

Message# 281_3-24-2024 - "Baptisma in the Name of..."

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

I spoke with Jeff a couple times this week, all seems to be quiet on that front. Please continue prayers for him. It's obvious that the opposers of the Kingdom of Christ have declared war on Jeff - hopefully - they'll find better things to do with their time. Maybe - well maybe they'll go kick some old man out of his house that he worked his whole life for - but refused to pay taxes for schools he has no kids in - or maybe he doesn't agree with drag queen hour at the library - or maybe he's just an unfriendly old, crochety man that no one likes anyway - so let's kick him out of his house. He can always find a new place under a bridge, or maybe in a cardboard box in an abandoned field. And when that happens, he won't even have to pay property taxes anymore. Does any remember this?

[Listen to audio message to hear the excerpt of the Andy Griffith Show where Andy was explaining eviction to Opie.]

That was from an old episode of the Andy Griffith Show where Andy was explaining to Opie about eviction. I wanted to play it a couple weeks ago but didn't have the time. I thought that was kind of interesting.

Well, I don't want that to happen to anyone, even if it's a diversion from that wild criminal Jeff. I want them all to recognize they have chosen a life that is in opposition to the Kingship of Jesus Christ, I want them to leave their vain, lustful, prideful ways - and follow King Jesus into the most free, peaceful, prosperous way of life available to mankind. That would be awesome. And if they won't do it all at once, hopefully, one at a time, we'll see conversions from the love of the world - to the love of Christ, His Kingdom, His Father's Laws, Words and Will.

I received the following from Doug:

"I'm doing better I feel each day. Mentally I'm feeling close to the old Doug. I'm getting around really good on the new crutches. Excited for the wound to finally heal so I can move to a prosthetic leg... We took a road trip to California to see my mother in law and bought a new car out there, new to us.. Hey if it works for you we could visit on April 19,

20, 21? Any of those days work for us. Have a great day brother, excited to hear this weeks message..”

Alright. So we will plan to have Doug and Mindy here on those days. I'm not sure if it will be one day or all three. If any of you would like to come and be a part of the fellowship, one day, two, all three, whatever, get in touch with Teresa and we'll see what we can do. It will be completely informal, I'll tell you that much. But we will do something.

I did hear from several of you saying that they were praying for Doug and for Chrissy. Chrissy had more good days than otherwise this week. I got to eat dinner with them last night. Jerry is quite the grill-man. I didn't know he had that in him. I got to hold Josie for a while and talk to her and watch her smile at her Papaw - pretty cool.

Noticeably missing from this conversation is Teresa. She's been battling a lingering cold or flu or something that's been going on for over a week. She's left the house once in the last week. So, please add her to your Prayer List in that regard.

I want to report to you that I had some really great emails that came in from last week's message. Very encouraging. And I don't mean encouraging to me, necessarily - though - it is encouraging for me. It's encouraging that people are beginning to see the difference between the little g “governments” of men - versus the present-day reality of the Kingdom of God today. It's not just pie-in-the-sky. It is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to come out from men's little g “governments” and into the Only God Ordained Government since the new world began - and that is the Government of the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of Christ, also known as the Commonwealth of Israel - named by the Scriptures in Ephesians chapter 2.

As we make our way back to Matthew chapter 27 this morning I want to remind you of all that has gotten us to this point. I am making the claim - based on the whole record - not just a few cherry-picked Bible verses here and there - I am making the claim - based on the conclusion of the whole matter - that when Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 to go into the world and baptidzo, the baptisma that He was referring to was the one that He Himself described in Matthew 20 - Mark chapter 10 for those who read from a Bible that had Christ's description removed from Matthew chapter 20.

This is the baptisma into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that occurs when men and women boys and girls yield to the All Power - the All Authority that Jesus Christ said His Father had given Him in Matthew chapter 18.

From Matthew chapter 20 - until some of His Final Words - from His definition of baptisma - until some of His Final Words - everything that took place was testament to the Authority that Jesus Christ was to receive from His Father - which was equal to His Father's Authority - which is the exact same Authority that we find since it was announced at Creation - then in the Garden - then in the days of Noah - then in the life of Abraham - then with Moses and throughout the recorded history of Israel - then - when one of the greatest of the earthly kings in Israel concluded:

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His Commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

[14] For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

And friends, to fail to understand that the judgment of God is based on His definitions of - whether it be good - or whether it be evil - to fail to understand that God's definitions of good and evil are the only things that mankind is to be concerned with - is to miss the entire meaning, the entire purpose of why we are even here. It is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to choose to live their life Governed exclusively by the definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, as defined by God in His Word and by what we see in the heavens and in His Creation. And when the world strays from Solomon's conclusion - it is then that it falls on the shoulders of those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ to not only preach the Way, the truth and the life - but to live it - even if it seems no one else will.

