

**Message# 259\_10-08-2023 - If We had Just Known what this Meaneth - Continuing Study of Kings**

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

Sorry about last weekend. I had sent out the email about the need to play a repeat message - then I uploaded the message that I wanted to replay - then - forgot the final step of renaming the message so that the radio station's play list plays the correct message.

There's a lot that goes into preparing and delivering messages each week - and the days before that weekend were extraordinarily busy and there just wasn't enough hours in the day or night - to properly prepare a message. I had a wedding to preach that weekend and just got preoccupied many things taking place that week - and - as the kids say - "I guess I spaced it." So, sorry about that. I want you to know I am trying as hard as I can but I just dropped the ball. Nonetheless, the Word of God was still preached again and we'll pray that His Word does not return void as He promised.

I've been continuing studying the kings in the history of Israel and the last time we were together - we had looked at a long list of kings that were part of the history of Israel - and pretty much every earthly king that came in contact with Israel - in the old world - met a very unpleasant demise.

We need to constantly remind ourselves that whatever read in the history of Israel was recorded to show people living in the New World - the world which was put into place when God sent His Only begotten Son - to "make all things new" - the things that were recorded in the history of Israel - were recorded to show us what the Will of God is for His Creation.

This really should not be all that difficult. Earthly kings are not what God wants for His people. Earthly kings are not what God wants for any of His Creation. It is the Will of God for all of His Creation to serve Him - and Him alone as King. God's Creation is to live according to His Laws, His Commandments, His Statutes, His Judgments - that's His perfect Will. It's quite simple. It's every single place we read about in the history of Israel. That is what God wants for His Creation. His perfect Will is for that to be going on collectively - many people - harmoniously living according to His Will - but - if many

people will not collectively live according to His Will - then it is still demanded of each and every individual to live according to His Will - even if the collective community refuses. After all, families, communities, nations, etc., are all made up of individuals.

There is something very interesting about kings when we come to the Book of Judges. But before we get to this, open your Bibles please to the last chapter of the Book of Joshua. This is Joshua chapter 24 - I'll be reading from the Septuagint. This reading is similar to the KJV - until you get to the final verses - which come just before the first chapter of the Book of Judges. Verse 1, Joshua 24.

1 And Joshua gathered all the tribe of Israel to Selo, and convoked their elders, and their officers, and their judges, and set them before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, Thus says the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers at first sojourned beyond the river, [even] Thara, the father of Abraam and the father of Nachor; and they served other gods. 3 And I took your father Abraam from the other side of the river, and I guided him through all the land, and I multiplied his seed;

Notice very carefully how all of that was just said. It did not say Abraham served other gods. It says the father of Abraham and the father of Nachor. Then, God took Abraham. Abraham was distinctly different from his father and from the father of Nachor - who had served other gods.

At this point in our studies, we should not need to go back and find the meaning of "served other gods." In the Hebrew text, in the Greek Septuagint, serving other gods means following other rulers. It's elohim in the Hebrew, it's theos in the Greek and it means a title of a ruler.

The God of the Bible made it clear as can be that serving Him means obeying His Laws, His Judgments, His Statutes, His Perfect Will. And it has never been - obeying His Perfect Will means obeying other kings, other rulers, other judges, other magistrates.

It just amazes me that we have Bibles, books that are barely 2 inches thick. And those Bibles contain all the Laws of God. All the Laws of the Creator of the Universe. It's the operation manual that the Creator gave to His Creation and said, "This is how I expect you to live."

Then, somewhere in that comparatively tiny little book, God gave man this exception, that extended His Law to include the millions and millions and millions of "laws,

statutes and judgments” that mere men have come up with. Totally obliterating the Law that God said, “You shall not add to or take away from My Law.” Yet, “preachers” - men who are supposed to be charged with being the voices of God, the ones who stand for the God of Creation and teach men and women, boys and girls the way God said to live - completely disregard God's command not to add to His Law - and compel men and women, boys and girls to live their lives constantly adding to the Law of God. In fact, not only are they adding to the Law of God - but most of them advocate for the abolition of the Law of God and just starting completely over with their own “laws, statutes and ordinances.” I don't get it. It's mindboggling that these men read from the same Bibles we do - yet come up with conclusions that say that God did away with His Laws and gave men free reign to make up their own.

