

Message# 235_4-02-2023 - You Call Yourself a Christian, Come out of the Closet
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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

Let me remind you again of the Prayer Request page on the website. Please remember to keep each of these in your prayers. And, if anyone has any updates from their requests, be sure to let me know about them.

This series of messages has been named, "You Call Yourself a Christian, Come Out of the Closet." It has mainly been titled that way as an attempt to reach those that I believe are more serious about following Christ - than say - those that are in the "churches" dancing around like drunkin' jungle monkeys in Africa.

If you've listened to me preach for any amount of time at all, you have heard me say, concerning "church" - that it is a convoluted, evolutionized - constantly evolving organism - constantly changing - weekend social organization that resembles absolutely nothing that the Ekklesia - the Ekklesia described in the Bible - not just from Matthew 16 - the Ekklesia began hundreds of years prior to Matthew 16, hundreds of years prior to the time where Jesus Christ walked the earth. The Ekklesia had been around a long long time before Jesus Christ.

Turn to Acts chapter 7 this morning. And let's begin in what we are told is verse 1. We'll read here for a minute or so - then leave and hopefully get back here at some point this morning.

[1] Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

[2] And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

[3] And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

Now, obviously, we have a bit of a problem here, don't we? Verse 1 starts a new chapter? That seems a bit odd to me, but I'll not just stand here and fight it - I'll just shake my head and say, "Are what things so?" And, in order to find out what things are so - go back to Acts chapter 6, please. Let's begin in verse 1.

[1] And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

[2] Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables.

If you recall, we read from the Wycliffe version a few weeks ago, where in II Chronicles chapter 23, those who had weapons in their hands, in defense of the king and in the administration of justice - Mr. Wycliffe used the word *deacons*. Obviously, he felt he had good reason and authority to use that word in that chapter - and I believe - mainly because of the use of the word diakonos in Romans 13 - he was onto something there. In my studies this week, I have not been able to find that word or even a variation of it in the Greek Septuagint for II Chronicles 23 - but nonetheless - I am still of the opinion that this word - dee-ak-onohs is not properly understood today - mainly because the word has been defined by something called "church" and has become an acceptable meaning for the word.

The "church" has used a modern understanding of "serve tables" as if it isn't much more than a waiter at Cracker Barrel.

The same Greek word here as in "serve tables" - is the same Greek word for minister - for instance in Romans 13 - he is the minister of God to thee for good and he beareth not the sword in vain. That reference in Romans 13 is a direct link to what we saw in II Chronicles 23 concerning those who had weapons in their hand and to those who actually carried out a death penalty in Israel.

We need to be so very careful not to get caught up in Biblical definitions - things in the Bible - that are defined by that thing called "church." "Church" - neither the word or the concept should be in our Bibles. But for so many people - it has become real and accepted because they live by sight and not by faith. They do not live by the system of belief once delivered to the saints - mainly because they do not know the Bible. What most people know of the Bible is what someone else has told them. That, in itself is not particularly a bad thing. As long as that individual is searching the Scriptures to make sure what is being said is truth.

A couple of the ways we can have confidence that our searching is on the right path -

1) Approaching the Scriptures from the perspective that the Government of God is right

now. It is not future. He is not a coming King. He is King right now. His Government is right now. His Nation is right now and it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to come out of men's little g "governments" and into the Government of God right now - the Commonwealth of Israel.

And, 2) approaching the Scriptures from the understanding that All Bible prophecy has been fulfilled. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the prophecies in the first century. He did not leave anything undone. There is nothing left to be fulfilled. Hence - we are back to number 1) - His Government, His Kingdom, is for right now.

If we approach the Scriptures from those perspectives, I believe that God will lead us into all truth. It's a promise. He said so. Now, listen, no don't listen to me - listen to the Word, keep your finger here and turn to Romans chapter 1. Here is something that I believe a lot of people miss. A lot of sincere people. Verse 16:

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Judahite first, and also to the Greek.

