do - you lose. Friends, family, if that's my lot in life - disobey them you lose - obey them you lose - disobey God - you lose - obey God - you lose - then this is the most miserable lifestyle a man could possibly find himself in. Who in their right mind would choose this?

I just stand here and shake my head in wonder at the double-mindedness of it all. "Render unto Caesar" pay your tribute to Caesar - but he's still going to put you on a stake and light you on fire and use you to light the streets of Rome. Be the Holy Nation, the people of God, the chosen generation, but submit to and follow any one who calls himself a quote unquote "king" - submit to them - even when they define good and evil the exact opposite way the Laws of God say - and do this for my sake.

That's crazy. Where did we come up with such things?

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man - for the Lord's sake.

Obey evil men and submit to their evil ways - and do it for me. That goes against every single thing ever written in the rest of the 99% of the Word of God.

These verses are telling the new nation of God how they are to conduct themselves in their new nation with their King, One Jesus. This is not a blanket command to obey men - right wrong or indifferent.

Years ago, and I may have told you this before, after I had been booted to the curb by the Baptist "church" I was working at, I started working for free at another Baptist "church" on skid-row in Indianapolis. I was teaching a Bible class in the so-called "Christian school." We were discussing the believers role in society. A young girl in the class raised her hand with great excitement and objected to what I was saying by saying, "The Bible says obey all the laws of the land." I said, "It does? Really?" She was adamant that "Obey all the laws of the land" was in the Bible.

I told her that I would give her every penny to my name if she could find that for me. I even told her to go make a phone call if she needed help in finding the passage for me. She left the classroom and came back a little later and told me to turn to I Peter 2:13. We read I Peter 2:13 a little bit ago. It says nothing about "Obeying all the laws of the land." Much the same way "Render unto Caesar" is not in the book. We read I Peter 2:13 again that day and when I finished reading it, she said, "See, it says 'obey all the laws of the land.'"

I gave her and the rest of the class an assignment that day and I'd like to do the same with you today, if that would be okay. What is an ordinance? The verse does not say "Obey all the laws of the land" it says, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake, whether to the King as Supreme."

I can tell you without hesitation, that in the Nation of God, the true follower of Christ has absolutely no problem whatsoever submitting to ordinances. And in submitting to ordinances, a man will never be labeled as evil, but his actions will be called good.

So now, between now and next week, let's all do a little lesson and find out exactly what an ordinance is, as in I Peter 2:13.

I'm telling you that I Peter 2 is teaching the new nation how to conduct themselves in their new nation with their King. There's no need to write out a CONstitution or have a convention. There's just a simple statement concerning ordinances, concerning Laws, if you will. The foundation of every society must have Civil order. Civil Government is ordained of God. This new nation had a set of Laws that were already established.

Next week, Lord willing we'll continue here and examine closer what an ordinance is, and we'll look closer at the King of I Peter 2. Between now and then, do your own research and see what an ordinance is. I'd love to hear from you. Send me an email and let me know what you found out.