

## **Message# 175 - 1-30-2022 - Christians Believe that Jesus Fulfilled the Prophets**

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the message this morning - or whenever you have found the time to listen.

I want to remind you again that we are planning a get-together at the Maranatha Bible Camp and Event Center on what the world calls March 17 through the 20th. We have plenty of room left if you would like to join us. The only thing we ask for is that you help us with the cost of the rooms. We will be providing the food and will only ask for donations to help us cover the cost of the food.

Michael has been extra-prolific the last couple of weeks and he has provided us with another Minute. This one is called Crime and Punishment. It's on the website now. So please visit [www.godsendusmen.com](http://www.godsendusmen.com) and click on Michael's Minutes. There's a link for Crime and Punishment. And while you are there, if you have not read History's Actors - I would encourage to read that one, also.

Friends, my messages are not a competition. I preach for one reason, and that is to preach what I believe God lays on my heart to preach. And that's why I preach what I preach.

As you well know, a man's perspective - has a great deal to do with the way he understands the Scriptures - I've said that many many times before. A man who - and I'll go ahead and put in my own perspective again - so you can get a good example of what I'm saying - I'm not being mean - I'm not being unkind - but a man who was deceived into joining the u.s. military because he thought he was "protecting his country from enemies" - and we all know this to be true - that's the reason - except for some out there who were forced into the army as a choice between prison or the army - yeah, yeah, I know, the army says this isn't true - so of course that's not true - only sincere, upstanding, moral, honest, church-going, momma loving people enlist in the army. Because the military of the u.s. has never done anything but protect and defend the helpless. Its causes have always - without question - in fact - it is a terrible thing to question its causes - so without question - its causes have always been just, they've always been godly, and God has always been the backbone of every military action of the u.s. and anyone that has ever been in the way of the u.s. military is the devil, satan's workers - etc., etc.

So, when these men - many of which joined the army or navy or marines with the promise that when they get out - they can attend the college of their choice and have their education paid for by the u.s. military - when the thousands and thousands of them choose the "Bible college" of their choice - will what they have done in their lives prior to their attending "Bible college" - will that perspective have anything to do with the way they understand the Bible - and ultimately the way they "preach?"

I've asked before. Romans 13, for example. A passage of Scripture that offers only two understandings. It's about men's little g "governments" being ordained of God - or it's about men's little g "governments" NOT being ordained of God. There's only two understandings. And whoever gets it wrong - the Scripture says - just as plainly and clearly as anything in the book, the ones who get Romans 13 wrong - bring to themselves damnation.

And I'll just remind you again, put it on the table for all to see - Romans 13 is NOT teaching men that God has ordained men's little g "governments" and the book is NOT teaching men to obey men's little g "governments." So I'll just put it on the table for all to see - the record says which side of Romans 13 Charlie Steward is on. And friends, we all know that that side of Romans 13 is not even in a 1% of the way people teach Romans 13 in the world today. The teaching that God does not allow men to have their own "governments" in the world today - that teaching - I'd say probably doesn't even amount to 1% of 1%.

For all intents and purposes, the entire world believes that Romans 13 is God ordaining men's "governments" to rule the world.

For the man who doesn't believe that - you can be assured that the way he sees the Scriptures are going to be - saying radically different - a radically different way of viewing the Scriptures is going to be a major understatement.

How many people in this world today teach that the word "church" - the word and the concept - should not even be in our Bibles? .0000001 percent? People like us who understand that Ecclesia is not "church" - on a scale of people who claim some sort of "religion" - we don't even make up enough the scale to be shown on the scale. The "church" of Satan - the LBGTQ "churches" of America - are represented a whole lot more on the scale than we are.

I have been living outside of men's little g "governments" since I was 17 years old. Is my

perspective of the Bible influenced because of that? No question. There's no question about it. Everything I see in the Bible is about Godly men being in conflict with the "governments" of men. I see it - everywhere I look - men who are brought to a place in their life where they are forced to choose between their God and the "government" that happened to be in "power" when they were alive.

And to me, I honestly cannot see how everyone else does not see it the same way. Christ told the religious people of his day...turn to John chapter 16 for just a few minutes today. Let's read something that was happening in the first century - and I believe the same has continued in every generation since. Verse 1.