[17] For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

There are people who study study study. And that's great. We all need to study study study. God reveals things to us through study. The Bible says so. But there is more to this than just study.

righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:

This belief spawns this belief. Then it spawns another belief. Always adding to our faith - our system of belief. But - we must take that faith - that system of belief - and apply it to our lives. Head knowledge is great - but that knowledge - that faith - has got to be lived out through our lives. Our faith - our system of belief - must be lived. The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith - but it must be lived. Faith - a man's system of belief - without works - being alone - is dead. Still keeping a finger in Acts 6, turn to James chapter 2. Begin in verse 1:

[1] My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ (the belief system), the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

This is absolute proof that Jesus Christ destroyed the concept of the "divine right of

kings." No man is above any other man.

This is why I keep saying, and I hope this catches fire and burns up this entire world. Or, acts like a snowball and grows so large it destroys everything in its path.

No man - anywhere - not in the u.s., not in Canada, not in Russia, not in the Philipines - no where - on not one square inch of God's Creation - does one man hold power over another man to force that man to obey his definitions of right and wrong, good and evil, legal and illegal, lawful and unlawful.

The only thing that men are allowed to do is hold each responsible to the Laws of God - period. The definitions of good and evil, right and wrong - are exclusively possessed by God Himself and in this New Covenant World - that's the way it is - and no one can alter this. If you find yourself in a situation where no one cares about God, no one cares about His Word, His Law, His Government, His Nation - then - as a follower of King Jesus - you are to stand - even if it means standing alone.

I'm getting fed up with men who think they can tell another man he can't do this or that unless he carries around a piece of laminated plastic called a "license."

Listen to me. Licentiousness is sin. Using license is sin. The very word license should make every follower of Jesus Christ cringe. I realize that licentiousness and even license is not in the Bible (at least not in the older versions). Lasciviousness is what is in our Bibles and it comes from licentiousness. At least not in the older versions. Licentiousness comes from lasciviousness which means using license. And, lasciviousness usually refers to some pretty bad stuff. I've had people challenge me on this before and I'm open to the challenge.

Mr. Webster defines lascivious this way:

LASCIV'IOUS, adjective [Latin lascivus, from laxus, laxo, to relax, to loosen.]

1. Loose; wanton; lewd; lustful; as lascivious men; lascivious desires; lascivious eyes.

2. Soft; wanton; luxurious.

He capers numbly in a lady's chamber, to the lascivious pleasing of a lute.

Then, he defines licentious this way:

LICEN'TIOUS, adjective [Latin licentiosus.]

- 1. Using license; indulging freedom to excess; unrestrained by law or morality; loose; dissolute; as a licentious man.*
- 2. Exceeding the limits of law or propriety; wanton; unrestrained; as licentious desires. licentious thoughts precede licentious conduct.*

Black's Law library defines licentious this way:

term used to apply to the lewd behaviour exceeding moral and customary bounds.

That is pretty much the same as Webster's lasciviousness - which is a Bible term.

Black's Law library defines license this way:

A permission, accorded by a competent authority, conferring the right to do some act which without such authorization would be illegal, or would be a trespass or a tort.

In the u.s., for instance, some of the first instances of license to pop up - permission to do something wrong - or sinful - was in relation to drunkenness. It was liquor "laws." Drunkenness is a grievous sin in God's Law. Licenses started popping up in the u.s. in relation to liquor. This is not hard to find out. Under God's Law, the races are not to be mixed. Kind after kind - you marry people within your race. Marriage licenses were "permissions" to intermarry - mix one's race.

conferring the right to do some act which without such authorization would be illegal, or would be a trespass or a tort.

Seeing the origins of the usage of license should send chills down the spine of everyone claiming Christ. Using license is not a good thing. And I'll go on and say it this way - using license or using a license is sin.

A follower of Christ has no business with anything to do with any of these variations of lascivious or license. Black's "Law" Dictionary says that doing something without a "license" is something that is otherwise illegal, a trespass or a tort.

In other words, having license is permission to do something illegal, a trespass or a tort.

Christians should run as far and as fast from license as they possibly can.

The little g “governments” of this world demand “license” they demand that their citizens have “licenses.” Well, you can demand all you want to - but a Christian - a follower of Jesus Christ couldn't take a license if he wanted to.