It's the Gospel. It's the Gospel of the Kingdom. From everything that we read concerning the Authority of Jesus Christ - it is simply mind-blowing to me that as we read about all the conspiracies against Christ, all the behind the scenes evil that the Scriptures reveal to us - as we see His betrayal - His arrest - His scam trial - that ultimately - all this is about - is Jesus trying to teach His disciples that what He is wanting them to do - is to teach people about a "church water ritual?"

All that is recorded from Matthew 20 - until the end of chapter 28 is boiled down to a "church water ritual?" As Jesus was teaching against paying taxes to Caesar - on several different levels - from the obvious one - "Whose inscription is on the coin?" Meaning -

those of you who call yourselves Israelites or Judahites - have you completely forsaken the second commandment:

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them”:

“We didn't make the coin. That was Caesar's coin.” Okay. Great. But what about the last part of the commandment?

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them....

What about the very first commandment of Moses? These people in the first century claimed to be all about the commandments of Moses. But what about the first one?

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

What about that one? That's why Jesus asked for the coin. The whole world - not just the Israelites and Judahites - the whole world had forsaken the commandments of God and if Jesus was the Only One Who was going to preach and live the Laws of God - that's what He was doing. That's why He had to ask for the coin. He didn't have one.

Then, to make sure everyone there knew what He was saying, He made them remember the Israelite history of the story of Elijah and the false prophets of Baal.

If God is your God, serve God. If Baal is your god, serve Baal.

That's another mind-blower that those incidents are so similar - yet very few preachers have ever connected the dots. It's so obvious that even seemingly minor details in the texts are almost word for word - in addition to the obvious point of the story.

Jesus has just told all of Israel that it was time to return to the God of their fathers - even if it meant that Rome would declare war on them. Stop here a minute. Let me prove this again. I've shown you this before, but it sure seems appropriate right now to see it again. The statement:

Jesus has just told all of Israel that it was time to return to the God of their fathers - even if it meant that Rome would declare war on them.

Turn, please, to John chapter 11. This is the great text where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What an awesome thing that must have been to be an eyewitness to that event. Catching up at the end of the story, look at verse 41.

[41] Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me.

[42] And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

Do we realize what this open prayer is? Can we just skip right over this without seeing that Jesus is making a public declaration that He was sent from the God of Heaven - His Father? "I am the Son of God. I am the Messiah. I am the Promised King. I am the Anointed One of Israel. I am what the Law and the Prophets prophesied." This is the most serious of all business. And combine this with, "I and My Father are One." This is all about the Authority of Jesus Christ. That's what this is all about. "I am sent from God My Father, I have the Authority to tell you how to live. I can even make the dead live again."

[43] And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

[44] And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Now, let's slow it down and take in every single Word. Watch this.

[45] Then many

Many here comes from the Greek po-loos. Shouldn't be any great mystery here. Mr. Thayer defines it as:

of multitude, number, etc., many, numerous, great: equivalent to abundant, plenteous

Mr. Thayer shows all the other times this word is used in what we call the New Testament and it just about always refers to

many, a large part of mankind

[45] Then many of the Jews [a large part of the Judahites, lots of them] which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.

At least that day, at that time, a large part of the inhabitants of Jerusalem - believed on Him. Now we know that wasn't going to last with fickle men - not just because of their fickleness at that time - but because prophecy had to be fulfilled. Then, those people did not have a choice - but to fall away from their belief. I believe that to be true. Prophecy had to be fulfilled.

He came unto His Own and His Own received Him not.

Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; he was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

But at least for that day, for that hour, a large number of the inhabitants of Jerusalem believed on Him. Now watch what happens in verse 46.

[46] But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

Some of them went to their beloved little g “government” officials. Some people, no matter what they read in the Word of God, no matter what someone tells them about Jesus Christ, no matter what Biblical history says, they will remain loyal to their “government” - of course - some of them fought wars for that “government.” They were willing to die for that flag. And some of them...

some of them went their ways to the Pharisees....

