

## **Message# 238 4-30-2023 - Am I "saved"? Am I "in Christ"?**

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

Well, guess what's happening in the Steward family? Back in the end of the year, we joyously celebrated the wedding of our youngest, Chrissy, to Jerry, a young man that is as firmly committed to the Government of God as any young man his age I've ever seen, their marriage is off to a fantastic start - and we found out this week - it's going to get even better. Chrissy and Jerry told us this past week that we are expecting another Kingdom - Commonwealth of Israel Citizen about 8 months from now. Chrissy is pregnant. We are all so excited. All Chrissy and Jerry have ever wanted to do in life - is raise a family in the Government of God, raise new little Citizens in the Commonwealth of Israel - and that part of their journey has officially begun.

Chrissy was so cute. She came up and was wearing a shirt that said "Mama Bear" on it. And, of course, Teresa and I had been eagerly awaiting this type of news and as soon as Chrissy revealed her shirt - we all knew what was going on. It was just joyous beyond description. Chrissy told her sisters and I have now told anything that moves - whether human, plant or animal - and we are just really excited. I told you a few weeks ago that Joshua and Cassidy are expecting - and that arrival is 6 months from now - then in a few more months after that - we should have another grandbaby. Both girls have found midwives they really like. So be sure to add them to your prayer lists as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

I received an update on Michael's trial last week. Michael's main prayer was for clarity of thought and that the Holy Spirit of God would give him the words to say in that day long intense fiery trial that he underwent. And, I'm happy to report that Michael said that is exactly what happened. We still do not know the results. But at least Michael is free - as far as his body his concerned. We know this is what they call in their world - "civil" - but as he found out - there isn't really anything "civil" about their world, about their court world. Hopefully - hint hint - Michael will be producing a Minute that will give some more insight to some of the things that sadly - he has learned the hard way.

I have said for many years, not specifically speaking to Michael's situation, but generally speaking - God is going to have His people for Himself. God is going to have a people that will Come out from among them and be separate. And those people can either

come out the easy way - which is voluntarily following the Great Shepherd, voluntarily listening to the voice of the Great Shepherd and obeying His teachings, following His Father's Laws - or - turn to Revelation chapter 7 for just a minute. We can see it the hard way as well (through great tribulation).

What we see in Revelation chapter is Fulfilled Bible Prophecy. The Book of Revelation has been 100% fulfilled. Nothing - not a single prophecy, not a single word, not a single letter in the 22 chapters of the Book of Revelation - has not been fulfilled. But - and this is huge - just because the prophecies have been fulfilled - just like every other prophecy in the Bible that has been fulfilled - every single one of them - that does not mean the principles have been done away with.

The principles, the implications - the implications are what matters. Okay. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the prophecies contained in the Scriptures on or before AD70. What does that mean? How does that change our lives? Ultimately, that's the only thing that matters. How does what we believe - how does our faith - affect our lives?

Lately, again, I've heard from several people who say "you are a preterist, you sound like a preterist." To which, of course, I reply as fast as they say it, "I am not a preterist." The preterist believes that all Bible prophecy has been fulfilled - I say that - but now they have modern preterists who, just like all other churchmen - change their doctrine with the wind. There are full-preterists, partial preterists - you've got all these different types of preterists now - which is really stupid to me - it's like being partially pregnant - you either are or you aren't - but anyway - just like all the religions - there are now lots of fractions of the preterists - but the common thread that I have found - I'm always optimistic for people to come to Christ - but the common thread I have found with preterism - is that they not only believe prophecies were fulfilled - but they also believe the principles no longer apply. This is fatal. This is the fatal error with preterism.