When I encounter the cop on the side of the road from time to time. And he might ask for a license, or “proof of insurance” - proof that I am violating the Laws of God - one of the things I try to explain to him is that my Country, my Nation, My Government, does not require such things. The reality is, my Country FORBIDS such things. Sometimes that's sufficient. Sometimes not. The circumstances or his response, does not change the truth. It does not change the facts. And whenever I see in my sight - a gun - a jail - a threatening menace - whatever it may be - the things I see are not going to affect my faith. We walk by faith - the system of belief once delivered to the saints - and our sight is not going to change our faith.

When trying to encourage Jeff who was being targeted by these people for his refusal to carry their “approved identification” or because of his refusal to put a piece of metal on his car that doesn't have their letters or numbers on it - I want Jeff - and everyone else to know - “Who told you to work? Who told you to provide for your family? Who told you to put food on the table?” God did. When you are involved in honest, Godly work - no man has the authority to prevent you from doing so. In fact, in Godly Government - such as is found in Romans 13 - you would be praised for doing what God told you to do. Not hindered. Not restricted and hassled.

Is this true? Can we find this in the Scripture? Of course we can. Right from the very beginning in the Book of Genesis and throughout. Culminating with, “If a man will not work, neither shall he eat.” And, if any man fail to provide for his own, he is worse than an infidel.”

This is serious business. God means business when it comes to providing for your family. Putting food on the table and clothes on the skin. God is not messing around here. And I'm telling you, that cow-towing and bowing down to another man to get permission to do what God told you to do - is sin. It's wrong. I'll go so far as to say it's abomination. And it is the responsibility of the Christian - the true follower of Jesus Christ - to stand up and say, “No. We will not bow down to you, nor serve your gods - your rulers, judges and magistrates.”

You want to talk about things of great importance. I don't see how this can be of any greater importance. This is the ultimate in “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Restricting a man's labor? Restricting a man's command to provide for his own? Who do these people think they are? Are ye gods? That's what's Jesus asked them. Are you gods? Do you have authority to define good and evil? Do you have authority to define right and wrong? God said a man is worse than an infidel if he does not provide for his own. Then you are going to place restrictions and demands on that man for doing what God told him to do?

Every problem the world faces today can be traced to the way man tries to restrict another man's labor. This is so vitally important - yet very few people who claim the Name of Christ understand what a grievous violation of the Laws of God it is to require things of a man just so that man can work.

Christians stand. Christians wake up. Christians need to understand that James 2:1 concerning not respecting persons is huge. It's not just a few words on a page to take up space. This is God saying the days where men were allowed to have kings like all the other nations - is over. My Laws, My Statutes, My Judgements, My Perfect Will shall be the Supreme Law of the Land.

Listen friends, this isn't a matter of, "Well, I hope this works." Or, "I hope they will accept this." I'll tell you right now - they will more than likely NOT accept this. But that doesn't change anything. And, nothing will change until more and more and more of God's people begin to come out of their closets and actually live the way they hide.

I told Teresa this week, I should take a whole hour one of these days on the radio and just play excerpts from some of the "church" songs we hear all the time. "Christians" and "churchians" have thousands of songs proclaiming that Jesus Christ is King.

Well, phooey on that. Jesus Christ is no more their King than the man in the moon.

So, that's your faith? That's your system of belief that Jesus Christ is King? Ok. Then live it. Saying He's King and refusing to live it is a mockery. It's no different than when the soldiers mocked Him during His lethal injection - I mean His execution.

Jesus Christ is the Only King ever in the recorded history of mankind that apparently demands His Citizens to disregard His Laws, disregard His Statutes, disregard His Commandments, disregard His Nation and live the same way the rest of the filth in the world lives.

What a joke! What a laughingstock most “Christians” and every “churchian” has made of His Kingship. He's King, Jesus is King - while men and women fill the voting booths set up in their “church” buildings - to vote for Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Jesus never told His sheep to vote for the ungodly. Jesus Christ never told His Citizens to participate with the deeds of darkness.

Have no respect of persons is so deep and so full of principles we could spend the next hundred weeks talking about it and barely scratch the surface. Verse 2 and as we read this you know, I know, we all know, this is exactly how society works today - and it's wrong.

[2] For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

[3] And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

We are guilty of this. With the exception of the gay clothing part. I can't stand it. But - we know what this means. And we're all guilty of it to a certain extent. But friends, God hates it. And among followers of Christ, we need to be on guard, ever vigilant to make sure we do not violate this.

