

Matthew 24 Series - Answers to Revelation 20

Part 23 in the Series - Just How Many Kingdoms and How Many Judgements are There? - continued

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Well, good morning, everyone. We managed through the frigid cold last week with flying colors. It seems like when you live out in the country, things around the place tend to break down when the temperatures are the coldest. But we came through this time without anything breaking down - praise the Lord!

Last week, we were continuing the message on Revelation 20 with a message entitled "Just How Many Kingdoms and How Many Judgements are There?"

When we look at Revelation 20, we see the theme of the New Testament repeated - and I ask, "Why wouldn't we?" We see the theme of the New Testament - which is that the Kingdom is coming and Judgement is coming.

I believe that I have laid down a very thorough foundation in showing that the promise of the Kingdom - from the Old Testament - through Moses, the prophets and the psalms was a promise that was clearly fulfilled in Christ. The New Testament - the testimony of the first century - the time of the advent of Christ as Messiah - was promised in the Old Testament. The many words of Christ, of John the Baptist, of the disciples and from those who witnessed first hand - the life and ministry of Christ - conclusively show that the prophecies of the Old Testament writers - were being fulfilled in the times of Christ.

I have laid a thorough foundation concerning the final judgement that was going to be poured out upon the rebellious, unbelieving Jews as prophesied in the Old Covenant - then as clearly as it can be shown from the Scriptures - how that the many words of Christ, of John the Baptist, of the disciples and from those who were eye-witnesses of the life and ministry of Christ - that the promise of the wrath of God on the unbelieving was to occur in that generation that killed the Lord Jesus/Yeshua the Christ.

How wicked could these people be, when offered the choice to free Jesus/Yeshua or Barabbas, they chose the latter, as it was said in Matthew 27, beginning in verse 18:

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.

[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 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.

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

Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children!

At this point, it wasn't just the chief priests and the scribes and Pharisees, the text says All the people answered and said, "His blood be on us, and on our children!"

Don't you think for one minute that those rebellious words did not ring loudly and clearly in the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth as He watched from the heavens - those miserable jews that murdered His only begotten Son Who had done nothing but offer them life, freedom, health and joy if only they would return to His Father's commandments.

This verse alone - without having the multitude of supporting passages that talk about judgement and when it was coming - should be enough to make us understand the times in which the judgement of God was going to be poured out on the city and the people.

So, again, I emphasize the many weeks we have spent laying the foundation that the Kingdom was at hand and that judgement was coming upon those people, nation, place and time - who killed the Lord Jesus/Yeshua.

Keeping this same message and theme, we find ourselves - though prematurely still - at Revelation 20 where we see thrones - representing the Kingdom - and judgement from those thrones - representing the judgement of God supported throughout the rest of Scripture.

Last week, we dealt again with the first verses of Revelation 1 which clearly speak of the things which must shortly come to pass and the things which were at hand.

I have said that we must read Revelation 20 with the understanding that the prophecy of the book of Revelation was concerning things which must shortly come to pass.

I want to make myself perfectly clear.

I believe - that the conclusion one makes regarding Bible prophecy is the most important consideration when dealing with the subject of Bible prophecy. From my perspective - believing that ALL - and I mean ALL - 100% - totally - completely - whatever describing word you want to throw in there - I believe that ALL prophecy contained in the Word of God has been fulfilled.

I do not believe that America is in Bible prophecy. I do not believe that the Roman Catholic "church" is in Bible prophecy. I do not believe that the Israelis in the Middle East are fulfillments of Bible prophecy. Do these things matter? Absolutely. But they are not in the Bible specifically.

The coming of Christ was for the establishment of His Kingdom. Not only was Jesus Christ/Yeshua - King of kings and Lord of lords - but He was the last of the Kings that God was going to allow for His people - and He is the last of the kings that God allows for His creation - and the establishment of that Kingdom took place at AD70 when the temple - which was the representation, it was the center, of the entire Old Covenant world - and the city of Jerusalem - when those two things were destroyed - that was the end of the Old Covenant world wherein God allowed the nations to have "kings like all the rest of the nations" - and God ended that Old World way of doing things and revealed His Son - in the flesh - to His creation - and said, "This is my Son - He is King, obey Him and follow Him as He follows Me."