In the U.S., you have these election cycles - times where the “democrats” are in control. And they write more and more and more “laws.” They expand their “government” more and more and more. Then, it becomes the “republicans” turn - and they tell everyone the problems are that “government” needs to be reduced. So, they take “power.” And what do they do? They write more and more and more “laws” - telling everyone they are reducing “government” when the fact is - each time they write more and more and more “laws” they, too, are expanding their “government.” And this is what God wants for His Creation? God started it in motion with a Book that is barely 2 inches thick - and now - it's millions and millions and millions of “laws, statutes and ordinances” and this is what the Plan and Will of God is?

That is the craziest concept men have ever devised - and it is totally amazing - beyond comprehension - that only a few people seem to get it.

Jesus Christ said He came to make men free. And if the Son - S-O-N therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. And they killed Him because of His offer for freedom.

Preach freedom today. Preach that God has NOT established men's little g “governments” today - preach that God wants His Creation to exclusively obey His incredibly limited Government - then live accordingly - and see how all the “limited government” politicians react.

God chose Abraham as one of, if not the greatest examples to show His Perfect Will in all of our Bibles - and there is reason for it. God didn't choose Abraham's father, God chose Abraham. And why? Keep your finger here and turn to what should be the

easiest, open and shut argument in our Bibles for why God's people are not to obey and submit to men's little g "governments" and/or their earthly "kings." Genesis chapter 26 - again. Beginning with verse 1. Reading again from the Septuagint.

AND there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine, which was in the time of Abraam; and Isaac went to Abimelech the king of the Phylistines to Gerara. 2 And the Lord appeared to him and said, Go not down to Egypt, but dwell in the land, which I shall tell thee of. 3 And sojourn in this land; and I will be with thee, and bless thee, for I will give to thee and to thy seed all this land; and I will establish my oath which I swore to thy father Abraam. 4 And I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven; and I will give to thy seed all this land, and all the nations of the earth shall be blest in thy seed. 5 Because Abraam thy father hearkened to my voice, and kept my injunctions, and my commandments, and my ordinances, and my statutes.

While everyone else was following and serving other gods, the Bible says Abraham hearkened to the voice of God - and kept His injunctions, His Commandments, Ordinances and Statutes. I simply do not see how this is so difficult. Man calls their legal system, ordinances, statutes, injunctions, laws, etc. You have man's legal system and you have God's "legal system." Choose which one you will follow. You can't serve both. Jesus made this about as clear as anything else in our Bibles. You can't serve both. Choose God or choose man. Man doesn't even try to hide it. You would have thought they would have come up with other words to describe their system. But no. They're the exact same words that God used to describe His "legal system."

Jesus Christ came to this earth to turn people back to His Father. To turn people back to the Creator and the Creator's Laws.

"Think not that I came to destroy My Father's Laws, I came to fulfill it."

Why is all of this so difficult?

Back to Joshua 24. So Joshua begins recounting Israel's history. And of course, it begins with a reminder that their father, Abraham, lived a life exclusively obeying God's Laws, Commandments, Statutes, Ordinances and Injunctions. I think it is pretty neat how the Septuagint adds that little tidbit in there for us.

Verse 3 again:

3 And I took your father Abraam from the other side of the river, and I guided him through all the land, and I multiplied his seed;  
4 and I gave to him Isaac, and to Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave to Esau mount Seir for him to inherit: and Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt, and became there a great and populous and mighty nation: and the Egyptians afflicted them.  
5 And I smote Egypt with the wonders that I wrought among them. 6 And afterwards [God] brought out our fathers from Egypt, and ye entered into the Red Sea; and the Egyptians pursued after our fathers with chariots and horses into the Red Sea. 7 And we cried aloud to the Lord; and he put a cloud and darkness between us and the Egyptians, and he brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen all that the Lord did in the land of Egypt; and ye were in the wilderness many days. 8 And he brought us into the land of the Amorites that dwelt beyond Jordan, and the Lord delivered them into our hands; and ye inherited their land, and utterly destroyed them from before you.  
9 And Balac, king of Moab, son of Sepphor, rose up, and made war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam to curse us. 10 But the Lord thy God would not destroy thee; and he greatly blessed us, and rescued us out of their hands, and delivered them [to us]. 11 And ye crossed over Jordan, and came to Jericho; and the inhabitants of Jericho fought against us, the Amorite, and the Chananite, and the Pherezite, and the Evite, and the Jebusite, and the Chettite, and the Gergesite, and the Lord delivered them into our hands. 12 And he sent forth the hornet before you; and he drove them out from before you, [even] twelve kings of the Amorites, not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. 13 And he gave you a land on which ye did not labour, and cities which ye did not build, and ye were settled in them; and ye eat [of] vineyards and oliveyards which ye did not plant. 14 And now fear the Lord, and serve him in righteousness and justice; and remove the strange gods, which our fathers served beyond the river, and in Egypt; and serve the Lord.