[1] These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

Now this is Jesus speaking to His disciples. He was telling them what would soon be happening to them - but there is also a principle that's being laid out, too, and that principle has continued through all the generations since the first one.

[2] They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

In other words, the true followers of Christ - were not going to be allowed in the synagogues - and later what would become the "churches." Men's governments - which in the first century were actually ordained by God to be in existence - but that was on the verge of being brought down once and for all by Christ - but in the first century when men were allowed to have their own governments - those men actually believed that by persecuting the saints, by killing the prophets, by killing Jesus - they were actually doing the work of God.

And today, because men are still teaching that the prophecies have not been fulfilled, the conclusion of which is then - that the Kingdom of Christ - the Kingdom of God is in the future - they then perpetuate the lie that God has ordained men's little g governments to be in existence today - and whoever resists men's little g "governments" - God has ordained the little g "government" to rain down terror against anyone who resists their "government."

I'm telling you friends, not only do the little g governments of the world love love love that concept - but the peons that make up the police forces, the military, etc., they are all indoctrinated with this lie that they are the ministers of God - they are the Romans

13 ministers of God and they actually think they are doing God service when they rain down terror against someone who does not obey their statutes.

yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

[3] And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

[4] But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

At a very early age, after being raised in “church” - after attending two “Bible colleges” - after working in “church ministries” - I was put out of the synagogues. I asked too many questions. I wasn't playing the game the way I was supposed to - and I was put out.

I once made the statement, “You've never been run over until you've been run over by a baptist “preacher.” I was physically threatened. I had a sawed-off double barrel shotgun pointed within a couple feet of my face - by the “preacher's right hand man.” I had a very large man beating on my door at 2:00am telling me that I was going to be killed if I didn't get out of town. I had my phone cables cut, my motorcycle stolen, all my other belongings stolen from me, what little money I had was stolen from me - all at the hands of the “Baptist preacher.”

Then, of course, you know how later in life, I modified my statement to say, “You've never been run over until you've been run over by a baptist cop.” So - run over by a baptist preacher and run over by a baptist cop - and both of them thought they were doing the work of God. There is no doubt in my mind that those men were as deceived as can be - and actually believed they were the ministers of God in doing what they did. Yet, they could be presented with John 16 and they would never think for a second that they were fulfilling the principles spoken of by Jesus in those passages.

Turn over to II Timothy chapter 3. Immediately we will see again - the fulfillment of this passage found in the first century - just like every other prophesy in the Bible - fulfilled in the first century - but there are principles that remain. Just like John 16, fulfilled in the first century - but principles remain, verse 1, II Timothy chapter 3:

[1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Once again. The phrase the last days. The last days of the Old Covenant world - that's what that phrase means - the first century. Verse 2:

- [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Did you catch this? Listen to this again:

- For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Not good, right? But listen to what Paul said about the men who had all these terrible attributes:

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

Keep your finger here in II Timothy chapter 3, and turn back to II Corinthians chapter 11. Let's read beginning in verse 1. There is a theme here. It started in John 16 where Jesus was telling His disciples they would be persecuted by men who were deceived into thinking they were actually doing the work of God. Paul reinforces that understanding in II Timothy 3, now II Corinthians 11, Verse 1.

- [1] Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.
- [2] For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- [3] But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

I'm telling you friends, following Christ is so simple. He's King. He's the Only King, the

Only Potentate, the Great Shepherd, He's the One we are supposed to be following. Besides Him there is no other. It's refusing to obey the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus. It's simplicity. It's following Christ like a lamb follows His shepherd. It's not taking a step, not taking a breath, not doing anything that is not in following Christ. That's the simplicity of Christ and Paul was so concerned that the first century saints would be deceived into leaving the simplicity of Christ and following deceptions.

The Jesus of the first century taught as clearly as can be - "If Caesar is your god, render to Caesar, but if God be your God, render unto God." For goodness sake, He went right up to Levi's tax collection table and told him to get up and follow Him. What was that?

"Come, look, see, we have found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel." They had found the King and they left what they were doing and followed the King. That's what disciples do.

