

Matthew 24 Series - Answers to Revelation 20
Part 27 in the Series - The Holy City continued
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I often tell my family and friends that I wish I could be a good joke teller. Laughter can be a good thing. I like to laugh. One of the things I enjoyed most about raising children was watching them do "childlike things" and the cuteness factor and the innocence factor would many times - make me laugh.

As I was preparing for this message, I did a search on the word "laughter" as is found in the Scripture, and to my surprise, it's only found 9 times and interestingly enough, not once is it mentioned in a good way. I'm not saying this to oppose my opening statement - I just saying that in the Scripture, when mentioned 9 times - the word "laughter" is not used in a positive light.

For instance, in Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, the Scriptures say:

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

[2] It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

[3] Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

[4] The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

James 4:8-10

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

[9] Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

[10] Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

If you are awake and aware of things going on around you, you no doubt realize we are not living in times of great laughter. I often point to the fact that what happened - and listen to me - I am not going to say what happened in America - or in the United States of America - but what happened on this soil in 2015 and continues to gain more and

more momentum - but when sodomite unions - not marriages - but when sodomite unions became "legal" on this soil - the laughter molecules should have been sucked out of every person claiming a relationship with Christ - that lives on this soil.

But the truth is, there was a little bit of resistance - and that came from a pentecostal woman in Kentucky who was a county clerk and was briefly jailed because she would not issue licenses to sodomites wishing to be legitimized by the state. And once that was over - there is hardly another word about it.

There was a baker that refused to bake a cake for the queers, a florist who refused to provide flowers and a photographer who refused to take pictures - but outside of that - nothing. Absolutely no significant resistance from more than just a ridiculously few number of people has been offered as resistance to this latest official national rebellion that sticks their fist in the face of God and demands that all that is holy, all that is just, be thrown to the garbage heap.

Since 2015, how many of those who have claimed to be followers of Christ - have - in the light of this official national rebellion - have "Come out from among them to be separate?"

And today, I'll ask you listening to my voice today - have you "Come out from among them to be separate" - or are you once again just perfectly content staying United with those who have legitimized and made official - a national rebellion to the face of God and to His Son - King Jesus?

Laughter may have turned to mourning for a couple hours - then the laughter has returned. The heat level in the cooking pot was turned up quite a bit - but apparently still not enough to make the proverbial frog jump out of the pot of hot water.

To me, it is not a laughing matter at all to see what my next be coming in the way of turning up the heat in order to get the frogs to jump out.

I'm telling you friends, the water is going to get hotter and hotter until God's people start jumping - but sadly - the hotter the water gets - the more damage is going to be caused.

This week, someone sent me an email with a Youtube link - and upon clicking it - I was glad to see that there was someone else talking about this. It was a group of men who were boldly speaking out against the sodomite agenda. And they were exposing something that Trump's administration was starting.

Apparently, members of the Trump administration have called for a world-wide end to the illegalization of sodomy. Unlike the quote unquote "greatest country on earth" - there are still some countries around the world where Laws of God concerning sodomy are still in place and the U.S. is now leading the way to get those countries to repeal their sodomy laws.

Here is an article that appeared in the Washington Examiner this past week.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/white-house/trump-appears-unaware-of-administration-effort-to-legalize-homosexuality-abroad>

The article is headlined:

Trump appears unaware of administration effort to legalize homosexuality abroad

by Steven Nelson

February 20, 2019 04:10 PM

President Trump drew a blank Wednesday when told about his own administration's push to legalize homosexuality across the globe.

A reporter asked Trump in the Oval Office about "your push to decriminalize homosexuality around the world," asking, "Are you doing that and why?"

Trump said, however, "I don't know which report you're talking about. We have many reports."

White House representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Trump was aware of his administration's push to repeal anti-homosexuality laws in 71 countries.

On Tuesday, NBC News reported that the Trump administration was preparing for a global effort to decriminalize homosexuality, which is banned in many African, Caribbean, and Muslim countries.

The push is spearheaded by U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, the most prominent gay official in the Trump administration. Grenell's effort began Tuesday with a gathering in Berlin.

NBC News reported that the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor was involved in the effort, and Grenell said in an interview he had the administration's full support.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2003 struck down 14 state laws that criminalized consensual same-sex relationships.

Endquote

So, this initiative is led by Richard Grenell. Well, that's a shocker. Grenell was appointed as a US Ambassador to Germany - by Trump - in September 2017 and received was confirmed in 2018. Grenell also briefly served as national security spokesman for Mitt Romney in his 2012 campaign for President of the United States, becoming the first openly gay spokesman for a Republican presidential candidate.

Grenell is a graduate of Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri who had this to say about his sodomite life:

Quote taken from:

The Gay, Conservative Christian Who Might Be Trump's NATO Ambassador

Richard Grenell's struggles with his faith and identity inform his public work.

JONATHAN MERRITT

APR 23, 2017

Grenell's upbringing didn't necessarily suggest a life in politics; his childhood reads like the opening chapter of an evangelist's autobiography. Converted at a young age, he spent his summers at religious youth camps and traveling to foreign countries on mission trips to evangelize non-Christians. While his devout parents moved back and forth from California to Michigan, the church remained the constant in his life. Attending multiple services each week was mandatory, but no one needed to twist young Grenell's arm. "Growing up in church, I think I recognized the need for God and that Jesus died for my sins," Grenell told me. "So I wanted to forge a path toward living a Christian life and learning along that road."