I've been saying this for a lot of years now. Yes, all of what we are reading in Joshua 24 was said to the collective nation of Israel. It was to the gathered elders, officers and judges and they were all expected to obey. But if the collective people will not obey together - which would be really nice - simply because there is strength in numbers - if the collective does not obey - that is not an excuse for the individuals not to obey the Lord. It is not an excuse to just go with the flow and do what everyone else is doing.

Keep your finger here and turn to Matthew chapter 12. Begin with verse 34.

[34] O generation of vipers,

Jesus is speaking to the collective group. He called His generation - collectively - a generation of vipers.

how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

But then, just like that, He changes gears.

[35] A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

It started with the collective, yes, but the collective is made of individuals. Each man is responsible for his actions - actions apart from the collective - whether those actions be good or evil.

[36] But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

The actions of the individual, down to the very words of each individual are principally judged by God. Turn to Romans chapter 14. Read verses 11 and 12:

[11] For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

[12] So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Where was it written? From Isaiah 45. From the Septuagint beginning in verse 20:

Assemble yourselves and come; take counsel together, ye that escape of the nations: they that set up wood, [even] their graven image, have no knowledge, nor they who pray to gods that do not save. 21 If they will declare, let them draw nigh, that they may know together, who has caused these things to be heard from the beginning: then was it told you. I am God, and there is not another beside me; a just [God] and a Saviour; there is none but me. 22 Turn ye to me, and ye shall be saved, ye that [come] from the end of the earth: I am God, and there is none other. 23 By myself I swear, righteousness shall surely proceed out of my mouth; my words shall not be frustrated; that to me every knee shall bend,

and every tongue shall swear by God, 24 saying, Righteousness and glory shall come to him: and all that remove them from their borders shall be ashamed. 25 By the Lord shall they be justified, and in God shall all the seed of the children of Israel be glorified.

God wants His people assembled - those that have escaped the nations - collectively - yes - that is the Will of God - but it is made up of individual knees that have bowed and individual tongues that have confessed. If the collective will not escape the nations, if the collective will not bow the knee and confess with the tongue - the individuals are still required to obey. If no one else will - each of us must.

Back to Joshua chapter 24, verse 15:

15 But if it seem not good to you to serve the Lord, choose to yourselves this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods of your fathers that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, among whom ye dwell upon their land: but I and my house will serve the Lord, for he is holy. 16 And the people answered and said, Far be it from us to forsake the Lord, so as to serve other gods.

This is the recorded history of Israel. Here we see what the Perfect Will of God for His people was. What is so difficult about this? God's people are not to serve other gods. If this is not what the plain Will of God is - why is it even in the Bible? Why not just tear it out, rip it up and throw it away. If it has no meaning today, if Jesus came to change all of these principles, why do we even bother having it in the Bible? God did not cause all of this to be written, recorded in the history of Israel - only to have Jesus, Peter and Paul dismantle it and tell God's people it's now okay to serve other gods - other rulers, judges, magistrates.

Joshua is telling these people - in that day - the plain, clear Will of God for His people. The principles remain today. These are eternal principles that will never change.

17 The Lord our God, he is God; he brought up us and our fathers from Egypt, and kept us in all the way wherein we walked, and among all the nations through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord cast out the Amorite, and all the nations that inhabited the land from before us: yea, we will serve the Lord, for he is our God. 19 And Joshua said to the people, Indeed ye will not be able to serve the Lord, for God is holy; and he being jealous will not forgive your sins and your

transgressions.

Did Joshua just throw in the towel and tell God's people that no matter their choice - even if they choose God, choose His ways, they could never please God? Of course not. Though that is exactly what churchian theology has instilled in people today. And, even in people that should know better.