I've asked you this before and it's worth repeating. The disciples witnessed the entire ministry of Christ - eye-witnesses. They didn't turn on the nightly news and hear about some man from some far off place that performed some miracle - they saw Him with

their own two eyes, heard Him with their own two ears - and touched Him with their own two hands.

They saw this man turn the water into wine, feed five thousand with 2 fish and five loaves of bread - twice - they saw Him heal the sick, give sight to the blind, make the dumb man speak and the lame walk. He healed a woman with leukemia just because she had faith that if she could just touch the hem of His garment - she would be healed. This is a man who raised Jairus' 12 year old daughter from the dead - raised grown up Lazarus who had been in the grave for 3 days. This was a man they saw walk on water.

This was a man they saw - with their own 2 eyes as the Roman soldiers beat Him mercilessly into a bloody pulp - then forced a crown of thorns into His head before they drove metal spikes into His hands and feet and crucified Him all the while mocking Him.

This was a man whom they saw placed in a borrowed tomb. This is a man whom they saw raised from the dead - walked through a wall into the room they were meeting in - and spoke to them and said, "All power is given unto me heaven and in earth..."

Do you think they believed Him? After everything they had witnessed first hand, do you think they believed Him?

I ask you today. Knowing what you know today, believing what you believe today, with the faith you have today - you pray everyday, don't you? You believe in Yahweh, God of heaven - don't you? If you had been one of the disciples, and you had seen and heard all that He did - first hand - eye witness - would you have believed Him when He said, "All power is given unto me heaven and in earth...?"

I believe you would. I believe I would. The disciples were men just like we are. Mary and Martha were women just like women are today. They finally believed.

Christ followed His EASILY BELIEVABLE revelation of having all power - by saying, "Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the gospel..."

Did they? Would you have? I'm trying to put you and me in the shoes of those disciples over 2,000 years ago. Would you have believed? Would you have obeyed?

Absolutely.

Then why today, Christians so-called, who build quote unquote "churches" - why do

they ask men for permission to do what they claim God told them to do? "Yes, Lord, we'll build this building and call it a "church" so we can "preach the gospel to the whole world" but before we do, we'll get papers drawn up by a lawyer, we'll send in corporate papers to the secretary of the state, we'll get 501(c)(3) status from the IRS - then - we'll do what you say.

Ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous. I'll go so far as to call that scenario blasphemous. He's not really King. He's a coming king. He wasn't really the Messiah - he's a coming messiah.

The purpose of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy is to show men and women, boys and girls, from all of God's creation - that this man, whom you have crucified and slain, God hath raised Him from the dead and has made Him both Lord and King.

When a man understands this and is persuaded of this, then there is nothing that will stand in the way of proclaiming - just like the disciples did - "These all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus."

Friends, this is the gospel. This is the only message that is going to save our generation. We have lost it - and we've lost it because we do not believe that Jesus/Yeshua was Who He said he was - Who Moses and the prophets and the Psalms said He was - and instead of preaching and living this - we have people - and I mean sincere people - I mean people that I call my friends - people that I love - think that Donald Trump is some type of saviour for America today. We've traded King Jesus/King Yeshua for a man. How does this happen?

It happens because we have fallen for the greatest deception of all time - and that is that Bible prophecy is yet to be fulfilled - and the Kingdom of Christ is in the future.

This past week, I read an article titled:

Texas Bills Threaten to Strip 'Texans' Right to Practice Biblical Teachings'

The article starts out by saying, quote:

Some conservatives **are worried** that the liberal Left and some upcoming Texas state bills may try "to ban Christianity in Texas."

Erick Erickson, a conservative blogger and radio host, writes in *The Resurgent*, that some half a dozen bills will ban Christianity "in all but name."

