

Matthew 24 Series - Answers to Revelation 20

Part 21 in the Series - What Time is It?

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We are going to continue with our explanation of Revelation 20 in light of the belief that all Bible prophecy has been fulfilled. And to again, make myself totally completely clear, I believe that all means all. When the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 24:32-34, speaking to His disciples, over 2,000 years ago:

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

[33] So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

[34] Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

I believe that He said what He said and meant what He said and His words were fulfilled TO those men - just like He said.

Last week, I explained that it is not Biblically correct to go to Revelation 20, read that chapter, lay it out on a table, and try to force the rest of Scripture into some sort of agreement with these 15 verses. In fact, I'll go a step farther this week and say that it is reckless to do such a thing.

I have gone to great detail in the first 20 or so messages in this series to show you that starting with - even the genealogy of Christ from Matthew 1 - then with John the Baptist - reinforced with the prophecies of Malachi - then with the birth of Christ and the words of the wise men - reinforced with the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi and Zechariah - then the words of the chosen disciples - reinforced with the prophecies from Moses - then the words of Christ - reinforced with many many Old Testament prophecies - the significance of the nation, time and place where our Lord was born and lived - that generation not only has failed to receive its proper due among modern christians so-called - but we have failed miserably in that by-passing the significance of that first generation - we have missed the entire purpose of Yahweh's creation - in that He established the eternal Kingdom of His Son - when the Old Covenant World passed away with the destruction of the temple in AD70.

So with all the evidence laid out - "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand"

without a doubt the most used phrase in the whole Bible, men will take Revelation 20 and then do everything they can to work backwards and unravel all the plain proofs that Bible prophecy was fulfilled in the first century - and they do it for one main reason - and that reason is the same today as it was in the days of Christ when He said:

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Early on in this series I explained lawyers do not want the Kingdom of God today. I explained why businessmen do not want the Kingdom of God today, politicians, and preachers - do not want the Kingdom of God today. If the Laws of God were in place today - none of them would be in the positions they are in today. In fact, the sitting president of the U.S. today would probably be a pauper because he would be spending every minute of the day trying to pay back all the debts he incurred in attempting to build his empire - instead of relying on ungodly, rebellious bankruptcy statues created by men who said that "our laws, and our treaties, shall be the supreme law of the land" - at such a time where they stuck their fists in the face of Almighty God and said regarding His Son, "We will not have this man to reign over us."

So, rather than taking 99.9% of the Word of God and yielding to that, men have taken 15 verses out of the book of Revelation and have tried to force the 99.9% of the rest of the Word into some twisted agreement with their contrived understandings of Revelation 20.

Before we go back to Revelation 1 this morning, let's look at something from Revelation 20. Let me give you something to think about in regards to what I'm saying about "contrived understandings."

Remember Matthew 24:1-3? Jesus said, to His disciples, over 2,000 years ago, in reference to the magnificent temple that was in existence in their day. There is no question among anyone, anywhere that the temple discussed in Matthew 24 was a real building. It could be touched. It could be entered. It was for all intents and purposes, the center of Israel. It was the center of the entire Israelite world. And, it was also the plan of God to be in existence at that time. Huge, big deal, that temple was.

Now, Christ told His disciples to look at the buildings of the temple.

"See ye not all these things? Verily, I say unto you, See ye not all these things?"

verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

[3] And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Christ prophesied to His disciples, over 2,000 years ago - that the temple would be so destroyed that there would not be left standing one stone upon another.

They were so distraught about these words, they said When? When shall these things happen? When is the end of the world? With the fall of the temple, they understood that to be such a colossal event, they called it, "the end of the world."

And then, as I've read a hundred times in this series, Christ sums it up in verse 34 and says,

"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Now. Look at verse 7 of Revelation 20.

[7] And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

[8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

[9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

So, those who refuse to see the Kingdom of God fully established at AD70, look at these verses and begin to unravel the 99.9% of the rest of Scripture. Here's what they do.

The first thing they do is they see the words "thousand years" and "Satan" in verse 7. And they are forced to come up with some explanation as to why Romans 16:20 - where Paul told those believers -

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan, under your feet, shortly..."