I can't tell you how many times in my own life, as I've tried to get people to see these principles, I've tried to get people to forsake men's little g "governments" and turn exclusively to the Government of King Jesus - they'll place my life under their microscope and try to find any shortcoming they can come up with - anything that they could use to say, for instance, "Well, you still use a paper dollar.....so....." Rather than see all the effort, all the attempts at trying to live in a world that hates the Kingdom of God and has done all it can do to prevent people from living according to the Kingdom of God as best they possibly can - they'll find anything and everything they can to justify their own life - a life of living as comfortably as they can following the ways of men - as opposed to even attempting to live a life of non-conformity to the world.

With each new "law" the demorats come up with, or the republirats come up with - each one of them makes it more and more difficult to even survive as a follower of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible. But the life in Christ is still a thousand times, a million times better than the life the world has created for people and I would not trade places with them for a minute.

So Joshua did not throw in the towel. Joshua did not say it was impossible to live a life that pleases God. Continuing to verse 20 he says this is why God would not forgive their sins. This is why God would not wipe away their transgressions.

20 Whensoever ye shall forsake the Lord and serve other gods, then he shall come upon you and afflict you, and consume you, because he has done you good. 21 And the people said to Joshua, Nay, but we will serve the Lord.

And there you have it. Nice, neat, tidy, simple. "We will serve the Lord."

When people serve other gods, God comes upon them to afflict them and consume them. Whether He causes those things to happen, or they happen as natural consequences - but they happen. And today, we are seeing them happen at accelerated levels like we have never seen in our lifetime. We used to say, "Fifty years ago. Fourty

years ago....” Now, it's five years ago we would have not seen the things we are seeing today. A year ago. Things are moving faster toward evil than I've ever seen in my life time - and the reasons are exactly the same as what we are reading today in Joshua chapter 24.

OUR Constitution, and OUR laws, and OUR treaties, and OUR statutes, and OUR injunctions, and OUR ordinances - and anything else we might happen to tell you - shall be the supreme law of the land. And the “preachers” and the religious people in our world today - are at the forefront of this malicious propaganda which is nothing less than a declaration of war against God the Creator and His Son, Jesus the Christ - and sadly - there doesn't seem to be a man out of a million that recognizes what is going on. Verse 22.

22 And Joshua said to the people, Ye [are] witnesses against yourselves, that ye have chosen the Lord to serve him. 23 And now take away the strange gods that are among you, and set your heart right toward the Lord God of Israel. 24 And the people said to Joshua, We will serve the Lord, and we will hearken to his voice. 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people on that day, and gave them a law and an ordinance in Selo before the tabernacle of the God of Israel.

So again, we see, as plain as anything is in our Bibles. When we see the word serving - as in “serving other gods” - it means obeying their “laws.”

The churchian world - because they are not the voice of God, they do not know the Mind of God and they do not know the Will of God - they are devoid of knowing and understanding the deeper things of God - they've come up with their own religions, their own understandings and they have taught that “serving other gods” means that some naked black man in the deep dark parts of Africa gets some elephant tusk and carves out a tiki statue and places it in his and falls on his face, on his hands and knees and “worships” his elephant tusk as a god and that makes the God of heaven angry.

I have always had my doubts about that making God angry. I think God would look at that and say, “What an idiot! What kind of a moron would even do something like that?” Serving and worshiping is about whose laws you obey. How do you live your life? Who tells you what to do and who do you obey? That's what it meant back then, that's what it has always meant. “But in the U.S. people do not worship the “government.”

Oh brother. That's one of the most ridiculous statements anyone can make today. It's so

ridiculous, I won't even take a minute to talk about it. Verse 26:

26 And he wrote these words in the book of the laws of God:

There it is again. The people just said, "We will serve the Lord" and then the Word of God says Joshua wrote in the book of the Laws of God. Serving the Lord means obeying His Laws. Serving other gods means obeying men's "laws".

"So, Charlie, are you saying Christians are never to obey anything that other men come up with?"

Absolutely not. I'm not saying that at all. God established Government. His Government. And it is, as Romans 13 says as plainly as anything ever was in the Bible, briefly comprehended, it says:

[9] For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Government, God's Government, is for the purpose of making sure His Laws are obeyed. When men perform this, it is approved by God and people are obligated to make sure it is administered. There are expenses involved in the administration of these very few Laws and people are supposed to make sure the needs get met. Romans 13 says that God's approved Government punishes evil - and praises good. Simple. That's what it does. Anything other than that - is not God's Government.