It goes on,

Erickson was referring to Texas bills, including [HB 224](#), [HB 254](#), [HB 850](#) and [SB 151](#), all which would prohibit the discrimination of sexual orientation or gender identity by businesses, including Christian-owned ones. Previously, Christian businesses have claimed they have the right to refuse service based on their religious beliefs.

Two other bills are also being considered. [HB 517](#) would require Christian counselors to affirm transgenderism and [SB 154](#) would force doctors to create birth certificates retroactively for patients who gender transition.

End quote.

And, as I always do, I like to read the comments from others who have read the article. I want you to listen to some of these. These are people who have been neutralized because they have bought the lie that Bible Prophecy has not been fulfilled.

Sandi Scott

Bible prophecy being fulfilled. God is still in control, we need to stay in prayer for this Nation and God's people.

Flora Martinez

IM WITH U ON THAT! WE HAVE TO STAY IN PRAYER, FOR COUNTRY, ISRAEL, PRESIDENT, ETC.

Shira Levin

It is as Jesus forewarned His disciples. That persecution would come.

Valerie Downing

The beginning of sorrows has already begun. We must pray to God with sincere prayers and supplication, and intercession on believers behalf

Cyndi Adams

Anita Worthy Harpur ok Gods word says all this will happen, that is why anyone who isnt saved and who hasnt asked the Lord for forgiveness had better do so real quick, because the rapture is coming and very soon now, God said the one world order will take place but i believe he will take his people who are saved and believe in him out before the real bad stuff happens, the 7 yrs of tribulation anyone who isnt saved and is left behind dont have a clue what is gonna happen

to them, they cant even imagine the terror that will befall them, that is why so many follow the dems and satan so easy because they cant imagine the terror they will face once the Lord takes his people out of here, God said many will fall away in the end days and follow evil over good.

[Martha Megger](#)

Wake up America the time is at hand for the return of Jesus Christ our Lord and savior Amen

[Anita Worthy Harpur](#)

We are living in the End Times..... It will only get worse. Are we willing to stand with Jesus?

Kyle Smith

Look at what God is doing folks - that's right, what GOD is doing. What we see these days throughout the political spectrum is reaction of the enemy stepping up it's game - the Devil having to step up it's game.

It knows it's time is S H O R T.

And then comes the rider on the white horse who has this written on His robe and on His thigh: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.

Laurie Lynn Schmitz Leone

Everthing that is happening has been predicted Biblically.... True Christians are aware of this... the shock is that it is happening in our time,,,, We definitively are approaching the end times.

Can you not see what the implications of these people's beliefs are? If everything that is happening today has been predicted Biblically - and it's the fulfillment of Bible prophecy - and we are definitely approaching the end times - then sit back and do nothing! There is nothing you can do about the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. To resist the fulfillment of Bible prophecy is to resist God Himself. Can you see how damaging this is? Can you see the hopelessness created by this system of belief?

I'm telling you that the enemies of Christ have developed this false theology for this exact purpose. And - it has worked perfectly for those who are in the business of advancing an evil, ungodly agenda. How can we eliminate resistance?

Remember what one commenter said?

Kyle Smith

Look at what God is doing folks - that's right, what GOD is doing.

We need to understand that the wickedness of this scheme is not the fulfillment of Bible prophecy - this is NOT what God wants for His creation. This is all being played out on a worldwide level by people who have the evil minds and the finances to pull off such a grand scheme. It's all manipulated. And if they can make people think it's fulfilling Bible prophecy - they destroy resistance without shedding a drop of blood.

Their wicked hands are involved in everything around us. And very little action comes against them because - they have convinced people that God has ordained man's governments into existence - whether good or evil - that all this evil is the will of God for the end times - and all the while laughing at how the idiots and fools have fallen for it all.

We know it's true - yet down deep - because we want to hold onto hope of some Jesus riding on a white horse coming back to destroy all the enemies - we do not realize that it is robbing us of the real hope and the real possibility of turning this all around - and that is the understanding, then implementation of the present-day reality of the Kingdom of Christ today.