They are forced into coming up with a reason why this didn't happen. In an earlier part of this series, we dealt with the issue of "Satan and the devil." Death has been destroyed. Death was the last enemy to be destroyed. This was accomplished by Christ. The book of Hebrews tells us that through Christ's death, He destroyed Him who had the power of death, that is the devil. Hebrews 2:14.

Now, don't misunderstand me. I'm not trying to say that we are not supposed to harmonize the Scriptures. I believe I've gone through a lot of effort to show great harmony in the Scriptures. What I'm saying is that rather than unravel 99.9% of the Scriptures because we get to the end of the book and come across a passage that causes us to shake our heads and in reality, it causes us to get into the Scriptures and work hard, to study hard - to find out how this passage harmonizes with everything else - instead of taking this passage - then throw out everything we've already seen and force some sort of harmony - I'm saying we keep the 99.9% of everything we've seen so far - and let's make Revelation 20 agree with the 99.9%.

Look at verse 9 of Revelation 20.

[9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

There is no one that I have ever found that argues that Jerusalem was not completely annihilated at AD70 by the Roman army led by Titus. Now I will tell you this. When I was young, there was a concerted effort to conceal this from people. I told you how that I never missed a quote "church" service. Every Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday evening, prayer meeting and soul-winning on Saturday - I never missed.

I attended 2 Bible colleges and worked in 2 quote "church" ministries - yet it was not until I was 21 years old that I ever heard about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple that occurred at AD70. I still encounter Christians today - that tell me they never heard that the temple was destroyed at AD70.

So when you read verse 9 of Revelation 20, it makes a direct reference to the beloved city. Now, the accepted, popular teaching of this verse is that the beloved city is Jerusalem. But Jerusalem was destroyed.

Ah. This is where it starts to get crazy with modern so-called "Christianity." Because they are trying to force some system of belief related to this verse, they have come up

with such ideas that Jerusalem must be rebuilt. In order for Revelation 20 to be fulfilled in our time - there must be a city called Jerusalem. Then, there must be inhabitants of that city. But interestingly enough, those inhabitants today are not called Israelites, they are called Israelis. But even though they are not called Israelites, they are held out to the world as "God's Chosen people."

So, here we go, we've taken Revelation 20 and jerked it out of the book, and rather than make Revelation 20 harmonize with the rest of the Scripture, we begin developing a belief system that will ultimately resemble NOTHING like the rest of what we see in the Word of God.

Israelis are "God's Chosen People?" Really? I Peter 2 has already made it abundantly clear that the people of God are those who accepted Jesus, Yeshua as Messiah and made Him their King.

So, because we see what we think is rebuilt Jerusalem in Revelation 20 - we then are forced into a ridiculous concept that people who do not believe that Christ was the Messiah - are now "God's Chosen people." And since Christ wasn't the Messiah, he must be a coming messiah, and since the Old Testament prophecies say that messiah was coming to his temple - well then - according to Revelation 20 - the temple must be rebuilt again in Jerusalem to satisfy verse 9. So, then, if the temple is rebuilt in Revelation 20, then animal sacrifices must be reinstated - and since that's all the fulfillment of supposed Bible prophecy - then that's what God ordained to happen.

So, then when we read about Christ doing away with the sacrifices - in order for us to force Revelation 20 into some sort of fulfillment today - we ultimately are forced to a belief that Christ DID NOT DO AWAY WITH THE SACRIFICES. What utter blasphemy we have created because we have tried to force the 99.9% of the rest of Scripture because we scratch our heads at the language of Revelation 20.

I have admitted to you that I don't have it all clear in my own mind. But there are some things I absolutely do have clear.

1) In the New Covenant age, Jerusalem is not fleshly. Hebrews 12 - and this is why we studied it early on this series - but in the New Covenant - after the sacrificial system was ended - after the Messiah was executed on the cross - Paul says in verse 22:

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

[23] To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
[24] And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The Jerusalem of the New Covenant is a heavenly Jerusalem. It's not a city made with hands. It's not a city that can be touched or burned with fire.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Yes, Lord. I'll not refuse him that speaks. This is what you said - and this is what I will believe.