The preterist condemns the futurist. But when the life of the preterist and the life of the futurist is examined - they both live exactly the same way. I've dealt with preterists now for nearly 33 years. To date - now realize I am speaking generally, not specifically - always hoping that the trend will end - but I am yet to meet someone who calls themselves a preterist - who is not a citizen of the world. If you open the billfolds of the futurist and the preterist and lay the contents on a table and say to someone, "Tell me which one of the people who owns the contents of these billfolds is the preterist and which one is the futurist" - you won't be able to tell the difference.

The politoomah - the citizenship of the preterist and the citizenship of the futurist is with the world. So, while belief is absolutely important - no question about that - ultimately - if your belief hasn't changed your life - it is pretty much worthless.

Revelation chapter 7, Fulfilled Bible Prophecy. This event has already occurred. It fits neatly inside the first verses of chapter 1 described as the things which must shortly come to pass - and inside the last verses of chapter 22 - "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand." Verse 1, chapter 7:

[1] And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Holding it back until the time was right.

[2] And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

[3] Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

This hurting of the earth, the sea, the trees is symbolic language referring to the impending destruction of Jerusalem and the temple - which we know occurred sometime toward the ends of the first century. Historically, people have said it took place at AD70. The true believers escaped the destruction that took place. They escaped Jerusalem and the area that went through the massive destruction that the Romans inflicted. Verse 4.

[4] And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

[5] Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

[6] Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

[7] Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

[8] Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph

were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Alright. Now watch. This is the implication of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy that should change our lives. Voluntarily change our lives.

[9] After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

[10] And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Our God and His Son are sitting on the throne. This is what took place in the first century. This is what the beginnings of the New Covenant World looked like. This is what we - those of us who call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ - this is what we are supposed to be continuing. This is what the New Covenant World was built upon - and we are supposed to be building on these exact same principles. We are supposed to be standing before the throne, before the Lamb, the throne of God and the Lamb.

Friends, can you just try to picture this in your mind. A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, all kindreds, all people and all tongues, standing before the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And these people are waving u.s. flags? These people are crying out, "Render unto Caesar," these people are singing the praises of Trump or Biden, these people are holding up their CONstitutions and the revised statutes of their states? Really? Not a chance. These are people that were singularly focused on the throne of God and on the Lamb. These were not citizens of the world. These were not people who were earthly, worldly minded. They had One King. One Saviour. They had One Lawgiver. They had one set of Laws. They had sole Citizenship in the Government of God and were not minded for one second with the petty little g "governments" of the world. Verse 11:

[11] And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Listen friends, it's the worship of God around the throne. This is the time for the throne of God. The Lamb of God has already finished His work on the cross. And now, it's time for the throne. It's now worshiping the throne. It's time now for worship of the King.

And there isn't any room or place for anyone or anything else.

[12] Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Friends, these are not flag-waving citizens of men's little g "governments." These people are not to be bothered with the things of the world. These people do not have friendships - let alone citizenships with the freaks, the queers, the perverts, those that tax labor. Those that try to tax land that belongs to the God of heaven. Yeah, you heard that right - while people actually do complain - I've heard people complain about the freaks the queers and the perverts - just throw those that believe in taxing a man's labor - those that believe in harassing or restricting a man's commands to put food on the table - throw those people right alongside the freaks, the queers and the perverts - because those ideologies are condemned by the God of heaven just as much as homosexuality.

But what we are seeing in Revelation chapter 7 is the way true followers of God and of the Lamb are supposed to be. Singularly focused - not looking to the left - not looking to the right - solely focused on the throne of God and of the Lamb of God. There is no room, no place for men who are also not singularly focused on the throne of God and of the Lamb. It's the principles that remain. The events - the historical events we are reading about in Revelation 7 have come and gone. They are over. They were fulfilled - but it was all written for our learning. This is how we are supposed to be living.

[13] And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

[14] And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Yes. The times they went through in the first century. The great persecutions they endured for following the King. They went through great tribulation. Same words spoken by Daniel in Daniel chapter 12. Same Words spoken by Christ in Matthew 24 - when He clearly told His disciples to read and understand Daniel.

