

Matthew 24 Series - Answers to Revelation 20

Part 22 in the Series - Just How Many Kingdoms and How Many Judgements are There?

Preached first on 1/27/2019 on www.molibertyradio.us

Good morning, everyone. I hope you are warm and blessed. We are in the middle of some of the most frigid temperatures I can remember. This is all probably normal for our northern neighbors - but where we are - it's just plain cold. Seems like every winter that comes along, I like the cold less and less.

We are going to continue with our explanation of Revelation 20 with the understanding that all Bible Prophecy has been fulfilled. I hope that you are being challenged. I hope these messages are causing you to dig deeper into the Word for answers. Above all, I would challenge you NOT to go looking into commentaries or online teachings into what other people believe - but I challenge you to simply open the Word of God and read and study and see what the Holy Spirit of God reveals to you.

The preacher has a purpose. I believe that. Something I've always wondered about with "Christians." It seems most of them will only believe what they've been told. And again, there's nothing wrong with that - as long as we look at the Scriptures ourselves and make sure that what we are being told is actually the Word of God.

Why should you listen to me? Why should you even consider the points of view I am offering? There was a message that I preached a couple months ago called, "What's Your Perspective?" How we understand the Word of God is reflective upon what our perspective is.

My perspective is unlike the majority of preachers - so-called - in the last 200+ years.

1) I teach that the English word "church" should not be in our English Bibles. I have encouraged people that hear me to go and study this for yourself. Find out why Tyndale was hunted like an animal, tortured and executed because he would not print the word "church" in the very first complete English Bible in history.

Are you hearing me? William Tyndale, was executed because he would not use the word "church" in his English translation of the Bible. It's interesting to me that some historians say he was executed for heresy. And I realize we are probably talking about semantics in the end, but officially, the death penalty was the punishment for anyone

found in possession of unlicensed Scripture. No doubt, because the word "church" was not found in Tyndale's Version - there was no way his version would receive a license.

Today, in 2019, I would dare say that in America, there is not a single one of us that possesses an "unlicensed" version of the Bible. Say, "What do you mean, Charlie?" No one has required me to have a "license" for my Bible.

What I am saying is that there is not one publishing house in America that is not incorporated. Every one of them is a creature of the state. This is why every single English Bible available to the common man today - has the word "church" in it where the Greek word is ecclesia. The Greek word ecclesia as it relates to Bible knowledge is "Called out, Christian community of believers." It is the Kingdom of God on earth living among communities of people who have no other King but Christ and they are Governed by the Laws, Statutes, Judgements and Perfect Will of God for His people and His creation.

Ask me where or if this exists? And I'll tell you "I have no idea." Ask me why I don't know where it exists or if it even exists today? And I'll tell you it's because the word "church" has been inserted by force, by threat, by murder because the state - men's governments - understand that if the truth concerning the present-day reality of the Kingdom of God was preached today - the "jig would be up."

If men knew today that outside of the truth of the present day reality of the Kingdom of God there is NO SALVATION TODAY - men would run to the truth of the Kingdom of God.

When Christ said I will build my ecclesia - He was saying, "I will build my Kingdom." He was not saying that He was building weekend social organizations where people gathered to sing Kum Ba Yah, speak in tongues, gather their money together so the preacher could be rich, and build big buildings complete with gymnasiums, etc.

He was building His Kingdom and it was a Kingdom whereby God's creation was commanded to allow His Kingship in their lives and follow Him while He followed His Father's commandments. It's a Kingdom that refuses to follow idols and statues - which are men's attempts to rule over each other with their laws, and their treaties and their statutes.

It is a Kingdom message that can be summed up from Acts 17:

And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

[3] Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

[4] And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

[5] But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

[6] And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

[7] Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

[8] And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

Because this understanding does not fit with modern - so-called christianity - the modern preacher - whose works are published by U.S. corporations under the authority of their creator - assert in their margin notes that these verses were false accusations.

There is nothing in the text of these 8 verses that would indicate that the statements were false. When taken in context with the 99.9% of the rest of Scripture, there is no doubt - and there should be no doubt in your mind today - that these men - who had heard the preaching of John the Baptist, they had heard of the wise men coming from the East looking for the King, they had read from Moses and the prophets concerning the King - and when they themselves found Him, they said,

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth...