And, again, punishes evil. What is evil? Evil is defined by God and God alone. Good is defined by God and God alone. Romans 13 is not talking about the definitions of good and evil as defined by man. How someone who claims to be the voice of God, a "preacher of the Word" - can read the same Bible we do - and just arbitrarily decide that God has abdicated His definitions of good and evil - and has given ungodly men and women to freedom to make their own definitions - that is as clear to me as anything ever was - that man or that woman does not know God - has never known God - and is as lost as the drunkard in the street, the prostitute on the corner, the drug addict in the slumhouse - none of them know the God of the Bible - and if they did - they would understand the very simple Will of God that was shown when man was created - that God has never given men the power - definitely not the Authority - to

define good and evil. God defined good and evil and that's as basic Christianity 101 as there ever was.

and Joshua took a great stone, and set it up under the oak before the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to the people, Behold, this stone shall be among you for a witness, for it has heard all the words that have been spoken to it by the Lord; for he has spoken to you this day; and this [stone] shall be among you for a witness in the last days, whenever ye shall deal falsely with the Lord my God. 28 And Joshua dismissed the people, and they went every man to his place.

Dismissed the people. We have seen that Joshua chapter 24 began with the collective people. It is the Will of God for the collective people to serve Him, to obey His Laws, Statutes, Judgments, Ordinances, Injunctions. But if the collective will not - the individuals still must obey - even if there's just a few. In verse 28, "Joshua dismissed the people..." The Greek word for people is *hékastis* - denoting one of many. So they may have started that event as the collective - but they ended it as denoting one of many.

In the end of Joshua 24, the Septuagint reads quite differently from the Hebrew. Let's finish.

29 And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that lived as long as Joshua, and all that knew all the works of the Lord which he wrought for Israel. 30 And it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Naue the servant of the Lord died, [at the age] of a hundred and ten years. 31 And they buried him by the borders of his inheritance in Thamnasarach in the mount of Ephraim, northward of the mount of Gaas: there they put with him into the tomb in which they buried him, the knives of stone with which he circumcised the children of Israel in Galgala, when he brought them out of Egypt, as the Lord appointed them; and there they are to this day. 32 And the children of Israel brought up the bones of Joseph out of Egypt, and buried [them] in Sicima, in the portion of the land which Jacob bought of the Amorites who dwelt in Sicima for a hundred ewe-lambs; and he gave it to Joseph for a portion. 33 And it came to pass afterwards that Eleazar the high-priest the son of Aaron died, and was buried in Gabaar of Phinees his son, which he gave him in mount Ephraim. In that day the children of Israel took the ark of God, and carried it about among them; and Phinees exercised the priest's office in the room of Eleazar his father till he died, and he was buried in his own place Gabaar: but the children of Israel departed every one to their place, and to their own city: and the children of

Israel worshipped Astarte, and Astaroth, and the gods of the nations round about them; and the Lord delivered them into the hands of Eglom king of Moab and he ruled over them eighteen years.

So, the sad ending to Joshua ends up with the children's children forsaking the Laws that their fathers had agreed to - and once again - they ended up becoming slaves to an earthly king.

Which brings us now to the Book of Judges. In our remaining minutes, I want to point out a few verses - yes - I'm going to do something that you know I rarely do - but have done and will do again this morning. I want to show you a couple of verses out of the Book. It's regarding our study of the kings in the history of Old World Israel.

Turn to Judges chapter 2. Begin with verse 1. The Book of Judges tells the next stage of history for Old World Israel. There's some carryover from Joshua, but then it gets going with the next stage. Our learning is supposed to continue. More of the revealed Mind and Will of God is shown. From the Septuagint, again.

1 And an angel (the Greek word means messenger) of the Lord went up from Galgal to the [place of] weeping, and to Baethel, and to the house of Israel, and said to them, Thus says the Lord, I brought you up out of Egypt, and I brought you into the land which I sware to your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant that I have made with you. 2 And ye shall make no covenant with them that dwell in this land, neither shall ye worship their gods; but ye shall destroy their graven images, ye shall pull down their altars: but ye hearkened not to my voice, for ye did these things. 3 And I said, I will not drive them out from before you, but they shall be for a distress to you, and their gods shall be to you for an offence.