They have washed their robes - and have made them white - in the blood of the Lamb.

We need to stop here again for just a minute. They have washed their robes.

That is not something new. That was not a new tradition that started in the first century. Think “baptism” - a word that should not even be in our Bibles. Washing their robes - for these people - clearly taken out of the tribes of Israel - that's what the first verses of the chapter say. Washing their robes was not new to these people. Keep your finger here. Some of you already know where we are going. Turn to Exodus chapter 19, please. Begin in verse 1:

[1] In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

[2] For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

[3] And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

[4] Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself.

Now watch again. We are again going to see the Will of God for His people. We are seeing what God wants for His people. He wants to bring them unto Himself. These principles remain. The events are past. The history is past. But the principles remain. This was all written for our learning. This is how God wants His people to live.

[5] Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Yes. Of course. We know at this time, God was speaking of His Old Covenant. We know that. But the principle is still in effect in His New Covenant. Obey My voice indeed, and keep My New Covenant. Keep My New Covenant and you will be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: and another eternal, everlasting principle: for all the earth is mine. That has never changed, either.

And where do we read about peculiar treasure, peculiar people in the New Covenant? I Peter 2. For those who have embraced Christ. For those who have embraced the Commonwealth of Israel

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

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

That's who the New Covenant was build upon. Those are our founding fathers and founding mothers and we are supposed to be living the same way they did. Exodus 19, verse 6.

[6] And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Once again, absolutely, what we are seeing in Exodus 19 is the beginning of the Old Covenant world. But, these are the exact same Words that began the New Covenant World. What I'm telling you is that we see the Revealed Will of God, the Revealed Mind of God in the first 39 Books of our Bibles - and though it was clearly written in and for the Old World - the principles are pretty much identical - even to the Words that were written - for the New Covenant World. What we have just read from Exodus 19 is nearly Word for Word what we find in I Peter chapter 2. Now verse 7:

[7] And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

[8] And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

What we are seeing here in Exodus 19 is a preview of what the beginning of the New World looked like in Revelation chapter 7. We are seeing God being revealed to Israel in the Old World - and Revelation 7 is the revealing of God on the throne and the Lamb in the New World.

[9] And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

Now watch. Remember what we just finished reading from Revelation chapter 7:

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

In the Old World, prior to having God revealed, look what God told Moses to tell the

Citizens of Israel:

[10] And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

Washing their robes in the blood of the Lamb in Revelation chapter 7 - the only part of that that was new to the children of Israel - was that they were washing - they were "baptizing" to use a horribly transliterated word - instead of washing in H2O - which was an Old Covenant ritual that they were doing as a type and shadow of what New Covenant washing - New Covenant "baptizing" is - in the New World - they were washing - they were "baptizing" in the blood of the Lamb.

The use of H2O in the Old Covenant world was a type and shadow of what it would someday mean in the New Covenant World - to be washed in Jesus Christ. I'm telling you - for those who think that washing, that "baptizing" in physical H2O water in the New Covenant World is what you are supposed to be doing - you have missed it and you have missed it badly. The H2O of the Old World was a type and shadow. It was not what was to carry over in to the New World. In the New World - they washed in the blood of the Lamb. In the New Covenant World - H2O does nothing. It's about being washed in the blood of the Lamb - standing before the throne of God.

What we are seeing in Exodus 19 is the beginnings of the Old Covenant World and those people were told to wash their clothes in H2O. The physical water of the Old Covenant World was a type and shadow of the Living Water which is Jesus the Christ. Verse 11.

[11] And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

[12] And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:

[13] There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

[14] And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

[15] And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.