Keep your finger here, turn to Mark chapter 10. We need to do this because I told you I was going to stop quoting verses - but instead - make sure you see what I am quoting. Mark 10, verse 13.

[13] And they brought young children to him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them.

[14] But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

[15] Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

How do children receive things? With simplicity. Following Christ is simple. It may not be easy - but it's simple. We're talking about not complicated. It's a simple understanding.

[16] And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

[17] And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

[18] And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but

One, that is, God.

[19] Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

[20] And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

[21] Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.

[22] And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

How ridiculous. There's not a "churchman" out there worth his salt, that would have not found a way to take some of that rich man's treasure. But that's what Jesus said. Take up the cross - and follow Me. I've always found that very interesting the way He said that. "We all have our crosses to bear." No. Jesus didn't say take up our individual crosses and follow Him - He said - take up THE cross. I believe that's symbolic language referring to His cross. And His cross is symbolic language meaning HIM - what He stood for. His purpose, His meaning. Take up Christ and what He stands for - and follow Him.

Now back to II Corinthians chapter 11, verse 4.

[4] For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

[5] For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

This is really interesting here. Paul is very aware of the new things that were being presented in the first century. The entire Old Covenant way of doing things was in the process of being changed. Paul is saying not to be too hasty in discrediting others who may not be saying things exactly the way he was. Later, he would alter course somewhat on this. Verse 6.

[6] But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

[7] Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

[8] I robbed other Ecclesias, taking wages of them, to do you service.

Side note. Here's another example of words that were used a long time ago - that don't mean the same thing today. Paul didn't say he sinned with the sin of stealing. That's not what he was meaning here. It's not that important. Verse 9: (at least for today, I mean).

[9] And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

[10] As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

[11] Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

[12] But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

Now watch. Again, this is in the same theme of what we saw in John 16 and II Timothy 3:

[13] For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

[14] And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

[15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

[16] I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.

[17] That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.

[18] Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.

[19] For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.

[20] For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.

[21] I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

[22] Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

[23] Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

[24] Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

[25] Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck,



a night and a day I have been in the deep;

[26] In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

[27] In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

[28] Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Ecclesias.

[29] Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

[30] If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

[31] The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

[32] In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

[33] And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

It's amazing how preaching the Gospel has changed so much over the years. Today, there's no persecution in following "Jesus" - yeah - if the Jesus you are following is the one who started "churches." "Preachers" today don't get beaten and jailed and tortured. Most of them are the most "respected" in the community. Some of them are prosecutors (I prefer to say persecutors) and judges and cops. Now back to II Timothy chapter 3. We left off in verse 6.

[6] For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

[7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This verse 7, is probably one of the verses I have quoted most throughout the years. There are so many people out there who "go to church" every weekend, even during the week, and they are just learning and learning and learning. But somehow, with all that learning - they are still never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Well, again, it's because of perspective. With all that learning - if they are not approaching it from the understanding that the Kingdom of God was established in the first century - if they are not "Seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness" - then - friends - they can gather all the learning they can possibly fit inside their heads - but they are not following the simplicity of Christ. They are deceived.

[7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Verse 8.

[8] Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

[7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth....so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

I have seen this my whole entire life. I have seen people that claim to have so much Bible knowledge. They can drive you all over that book like it's the back of their hand - but when it comes to the truth of the Kingship and Kingdom of Christ -

so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

I have told this story before and if you've heard it already, please just bear with me. It was back around the early 1990s. I had finished "The Religion of the New World Order" - it was a different title back then. I had also just heard of a movement called "preterism." Prior to writing that first book, I had never heard of preterism. In fact, I had not even known there were people out there who believed that the prophecies had been fulfilled.

Not long ago, I had a man writing to me that was not happy with the way I preach - imagine that. And he was telling me that my belief system originated with some jesuit priest hundreds of years ago. Apparently, he was equating Fulfilled Bible Prophecy and the present day reality of the Kingdom of God - with some research that he done regarding the false doctrines of the preterists. Again - a term I had never even heard of prior to 1989.