[49] Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

After witnessing His many miracles - firsthand - eyewitnesses - and hearing His public speaking - then being taken aside in private meetings for further understanding - then witnessing His death, burial and resurrection - they finally understood that this Jesus, Yeshua, was King of kings and Lord of lords. When they were imbued with all power from the Holy Ghost they filled the world with this doctrine that

That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

[15] Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

I'm telling you today that if you are of the mindset that "church and state" is ordained of God - your perspective is skewed - and your ability to rightly divide the Word of truth is in jeopardy.

He didn't die for a "church." He gave Himself for His Kingdom.

The Greek word ecclesia - as in the non-Biblical understanding is government. It is the assembly that came during in Greece for the purpose of government.

When the writers of the New Testament were teaching what Christ had instructed them to build - this is the word they used. A thousands time more accurate English word that could be used is Assembly. Again, "church" - not a chance. First of all, the Greek word for "church" is kurios - it's not ecclesia. That alone should tell us there's a rat somewhere.

Assembly. Far more accurate. Far more descriptive. In the early parts of America, many of the communities that settled - and I'm talking 1600s - go way back further than the United States of America - but many of them who settled and agreed with each other that they would be Governed solely by the Scriptures and Christ would be their King - called their community meetings - assemblies.

Carrying on this tradition, if you will, even today, many of the "states" call their quote unquote - governments - assemblies. For instance, Indiana calls their legislature, the Indiana General Assembly. In fact, 19 states in the U.S. refer to their legislatures as the General Assembly. It has no significance today - beyond the fact that they think it legitimizes their impostership and usurpation of the Laws of God - but General Assembly comes directly from the Word of God in Hebrews 12 when the ecclesia is called the General Assembly.

We are far removed from the proper Biblical understanding of Government and ecclesia in America today - and the biggest reason is because we do not understand what the definition of ecclesia is. And it's because the word "church" has been disastrously accepted because an improper perspective of the Word has crept in unawares and caused men to deny the Kingship of Christ.

2) The second reason you should hear my preaching is because I see and emphasize the singular message and theme of the New Testament. That is, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." On nearly every page of the Gospels you will find the word Kingdom or a reference to it. It is without a doubt, the central message of John the Baptist, our Lord, His disciples and His apostles.

I preach that the phrase "is at hand" cannot possibly mean thousands of years in the future.

Calling men to the understanding that the full and complete institution of the Kingdom of God and the Kingship of Christ as a present day reality in that it was established at AD70 - and since that time it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom - right now - is a message that the organized church and the state declares as its enemy - and they will do whatever they have to do to silence that message.

Over the last 20+ weeks, I have gone to great detail to prove two major doctrines found in the New Testament - prophesied from the Old Testament prophets - and confirmed through Christ.

1) That the King and the Kingdom were at hand to that generation to whom Christ was sent. The phrases - the last days - and the end of the world - are synonymous with the end of the Old Covenant age.

2) Judgement in the form of the great wrath of God was going to be poured out upon that generation who killed the Christ and persecuted the saints. I have shown conclusively from the Old Testament prophets when they said this event would occur, and I have proven beyond a shadow of any doubt - that Christ said He was sent to the generation upon which that wrath would be poured upon.

In J. Stuart Russell's excellent book, "The Parousia," he states that the book of Revelation is a parallel passage of Christ's words of Matthew 24. I agree. Not that it matters that either one of us say this or agree with it - but I absolutely believe that the book of Revelation and Matthew 24 are parallel passages.

Matthew 24 sums up all the Gospels. It sums up all the prophets. It sums up the Psalms and it sums up Moses.

The central theme again - being - the coming Kingdom and Kingship of Christ - and the

coming judgement and wrath of God poured upon the unbelieving - upon those that rejected the Messiah and killed Him and His followers.

Revelation 20 is consistent with the theme of the Gospels in that it describes two major things - the Kingdom and Judgement.

Open your Bibles please to Revelation 20.

Once again, I am doing this in answer to several who have written in and have asked me how Revelation 20 fits into the understanding of all Bible prophecy being fulfilled. I still believe we are a bit premature - in that more foundation should be laid - but I'm continuing to try to, as they say, "kill two birds with one stone."

[1] And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

[2] And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Here, of course, is where the major controversy of Revelation 20 occurs. Now, as to foundations that I had previously tried to lay, in messages past, I would refer you back to parts 15 and 16 that deal with the issue of death being destroyed and "Satan" or the "Devil" also being destroyed. I showed you how that it was told to the Roman Christians in Romans 16:20 that Satan would be "bruised" - and the Greek word for "bruised" was to "crush completely" and that this would take "place under their feet" and it would be "shortly."