- [16] And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.
- [17] And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.
- [18] And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.
- [19] And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.
- [20] And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.
- [21] And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.
- [22] And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.
- [23] And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.
- [24] And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.
- [25] So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

So washing the robes in the blood of the Lamb in order to be pure white - did not just begin in Revelation chapter 7. The washing in water in preparation for the arrival of God is clearly seen in Exodus 19. Do you know where else the washing of water prior to the arrival of God is clearly seen? Revelation 7, of course. Go back a little further. The H2O that John the Washer was doing was also a washing in H2O that was a tradition that originated with the Revealing of God in Exodus 19. The H2O water of the Old Covenant was a type and shadow of the water that was coming with the Messiah - finally - cleared up and shown exactly what it all meant - in Revelation chapter 7 when we see the New Covenant saints washing their robes - figuratively - they weren't washing - physically washing in the blood of Christ. It was figurative, symbolic language for being in Christ by worshiping at the throne of His Father after coming through great tribulation.

Today, very few people are worshiping at the throne of the Father. Oh yeah, the great majority of people are still washing themselves in H2O and are crying real tears trying to

get the blood of Christ to cover them because they have washed their bodies in H2O - never coming to the realization that in the New Covenant World - we come to the Father, we come to the Lamb - figuratively, symbolically washed in the blood of the Lamb standing before the throne - the Kingship - the Government of God - as exclusive Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel.

In the Old World - God brought them out of Egypt. God brought them out of servitude to other governments. God used Moses for that effect. In the New World - God has once again called His people out of the governments of men - out of the Egypts of Old - and He has used His Son - Jesus Christ - the ultimate fulfillment of what God used Moses for in the Old World. And in the New Covenant World, there are no other kings, there are no other "governments" - it is finally the exclusive Government of God over His people - never allowing men to set up their own governments again.

Back to Revelation 7 verse 15.

**[15]** Therefore

Because of this. Because they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, because God has come down from the mountain once again and has revealed Himself to His people as their Only King, their Only Lawgiver, their Saviour and their Lord:

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

**[16]** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

**[17]** For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This is the foundation that the New Covenant world was built on. This is the New Covenant World in which we now live. This is supposed to be what is in our minds. This is what is supposed to rule our thoughts and Govern the way we live and move and have our being - and friends - if we think that this was a figurative symbol of what the weekend social organization is supposed to be - where these people come together for a few hours in the week and hoop and holler and dance around and then leave to go and live according to the commands of men - we are the biggest fools that have ever

inhabited this earth.

God set up His Government, built on the blood of the Lamb, with people who washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, with people who came through great tribulation - in anticipation of God being revealed in their lives and I'll assure you, these people continued their lives singularly focused on the Government of God, the Laws of God, the Statutes of God, the Will of God and without any regard for the little g "governments" of men. They were Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel. They were the people of God and He was their God. This is what we are supposed to be doing today.

As recently as yesterday, I was listening to some people very close to me, lamenting the fact that things are just getting worse and worse and worse. And then, there's just nothing that can be done about it. How can things get worse? Well, until the Gospel of the Government of God is once again preached - I'll assure you - things are absolutely going to get worse and worse and worse. God is not going to be mocked. Whatsoever men sow, that is what they are going to reap.

And when men continually refuse the Government of God - then you are going to see their worlds continually get worse and worse.

There is one thing that can stop it. And that one thing can actually turn the world upside down and I believe it can be turned upside down very quickly. And that is when men and women, boys and girls, wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb - and stand - they take a stand - this is where we stand - "We stand for the exclusive Government of God. We stand for exclusive Citizenship in the Commonwealth of Israel. We stand for the exclusive Kingship of God, His Laws, His Statutes, His Commandments, His Perfect Will - and we will not obey any others - except for Him."

When men and women, boys and girls commit themselves to stand exclusively for the Government of God - that's when things will change. But not until.

We live in a whosoever will world. This world is not like the Old World where every single step, every single breath, every single thing that men did was ordered by God.