Went to the people they knew that had changed the Word of God into things that it never said, in order to justify their reasons for serving the “governments” they made - as opposed to the Government that Jesus Christ was teaching them to serve.

Kind of like the way the “churchmen” have done today by taking Romans 13 and I Peter chapter 2 and twisting it into something it was never intended to say. “You obey the 'government' - right or wrong - good or evil - because God said so.”

Amazing that people actually believe that in just a few verses in Romans 13, just a few verses in I Peter 2 - God inspired those men to unravel everything from Creation - through the execution of Jesus Christ. God inspired Paul and Peter to unravel all of the recorded history of Israel - where God repeatedly said to obey His Laws, to not obey the statutes of the heathen - God never intended for that to stand forever? That's crazy.

We are not to go to the end of the Bible - the end of the first century - and work backwards in our understanding. We start at "In the beginning God created" and then we work towards the end of the Book - making sure that our understandings stay aligned with what was said "in the beginning". Do we not realize that the modern "churchman" - who has basically relegated Genesis to Malachi as bedtime stories - and the Law of God as invalid - has taken Romans 13 and I Peter chapter 2 - they've twisted the words into something entirely distinct from the rest of the Bible? You can't do that. You can't take a few verses, or a few chapters, jerk them out of the Bible, lay them on the table and say, "Aha, this is what the whole purpose of man is. To obey the emperor..." as it says in the ESV from I Peter chapter 2.

When we understand from Genesis chapter 1, 2 and 3 that God clearly said - "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - thou shalt not eat" - if we understand that God established that as Law that was Ordained for man - then, obey the Ordinances of man - "It's not that man created the ordinance, it's that the Ordinance was made for man - and man is to understand and obey the Ordinances that God made for him." When we understand this, when we understand that Solomon wrote the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His Commandments, when we arrive at Romans 13 - working our way from the front to the back, when we arrive at I Peter chapter 2 - those passages must be read in accordance with what had already been established. Paul and Peter did not have the authority to unravel eternal principles, Ordinances of man - that God created. So those passages actually become very simple. They are once again - just like Jesus was doing - they are once again directing men and women, boys and girls back to obeying the first commandment -

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Simple, simple, simple. But when you seek counsel from a council that rejects Jesus Christ - you are in big trouble. Verse 47.

[47] Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this Man doeth many miracles.

Now watch. If you do not believe that the life of Jesus, the teachings of Jesus, the claim that Jesus made that He was equal with His Father in Heaven - if you do not believe that this - grant this - that this was at the least - a perceived threat to Rome - in the least that's what it was - in the most - that is exactly what it was. Then one must concede that the rulers in Jerusalem absolutely believed that Jesus Christ was a threat to Rome. Verse 47 again.

[47] Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this Man doeth many miracles.

[48] If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

Well of course, all men would believe on Him. He did nothing but great things. To follow Jesus Christ means a life of freedom, of peace, of prosperity. But when you live in a world that hates freedom, peace and prosperity and hates God and His Word and His Son - you just might find yourself staring at the barrel end of a gun because the kings of the Gentiles of the earth love to exercise dominion over others - and if you fail to submit to their ungodly, usurped dominion - they just might declare war on you.

Shame on all of those people today who claim to be “christians” and they are involved in the “governments” of men threatening true believers in Christ, people who claim to follow King Jesus alone. And when people who claim to exclusively follow Jesus Christ - they are threatened with losing both their place and their nation. They have their livelihoods threatened. They have their property seized. They have their freedom taken from. And the little g “governments” of men are filled with the exact same Pharisees that were around in the day of Christ.

If people believe on Jesus Christ and decide to follow Him, you threaten to put us in jail, to take away our property, to separate us from our families and friends. How dare you! And to claim to be doing what you do in the Name of Jesus, by His Authority. That wicked, ungodly Jezebel in Atlanta saying that Jesus Himself told her to do what she does. Unbelievable. People will go today - just like they did in Jesus' day - to people who have twisted the Word of God into a lie - in order to justify what they do.

Jesus just raised Lazarus from the dead. And those ungodly haters of Christ went right straight to their “government” and began a campaign to murder Jesus Christ - because they knew that Jesus was calling men and women boys and girls to lay down the “governments” they created, with all their “laws and statutes” - all the things that they

had used to enrich themselves - turn from it all - and go back to the Laws of God - and they hated Jesus in spite of the great things He did.