I was alone, in my apartment, with nearly all of my belongings taken from me, I had the clothes on my back, my Bible and a lamp - I think I remember it having a lampshade on it. I was alone begging God to make Himself real to me. I wanted to know for sure that what I believed about Jesus, about God, about the Bible, I needed to make sure that what I believed was actually Biblical and not something that some "preacher" told me I was supposed to believe.

And there, I found myself at Matthew chapter 16. Please turn there for just a minute so you can see it for yourself. This is where I found myself that cold winter evening many years ago. Verse 24:

[24] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

[25] For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.

[26] For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

[27] For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

[28] Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom.

I know I had read verse 28 hundreds of times before that night. But for some reason, I read it as if it were for the very first time. And it absolutely rocked me, to say the least. As I continued to read the rest of the Bible from that point - I saw verse after verse after verse scream at me that the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus - in the first century.

At that time, I already knew I was a weird. Everyone else around made sure they knew how weird I was. At that time, I was already living as if there was no other government besides the Government of King Jesus. So - now I was getting a double whammy. No men's governments - now - no futurism.

Not long after this night - I began preaching fulfilled Bible prophecy to a handful of people that came to my apartment each week to hear me preach. Then, not too much longer after that - I wrote the book - which was really a collection of messages that I had preached where people had asked me to write the passages down for them so they could have them in their notes.

Then, another couple years passed and some people from the preterist movement - a movement that I did not even know existed - contacted me about my book. One such man that contacted me - I later found out was called by many preterist as one of - if not the leader of the modern day preterist movement. We talked on the phone one evening for several hours. I was amazed at how much fulfilled prophecy that guy talked about. He talked to me about how much information there was from "historians" and from Josephus and others. His "knowledge" was amazing to me.

Then, after about 3 hours or so on the phone, he said to me, “Well, Charlie, is there anything else you are working on?” I told him how that I had received an overwhelming response to the first book and people were writing back to me saying,

“Ok, if all Bible prophecy has been fulfilled, then what does it mean for today?”

So, in response to those questions, I was writing a new book. And the book was about the implications of the belief. Because, after all, no one cares about beliefs. Or at least they shouldn't. How do your beliefs change your life? If one person claims to believe something - and someone else claims to believe something entirely different - but they live their lives exactly the same way - then what difference does it make what someone believes? The preterist and the futurist claim to believe the opposite thing. But they live their lives exactly the same way. What difference does it make?

So, I was writing a book where I was saying,

“Since Jesus fulfilled all the prophets, that means that He is King right now, and it is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom - right now. Everyone that claims that Jesus is the Christ is to come out from the governments of the world and into the Kingdom of Christ. Right now. It's about citizenship. Citizenship with the world is enmity with God. We are supposed to be exclusive Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel.” Ephesians 2:12.

I answered this “preterist preacher” with a sentence - very similar to the one I just said to you - probably didn't take 20 seconds to complete - and after being on the phone with this “preterist preacher” for three hours - he ended the conversation and we have never spoken again. At that point, the name of the book instantly came to me: “They All Call Him King.”

The futurists, the preterists, they all call him king. But concluding it from the vast amount of knowledge they have accumulated:

so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Now verse 9 (II Timothy 3):

[9] But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all

men, as theirs also was.

[10] But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

[11] Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

[12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

I realize that it does not have to be so. But when we live in a generation that refuses to accept Christ as King - we will find ourselves in the same situation as did the early saints

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They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

[14] And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

[15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

And finally,

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

[13] But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

[14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

[15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

For the last 40 years or more, I've been told by so many "preachers" that we don't have to know much Bible in order to come to Christ. But here's a passage that refutes that.

[16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

[17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

So, I said all of that to say this - that's my perspective of life. And because of the things that have happened in my life from such an early age on - my perspective comes out in

the way I preach. It has to. Now, everyone who listens to me preach - has to got to take what they hear - and apply it to the Scriptures and make sure that what they are hearing lines up with Scripture. That's what we are all responsible for. Myself, I go back and listen to the messages - and make sure that what is said aligns with Scripture.