I showed you from several passages that the proper understanding for "death" in relation to a believer in Christ - is "sleep." Because through Christ's death, he destroyed death and destroyed him who had the power of death - that is the devil. Hebrews 2.

So, now we come to Revelation 20 and it seems like a Devil or Satan - which was supposedly destroyed by the finished work of Christ - is now resurrected somehow and back in existence and bound for a thousand years.

So, yes, I can see how this can all be a bit of a head scratcher. But there has to be an answer - or even answers - and they must fit with the rest of Scripture. I believe that the word that causes the most controversy, will eventually be the word that settles the controversy - and that word, of course is, thousand. Verse 3.

[3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be

fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

[4] 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.

Alright. Now we are seeing the fulfillment of the promise to the disciples. We talked about this a little in last week's message, "What Time is it?" Christ told His disciples that they would sit with Him on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:28

Is there anything we can see from these verses that would indicate when this occurred?

Absolutely. I believe that in my previous messages, I laid a foundation as to when this would take place. I shared with you the passage of Scripture that started me down this path many years ago. Matthew 16:

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.

Revelation 20:4 is required to - *at the very least* - begin at AD70. Verse four shows us the two central themes - Kingdom - as represented by the thrones - and judgement. It further shows us fulfillment of Matthew 24 in relation to Christ telling His disciples that some of them would be persecuted and killed. The same is shown in I Thessalonians 3:3.

We have to constantly be reminded that Revelation 20 must fit inside of Revelation 1:1 - things which must shortly come to pass....and the time is at hand....and we also will see in upcoming messages, how that Revelation 20 needs to fit within Revelation 22, where again, John is told NOT to seal up his vision and prophecy - why? - because the time is at hand.

You are going to have to continue bearing with me - as I feel that I need to continue laying more foundation concerning what I'm saying about Revelation 20 fitting inside the beginning of the book of Revelation - specifically from chapter 1.

Go to Revelation 1.

We've already seen that the book is about the Revealing of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

We've already seen "things which must shortly come to pass" and "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."

We've seen how the book was written to the 7 ecclesias which are in Asia.

I want to stop here for a second and provide a warning. I'm not using this as a warning for people or preachers who do not agree with what I'm saying. This is not about what I'm saying. This is about, "Thus saith Yahweh." In Revelation 22, there is a clear warning to those who would take away from or add to the prophecies in the book of Revelation.

The modern protestant preacher today loves to talk about Babylon from Revelation 14 through 18 and say that it is talking about the catholic church. Luther did it. Calvin did it. In addition to some of the modern evangelicals. What I'm saying to you is that when one takes the book of Revelation and makes statements such as "It's talking about a future catholic church, or it's talking about the United States..." we are adding to the words of the prophesy and that is a dangerous place to be.

The book was written to the 7 ecclesias of Asia, and it was telling them about the things which would shortly come to pass, and the things which are at hand.

Those things being....the revealing of Christ as King of kings Lord of lords, and the coming wrath and judgement of God that would be poured out upon those who killed the Lord Jesus, Yeshua the Christ, and His saints.

Babylon the Great described in chapters 14-18 is Old covenant Jerusalem. Jerusalem is called Babylon in the same manner in which Jerusalem was called Sodom and Gomorrah. Revelation 11:8

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Because people have refused to see the reality of the "things which must shortly come to pass" and the "time is at hand" all kinds of wild things have been tossed out in the name of Bible prophecy and the truth is - it's adding to the prophesy - and it causes harm to the understanding that Christ is King now.

Continuing in Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed

us from our sins in his own blood,

It's interesting to me that now, in the book of Revelation, the title of the Christ - which is King - is listed before His title of Messiah. Personally, I find great value in this and use it as proof that in order for a man to have the atoning work of Christ for sin - he must accept Christ as King. I've said this before, many times, everyone wants a "Jesus" that will take away their sin - but few people want Him as the reigning King in their lives today. I do not believe we can have the one, without the other.

Verse 6:

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

This verse, at the very beginning of the book of Revelation is something we need to be mindful of when we get back to Revelation 20. Because I believe that men have taken Revelation 20 and removed it from the rest of the book - not just the book of Revelation - but the entire collection of Scripture - they focus on a word - thousand - and they then have created an entire theology based on what they have termed, "the millennial reign of Christ."