Today, build a nice fence for someone, build it at half the cost of the state corporations - because when you live in the Kingdom of Christ - you can do things for a whole lot less than a man-created corporation that must obey all the myriad of laws of its creator - build a nice fence for someone, be a blessing in their life because they got their fence for half the cost of what it might have otherwise cost - then - get a threatening call from the city code compliance because you refused to go to the city to ask permission to do an act that is 100% in agreement with the Kingdom of God. There's nothing ungodly about building a privacy fence for someone.

Being persecuted, or potentially persecuted because you will not obtain a business license - no - it's not exactly the same thing that Jesus went through - Jesus was executed - but it IS the same as what Jesus went through. I'm not saying we are doing what Jesus did. But Jesus is the One Who said, the servant is not above His Master. Jesus said, the world hated Me, they are going to hate you, too. So, when you stand for the Authority of Jesus Christ, "where did you get your license to build a fence?" "The Authority came from Jesus Christ Who commanded me to work to provide for my wife and baby."

Friends, can we not plainly see that going to mere men to beg for permission to do something that God told us to do, is an affront to Jesus Christ? When people go to men's little g "governments" for "authority" to do whatever righteous work they do - that is denying the Words of Jesus Christ from Matthew 28 - where He plainly said, "I have all power in Heaven and in earth."

So, does He have All Power - in heaven and in earth - or does He not? Is that something nice to say to give people warm and fuzzies - and it only matters unless men's little g "governments" claim to have more authority? Jesus' All Power - is only good - until men say it isn't?

I was traveling down the road the other day and this song came on. I want you to listen to a little bit of this.

[To hear the song, listen to the audio message, or click this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKLnze_oK9E

And as I was listening, the lyrics say, "Wait on the Lord." Good. Yes, that's what the Word of God says. But then it kept saying, "He will tell us what to do, where to go, what to say."

And I just thought, yeah, until men's little g "governments" tell you otherwise. People live their lives today by what men's little g "governments" tell them what to do, where to go, and what to say."

Songs like that one are so nice. They sound good. They're catchy, easy to sing along with. But it's time people start separating fantasy from reality and understand that the Words of Jesus Christ were not meant to be acceptable only inside the four walls of some "church" building. Christians - not just Christians - every man woman boy and girl is supposed to live and breathe, and move and have their being in Jesus Christ.

He and He alone is supposed to tell us what to do, where to go, and what to say. Man's responsibility is to praise good - those things that God has defined as good - in other words - working is one of those good things. Working to support your family is a good, Godly thing. You don't have to buy someone's permission to do what God told you to do. The Authority came from Christ. It's Authority - not license. License is a bad thing. License is evil. Their own definition is permission to do something that otherwise without (the license) - would be illegal, a trespass or a tort. How dare men give each other permission to do bad things. Unbelievable. That is totally unbelievable and is an absolute affront to God. It is sticking your fist in the face of God and telling God where to go, what to do, what to say - and it is evil. It is pure evil. It is acting like a brute beast - and it has to stop.

And friends, for those of us who call ourselves Christians to participate with them in their ungodly schemes - we also - are denying Christ just like Peter did - and it isn't right. We've got to stand for the Authority of Christ - which tells us what to do, where to go, what to say.

These things that people have established for themselves are not innocent little mistakes. They are open, blatant attacks on the Kingdom of Jesus Christ - and - the same things happen today to people that choose to follow Jesus Christ - the same things happen today that happened in the first century.

And listen to me now. I've said this a thousand times. It doesn't have to be that way. If those who claimed Jesus Christ - who claim the Name - if they understood that claiming

the Name - means claiming the Authority - if they would preach and live by this understanding - being baptidzo into a life of living by the Authority of the One Who has All Power - if only a thousand of us would live that way - this world could change over night. The follower of Jesus Christ does not have to always be persecuted. But when we live in a world that believes that all someone needs to do is to participate in a church water ritual and they are made right with God - so they can continue living according to the ways of the world - nothing will ever change - except for the worse.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is living by the Words of Jesus Christ - All Power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. That belief is a baptisma. It's an immersion into Jesus Christ and it has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with physical H2O water. It is drinking from the well - from the Living Water which is Jesus Christ - where - if a man drinks from that well - he will never thirst again.

Back to John 11:49.