In the New World in which we live, we have a blueprint. We have a history book that goes into great detail concerning what the Will of God is for His Creation. All we have to do is wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb, and accept the Revealing of the King in

our lives. Then,

...the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed [us] them, and shall lead [us] them unto living fountains of waters:

The longer we resist obeying these clear instructions from the Word of God, the worse things are going to get in our world. Then, when we finally realize what our job is supposed to be, what our purpose is supposed to be, well, we also might be going through great tribulation in order to stand for the Throne of God. I still say it doesn't have to be that bad. It doesn't have to get so bad that we see the destruction of Jerusalem - so to speak.

We all have a choice in whose government we will obey. We can do it voluntarily - and - well - because we've waited so long - it might be a little painful - but the longer we wait - the more pain there will probably be. God is going to have His people - one way or another.

My prayer is that there will be a great awakening again and people will voluntarily return to the Government of God. They'll wash their clothes in the blood of the Lamb instead of their deception that H2O still has value in the New World - they'll turn from following their little g "governments" of the world - and will worship at throne of God and of the Lamb.

Before we get deeply into today's message, I want us to go back and look at a couple of things from last week. I want you to go back with me again to II Kings chapter 17. I talked about this, but I think we need to look at it in a little more depth. Look with me at verse 19. We have already seen how grievous it was to God that the children of Israel forsook His Commandments and Statutes and walked according to the statutes of the heathen. We saw this over and over in this chapter. Now look at verse 19:

Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

They added to the Laws of God. Israel made their own statutes. This was sin against God. People are not allowed to make their own statutes. The text says they walked in the statutes of Israel - which they made.

God's Word, God's Law, a book that is usually less than 2 inches thick - is a book that

contains every single thing that men need to Govern their daily lives. They do not need to add to it. They don't need to revise it. When men make their own statutes - they are sinning against God. And what we see today in our world - is the result of men walking in the statutes which they made. Man is not capable of doing a better job of Statute making than God. How utterly foolish. How stupid can a man be to think he can do a better job at Statute making than the One Who created man? Ridiculous.

What God did in a book less than 2 inches thick - man has completely ruined with their (law) books that measure to the moon and back.

I am going to say this publicly in defense of our Facebook warriors who are doing all they can to point people back to the very simple, few Laws of God. From this land - to the Philippines and all points in between.

I simply cannot believe that there are those out there who actually call themselves Christians - who are publicly opposing the call to return to the exclusive Laws of God. We have warriors out there who are calling people out of the world - simply quoting Scripture, Come out from among them and be separate - and they face opposers who claim themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ - and they are defending what they call "American jurisprudence" and things like that. Amazing.

Friends, if "Israelite jurisprudence" was an abomination to God in II Kings 17 - I'll assure you that "American jurisprudence" is ten times worse.

...Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

Men are not allowed to make their own statutes. Statutes are what defines good and evil and God, and God alone is the only One allowed to define good and evil. Men's statutes are men's definitions of good and evil - and when men think they have the power to make their own definitions of good and evil - that is the ultimate act of rebellion - sticking their fist in the face of God and declaring - as they did in the u.s. in 1787 - OUR LAWS, OUR TREATIES, SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND. I don't get it. I don't understand how people who seem to be smart, cannot see the blatant rebellion in those words. OUR OUR OUR. Those words just scream at me. WE THE PEOPLE, they didn't say as their forefathers said a hundred fifty years earlier - we the people of New Haven Colony believe that the Scriptures alone contain all that's necessary to Govern man to man and man to God. They didn't say that, they said WE

THE PEOPLE, with OUR laws and OUR treaties, shall be the supreme law of the land. Then, they even topped it off by saying that includes any other law withstanding.

Well, friends, the only Law “with standing” - is the Law of God. It was standing back then - and they stood right there and said their law was supreme to the Law of God.

Then, if that wasn't bad enough, they declared that no religious test would be required - in other words - and I realize I'm taking a liberty here and that's perfectly fine - because I can clearly see the fruit of what their laws and treaties has produced - but their words, their laws, their treaties, their CONstitution - was not to be held to a religious test. Exactly, because when their laws, their treaties, are held to a test of the Scriptures - it fails - and it fails miserably.

...Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

[20] And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

This is an eternal principle that transcends every generation of mankind from the day God had it spoken into existence right through the very days we live today. You are not allowed to make your own statutes. And when you do, God is going to reject you and your seed, you are going to be afflicted, and you will fall into the hand of spoilers and you will be cast out of His sight.

“But we have Jesus.” Yes, and you are the biggest fool the world has ever seen if you think that God sent Jesus to this earth to remove His Laws Commandments Statutes and Perfect Will and have it be replaced with the statutes of the freaks, the perverts, the queers, those that tax labor, those that harass the working man and many other such like things they do.

God sent His Son to do away with His Laws so people can live according to the statutes that they have made. That has to be the dumbest thing I've ever heard in all my life. Now, this is where I want to camp for a few minutes. Verse 21:

[21] For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

[22] For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did;

they departed not from them;

The king of Israel - the one who was in charge of the government in Israel at that time - caused the people of Israel not to follow the Lord and he made them sin a great sin.

Friends, men's little g "governments" that make their own statutes - they cause men and women boys and girls to go away from following the Lord and they cause them to sin great sins when people obey them. When the people walk in the sins - in the statutes of men's little g "governments" they sin great sins against the Lord.

We can see this. We can clearly see this in the history book God has provided us. Governments that make their own statutes sin against God. People that obey them sin great sins. We are not to make the same mistakes. The Word tells us what sin is and we are not supposed to do the same things. If we find ourselves among people who believe in creating their own statutes - we are to Come out from among them and be separate.

Oh yes, it would be great if we came out from among them and joined ourselves to other believers. That would be ideal. And I believe that's what we should be trying to do. But even if we are not joined with other believers in the same general, physical location, we are not supposed to be associated - we are not supposed to be joined together mentally, ideologically with unbelievers. And remember again from last week, who were the unbelievers? Those that did not obey the Commandments of the Lord.

The people of Israel in II Kings 17 committed great sins. The text says great sins, because they followed a king who made their own statutes.

Come on friends, this is not hard. Every single "state" in the U.S. today calls their "lawbooks", for instance, the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The Revised Statutes of the United States. The Illinois Compiled Statutes. The Arizona Revised Statutes. The Colorado Revised Statutes. The Kentucky Revised Statutes.

*Revised Code of Washington (RCW)*

*The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, or enacted via the initiative process), arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts. The official version of the RCW is published by the Statute Law*

*Committee and the Code Reviser.*

We've got to wake up. What have we been doing? We call ourselves Christians. We call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ. But we are absolutely not serving the throne of God and of the Lamb. Most people are serving the statutes of their states or their united states. Most people are making the exact same mistakes as the mistakes the people of Israel made and we wonder why we are in the shape we are in.

and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

Turn to a very familiar passage of Scripture this morning. Look at Isaiah chapter 9 with me, please. Begin with verse 6 which is the prophecy, fulfilled of course, just like all the rest of the prophecies, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the first century. For the follower of Jesus Christ, this is what Government is. This is what we are supposed to be having as our Government - and no other. This isn't hard. This isn't deep. Four years of Bible college followed by seminary is not necessary - unless your goal in life is to keep people from finding this most simple Biblical truth.

[6] For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the Government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Alright. Stop for a second. His Name. We are not talking about a sound that comes out of someone's mouth when the letters J-E-S-U-S are pronounced. Or if the sound Yeshua comes out of someone's mouth. The word Name - comes from the Hebrew word believe it or not pronounced as shame. And it means

*an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character*

From another dictionary more detailed than Strong's elementary Hebrew dictionary:

*to mark with a sign, to designate, sign, stigma. In any one's name; authority. In the name of Jehovah, in the Authority of God.*

Name means Authority. For the follower of Jesus Christ, it is by His Authority that we are to live, to move and have our being. We are not to be living, moving and having our



being in or by the authority of anyone other than King Jesus. There is no other Name - No other Authority given under heaven. In the Name of means in the Authority of. And Jesus and His Father have all of it and yield it to no one, anywhere.