And I'm not going to stop believing it because some so-called preacher tries to say that Revelation 20 is now talking about a physically rebuilt Jerusalem, then a physically rebuilt temple with physically sacrificed animals.

Even before the Old Covenant had officially ended, Paul was trying to get people to see that the temple that was coming was a temple not made with hands. Acts 17:24. He doesn't dwell in temples made with hands. That system was soon closing. The doors to that temple were closing permanently and nothing was going to reopen them because the owner said, "It is finished."

Trying to reopen those doors and rebuild those things which our Lord tore down is equal to denying that He completed His work of Messiah. This is why the so-called jews do not believe that Jesus, Yeshua, was the Messiah. And if He was not the Messiah, then He certainly could not be the King.

I'm telling you today that if you believe Revelation 20 to be unfulfilled - you are treading dangerous waters in that the modern judaizers and those who are looking for a messiah to come - have developed their philosophies because of what they claim in these 15 verses.

Go with me now to Revelation 1. Last week, I asked how we could possibly understand Revelation 20 without first looking at the beginning of the book. There's 22 chapters in the book. If we want to understand chapter 20, we have to first understand chapter 1.

I've titled this message today - "What time is It?"

Revelation 1:1-3.

[1] The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

[2] Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

[3] Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Last week we talked about what the Revelation of Jesus Christ was from verse one. There can be no mistake that this is talking about His Revealing as King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Then, we talked about the word shortly as in things which MUST shortly come to pass.

This is an excellent example of believing a certain way because that's what the book says, then getting to almost the very end of the book and changing our minds. We see shortly meaning shortly through all of God's creation, then we get to 2 chapters from the end and we feel that we are compelled to unravel everything we have believed or have been led to believe up to that point.

The angel signified this - that it was things which must shortly come to pass - and then he gave it to John. He gave these things which must shortly come to pass to John because John had the record of the Word of God. John personally had heard and witnessed the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. John was an eye-witness. John heard with his own ears and saw with his own eyes - the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now,

[3] Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

For the time is at hand. What time? What time is at hand?

Last week we looked at definitions of for the word "hand." As in "at hand." We proved beyond a shadow of any doubt that the phrase meant right then or a very soon time.

The word "time" as in "for the 'time' is at hand" comes from the Greek word kaheeros which means an occasion, set or proper time, always, opportunity, convenient, due, season - now watch - due, short, while.

The bill is due. That means now. It doesn't mean another 30 days from now. The time is short.

This 2540, kaheeros is but one of many Greek words used for the word "time" in the New Testament. You should look at some of the other instances of this word, such as I Peter 5:17

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

In speaking of his own departure, Paul said this in II Timothy 4:6 and kaheeros was the word for time.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

[7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

When I have stated that the main purpose of series was to lay a foundation for Fulfilled Bible Prophecy - then answer questions and objections - while I was laying that foundation - I was trying to establish two very important things that the Scriptures were saying would be fulfilled in the generation to which Christ walked in.

I have said that the Resurrection of Christ is the greatest event ever to occur in the history of mankind. That's my opinion. You may have another opinion. But in my opinion, the Resurrection of Christ is the greatest event.

But there are 2 other events that are discussed in the New Testament 100 times more than the Resurrection of Christ. I'll give you a couple seconds to think to see what comes into your mind. Two other events discussed in the New Testament 100 times more than the Resurrection of Christ. Let's narrow that down from the entire New Testament - to the Gospels. Two events discussed in the Gospels 100 times more than the Resurrection of Christ.

The two other events are:

1)

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

2)

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

[37] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

The preaching that the Kingdom was at hand, and the impending judgement of Israel are discussed way more often in the Gospels than is the Resurrection of Christ.

Again, this by no means discounts the Resurrection, but much has to be gathered from understanding the overwhelming amount of discussion concerning the Kingdom and the judgement.

We've discussed a hundred times the phrase

"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

If the overwhelming amount of text has not convinced you of the nearness of the Kingdom in the minds of the wise men, John the Baptist, the disciples, our Lord - then I don't know what else I can provide.

Look with me to Matthew 21. We'll read the whole chapter.