But in verse 6 - all time constraints are removed from His dominion. This, too, is consistent with the rest of Scriptures that refer to His Kingdom and dominion as being forever, without end, from generation to generation - not limited to a specific 1,000 year period of time. Isaiah 9:6-7

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.

Listen.

[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 Yahweh of hosts will perform this.

I am not going to tell you that the word "thousand" should not be in an English Bible. No more than I am not going to tell you that the word "death" should not be in an English Bible. But I am going to submit to you that the way we understand the word "thousand" just as the way we understand the word "death" may not be the way God understands it or wants us to understand it.

Men want to limit the reign of Christ to a thousand years - they want that reign to occur in the future - but God put a clear time on when that reign would begin - and He put a definite stamp on it in saying that the Kingdom would be forever.

It began when the Old Covenant world passed away at AD70 with the destruction of the temple - and 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.

I laid the foundation for when the prophecy concerning the fulfillment of Christ sitting on the throne of David - and that event took place at the resurrection of Christ - clearly and definitively proven from Acts 2:30-31

[30] Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

[31] He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

There's not multiple Kingdoms of Christ prophesied in the Scripture. There are not multiple judgements on Jerusalem for killing Christ and His disciples.

These prophecies are meant for a specific time and place and they all come to pass so that men would know - beyond any shadow of doubt - that the One Whom they crucified - God hath made this same Jesus, Yeshua, both Lord and Christ - and He revealed this to His creation exactly the way our Lord said He would be revealed at exactly the time in which He said the revelation would occur -

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

Revelation 1:7. As I read this chapter, obviously, "things which must shortly come to pass" is prominent. "For the time is at hand" is large. "To the 7 ecclesias in Asia, to Christ, the prince of the kings of the earth," those are all hugely important in understanding this book and the timing of its fulfillment - but to me - verse 7 is the great conclusion to the beginning of the book of Revelation.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Behold, he cometh with clouds.

Once again, let's go back to Matthew 24 verses 27 - 30.

[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.

Can we really look at these passages and say they are not referring to the same things? Remember how I said that Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation are parallel teachings? Come on, these verses are nearly word for word of each other.

This is why I said, "Don't go rushing off to some commentary, or go searching the Internet to find someone who will tell you these aren't talking about the same thing. Just read this and trust the Holy Spirit of God to show you how simple the Word really is. We are seeing the same things talked about here in Matthew 24 and Revelation 1. Verse 28.

[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:

All the great descriptive language from the book of Revelation is referring directly to these verses in Matthew 24. The book of Revelation just provides much more detail - but it's talking about the same things. Verse 30.

[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.

Read it again, please.

[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.

What was said in Revelation 1:7?

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

To me. I get the greatest sense of encouragement from seeing these passages speak word for word. The harmony of the Word of God should bring great comfort to each and every

one of us. We serve a God Who keeps His Word. His Word is truth. In a world surrounded by lies and deception - it should bring us great hope that we serve a God Who gave us His Word - and His Word is truth - and we can see it.

Yes. Faith is the substance hoped for, the evidence of things not seen....but these are things we can see - if we will only open our eyes and trust what we plainly read.

The prophecies are ALL fulfilled and Christ is King - now.

Look closer at verse 7 of Revelation 1.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him:

And they also which pierced Him. This is huge in believing that the timing of the book of Revelation was indeed, "shortly to come to pass" and "the time is at hand."

Let me ask you something. Did YOU kill Christ? Did I kill Christ? No. Of course not. We were not alive when He was killed. Would we have participated in killing Christ? Hopefully, we would have been His disciples and would have been scared off into the night like the rest. Hopefully, none of us would have been in the crowd cheering, "We have no king but Caesar." Hopefully, that would not have been any of us. I'll give you some clues as to who would have been in that crowd. Today, we have preachers - so-called demanding obedience to Caesar. They even say that Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar." "Whosoever maketh himself a king, is not the friend of Caesar."

Today, anyone who claims that Christ is King now - and that men's governments are an affront to the Kingship of Christ will be ridiculed. They will be mocked. They will be thrown into prison. I believe those people would have been in the crowd that wanted Christ executed.

No. None of us today - over 2,000 years later - killed Christ.