Again, it is not the Perfect Will of God for His people to be in a place of servitude to governments other than His. And when the multitude of people are in that place - that is not an excuse to go with the flow.

4 And it came to pass when the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. 5 And they named the name of that place Weepings; and they sacrificed there to the Lord. 6 And Joshua dismissed the people, and they went every man to his inheritance, to inherit the land. 7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all

the days of the elders that lived many days with Joshua, as many as knew all the great work of the Lord, what things he had wrought in Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Naue, the servant of the Lord, died, a hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance, in Thamnathares, in mount Ephraim, on the north of the mountain of Gaas. 10 And all that generation were laid to their fathers: and another generation rose up after them, who knew not the Lord, nor yet the work which he wrought in Israel. 11 And the children of Israel wrought evil before the Lord, and served Baalim.

We read these things reading the whole story. We have the whole story. We can read about Israel's history in Egypt. Their deliverance. We can read about Moses. We can read about Joshua. We can read about the days after Joshua. We have the whole story. We read these things to learn so as not to repeat the same things they did. This is why we read in the last 27 books that we are without excuse. We don't have an excuse to repeat the same things that God said was evil. This is why I keep saying, if the collective people decide to work evil before the Lord, and serve Baalim - that gives no one an excuse to refuse to continue to serve and obey God.

12 And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and walked after other gods, of the gods of the nations round about them; and they worshipped them.

We aren't talking about carved elephant tusk gods. We're talking about living the same way everyone else lives. It's about laws and statutes and ordinances and injunctions. It's about whose Laws you obey. Who is your King? Who is the One you obey.

13 And they provoked the Lord, and forsook him, and served Baal and the Astartes. 14 And the Lord was very angry with Israel; and he gave them into the hands of the spoilers, and they spoiled them; and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, and they could not any longer resist their enemies, 15 among whomsoever they went; and the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord spoke, and as the Lord sware to them; and he greatly afflicted them. 16 And the Lord raised up judges, and the Lord save them out of the hands of them that spoiled them: and yet they hearkened not to the judges, 17 for they went a whoring after other gods, and worshipped them; and they turned quickly out of the way in which their fathers walked to hearken to the words of the Lord; they did not so. 18 And because the Lord raised them up judges, so the Lord was with the judge, and saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of

the judge; for the Lord was moved at their groaning by reason of them that besieged them and afflicted them. 19 And it came to pass when the judge died, that they went back, and again corrupted [themselves] worse than their fathers to go after other gods to serve them and to worship them: they abandoned not their devices nor their stubborn ways. 20 And the Lord was very angry with Israel, and said, Forasmuch as this nation has forsaken my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not hearkened to my voice, 21 therefore I will not any more cast out a man of the nations before their face, which Joshua the son of Naue left in the land. And [the Lord] left [them], 22 to prove Israel with them, whether they would keep the way of the Lord, to walk in it, as their fathers kept it, or no. 23 So the Lord will leave these nations, so as not to cast them out suddenly; and he delivered them not into the hand of Joshua.

Israel had rejected God. They had rejected Moses. They had rejected Joshua. They rejected God's judges. Over and over through the Book of Judges we see the same theme. The children of Israel forsook God and they ended up being ruled over by an earthly king. Turn to Judges chapter 17. Let's look at one verse in particular. The KJV and the Septuagint say the same thing.

[6] In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Turn to chapter 18, verse 1.

In those days there was no king in Israel:

Chapter 19, verse 1:

And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel,

And finally, chapter 21, verse 25:

25 And in those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own sight.

We are going to see that not too long after this, is when the children of Israel told Samuel to give them a king like all the other nations.

Up until this time, from Egypt, to the end of the Book of Judges, there was no king in Israel. This is speaking of an earthly king. The intention, the Plan of God, the Will of God was for Israel to recognize God as their King. Their exclusive King. When they refused His Laws - God gave them a king. A king to punish them to make their lives miserable.

The purpose of God, the Plan of God, the Will of God, is for God the Creator to be the King over His Creation. There is a reason why kings are all over the Old World history of Israel. The bad - the rarely good - the mostly bad kings that Israel encountered were there to give them hope that one day - in the last days - a King would come that would be perfect. A King that would lead them into a Kingdom that followed the Will of God, the Plan of God. A Kingdom, prophesied by Isaiah

[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.

[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.

It was always God's Plan for Israel to have a King. It was always the Will of God for Israel to have a King. A King that would not just lead Israel - but would lead all of God's Creation.