The rich are put in places above the poor. The rich are put in places of leadership over the poor. And God says it is not to be so.

[4] Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

[5] Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?

Uh, brethren, that's us. We are the chosen poor of the world. We are the chosen poor of the world and He called us to be examples. He has called us - poor of the world - but rich in faith - in our system of belief - we are to be the Light to the world. And look at the words used to help us remember this.

[6] But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

[7] Do not they blaspheme that worthy Name by the which ye are called?

Friends, read these two verses over and over and over. The rich in that world - and just like the rich in our world - they oppress - they draw before their judgment seats - and what do they do?

they blaspheme that worthy Name by the which ye are called?

What does that mean? What does they “blaspheme that worthy Name mean?” Name means Authority. It's not a sound that comes out of our mouths. The Name of Christ means the Authority of Christ. We live - everything we do - everything we say - every movement we make - is by the Authority of His Name. And, when they bring us before their unlawful judgment seats - and they mock us for living according to His Authority - they are blaspheming Christ.

Whose Name are you called by? By Whose Authority are you supposed to live and move and have your being in?

Those who refuse to live and move and have their being in Jesus Christ the King - by living and moving and having their being in another name - by living and moving and having their being in another name - are blaspheming Christ. When we stop and examine these passages in light of the Authority of Christ - ALL Power, ALL Authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth - when we find others not living this way - they are blaspheming Christ.

Do we believe the Words of the Bible that recorded Jesus as telling His disciples, ALL power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth - Go ye therefore? Do we believe this?

We live in a world where people have not understood that Jesus destroyed the despicable “divine right of kings.” Surely we can all see how clearly this world functions where the rich believe it is their right to rule over the poor. Ruling over the poor, ruling over anything for that matter, in this world, means that you sit there in your CONgresses and in your assemblies and in your white houses that are full of dead men's bones - and you make definitions of good and evil and you then - with your countless numbers of armed men and women - force people to obey your definitions - at gunpoint and with threats of jail or worse. Hardly anyone today is telling these people they are blaspheming the Worthy Name of Jesus Christ.

And we, the poor in this world, but rich in faith - are supposed to be the voice of God, the voice of Christ, ambassadors of His Government proclaiming the Name of, the

Worthy Name, the Worthy Authority of Jesus Christ and His Father.

As if we haven't had enough of the respecter of persons in the first 7 verses, look at the rest of this.

[8] If ye fulfil the royal Law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

[9] But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

I'm telling you, this respect to persons issue here is hugely important. And at the foundation of it is the Government of King Jesus and His Father. When we fail to understand this respect to persons principle - we open the door to mere men sitting on thrones ruling over other people and forcing them to disobey God and obey them. That's what this is all about.

[10] For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

[11] For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

[12] So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

The Law of Liberty? What is that? What is the Law of Liberty?

I'll say this. The Laws of God provide for the most amount of freedom and liberty that men could ever have. There's just a handful of the Laws of God. Man's "laws" reach to the moon and back. Whether the moon is 60 miles away or 93,000 miles away - there's so many of man's "laws" they could never even be counted. But if one wants to say the whole Bible is the Law of God - and I would probably be one that would say such a thing - the book is about an inch and a half thick - two inches maybe. Biggest I've ever seen in probably just 3 inches. Love your neighbor, Love your God. That is really really simple. And that's what every single man, woman, boy and girl living today - on whatever inch of God's green earth they live on - or if they live on the sea - that's the Law of Liberty. We are free to do whatever we want to do as long as we do not violate the few, handful of God's Laws while we are doing what we want.

Man does not have the Authority from God to add to His Laws. God said what a terrible, awful thing it is for men to add to His Laws. And friends, where we see people

adding to His Laws - or - as it is mainly in our world - forgetting His Laws altogether and just using their own "laws" - we cannot participate. We must come out from among them and be separate. That's not a request. That is a command from God and we are seeing it again - right here in the Book of James - found in the principle of respect to persons.

[13] For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

[14] What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

We can say the words King Jesus until we are blue in the face. We can sing songs about King Jesus until we are exhausted - but if we aren't living His Kingship in our lives - it values us nothing.