Look with me to Matthew 26:59

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;
[60] But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

Let me sidetrack here for a second, because there is something really important here that we need to make note of. Notices that the text clearly says they sought "false witnesses."

It actually goes to painstaking detail to say that the witnesses were false. Three times in two verses. Compare that to Acts 17 or Luke 23. What I'm trying to get you to see here is that when false witnesses or false testimony is discussed - the Scripture tells you the witnesses were false. Acts 17 does not say in any way - that the testimony that the apostles preached there is another King, One Jesus - and they all did contrary to the decrees of Caesar - there is nothing in that text that says those statements were false. Verse 61 of Matthew 26.

[61] And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

[62] And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

[63] But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

[64] Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Now brethren, I ask you. Were these the people that killed Christ? Were these the people that pierced Him? Beyond any shadow of a doubt - however you want to look at it - figuratively, literally, spiritually - whatever you want to say - **THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO PIERCED CHRIST.**

Revelation 1:7:

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

This is conclusive evidence that the coming of Christ prophesied all throughout the Gospels and through the Acts and the epistles - took place in the generation - the nation, the time, the people - the generation to whom Christ was sent - the generation, the nation, the time, and the people who killed the Lord Jesus/Yeshua the Christ.

The details and consistency of these verses is so striking that for me at least, it takes my breath away. It causes the hairs to stand up on my arms. It's awesome significance gives me total boldness and confidence to preach that Christ is King - right now - no matter what threats are made against me - no matter what violence may come against me - it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Government - right now - because the prophecies are fulfilled - and Christ was revealed as King of kings and Lord of lords - over 2,000 years ago.

Verse 65

[65] Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

[66] What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

[67] Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

You better believe that these were the people who killed Christ. And you better believe that ALL the wrath of Almighty God came upon this generation because God had sent them His only Son saying, "Surely 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.

[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.

[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?

[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.

[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.

Why we fail to understand that the murder of Christ and His disciples were the greatest crimes in the history of mankind is beyond me. Christ said in Luke 21:

"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Our failure to believe these simple, clear words of Christ is what is responsible for our skewed, flawed perspective in receiving and living in the Kingdom of Christ now - and our acceptance of lesser kingdoms which continue to dominate us, enslave us, take our substance away from us, take our children away from us.

Can we, if you will, dissect this Luke 21:22 verse for just a second?

Christ said, "For these be the days of vengeance...."

It doesn't say, "For these will be the days of vengeance..." It says, "These be....these are....these ARE....these BE the days of vengeance. Why? Because Jerusalem had rejected the Messiah. They rejected the Son. The parable from Matthew 21 regarding the Son and the vineyard was a direct reference to God the Father and His Son. And the texts returns to the reality from the parable and says -

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

These be the days of vengeance is clear. Christ said what He said, meant what He said, and it was for those people who pierced Him.

Luke 21:22:

..."that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Come on, now brothers. I've heard all the talk for many years now - over 40 of them - that the public school system is designed to "dumb folks down." I've heard it, you've heard it. Well, let's not let ourselves be included in the dumbing down of America.

I haven't had many, I'll tell you that much. But through the years, not just since I've been preaching these messages on the radio, but through the years and as recently as just a couple weeks ago - I have people say to me - "Well, I can believe that a lot of prophecy has been fulfilled, but not all." And they'll write to me and say that "All just doesn't mean all."

Ok. But I'm telling you if we refuse to yield to such simplistic language as what is found in Luke 21:22, we are opening a can of worms for us that's going to lead to all sorts of problems.

I'm telling you that ALL things which are written may be fulfilled - can be summed up in two fulfillments.

- 1) The judgement on Israel for executing the Son of God.
- 2) The revealing of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords and the everlasting Kingdom being established.

That's what all the prophecies point to. It's all summed up in those 2. And the Scriptures

are abundantly clear that the prophecies were fulfilled in the generation, the nation, time and place and people to whom our Lord was sent.

Go back to Revelation 1 please. Verses 8-10.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Do you see here that God is claiming and or reclaiming His ownership to His creation? He IS the Almighty. He is the all-ruling, absolute and universal sovereign, Almighty and Omnipotent. If He is All mighty and Omni potent - how does anyone else have any might, power, or potent cy - as in the Only Potentate and King? I Timothy 6:15

Verse 9:

[9] I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Now, please watch this. Verse 10.

[10] I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

He is telling us that he was spiritually taken to another place so that he could witness and write his prophecy.