[49] And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

[50] Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

[51] And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

[52] And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

There you have it. From the words of a lost man. There's one of the reasons why Jesus died. "Jesus died for my sins," says the church boy. Jesus died because His life, His Words, His ministry was perceived as an open declaration of war against the state. Jesus was calling people back to the Authority of God. He was calling back to the Laws of God.

You know, I always take for granted that people know what I'm talking about when I say, "back to the Laws of God." Let me stop here for a minute. I'm talking about the moral Laws of God. I'm talking about Thou shalt not kill (murder). Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not commit perjury. And just a few other thou shalt nots that God established.

The Bible, when we understand it as a whole - clearly tells us what things in the Law of God that have been done away with, and what remains today. The ceremonial Laws

that God gave Moses; the blood sacrifices, the water washings (renamed by that thing called “church” as baptisms; the physical temple, physical circumcision - which most people do not even know what that was, either - the feast days - the ceremonial Laws - those things that were given to point people to Jesus Christ - fleshly Israel, fleshly Jerusalem - those things were done away with with the passing of the Old Covenant and that Old Covenant World. What remains today as the Law of God?

The few Laws of God - Thou shalt not murder, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not commit perjury - and just a few other things. Then, some of the explanations that Jesus provided - such as you are not to exercise dominion over other men - meaning - you are not to create your own definitions of good and evil - and force those definitions on other men. The few Laws of God are universal. They are world-wide. They are easy for every single, living creature to receive and understand. And as long as those very few Laws are obeyed - men are to be free. Left alone to have freedom, peace and prosperity - to enjoy the good of all their labor - it is the gift of God. Men are not allowed to have their own “governments.” The Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Christ, the Kingdom of Heaven is all they are allowed to have. It has a name. For those who are in Christ Jesus, they are supposed to be exclusive Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel. My goodness, a cursory reading of I Peter chapter 2 should seal that deal. A cursory reading of Ephesians 2 should seal that deal.

Do we live by God's few Laws? Or do we live by man's ever expanding, ever changing dominion of the kings of the Gentiles? That's what I'm talking about.

Jesus demanded His Father and His Father's Laws. Jesus forbid His disciples from participating with the dominion of the kings of the Gentiles - and because of that - and if you think He wasn't talking about Rome when he was talking about the kings of the Gentiles - then you need to study more. Because that's exactly what He was talking about.

Telling people that Jesus said, “Render unto Caesar.” What kind of two-faced, double-tongued Jesus do the “churchmen” teach? Not mine. Not the Jesus Christ I know. And because Jesus was not some two-faced, double-tongued coward, verse 53:

[53] Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put Him to death.
[54] Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with His disciples.

[55] And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

Purify themselves. Hagnidzo. Another of the “washings” that made up the divers baptismos - “baptisms” - that the Book of Hebrews says ended with the Old Covenant.

[56] Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that He will not come to the feast?

[57] Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where He were, he should shew it, that they might take Him.

There you have the Bible reasons for why Jesus was executed by the “government” of His day. The “church” world has their reasons as to why He was crucified and they have been separated from reality.

The teachings of Jesus Christ were all about His Father's Authority. They were about calling people back to His Father's Authority. We saw it in every chapter. Yes, we focused on chapter 20 - through 26 - then we started into chapter 27 two weeks ago - but in every chapter we saw Christ define baptismos in chapter 20 - we see Him immersing people into His Authority. We see Him preparing people for the full, complete, true understanding of what is meant by “baptidzo them INTO THE NAME - into the Authority of the One Who was given All Power - All Authority in Heaven and in earth”. He wasn't preparing people to accept a “church water ritual”. He was preparing them for the baptisma that John said was nothing like His physical H2O water washing of the Old Covenant - for the remission of sins.

Let's go back to Matthew 27 and read again, from verse 1.

[1] When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death:

Again. Why? We just finished reading from John 11 concerning their council and the reason why they were putting Him to death. And it's all about Authority.

[2] And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

[3] Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned,

repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

[4] Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

[5] And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

[6] And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

[7] And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

[8] Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

[9] Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him that was valued, Whom they of the children of Israel did value;

[10] And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

[11] And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked Him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

This is all about Authority. We can all stand in a “church” building somewhere and weep and cry real tears and sing songs about Jesus dying for our sins. Jesus died so we don't have to. “Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me”...But this is all about Jesus being King. Was He King or was He not? A King is the highest representative of a Government. This is not fantasy. This is not some “church” thing. This was not some religious squabble - this is about Jesus saying He was King. It was about the many Jews therefore which believed, this was about the multitude that cried out, “Hosanna to the King”. This is about forsaking men's little g “governments” and following a different government, a different King and Kingdom. This is about who is going to tell you what to do, where to go, what to say. This is about how you move, how you live, and where you have your being.