Each week, I preach, for the purpose of trying to bring men and women, boys and girls to a place of decision in their lives - where they choose between following the simplicity that is in Christ that Christ is King - right now - right now Christ is King. There's not any room for any other king, president, government - right now - we choose Christ - or we choose the world. That's what my purpose is each and every week. And for those of you who already made the proper choice - I try to encourage you - to embolden you - to equip you with Bible passages - which are the only source for lasting power and courage to stand against a world that does not want Christ as King. To stand against a world that even says - Jesus has Ordained us to be king today. It is Jesus that has given us the power to redefine good and evil and then legislate accordingly and force men - even by use of terror - to obey our definitions of good and evil.

That lie must be exposed. The light of the simplistic Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ must be shown in order to change people's minds - and once their minds became changed - then their actions will follow.

Last week, in conclusion of the message, we quickly read Acts chapter 13. I want us to turn back there again this morning and let's go a little slower through the chapter.

As we continue on through this series - Christians Believe that Jesus Fulfilled the Prophets - I am reminded again on the "churchian Israel preacher" who was coming so hard against Fulfilled Bible Prophecy - in particular when he said that he could not accept Fulfilled Bible Prophecy because the "wicked had not been destroyed - u t t e r l y." And of course, we have shown, particularly in that great history book, I Thessalonians chapter 2 how that u t t e r destruction was soon coming upon those jews of the first century who had both killed the Lord Jesus, their own prophets, and the apostles - but before we read Acts 13 again - I'd like to read the last verses of Acts 12. Let's do this, so we can confidently answer those that resist the truth by saying such unBiblical things as all the prophecies were not fulfilled in the first century in Christ. Take a look at this, Acts chapter 12, beginning in verse 18. Actually, let's just go ahead and read the whole chapter. I won't have to make a lot of comments. The text is very self-explanatory and its historical account of what took place - because - we know because history tells us - verse 1. Well, here's history. Here's a history book we can

trust.

[1] Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Ecclesia.

[2] And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

[3] And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

[4] And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Side note here. We see again - the influence of something called "church" here in the text. The Greek word here is pascha. I'm not all sure why the KJV translators felt the need to insert the word "Easter" here. That's beyond strange. Wycliffe translated it like this:

And when he had caught Peter, he sent him into prison; and betook him to four quaternions of knights, to keep him, and would after pask bring him forth to the people [willing after pask to bring him forth to the people].

It's not necessary that we delve into that right now. Tyndale called it ester. Wycliffe called it pask. I just read straight from the KJV this morning. Verse 5:

[5] Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the ecclesia unto God for him.

Herod was getting ready to kill Peter, just like he had already killed James.

[6] And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

[7] And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

[8] And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

[9] And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

[10] When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

[11] And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

[12] And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

[13] And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

[14] And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

[15] And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

[16] But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

[17] But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

[18] Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

[19] And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

[20] And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

Now I want you to watch this closely. Because we know from history - "history tells us that the wicked were not destroyed at AD70" - ok - but what about the Bible history that absolutely tells us that the wicked were destroyed. Some of them even before AD70. And I read a history book that makes a really big deal - a big spectacle - a major show - of the wicked being destroyed. And friends, I'll take this history book over anything the world has to offer - any time, any day, ever. I do not have "history" books



in my library. Ones that have any real value, anyway. But let me tell you this - I do have one history book - and I realize it has some issues. But the one history book that I do have - it's 411 years old. Now it's a copy - I admit that - but it's a copy of a history book that is 411 years old. So as far as history books go - I've at least got one that I know has not been altered - at least to the point I do not know what the alterations were - but I believe I possess a history book that can be trusted - at least going back 411 years. My first edition KJV - with all its issues - tells the story of Acts chapter 12 - the same way my copy of the KJV - which I've had now for 42 years - the historical record of what the Bible says happened to Herod - the Herod of the first century - I absolutely believe the historical record from Acts chapter 12. We can say - we know because history tells us - that at least one really big historical actor - on a world stage - was u t t e r l y destroyed on or before AD70. Watch this beginning in verse 21. Try as hard as you can to put yourself in the crowd of people watching this take place in the first century as history was being made.

[21] And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

[22] And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

[23] And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

[24] But the word of God grew and multiplied.

[25] And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Wow. Do you think ?

But the word of God grew and multiplied?