[15] If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

[16] And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

[17] Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

King Jesus. King Jesus. Jesus is King. Then go vote for Trump? Our CONstitution and our laws, and our treaties, shall be the supreme law of the land.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

[18] Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

[19] Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Great. You say that Jesus is King. You say you believe in the One True God of heaven. First of all, do we even understand what God means? Gods means, rulers, judges and magistrates. Is the God of heaven the Only Ruler, the Only Judge, the Only Magistrate, or is He just one of many?

We aren't talking about things in the spirit world. We aren't talking about things that occur exclusively inside the walls of "church buildings." Last week I said something

about these “churches” how they live in their own little worlds they have created. They've got their own language, their own mannerisms, it's their own little world they have created and once they get inside those four walls - pretty much the rest of the world is shut out and they live in this blissful little paradise they've created. They sing all these songs about Jesus their King - then - when it's all over - they leave their buildings and then live according to the “laws and statues” of gods that are not King Jesus. It's all lip-service.

He's a king in their own little spiritual world - their own little 9 to 5 world on “Sundays” - then - in the rest of their world - their king is the gods of the world. And their justification for it is just mind-boggling.

One day one of them said to me, I mean with a straight face just as serious as can be - “The difference between you and me is that I believe in the 'rule of law.’” What? What 'rule of law' are you talking about? I believe in the Rule of Law. God's Law. He was talking about man's definitions of “law.” I'm like, how can someone who calls themselves a Christian - even say something like that - then just not immediately stop in their own tracks and smack themselves in the head for not realizing what they just said?

[20] But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

[21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

[22] Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

[23] And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

[24] Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

[25] Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

[26] For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Saying Jesus is King. Standing on your feet and dancing around like a chicken with its head cut off crying tears streaming down your face and singing, “All hail King Jesus” then walking out of that building and living according to the “laws” of men is exactly what James is talking about in this chapter.

In the notes of last week's message, I linked a video there with the headline, “If this is

what a Christian is - Count me out.” I realized that quite a few of you didn't know what that was. That was a video of that “church” where they were invoking their king jesus like a genie out of a bottle for the purpose of raising that little two year old from the dead. I think if you go back and look at that again, if you go to the far right side of the video, you'll see the text. They were proclaiming All hail, King Jesus, while they were demanding that the little girl be raised from the dead.

This, also, is the epitome of blaspheming the Name of Jesus. Saying the words king jesus - is not living in the Name of - in the Authority of King Jesus.

I do not believe - that - even for those of us living by the Authority of King Jesus - actually living it - not simply saying some words - I do not believe God has given us the Authority to raise the dead today - but I'll say this unequivocally - if He hasn't given that power to people actually living by the Authority of King Jesus - He certainly has NOT given those in the 501(c)(3) government controlled, government funded, COVID vaccination murder facilities, tongue speaking, false end-times theology, effeminate, power to raise the dead.

You can take this chapter out of James and turn it the other way, too. James says faith - your system of belief - is dead without works. Well, works, without the proper system of belief - is just as dead.

God is a spirit and they that worship Him - MUST - no ifs and or buts - MUST worship Him in spirit and in truth.

And, by all means, preaching a coming king, preaching futurism, in any shape or form - right from the outset - eliminates every single “church” in existence today. If it says “church” or if they are playing the concept of “church” - friends - God is not there.

God's Word is true. We learn of God from His Word and through His Creation which is fully in agreement with His Word. God will not go against His Word.

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

Faith - a man's system of belief - comes by hearing the Word of God. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

You know I just noticed something for the first time in my life.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, **a workman** that needeth not to be ashamed.

Faith - without works - is dead, being alone.

Back to Acts chapter 6, please, we were getting ready to read verse 3.

[3] Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

[4] But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

[5] And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

[6] Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

[7] And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

[8] And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

[9] Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

[10] And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

[11] Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

[12] And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

[13] And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

[14] For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

[15] And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Friends, that's the same thing today. When we tell people that we are not to live according to man's law, but rather according to God's Law - men will call *us* blasphemous. Jesus didn't do what these men accused Him of - through Stephen. The changes Jesus made were great. They were perfect. They were designed to bring men and women, boys and girls back to a place of repentance to God.