[7] Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

And when did the Lord of hosts perform this? In the first century at the resurrection of Jesus Christ after He was executed by the state. Acts chapter 2 tells us as clearly as anything there ever was in the Bible - that at His resurrection - Jesus Christ took the throne of David. That's as clear as anything ever found in the Word of God. Isaiah 9:6-7 became a reality at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When people do not understand this, when people do not realize that Jesus Christ and His Father's Government are the Only God Ordained Government allowed to exist in the world today - they are living a life of sin - a life of great sin. How does this happen? How does it happen that most people do not know that Isaiah 9:6-7 is fulfilled Bible prophecy?

Well, it comes as a result of people listening to the wrong voices. First of all, the voices of people that say that Jesus Christ did not fulfill all the prophecies. If you are listening to people who say that Jesus Christ did not fulfill all the prophecies in the first century - on or before the destruction of the temple - you are going to be living a life of sin - of great sin. Because - 99.9 times out of a hundred - the same people that tell you that Jesus did not fulfill all the prophecies - are also going to tell you you are supposed to obey men's little g "governments" and their laws and their statutes - which we clearly see - not just in II Kings 17 but in nearly every single other place God has revealed His Will.

If you are listening to people tell you about something called "church." If a preacher uses the word "church" and is not telling you that what we have been told about "church" is a lie - that is has no foundation whatsoever in the Word of God - then you are listening to the wrong voice and that voice is leading you - driving you away from the Lord and causing you to sin - to sin great sins.

If someone calls themself a preacher of the Word of God - and doesn't even know the truth concerning the word and the concept of "church" - you are going to be misled.

“Baptism.” Again, just like the word and the concept “church.” Should not be in our Bibles and if we do not know that what they were doing in the first century that these churchmen erroneously, deceptively refer to as “baptism” was the washings found in the Law God gave Moses - which was nailed to the cross contained in the ordinances - then - friends - you are listening to the wrong voice. Those that teach “baptism” in physical H2O water - will also teach that it is not necessary to Come out from the world, it not necessary to renounce citizenships with the world - a man can be in and of the things of the world and be in the Kingdom of God at the same time - and there is no Biblical support for such a teaching. Continue with Isaiah chapter 9, verse 8.

[8] The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.

[9] And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart,

[10] The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycomores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars.

[11] Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together;

Look, you want to reject the Government of God. You want to reject the principles contained in Isaiah 9:6-7. You want to refuse that this was fulfilled in the first century when Jesus Christ took the throne of David. Well, if that is what you want to sow, then this is what you are going to reap.

[12] The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.

[13] For the people turneth not unto Him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

[14] Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day.

And, yes. He did. When the temple and Jerusalem were destroyed, He did. And many people still haven't learned this lesson or that one.

[15] The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.

Now watch. Just like it was with Jeroboam in II Kings 17, we see it again in Isaiah 9:16

[16] For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

Here's what is happening today. Here's how Isaiah 9:16 is in effect today.

People hear the message of the present day reality of the Government of God and a lot of people that hear that message embrace it. Even if it's just for a brief moment - they get it. They understand "Seek ye first the Government of God." They get it. We've rejected the Government of God, that's why everything is going the way it is today.

Then, they go and talk to their favorite "preacher." And what does their favorite "preacher" tell them?

"Well, I've been preaching the Word of God for 20, 30, 40, 50 years or more. And I'm a u.s. citizen. I've got a social security number, I've got a driver's license citizen identification card. I pay taxes. I have a flag. I obey men's statutes - and I'm a preacher. I'm a man of God. You don't need to listen to someone trying to tell you that God has a Government. You don't need to listen to someone tell you that God's Laws are all you are supposed to obey. Take it from me. You can be in the governments of men and the Kingdom of God at the same time."