Look, if you are waiting for some mass exodus, then you'll embrace the Kingdom of God - it's probably not going to happen. If no one else in this world will walk in the Kingdom now - it has to start with you and me - on an individual basis. This is not a new concept, this is why Joshua of old said, "Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

So, I want to make sure that everyone who listens to me preach, realizes that the conclusion of what you believe about Bible prophecy is what matters. It's not so much whether we have all the answers. It's what do we believe about the Kingdom of God that matters.

I'm telling you that there are very very few people out there who believe and live - the same way the disciples did - who absolutely, without fear or hesitation - believed the words of Christ when He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth..."

It is this message, that the Kingdom WAS ESTABLISHED, that Christ is KING RIGHT NOW - is the ONLY message that is going to save us. We can live and preach this voluntarily, or we will be forced into it. I'm telling you - there is no rapture. There is no future second coming. We are in the shape we are in because we have traded the Kingdom and Government of God for the U.S. We have traded the King for a president. We have traded the true commonwealth of Israel for the israelis. Only a return to the King and His Kingdom is going to save us.

Last week, I made the statement that I believe the word "thousand" as it appears in Revelation 20 is one day. I do not believe that it is a literal 1,000 year period of time.

On the other hand, I absolutely believe that the word "shortly" in Revelation 1 means just that - literally - a short period of time.

I offered support of that belief in that the first 9 verses of the book of Revelation give no indication to us that John was dreaming or having a vision when he wrote the first 9 verses. We then read verse 10 to see John entering into some type of different state of being. I do not know exactly what that was.

But these first 9 verses - taken with the multitude of other passages throughout the Scripture show us that the word "shortly" is consistent with the first generation.

We concluded last week's message by reading II Peter 3:8

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.

This is not the first time in Scripture where this phrase or a similar one appears. Look with me to Psalm 90:

[4] For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

The Wycliffe Bible reads it like this:

For a thousand years *be* before thine eyes; as yesterday, which is passed, and as [the] keeping in the night. (For in thine eyes a thousand years *be* like yesterday, which is just passed; yea, *as fleeting* as the night watch.)

The NLT says:

For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.

I find it no small coincidence that in this Psalm 90 passage, not only is there a reference to a thousand years being a day in the sight of God, but it is also compared to a nightwatch - which was only 3 hours - and again - no small coincidence - but how many times the reference to the coming of Christ was like a thief in the night.

When Peter was writing in II Peter 3 concerning a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day, he goes on in verse 10 to say this:

[10] But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Again, I do not find this a coincidence - but rather a clue, if you will, that the thousand years in Revelation 20 needs to be strongly considered as a single day - or even as short as 3 hours.

Revelation 20 verses 1-3:

[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,

[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.

Alright. Now once again. I am operating from the viewpoint that the word thousand years here in Revelation 20 does not require a literal 1,000 years. According to other passages, it could be a day. It could be a nightwatch. Thus, it could mean a short period of time.

The Devil, Satan, whatever it was - is not important. There is so much discussion on this subject and personally, I find it very interesting and I enjoy reading the different discussions related - but for our study - whatever it was - is not important. But we do know that it was bound for a thousand years - meaning a day - several hours - or a short period of time.

Look with me please to Luke chapter 10. We will begin in verse 1.

[1] After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

[2] Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

[3] Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

[4] Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

[5] And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

[6] And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

[7] And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give:

for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

[8] And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

[9] And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

[10] But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

[11] Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

[12] But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

[13] Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

[14] But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

[15] And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

[16] He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

[17] And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

[18] And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

[19] Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

[20] Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

I ask you. What is this? What is this Satan beheld as lightning fall from heaven? And I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions - and nothing shall by any means hurt you? I give you all power of the enemy. What is this? This is not some reference to fallen angels back in the book of Genesis or Job, this is happening to those disciples - over 2,000 years ago and totally consistent with everything else we've been discussing.