[12] And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

[13] Then said Pilate unto Him, Hearest Thou not how many things they witness against Thee?

[14] And He answered Him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

We've got to start separating fantasy from reality.

insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

The governor. The governor. In our world today - men have the title "the governor." If Jesus Christ were physically walking among us today - we'd see the same thing that happened to Him then - happen today. How am I so sure? Because we see His followers today - those that have chosen to follow His Kingship - we see them being brought before the "governments" of men today. "Is He your King - or do you belong to us?" It's the exact same thing.

[15] Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

[16] And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

[17] Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

[18] For he knew that for envy they had delivered Him.

[19] When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just Man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him.

[20] But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. [Destroy Him - not just enough to kill Him - let's destroy Him completely.]

[21] The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

[22] Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let Him be crucified.

[23] And the governor said, Why, what evil hath He done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let Him be crucified.

[24] When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands

Washed his hands. Aponipto. Another one of the washings - the baptisms - described in the Book of Hebrews that ended with the Old Covenant world. No, Pilate, your "baptism" did nothing for you. Strong's says anipto is to symbolically wash. Same thing as a "church water ritual" which men say is symbolic washing. It will do nothing to absolve you of your sins.

he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just Person: see ye to it.

[25] Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Oh my goodness what a thing to say.

[26] Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, He delivered Him to be crucified.

Jesus has been tried in a kangaroo court. There's no justice there. This was an entirely innocent man. Pilate even said. What evil has he done? Clearly meaning - what evil as defined by God has He done? None. But He wasn't being accused of murder or theft or perjury - He was being accused because He dared to preach and live according to the exclusive Authority of God. He wouldn't bow down to the dominion of the kings of Rome. He wouldn't bow down to the authority of the scribes and the chief priests. He was the ultimate example of how men are supposed to live. They are supposed to live by the exclusive Authority of God and by God's definitions of good and evil, right and wrong. He did nothing wrong. He did nothing evil. But here He was moments away from being executed by the dominion of the kings of the Gentiles.

And, all the while these events are taking place - Jesus has a "church water ritual" on His mind? Really? All of this so that Jesus could tell people to dunk everyone in water? Or, was all of this going on so that we would understand that we are to be immersed in the same Authority that Jesus was teaching people to be immersed in when He was here in the first century. I'm telling you, if you believe that dunking yourself in some physical H2O water has absolved you of your sins - you are fooling no one but yourself.

The baptismos that Jesus Christ Himself defined in Matthew chapter 20 and Mark 10 - is a baptismos of being immersed into the understanding that Jesus Christ was given All Power and All Authority in Heaven and in earth - and we are to then live accordingly.

It's not an anipto like Pilate did where He could admit wrong doing - put some water on it - and hope that it goes away. The baptisma that cleanses away sin, that restores a man back to the Father - the baptisma that places someone into Jesus Christ - has nothing whatsoever to do with physical H2O water. From Matthew chapter 20 until the end of the Book - there is no physical water described by Jesus Christ that can change a man's life.

[27] Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and

gathered unto Him the whole band of soldiers.

[28] And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe.

[29] And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

What are they mocking Him about? Why all of this? Very simple. And if a man doesn't get it - I just don't know what else to say. They are mocking the things that Jesus said about His Authority. They are mocking Him for His Words concerning Caesar. They are mocking Him because He called Himself King. They are mocking Him because the multitude stood by the street saying, "Hosanna, to the King". They are mocking Him because His disciples had said,

We have found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel.

They were mocking Him because when He was born, the wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is He that is born, King of the Judahites?"

And friends, the fact that none of them accepted Him as King. The fact that He was executed by the state because of His Kingship - regardless of how the "church" world has convinced everyone that because the Romans didn't embrace Him as King - and because Jesus didn't stop it all and destroy all of them that day - that this means that Jesus is nothing more than a coming King - it isn't so. We see the whole story. We see the big picture. He was everything the Scriptures said about Him - whether the Jews, whether the Romans - whether any of them received it or not. He was the King - right then - right there - He did have All Power and All Authority - right then - right there - and it has been since then - and every day since - for every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom and if they haven't - they are lost, they are without Christ, and no matter how many times they hagnidzo themselves, no matter how many times they anipto, no matter how many times they baptidzo in physical H2O water - whichever form of a physical H2O baptisimos they have had performed on themselves - it has done nothing for them.