[16] For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

Turn over to Isaiah chapter 56. Begin in verse 1.

[1] Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed.

[2] Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.

[3] Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.

[4] For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep My sabbaths, and choose the things that please Me, and take hold of my covenant;

[5] Even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name,

that shall not be cut off.

[6] Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the Name [Authority] of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My covenant;

[7] Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

[8] The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

[9] All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest.

[10] His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

[11] Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

[12] Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

Friends, I'm telling you. You better be careful who you are listening to. Governments are clearly known - clearly shown from the Word of God that they will drive people from following the Lord. The leaders of the people have caused them to err and they that are led of them are destroyed. Shepherds do not understand and have lost their way.

Last week, I was trying as hard as I could to get to Philippians chapter 3. Teresa said by the time I got there, I knew I was running out of time and so I noticeably put it in high gear. We need to go back there - a little slower this time. Turn to Philippians chapter 3, read again please, beginning in verse 14:

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

[15] Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

[16] Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

[17] Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

[18] (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

[19] Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in

their shame, who mind earthly things.)

[20] For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

We left off with an examination of the word “conversation” as found in the 1611 KJV. For the life of men I cannot understand why the KJV 1611 translators translated politoomah as “conversation.” Maybe they understood conversation to have a much deeper understanding than we do today. Wycliffe's version isn't as impactful and neither is Tyndale. Tyndale uses the word “conversation.” I can only think conversation meant much deeper then that it does today.

Most of you know that I don't care much for the modern translations. But, at least for the way we should understand politoomah - politics - policy - the modern translations do a much better translation - at least for how we should understand verse 20. And, interestingly enough, the people that use the modern translations STILL don't get it. Even though it's so in their face - it's astounding they don't get it. Here is verse 20 from the New American Standard Bible. Speaking to Christians, this is Paul speaking to Christians:

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Here's the NIV:

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

From the Common English Bible:

Our citizenship is in heaven. We look forward to a savior that comes from there—the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the Bible in Basic English:

For our country is in heaven; from where the Saviour for whom we are waiting will come, even the Lord Jesus Christ:

From the American Standard Version, this one's more than a hundred years ago, but still modern comparatively:

For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Now we don't particularly understand the word "conversation" as it was in the 1611 KJV - but we certainly should understand the word citizenship. From the Complete Jewish Bible:

But we are citizens of heaven, and it is from there that we expect a Deliverer, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

From the Holman Study Bible:

but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the ESV:

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

I don't get it. Our citizenship is not supposed to be worldly. For the follower of Jesus Christ, His Government, His Kingdom, our citizenship - and these modern versions say it even better than the KJV, the Tyndale or the Geneva. Our citizenship is in heaven where our King's throne is. But today, 99.9% of people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ have their citizenship in worldly governments with people who believe in making their own statutes, making their own "laws" then sending people out in blue suits with guns forcing people to obey their statutes - driving them from the Laws of God and causing them to sin - to sin great sins.

It's time - it's past time - for people who call themselves the people of God to stand as Citizens of the Government of God, the called out of this world, the Commonwealth of Israel - and say - no - you are not going to drive me away from following the Lord - you are not going to cause me to sin great sins - you are not going to lead me to error - and I'm not going to be destroyed for following you.

God send us men and women, boys and girls, give us more babies, who will be brought up to understand that there is still a God. And He still wants people to obey His Word. And He still wants people to be exclusive Citizens of the Government He established with His Son in the first century when men's little g "governments" executed His Son - but then He rose victoriously over them - triumphantly defeating and taking the throne of David to begin His rule over the Ekklesia of Israel - newly named - the Commonwealth of Israel in the first century - then - and forevermore.

Give us people who desire to be Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel worshiping and serving exclusively around the throne of God and of the Lamb.