Do you think these people who knew the Law and the Prophets - when they saw these things occurring right before their very eyes - do you think

the word of God grew and multiplied?

Of course it did. Seeing the prophecies fulfilled right before their very eyes was what gave them all the courage, all the power, all the fortitude to continue living with Christ as King. He fulfilled the prophets. They were seeing the rest of the prophecies fulfilled - right before their very eyes. Now chapter 13, verse 1:

- [1] Now there were in the Ecclesia that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- [2] As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
- [3] And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
- [4] So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.
- [5] And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.
- [6] And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:
- [7] Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.
- [8] But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.
- [9] Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,
- [10] And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?
- [11] And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Once again, in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the wicked were being judged.

- [12] Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.
- [13] Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.
- [14] But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.
- [15] And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

So they went into the synagogue on the sabbath day and they sat down for a “service.” It is absolutely proper to call this event a “service.” That's what those events in the Old Covenant were called. And as was the Biblical custom - they read the Law and the Prophets. Immediately after the reading of the Law and the prophets - the rulers of the synagogue looked at Paul and Barnabas and said - in a nutshell - this is what they said - “We just read from the Law and the prophets - now because you men are preaching the doctrine of Jesus, and we've seen some things that are unexplainable to us - if you have anything you want us to know - then let's hear it.” They wanted to know how this Jesus they were preaching - how did He fit with the reading of the Law and the prophets.

That's what this is all about. How does Jesus fulfill the Law and the Prophets. Now friends, think about this. What do those who claim to be the religious leaders in this world do today - in regards to the Law and the prophets? They tell us that Law of God is done away with and the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. And that is exactly what the religious people were doing back then. They rejected the Law of God in favor of their commandments and they taught that the prophecies were yet to be fulfilled. Both of those teachings were the stance of the day.

And true followers of Jesus - were doing all they could to teach that the Law of God - not the commandments of men, not the traditions of men, the Laws of God were to be obeyed, and Jesus, “This day has the prophet Isaiah been fulfilled before your ears.”

Now for those of you who have been following this ministry from the beginning of the Matthew 24 series, you'll know that I am constantly trying to get to the implications of the belief. The implications of the faith - the system of belief - is where we are trying to get to. I have explained how that prior to the days of Samuel, Yahweh was the exclusive King of Israel. Israel did not have kings like all the other nations. God had told Moses to set them up judges that would judge exclusively according to the Laws of God. They weren't supposed to judge the Laws of God - they were supposed to judge the actions of the people according to the Laws of God.

Contrast that to the insanity we see going on in the u.s. today. Now that one of their supremes is announcing he's quitting. I just laughed when I heard them say in the news this week - this was a shocking announcement. Really? The guy's 83 years old. It's shocking that he's quitting? Now, they need to replace him with a black woman. And the black woman needs to have the perspective of a “progressive liberal.” That is just so weird to me. But then again, their whole system is weird to me. Their judges are there to judge their CONstitution. You talk about something that is not simplistic. It's the

exact opposite of what Christians are supposed to be doing.

A judge's job in an Ecclesia is quite simple. There's just a handful of Laws that could be violated - and the judge doesn't have any responsibility to "judge the law" - it's just a simple matter of whether the Law of God has been broken or not. Murder, theft, lying - there's just a handful. But instead, they have this system of 9 people up there who are trying to come to a vote concerning the interpretation of their manmade document and how it has evolved over several hundreds years. It's ridiculous. It's definitely not the simplicity that is Christ.

Anyway, I've shown how that prior to the days of Samuel - the people of Israel were Governed by God, His Laws and judges that ruled according to His Law. Very simplistic. Very straightforward.

But, as an example for us in the New World - there came up some days where the people did not want this way of Government and they demanded a change. And God gave it to them. The way I have explained this - ending with the day where God brought an end to it all - when His Own Son was crowned King in Israel - is exactly what Paul is getting ready to explain, here in Acts 13. Watch this beginning in verse 16.

[16] Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

[17] The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

[18] And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

[19] And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

[20] And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

Minus all the detail here - because these people knew this. Paul did not have to go into great detail - because these people knew their history. After He brought them out of the wilderness - after He had delivered them from Egypt

And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

[21] And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

[22] And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all My will.