[30] And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head.

[31] And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

I'm telling you today that men's little g "governments" don't even treat murderers this bad. They treat murderers, serial murderers, John Gotti, Al Capone, get treated better than the way they treated Jesus Christ. And that's because in their eyes, it is far worse to refuse to submit to their dominion, to their perceived authority - than it is to even commit murder. Barabbas had committed murder while participating in an insurrection. No doubt there was nothing righteous in the insurrection he was participating in. But Barabbas was preferred - a murderer - was preferred over Jesus Christ - the One Who had done nothing evil, nothing wrong - other than to renounce and denounce the authority of men's little g "governments."

The kings of the Gentiles exercise dominion over one another, but among you, it shall not be so.

Don't tell me this isn't about men's "governments" versus God's Government. This is absolutely what this is all about. Don't tell me this isn't about men's definitions of good and evil versus God's definitions of good and evil. This is exactly what this is all about. We've got to help people separate their fantasies from reality. This is where the rubber meets the road. This is about the Government of God versus the little g "governments" of men. This is about the Authority of Christ - or the power of men.

[32] And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear His cross.

[33] And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

[34] They gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when He had tasted thereof, He would not drink.

[35] And they crucified Him, and parted His garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted My garments among them, and upon My vesture did they cast lots.

Do you have any question as to what I'm saying? When I say this about - this is about - the Christian life - following Jesus is about the Kingdom of God versus the governments of men? Turn to Psalm 22. Let's see the prophecy of Matthew 27:35. Read please from verse 1:

[1] My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? why art Thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring?

[2] O my God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not; and in the night season,

and am not silent.

[3] But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

[4] Our fathers trusted in Thee: they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them.

[5] They cried unto Thee, and were delivered: they trusted in Thee, and were not confounded.

[6] But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

[7] All they that see Me laugh Me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying,

[8] He trusted on the LORD that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing he delighted in Him.

[9] But Thou art He that took Me out of the womb: Thou didst make Me hope when I was upon My mother's breasts.

[10] I was cast upon Thee from the womb: Thou art My God from My mother's belly.

[11] Be not far from Me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

[12] Many bulls have compassed Me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset Me round.

[13] They gaped upon Me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

[14] I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint: My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels.

[15] My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to My jaws; and Thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

[16] For dogs have compassed Me: the assembly [government] of the wicked have inclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet.

[17] I may tell all My bones: they look and stare upon Me.

[18] They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.

[19] But be not Thou far from Me, O LORD: O My strength, haste Thee to help Me.

[20] Deliver My soul from the sword; My darling from the power of the dog.

[21] Save Me from the lion's mouth: for Thou hast heard Me from the horns of the unicorns.

[22] I will declare Thy name unto My brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

[23] Ye that fear the LORD, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all ye the seed of Israel.

[24] For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath He hid His face from Him; but when He cried unto Him, He heard.

[25] My praise shall be of Thee in the great congregation: I will pay My vows

before them that fear Him.

[26] The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek Him: Your heart shall live for ever.

[27] All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee.

[28] For the kingdom is the LORD's: and He is the governor among the nations.

[29] All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before Him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

[30] A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

[31] They shall come, and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that He hath done this.

This is about the Government of God versus the little g “governments” of men. Whether they got it or not in the first century - and the unbelieving didn't get it - they couldn't get it - it was prophesied to happen the way it did - they didn't have a choice. But for us, in the New Covenant World of free choice, of whosoever will may come - we do have a choice. We can choose Jesus and the Kingdom of the Lord, the Governor among the Nations. We can serve Him and be accounted for our Lord - for our generation. We can come. We can declare His righteousness - His right way of living unto the people that are born - because He hath done this.

Back to Matthew 27: 36:

[36] And sitting down they watched Him there;

[37] And set up over His head His accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

This is all about Authority. This is about the Authority of God versus the power of men. Today, we are without excuse for refusing to accept this. We have the whole book. We see the whole story. We are without excuse. This is not about immersing in physical H2O water - it's about being immersed into the Name of - into the Authority of Jesus Christ.