What I find most interesting here is that there seems to be a clear distinction between verses 1-9 and then what takes place beginning in verse 10.

In other words, it seems as though his first 9 verses are in the present - his present - and then beginning in verse 10 - he enters a different realm or maybe even a different state of being. He seems to be distinguishing between his literal, physical realm, and a figurative, spiritual realm.

Because of this, I believe it reaffirms the fact that he literally means "shortly come to pass" and the "time is at hand" in the first verses. He literally means "they which pierced Him" in verse 7 - to literally mean "they which pierced Him" will see Him coming in the clouds. John was in his present, mental state just as you and I are from verses 1-9 - then in verse 10 - it changes - and he tells you it changes.

This why some of the language throughout the rest of the book of Revelation is

figurative and symbolic. John was seeing a vision of the things that were coming. This is why I believe we can say that verses 1-9 are to be taken literally, plainly, say what they say and mean what they say - but from verse 10 on - we need to really dig and discover language that is not literal and not necessarily physical.

For instance, I briefly touched on the thought that Babylon the Great - from chapters 14-18 is more likely a reference to Jerusalem or to those who killed Christ and persecuted the saints at that time period - as opposed to the catholic church - if you were Luther or Calvin - hundreds of years later. If you were Hal Lindsey or Jerry Falwell - the catholic church thousands of years later.

John calls Jerusalem Sodom and Gomorrah in Revelation 11. That is symbolic language. The book of Revelation is filled with symbolic language.

I believe Revelation 20 - and specifically - the word thousand - I believe that word to be symbolic language. Interestingly enough, even futurists say that the word is symbolic. They don't even require it to be an actual 1,000 period. Most all of them will say that the word thousand is symbolic of a very long period of time. I admit, absolutely, it looks to me like it should be a very long period of time.

I think J. Stuart Russell's book, *The Parousia*, is a great book. Not that it matters whether I agree with him or not - personally I doubt he would have cared one bit whether someone like me agrees with him or not - but with Russell writing about the overwhelming amount of text referring to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, when it comes to Revelation 20, Russell concludes that the chapter doesn't seem to fit with the rest - so it must have some sort of special understanding and that the use of the word 1,000 cannot mean anything other than a long period of time.

As much as I respect his writings, I just don't see it that way. I just don't see why that word **MUST** only be designated as a long period of time - as we in our humanity would want to see it and define it.

Look with me to II Peter 2, and we'll begin in verse 1. As we read this, please be mindful that this is the same Peter who just years before had preached on the Day of Pentecost:

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

[17] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

[18] And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of

my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

[19] And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

[20] The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,

Listen,

before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

II Peter 3:

[1] This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

[2] That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

[3] Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

[4] And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

[5] For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

[6] Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

[7] But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

[8] But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Now for those who have taken Revelation 1:1 - "things which must shortly come to pass and the time is at hand" - and they say "shortly doesn't mean shortly" and the "time is at hand" doesn't mean at hand - why did I tell you a couple messages ago they say this? Their argument that the text doesn't mean shortly as we understand it - but rather as God understands shortly is because with the Lord, "that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Now hold on just a minute. If they can say that shortly can be a long time, as in several thousands of years - at least - then why can't I say that the 1,000 years of Revelation 20 could be just 1 day?

Is it possible that when he uses the phrase thousand years in Revelation 20 - it could mean only one day?

If shortly in Revelation could mean thousands of years - based on II Peter 3 - then why can't thousand years of Revelation 20 mean 1 day?

If I have laid a foundation whereby 99.9% of the rest of the text calls for "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" - to mean exactly that - then I get to Revelation 1 and read about things which must shortly come to pass and at hand - then I get to verse 10 and see that John is now saying that the book is symbolic - it seems so natural for me to say that the thousand years of Revelation 20 is a day - one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Now, for those who reject this. We have further argument that can be made.

Lord willing, next week, we'll continue. Somehow, we are going to have to come to an understanding that Revelation 20 has got to fit in the "things which must shortly come to pass" of Revelation 1 - and I believe that I'm to give you two things to consider on this matter.

For now, I am going to tell you that I am persuaded that the thousand years of Revelation 20 is a day. But Lord willing, I'm going to give you another thing to consider soon.

What I have to say may surprise some of you who think you know where I'm headed here. So, please be sure to listen in next week. As always, I'd love to hear from you. Visit our website at www.godsendusmen.com