[1] And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

[2] Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

[3] And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

[4] All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

[5] Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

This is word for word fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. I thought that in for free. It's not where we're ultimately headed in this chapter - but it's worth it's weight in gold.

[6] And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

[7] And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

[8] And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

[9] And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

This is direct fulfillment from the book of Psalms. I also believe it to be fulfillment of Leviticus 23 and Zechariah 14 in the feast of tabernacles fulfilled in Christ. But again, this is not where we are headed here. Verse 10.

[10] And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

[11] And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

[12] And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

[13] And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

[14] And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

[15] And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased,

Isn't this just incredible. The chief priests, of all the ones who should have been most excited about the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the Messiah was here, the King was here - they were sore displeased. Amazing. They had their work cut out for them now. They now had to convince the people that this Jesus was not Who Moses and the prophets said He was.

[16] And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Psalm 8:2 - Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy in Christ - at that time. Still not where we're going, but you know me, I can't pass up a good opportunity to show how Christ fulfilled the prophecies - in His day - over 2,000 years ago.

[17] And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

[18] Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

[19] And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

[20] And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

[21] Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

[22] And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

[23] And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Same old story. Where's your license? Where's your papers? The same goes on today. Not because Bible prophecy is being fulfilled, but because it's the same struggle today as it has always been. When God gives you authority - you obey. You do not ask man for permission to do what God has commanded you to do.

[24] And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

[25] The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

[26] But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

[27] And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

[28] But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

[29] He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

[30] And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

[31] Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

[32] For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Do you see what is going on here? Christ just told the preachers that the repentant tax-collectors and harlots were better than they were. The wicked, evil tax-collectors repented, quit their jobs and followed Christ. The harlots quit their jobs and followed Christ. But the preachers - who saw the same Jesus - never repented - but hardened their hearts against the King. They still didn't get it, so now Jesus is telling them another parable.

[33] Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

[34] **And when the time of the fruit drew near**, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

Christ is mixing in some reality with the parable here. "And when the time of the fruit drew near....." What time is it? The time of the Kingdom was near. Now, the time of judgement is near.

[35] And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

[36] Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

[37] But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

[38] But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

[39] And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

Again, the parable mixed with reality. We know absolutely, without a shadow of doubt, Who the owner of the vineyard is here and Who the Son is. He is talking about His Father and He is the Son. That's as clear as it can be. Back to the parable.

[40] When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

[41] They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

Now, the preachers are agreeing with Christ as to how evil these men were. Still didn't accept that He was talking about them at this point - but nonetheless - they were agreeing with Him that these men were going to get what was coming to them.

[42] Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

I believe this is a direct reference to the stone - the Kingdom of Christ - from the book of Daniel.

[43] Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Look, the parable has ended. All talk is now reality. This is what the parable means - make no mistake about it.

[44] And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

[45] And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

Finally. The preachers got the message.

"They perceived that He spake of them."

And you better believe it. He was speaking of them. He was speaking to those people, that nation, that time, that generation. Judgement was coming. And it was going to grind them into powder.

What time is it?

"They perceived that He spake of them."

Did they repent? Did they cry out for forgiveness? No they did not. Instead,

[46] But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

So they delayed what they wanted to do to Him. Ultimately, they cried out saying, "We have no king but Caesar. Whosoever therefore maketh Himself a King, speaketh against Caesar." Until their last breath, they did everything they could do to choose Caesar and kill the real King. And it continues today.

Flip over a couple pages to Matthew 23. Christ is now making Himself abundantly clear to the people and to His disciples who were listening to Him preach. Beginning in verse 1.

- [1] Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
- [2] Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
- [3] All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
- [4] For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
- [5] But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
- [6] And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- [7] And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- [8] But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
- [9] And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- [10] Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.
- [11] But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- [12] And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
- [13] But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
- [14] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- [15] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- [16] Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a

debtor!

[17] Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

[18] And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

[19] Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

[20] Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

[21] And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.

[22] And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

[23] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

[24] Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

[25] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

[26] Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

[27] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

[28] Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

[29] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

[30] And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

[31] Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

[32] Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

[33] Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

[34] Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in

your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

[35] That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

[36] Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

[37] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

[38] Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

[39] For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Do you see the words of Christ so clearly prophesying judgement that was coming to Jerusalem? What time is it?

"Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation."

Who is He talking to?

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,"

He said - the time is up.

"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

In perfect, complete fulfillment of the prophecy from Daniel 9, Christ tells His generation what is meant by "the time is at hand."

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

[25] Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

[26] And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the

war desolations are determined.

[27] And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, **and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

"And that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Brethren, $2 + 2 = 4$. This is really easy and should be very easy for us to understand. The words that our Lord used are word for word the prophecies from the book of Daniel. Daniel said the end would be poured upon the desolate. Our Lord - after quoting Isaiah, after quoting Zechariah, after quoting the Psalms, quotes Daniel and says, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

That's it. It's over. The time is up. What time is it?

Look with me to Matthew 19. Peter asks Christ an interesting question. To me, the question almost seems selfish. But knowing what it cost to be a follower of Christ, and knowing that Christ had told them to give up everything they had and follow Him, to take up the cross, and follow even until death, Peter asks:

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

[28] And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Today's message is called, "What time is it? The Lord Jesus told Peter that those that had followed Him - when the Son of man was sitting on His throne - they also would sit on thrones and would judge the 12 tribes of Israel.

Again, two major things to see here.

- 1) The Son of Man reigning as King.
- 2) The Son of Man and His disciples sitting in judgement.

The 2 major themes of the Gospels. The Kingdom and the Judgement.

Looking at the Revelation 20, again, we see two major themes -

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

I realize that the biggest confusion of all here is that the word thousand years is used here. But we haven't finished enough of a foundation for me to answer that specific word, yet.

But we're going to.

Everything we have seen that the Kingdom and the judgement was at hand. Matthew 24:27

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

[28] For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

[29] Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

[30] And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 16:

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

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

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

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

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

There is Kingdom and Judgement right here. And He's telling His disciples over 2,000

years ago that some of them were not going to taste death until they saw Him coming in His Kingdom. But because of a few times the word thousand is used two chapters from the end of the book, we are going to force these disciples to lay in the grave for thousands of more years before Christ sits in judgement upon those who killed Him - it just doesn't make any sense. And how we have seen many other passages that refer to His Kingdom as an everlasting Kingdom - yet we are going to toss those aside in favor of a limited, literal 1,000 year space of time? It doesn't make any sense.

And as I said at the beginning of this message, we are now going to devise some sort of theology that calls for another Satan or devil to come on the scene, another physical Jerusalem with another physical temple, with the reinstatement of animal sacrifices - and all predestined, and ordained from the foundation of the world? This is all the plan of God?

Brethren, if that's true, we serve an awful mixed up God. We serve a God that can't seem to decide whether He wants a physical city or a heavenly city. A physical temple or a temple not made with hands. The once and for all sacrifice of His Son to finish the Old Covenant - or the reinstatement of that system.

I'm not willing to toss aside 99.9% of the rest of Scripture because I get two chapters from the end and see the word thousand used three times. Just not going to do it.

I'm amazed at how much modern christianity so-called believes that the United States today - in 2019 - seems to be the focal point of everything Biblical and prophetic. It amazes me when I hear modern christians so-called talk about their rapture and their soon deliverance from all the persecution they are going through - while their sitting in their multi-million dollar air-conditioned, heated buildings with their gymnasiums and every comfortable thing this life can offer.

But yet they are so looking for the rapture to take them away from all this woeful persecution they are enduring. It's just amazing.

In conclusion today, we'll try to start with next week's message. Look with me to verse 4 of Revelation 1.

4] John to the seven ecclesias which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Not only was the time of fulfillment of the book of Revelation shortly to come to pass and the time was at hand - but the book was written to the seven ecclesias which ARE IN Asia. Not only does the shortly and the time is at hand preclude futurism from this book, but the people and the place preclude futurism from the fulfillment of the book of Revelation.

Lord willing, we'll pick back up here next week. As always, if you have questions, please go ahead and contact me. I'll respond to each and every question that comes in.

Trust me, there isn't a rapture. The end of the world is not coming - and we are definitely not in the Last Days. The trial dates have been moved to the end of what they call September, so I'm sure, if the Lord wills it, I'll have it covered by then.