And, of course, Jesus was that King. I think because so many people do not understand all the things that involved kings in the Old Covenant world - they just do not grasp the awesome importance of what it means that Jesus was born to be King. This was God in the flesh. Jesus was God revealed to His Creation and He was revealed as King.

In the Old World, the Israelites basically had God revealed to them through Moses, through Joshua, through the Prophets. But look again, at Matthew chapter 2, beginning in verse 1:

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

[2] Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

[3] When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all

Jerusalem with him.

[4] And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

[5] And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

[6] And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come the Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Why this is so discounted today is amazing. We know that it is because of futurism, of course. But for those of us who are not futurists - we get it. This is why we need to be so focused on destroying futurism. To say that Jesus is nothing but a coming king - a king whose coming meant basically nothing - is to deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Israel's perfect King had come.

Turn over to Luke chapter 1. Read beginning in verse 26.

[26] And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

[27] To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

[28] And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

[29] And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

[30] And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

[31] And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

[32] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

[33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

What part of this do people not understand? There is nothing in here that says - "Mary, thousands of years, your son, Jesus, will begin His reign over the house of Jacob forever and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne His father David.

Of course, there's no question that He did not take the throne of David when He was

born. No baby does that. But no baby has ever been born to be king and did not take the throne during his lifetime. What I mean is this. When earthly kings were born - at some point in their lifetime - they took the "throne." Apparently Jesus is the only King ever born - that didn't take the throne during His lifetime. Somehow, it's perfectly acceptable to say that He is still just a coming king. There's no logic to it whatsoever.

All through the history of Old World Israel we see their interaction with one king after another. Then, Jesus the King is sent - Israel once again collectively rejected God's King - but individually lots of people embraced Him as King - particularly after He took the throne at His resurrection - but then collectively - the majority of people since that time continue to reject His Kingship.

God is not sending another king to His Creation. The whole history of Old World Israel culminated with God sending the Perfect King. The Last of the Kings. The Last of the Lords. Besides Him there is no other.

If the collective refuses to embrace His Kingship - individually - each and every one of us have no excuse for not bowing the knee and confessing with the tongue that Jesus Christ is King - the ONLY King that God allows for His Creation.

In the last few minutes of this morning's messages, let's finish the rest of this chapter. The King came in the first century.

[34] Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

[35] And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

[36] And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

[37] For with God nothing shall be impossible.

[38] And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

[39] And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

[40] And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

[41] And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

[42] And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among

women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

[43] And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

[44] For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

[45] And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

[46] And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

[47] And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

[48] For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

[49] For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

[50] And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

[51] He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

[52] He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

[53] He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

[54] He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

[55] As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

[56] And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

[57] Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

[58] And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

[59] And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

Physically circumcised him because the Old Covenant was still in existence. In the New Covenant World the Scriptures clearly teach that physical circumcision is no longer required. Circumcision is of the heart. Physical water is no longer required in the New World. Both of those physical elements of the Old World had their purpose and it was to point to the Spiritual aspects of the New Covenant. The Old World way of circumcision is done away with in Christ - the same as the Old World way of washing sins away in physical H<sub>2</sub>O.

[60] And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.  
[61] And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.  
[62] And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.  
[63] And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.  
[64] And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.  
[65] And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.  
[66] And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.  
[67] And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,  
[68] Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,  
[69] And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;  
[70] As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:  
[71] That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;  
[72] To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;  
[73] The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,  
[74] That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,  
[75] In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.  
[76] And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
[77] To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,  
[78] Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,  
[79] To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
[80] And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

How people fail to grasp the awesomeness of what God was doing in the first century is beyond comprehension. These were the days of the fulfillment of the prophecies - Zacharias said it was

by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

The days of John the Washer, preceding the days of Jesus the Christ, Jesus the King of Israel, the Promised One to sit on the throne of David - these were the most important days in the history of the world. These were the days where the Kingdom of God would be finally established. The days where God no longer allowed any earthly kings. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and He shall reign forever and ever.

Friends, Jesus is not a coming king. He already came. He redeemed the world which constantly turned back and forth like the wind - where one day they followed God - the next day they turned against Him. Today, there's nothing else to turn to. There's only King Jesus. This is the hope for mankind. This is the only way of escape. Turn to Jesus the King. Escape the nations and follow Christ today.