[23] Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

All the many details were obviously left out. These men that Paul was speaking to knew the details. They knew the Law and the Prophets. It had been read every single sabbath day and they knew the Law and the Prophets. The simplicity of it all is that Paul is saying to them - this Jesus - He is the One that was promised according to the promise that was made to David. Jesus was the promised Saviour for Israel.

Why did Israel need a Saviour? Simple. Because since the days they demanded a king like all the other nations - in fulfillment of what God told Samuel to tell them - they were constantly in bondage, they were constantly in slavery, they were constantly in servitude to the kings they demanded like all the other nations. And sometimes things were so bad - their idiot kings caused them to become slaves of other kings - they didn't even have their kings to make their lives bad - they had completely other kings that were making their lives miserable. They needed a Saviour. The prophets prophesied concerning the days of the coming King and Saviour Who would be the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant from II Samuel chapter 7 and this Jesus was the One. He was the One Who fulfilled the prophets.

Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

This Jesus fulfilled the prophets. Now verse 24:

[24] When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

[25] And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

Now once again. Here we come to this issue of John's baptism. And John telling people that the One coming was greater than he was. Look at this please.

When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

What I am trying to get you to understand here is that John's baptism of repentance was the requirement for the remission of sins - under the Old Covenant. Physical, H<sub>2</sub>O water - just like physical blood - the blood from the lamb, the heifer, the goats, there was physical blood and there was physical water that was required for the remission of sins. Remember what we read from Numbers chapter 19 last week. When Yahweh was telling Moses and Aaron how the sacrifices were supposed to be done. It was the shedding of blood and the washing of water. They were both required elements and from Numbers 19 verse 9:

And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.

Please turn to Mark chapter 1. We will begin in verse 1. Now I ask you this morning. Is this the New Covenant or is this the Old Covenant? Here in Mark chapter 1? Old Covenant or New Covenant? Verse 1:

- [1] The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- [2] As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
- [3] The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- [4] John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- [5] And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

Was this taking place before the cross, or after the cross? Friends, what John was doing, was leading people into the remission of sins - by obeying the Old Covenant method for purification for sin. I showed you - very clearly from Numbers 19 last week - that it was water and blood. And very specifically - how the water played a most important part in the purification for sin.

In the New Covenant World - does the baptism of John work? No. Not a chance. John's baptism for the remission of sins was fulfilling the Old Covenant Mosaic Laws of animal

sacrifices for the remission of sins. I'm not sure how we got so far away from this understanding. John was preaching and leading the people of his day into obedience to the cleansing rituals of the Old World.

Does anyone dispute the existence of the temple in the first century? Were animal sacrifices taking place in the temple in the first century? Of course there were. Were they being done because that's what God told Moses and Aaron to do - for the remission of sins? Of course they were. I don't know how this could be in dispute. The sacrifices that were according to the Old covenant system were not completely done away with until the temple was destroyed at AD70 - thereby taking away the place where the sacrifices were commanded to be done.

As long as the temple was in existence, the rituals continued.

Does anyone out there know all the details of the animal sacrifice? Is there anyone out there who could say with all confidence - that according to the way God told Moses and Aaron to offer an animal sacrifice - we know exactly how that was supposed to be done? I believe that anyone who would make such a claim is foolish. There is no way we could know exactly the details of the way animal sacrifices were performed in the day of Moses. And rightly so. What difference does it make for us today? Why would we ever need to know the details of how that was supposed to be done?

All we know and all we need to know is that Jesus was the final sacrifice. After His sacrifice and after the temple was destroyed - the whole animal sacrifice system ended - and it ended forevermore. It never had anything to do with us - we were never part of that system - and we don't need to know the details because it has nothing to do with us whatsoever. That's probably why so many details have been left out. It doesn't matter - it doesn't apply.

So what of John's Old Covenant baptism? Can the same be said? There are some who say that H<sub>2</sub>O water baptism is an absolute requirement for the remission of sins today - in the New Covenant World. Okay. I ask the same question. What does that look like?