The same with our message today. Yes, we are telling people that Jesus changed the laws. Man's laws. In fact, He did away with them and He calls all men everywhere to repent of their "laws" and turn exclusively to the Laws of God.

As a side-note, before we leave chapter 6, I want you to go back to verse 13. This is an example of when I have told you before that when God wants us to know that false witnesses were set up - or false accusations were made against the followers of Christ, the text tells us so. Verse 11 again:

[11] Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

[12] And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

[13] **And set up false witnesses**, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

If you want to see the several other instances, just take your Bibles and look up the verses that include the word false. You will see what I'm telling you is so. If you happen to have a Thompson Chain Reference Bible like I do - you will find instances where **the proper way for the Christian to live** - for instance - Acts 17 -

"turning the world upside down for Jesus, doing contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus" -

you will find Frank Thompson listing this as "false accusations" where he does not have the authority to do so. When it is a false accusation, the Bible tells us so. Otherwise, we should believe it as it is.

Now, Acts chapter 7, verse 1.

I can't believe we have said all that we have said this morning - and we are just now getting back to Acts chapter 7. My intention to get to Acts 7 is for the purpose of

showing that Jesus did not invent Ekklesia in Matthew 16. Jesus did not bring something new to the scene.

Ekklesia - the Government of Israel had been in existence for hundreds of years and in Matthew 16, Jesus was establishing the fact that the Ekklesia that was already in existence was becoming His and He was going to sit on the throne of His Ekklesia. Just like David sat on the throne of His Ekklesia. Solomon sat on the throne of His Ekklesia - Jesus was getting ready to take the throne of His Ekklesia. The last and final Ekklesia that God was going to allow to be in existence forevermore. This was the Government. This was the Government of God and Jesus was taking that throne forevermore.

Let's read beginning in verse 1:

[1] Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

[2] And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

[3] And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

[4] Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

[5] And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

[6] And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

[7] And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve Me in this place.

[8] And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

[9] And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

[10] And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

[11] Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

[12] But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

[13] And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

[14] Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

[15] So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

[16] And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

[17] But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

[18] Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

[19] The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

[20] In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

[21] And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

[22] And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

[23] And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

[24] And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

[25] For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

Ha. That's interesting. Is that a lesson for us? Let's go ahead and understand - believe - that God will deliver us.

[26] And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

[27] But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

[28] Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?

[29] Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.

[30] And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

[31] When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him,

[32] Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

[33] Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

(Be careful, again, of the online versions of Bibles. I found another typo here).

[34] I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

[35] This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

[36] He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Let's stop here for just a minute. What is this the history of? Who are these people that this all talking about? This is Israel. This is the history of the children of Israel beginning with the story of Abraham. This is our forefathers. Those that have gone on before us. This is OUR history.

[37] This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Now watch. Verse 38:

[38] This is he, that was in the

And of course, if you are following along, you've already seen the next word. And you know me, I will not ever intentionally use the word "church" where it never should be. But this is Stephen telling the history of Israel. He is now up to Moses where the children of Israel were set to receive the Laws of God as given to Moses after they had

escaped Egypt. They were gathered together in Ekklesia.

[38] This is he, that was in the EKKLESIA in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

[39] To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

[40] Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

[41] And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

They rejoiced in their own “government” they made for themselves.

[42] Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

[43] Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

As I read the words attributed to Stephen here and we realize that the ekklesia gathered at that time - was again an ekklesia - a group of people gathered together for the purpose of government - as much as I understand the word “church” should not be in our Bibles - seeing it here - and seeing how the “church” as we have known it for our whole lives - this is almost tempting to leave it here. Yeah, this is “church.” It seems very sacrilegious here to admit that the word is really ekklesia - but it's okay because we do know the word means a gathering of people for the purpose of government. Good or bad. Ekklesia is government - it's not an exclusive word for the Government of Jesus Christ.

But seeing how God's intent was for His people to be Governed by His Laws that He was preparing to give to Moses - and they chose rather to be governed by the “laws” of the gods of the world - it seems fitting to me that the word “church” is used here in Acts 7:38. Stephen is doing all he can to tell these hard-hearted stiff-necked Israelites that by their rejection of Jesus Christ as King - they were doing exactly the same thing the Israelites did with their government - their choice of government - their ekklesia in the wilderness.