Go down to verse 22 of Luke 10:

[22] All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the

Son will reveal him.

[23] And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

As I read verse 23, I'm immediately reminded of Revelation 1:2-3:

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.

Let's go to Mark 3 and we'll read from verse 1:

[1] And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

[2] And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

[3] And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

[4] And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

[5] And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

[6] And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

[7] But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,

[8] And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

[9] And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

[10] For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

[11] And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

[12] And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

[13] And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

- [14] And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,
- [15] And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
- [16] And Simon he surnamed Peter;
- [17] And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:
- [18] And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,
- [19] And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.
- [20] And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.
- [21] And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.
- [22] And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.
- [23] And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?
- [24] And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
- [25] And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.
- [26] And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.
- [27] No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

This discussion here is concerning casting out devils and dealing with whatever this entity Satan was...I don't say "whatever this entity Satan was" because I'm throwing lite on the subject - I have my opinions - I'm just trying to emphasize again for this study that whatever the entity was - is not what is important about what we are talking about.

But Jesus/Yeshua was telling His disciples they had power over devils because Satan had been bound - the strong man was bound so that his house could be spoiled.

Is this binding of Satan the same as the binding in Revelation 20?

The title of this message is "**Just How Many Kingdoms and How Many Judgements are There?**"

Well, just how many bindings of this Satan are there?

Revelation 20 says that this Satan then would be let loose for a little season. Then, finally destroyed. If the thousand years of Revelation 20 is actually a very short period of time, does it then become understandable how Paul could have told the Romans that the God of peace would bruise - to crush completely - Satan - under their feet - shortly?

It makes a lot of sense to me.

You may or may not know this, but there are some excellent Bible teachers - I mean men that I really enjoy going over the Scriptures with - who think that all of Revelation 20 begins at AD70. And they see that because of verse four and that verse four requires an AD70 or shortly before or even shortly after fulfillment - to which I agree - but I don't see that verses 1-3 of Revelation 20 have a time constraint to this same period. I see the binding of Satan in verse 2 to have no problem whatsoever being the binding or casting out spoken of by Christ in Luke 10 and Mark 3 - especially in keeping with the harmony of "things which must shortly come to pass" and "the time is at hand."

As I read Revelation 20, I actually have no problem at all seeing these thousand years as several periods of thousand years - or days - or hours - or short periods of time. For instance, I don't have a problem seeing verses 1-3 as a "thousand years" - meaning a day or hours - or a short period of time. Beginning at verse 4, I can see another period of a "thousand years" or a day - or hours - or short periods of time.

For many years, I taught the word thousand here in Revelation was a symbol of completeness.

In Psalm 50:10, the Psalmist wrote concerning Yahweh:

[10] For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

He owns the cattle upon a thousand hills. Is this to be taken literally? Or is it symbolic language that He owns it all? I believe it's symbolic language for completeness, for perfection, He owns it all. It's symbolic language for fullness. Psalm 50:11-12

[11] I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

[12] If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

He owns it all. The word thousand is a symbol. To us it means a great number. Many times in Scripture it means a great number - but it also is a symbol for completeness and fulness. And, in the case of Revelation 20, I have no problem believing that He accomplished or completed, or fulfilled those things - in a single day - in hours - or a short period of time.

Look with me to verse 5 of Revelation 20. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Is it possible that this first resurrection is also not constrained to a time period starting at or shortly before or after AD70?

Look with me to Matthew 27 and we'll begin reading in 37. This is the passage detailing the execution of Christ by the state at the behest of the preachers. Verse 37:

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

[38] Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

[39] And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

[40] And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

[41] Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

[42] He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

[43] He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

[44] The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

[45] Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

[46] And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

[47] Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

[48] And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

[49] The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

[50] Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

[51] And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

[52] And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

[53] And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

I never really thought about this before - but verses 52 and 53 seem to indicate a resurrection when He gave up the ghost - and then another one after His resurrection. Interesting. Jairus' daughter could be described as being resurrected. Lazarus could be in the discussion as being resurrected - but this passage is the first one in Scripture that describes a multi-person, if you will, resurrection. Is it possible that this resurrection of Matthew 27 was the first resurrection talked about in Revelation 20:5?