Where are the details? If H<sub>2</sub>O water baptism is a requirement in the New Covenant World - why are there no details? Why can't someone take their Bible and show us exactly what it is supposed to look like? Shouldn't we have details like that? I showed you a couple weeks ago the only thing in the entire Bible that even comes close to showing us the details of H<sub>2</sub>O water baptism - and that was the story of Naaman.

Naaman was told by Elisha to go to the river Jordan and wash himself seven times in order to be clean of leprosy. That's some of the most details we see in the whole Bible concerning what H2O baptism looks like.

If H2O water baptism is a requirement in the New Covenant World for the remission of sins - where are the details? Why are we not clearly told what that is supposed to look like? We are left completely to ourselves to figure out what something so important is supposed to look like? I don't believe that. I believe there are no details for the same reason there are no details as to what the rest of the animal sacrifices look like.

I will tell you this. Here's what we know about the H2O water ritual since the first century. Just go ask any "churchman" anywhere - and they will tell you what tradition has been passed down through their particular "church." It won't be Bible - because the Bible doesn't tell us. The Bible gives virtually no details whatsoever when it comes to what H2O water baptism looks like.

Naaman washed himself. In Numbers 19 the sinner washed his clothes and bathed his skin. The priest sprinkled blood on some of them, then for some of the unclean

...they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:

[18] And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:

[19] And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.

[20] But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of Yahweh: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.

I read to you last week from Mark 7 about them washing their pots and cups and baptizing themselves after they come from the market. What does H2O water baptism for the remission of sins look like? And if it is for the New Covenant World - then why are there no details in the Bible as to what it is supposed to look like? How is it performed? John was doing something to the people. What was it? In Acts 2 - they altered the ritual to say it was in the name of - in the Authority of Jesus - what were



they doing? What did it look like? Why do we not have any details today - especially if it is a requirement for the remission of sins?

I am telling you that H2O water baptism was an Old Covenant purification ritual for the remission of sins. It was absolutely required. It had to be performed for the remission of sins - in the Old Covenant World. It was as required every bit as much as the animal sacrifice. You can't separate one from the other. But I am telling you - it was a type of shadow of what being fully immersed into Jesus the Christ would be - in the New Covenant World. And just as the blood sacrifice ended - so did the physical water part of the ritual it also has ended.

I am going to close this morning with a question. Turn to I Corinthians chapter 15. I know I'm way past my time here, but I need to get to this today - because this is something I want you to think about all week long. Let's begin in verse 1:

- [1] Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- [2] By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- [3] For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
- [5] And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:
- [6] After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Here's a history book that I believe in.

As we progress into this study of baptism further - it is going to be more important than ever that we remember that Christ destroyed death. This verse is another example where I have told you before, that after the resurrection of Christ - rarely does the Bible call it - death - when someone in Christ closes their eyes for the last time in the body. It is almost always referred to as sleep. It is extremely important that we remember this. Verse 7.

...but some are fallen asleep.

- [7] After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

[8] And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

[9] For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Ecclesia of God.

[10] But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

[11] Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

[12] Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

[13] But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

You need to realize that there was huge discussion among these people - just like there is today - what about the "dead?" Where are they? Do they exist? When someone "dies" do they just dissolve to nothing? The answer to all this is huge. And, how it fits with H2O water baptism is astounding. Verse 14.

[14] And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

[15] Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

[16] For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

[17] And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

[18] Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

[19] If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Watch it again.

[20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Talking about Old Covenant saints.

[21] For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

[22] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

[23] But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

[24] Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

[25] For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

[26] The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

[27] For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

[28] And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

We know, because we believe that Jesus was the Christ and He fulfilled the prophets - we know that this has all been fulfilled. The end has come. He delivered the Old World Kingdom to God. He put down all rule and all authority and all power. The last enemy to be destroyed was death. He did that, too. He put all things under Him so that God may be all in all.

Now. Take a deep breath and hold on to your seats. I am going to close with this next verse and hope that you think about this all week long.

[29] Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

[29] Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

What in the world does that mean?

At the end of last week's message, I received an email almost immediately after the message. And it was related to Numbers 19 as to the water and the blood. It was the lyrics to Rock of Ages.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; **Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.***

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.