Stephen understood that Jesus was taking the Kingship of the Ekklesia in Israel. Stephen understood that what they had determined was against God and against His Laws - was actually *for* God and *for* His Laws - and Stephen stood for the true Ekklesia of Christ - no matter the circumstance and no matter the outcome.

[44] Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

[45] Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

[46] Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

[47] But Solomon built him an house.

[48] Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

[49] Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

[50] Hath not my hand made all these things?

[51] Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

What is he talking about? What resistance is Stephen accusing them of? This is about the ekklesia in the wilderness. It's about the Government of God that God was giving to Moses to give to the people. But they rejected it. They resisted it.

Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

[41] And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

“Our 'laws' our treaties, our statues shall be the supreme law of the land.”

This is a very common theme with Israel in the Old world. And each time we see it, we are to understand that it's there to show us not to make the same mistakes they did.

But it just seems like people continue to resist, they continue to refuse to accept it. One of the earliest ekklesias was all the way back in the wilderness when God wanted them

to embrace His Commandments that He had given to Moses. But, they didn't want it. They wanted to have their "government" like the rest of the world had.

We need to learn from what we read and determine not to make the same mistakes. It's all about government. It's all about ekklesia. And Jesus came to take the ekklesia to Himself. He was once and for all taking back ekklesia that the children of Israel had constantly messed up. He was taking the Ekklesia, the Governmental plan for Israel - and He made it His Own and then and now - demands all men, women, boys and girls to come out from the gods they have set to go before them - and follow exclusively His Ekklesia, His Government, His Nation, the Commonwealth of Israel.

[52] Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

[53] Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

[54] When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

[55] But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

[56] And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Do we believe this? The Ekklesia - the Government - is supposed to belong to God, His Son, Jesus Christ gave it back to Him and was then standing on the right hand of God.

Those men at that time - had the Law revealed to them - had the Government of God revealed to them and they refused to keep it.

Friends, that's where we as a people, generally speaking, are today. We read a book that continually shows us over and over that we are supposed to be the people of God. We are supposed to be the Ekklesia of God. We are supposed to be Governed by King Jesus and His Father. Even the "churchians" declare it over and over. We have been given this by the disposition of countless messengers - but we refuse to keep it.

Preferring rather the days of having kings like all the other nations, of having gods like the rest of the nations. Preferring a system of

...rich men oppress[ing] you, and draw[ing] you before the judgment seats?

[7] Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

I know so many people hear these messages and they agree. They agree that they hate the rich oppressing the poor and they hate the rich drawing them before their judgment seats. And they throw their hands up in defeat thinking there is nothing they can do to affect any meaningful change.

“The enemies of God are so many. And we are so few.”

Yeah, I get that. I understand. In closing, I want you to turn back to Genesis chapter 34. Let's begin reading in verse 30. I could possibly be accused of taking something out of context here, and I'll just go ahead and acquiesce to that, but I believe there are principles here and something to learn from this. Verse 30:

[30] And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

[31] And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

Now chapter 35, verse 1:

[1] And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

[2] Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

[3] And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

[4] And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

[5] And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

I truly believe, and I have hope and trust in my faith - in my system of belief - I have trust in it, I have hope in it - that though we be few - like Jacob said here - that if we put

away the strange gods - come out from among them and be separate saith God - I believe God will do the same things for us - principally speaking - that He did when His people obeyed - such as what we just read from these two chapters.

The command to Come out from among them and be separate and I will be your God - did not originate in II Corinthians 6. And what I mean by that is that since II Corinthians 6 is not the first time this was said - it means that it transcends all generations. Look at Isaiah 52. Let's just read this chapter and end the message with it today. Verse 1, Isaiah 52. If the command transcends generations, the command to come out and be separate - then I have to believe, I have to have hope, that the promise transcends them also.

[1] Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

[2] Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

[3] For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.

[4] For thus saith the Lord GOD, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

[5] Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that My people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and My name continually every day is blasphemed.

[6] Therefore My people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold, it is I.

[7] How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

[8] Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

[9] Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

[10] The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Now watch. This is how it happens.

[11] Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

Come out from among them. Same principle from II Corinthians chapter 6 and Revelation chapter 18.

[12] For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward.

[13] Behold, My servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

[14] As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

[15] So shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at Him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.