I have no problem seeing the binding of Satan and the first resurrection of Revelation 20 - being fulfilled prior to the crucifixion. And again, I'm not going to declare absolute theology here and decry against anyone who has a differing opinion.

My point is - and has been - throughout my entire ministry - each of these details are important - so long as you conclude that Christ is King. His Kingdom was established at AD70 - and He is the only King that God allows for His people and for His creation. If we can agree on that - then whether you believe Revelation 20 began at AD70 fully - or whether parts of it were fulfilled earlier in the ministry and crucifixion of Christ - does it really matter?

The most important aspect of theology or eschatology must be - "how does it change a man's life?" What a man believes determines how a man lives. If a man believes in a future King and a future Kingdom - will 99 times out a hundred - produce a man who believes in and serves men's governments - even though the statues of men's governments require men to disobey the Laws of God in order to obey theirs.

Some will argue that the Gog and Magog of Revelation 20:8 are required to literally be Gog and Magog. When I was very little, Jack VanImpe was popular and his star was rising. He used to preach these dramatic messages - which I now refer to as Hollywood Christianity - in which he claimed to have identified Russia as the Gog of the Bible. VanImpe - in my opinion - was very useful in the propaganda wars between the US and Russia. But that's not what I'm pointing to here.

Today, there is no country called Gog or Magog in existence in the world. I'm actually a little surprised at this because the world planners would advance their scheme greatly if Russia would change their name to Gog. Still not where I'm headed here.

Revelation 20:5 does not require a literal Gog and Magog. I believe this to be symbolic language for the enemies of Christ. This is the same with what John did when he referred to Jerusalem as Sodom and Egypt. Last week I incorrectly quoted that passage to say Jerusalem was Sodom and Gomorrah. The text says, Sodom and Egypt, the city where our Lord was crucified. Just as Jerusalem was called Sodom and Egypt, Gog and Magog are not required to be literal here in Revelation 20:5.

Verse 9 of Revelation 20 is another passage of Scripture where the Hollywood - New World Order preachers use to advance their deception that Israeli - the present day Israeli state - is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

They teach that the beloved city of verse 9 is the literal Jerusalem that is in existence today. As I have already laid the foundation for, there is no literal city of Jerusalem in the plan of God for today.

The literal city called Jerusalem was destroyed over 2,000 years ago by Titus the Roman, and that put an end to the physical city of Jerusalem - once and for all. The physical city of Jerusalem was the center of the Old Covenant World. It was the place where the sacrifices were made. When the Messiah came, and offered Himself - as Hebrews 9:26 so clearly states:

[26] For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

When the Messiah came, and offered Himself in the end of the world, the sacrifices were completely ended when the city and the temple were destroyed - and that took place at AD70. The end of the Old Covenant world, Jerusalem and the temple took place at AD70. Physical Jerusalem, a physical temple, a physical sacrificial system is no longer in the plan and Will of God and you need to be very careful who you listen to that tells you otherwise.

Revelation 20 is the fulfillment of the promise to the disciples and to those saints who were killed in the first century that they would sit on thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel. They were the overseers of the judgement that came upon those that killed Christ - His disciples - and for all those who died before them - from the blood of righteous Abel - to the son of Barachias - to Stephen and all those killed up to this time of judgement.

Revelation 20 shows the final judgement of death, hell, Satan, the devil.

I was questioned again regarding my teaching that death has been destroyed and that there is no future resurrection for us on this side of the crown of Christ. And what I mean by that is to say that because of the Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy, when we leave this physical body - we will be immediately in the presence of God and His Son and all those who have gone on before us. There is no waiting period.

We are still not finished with Revelation 20. I am out of time again. I so wanted to relive the story of Stephen today, but we'll have to pick up again next week here. And then continue on with our explanation as to how Revelation 20 has already been fulfilled.