Traveling that road meant ignoring his sexual identity. Though he's known since childhood that he's gay, Grenell felt his identity was incompatible with his faith. Beginning as early as junior high school, he spent his prayer time asking God why he was created this way.

Ironically, Grenell began confronting his sexual orientation while attending Evangel College, a private university in Springfield, Missouri, affiliated with the conservative Assemblies of God denomination. He found the school to be intellectually rigorous, though it was legalistic and "promoted a very simplistic view of Christianity," he said.

But a class on the teachings of British writer C.S. Lewis transformed him. In Grenell's assessment, Lewis taught that "if you want to live in God's image, then you have to live a truthful existence." That meant confronting his struggles.

"My time at Evangel taught me that all truth is God's truth no matter where it's found, which resonated with me ironically because my truth was that I was born gay," Grenell said. "I started to realize that if I wanted to be authentic about who I was and have a real relationship with the creator, I had to find a way to be honest."

When conservative Christians who are LGBT begin to acknowledge their sexual identities, it often means abandoning their faith, as their fellow believers are inclined to view their identities and relationships as sinful. But Grenell held tightly to his faith as he left Evangel and headed to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 1997. During his time in graduate school, Grenell was mentored by the late Peter Gomes, an African American, then-Republican minister who served as a professor of Christian morals at Harvard Divinity School.

Gomes, who came out as gay himself in 1991, shepherded Grenell back to the handful of Bible passages that address homosexuality. Together, they studied the original language, the cultural context of the verses, and how they were translated into English. As the exercise progressed, Grenell became convinced that being gay was not incompatible with being Christian.

"Peter taught me to peel back the modern, 1950s interpretation of the Bible and go back to the original text and intent of what God was saying to us," he said. "It became crystal-clear that man's teachings on the Bible have been misused and egocentric and manipulative." The result, Grenell said, was that he finally embraced his identity as a gay man and also "fell back in love with the idea of God, Jesus Christ, and the greatest sacrifice to atone for sins ever."

Two decades later, Grenell can still be found in church most Sundays, joined by his partner of 15 years, Matt Lashey, who is himself an evangelical Christian and a graduate of Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. The couple reads the Bible and prays together each day, and their home is often filled with the melodies of Hillsong Worship, a chart-topping Christian "praise band" from Australia.

One would be hard-pressed to find many foreign-policy experts who speak about theology with Grenell's openness and fluency. That's in part what makes his potential appointment to the Trump administration significant—with his faith and foreign-policy credentials acting as a bridge to conservative Christians who overwhelmingly support the president.

To start, some of Trump's highest-profile evangelical supporters don't outright oppose Grenell's nomination. Jerry Falwell Jr., a member of Trump's evangelical advisory board, opposes same-sex marriage. He is the son of the Liberty University and Moral Majority founder who spent much of his career fiercely battling the so-called "gay agenda." Yet when asked about Grenell possibly taking on the ambassadorship, Falwell Jr. said that his chief concern is that Grenell's positions related to NATO are aligned with the president's. He "would not oppose [Grenell] simply because he is gay."

Robert Jeffress is a Baptist megachurch preacher in Dallas, Texas, and another member of the advisory board, who gave a private service to the Trump family on Inauguration Day. He has never been shy about expressing his views about the LGBT community. In 2011, he claimed that "homosexuality is being crammed down our throats," and accused LGBT people of using brainwashing to "inject homosexuality" into mainstream culture. He has also said that LGBT Americans live a "filthy" and "miserable" lifestyle.

But when asked whether he was bothered by Grenell's possible nomination, Jeffress balked, noting that the qualifications for an ambassador are different than for a minister. He added: "Some of the criteria I would use might differ from the president's—depending on the position being considered. However, the country chose President Trump, not me, to lead the nation." Others on Trump's board, including Texas megachurch pastor Jack Graham, refused to comment on the matter.

Endquote.

Friends, I am here to tell you today that I attended two Bible colleges back in the 1980s. And at that time - the Bible colleges - which would have been considered

conservative - and one ultra-conservative - those Bible colleges quote unquote were filled with sodomites.

Those of you listening to my words are not hoodwinked. I have to have faith and believe that you do not believe that quote "Jesus died to make sodomy lawful and legal." But that's where we are today.

And there's basically two reasons why we are come to this.

1) Because we have told for well over a hundred years now - that everything that is happening today is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. And if what we are seeing is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy - then not only is there NOTHING you can do about it - but there is nothing you should do about it - because to resist the fulfillment of Bible prophecy is to resist God Himself.

2) We have been told that the Kingdom of God is in the future. If the Kingdom of God is in the future - then a man can accept Jesus as His Saviour and can then live any way he wants to because the Laws of God have been done away with and if the Laws of God are done away with - then the only thing left is man's laws - and if man's laws say certain acts are legal - then they are legal because God commands obedience to man's laws.

I realize that is very simplistic - but that's EXACTLY what is going on. As simple as it is - that is exactly what and why as to what is going on.

And equally as simplistic is the answer to it. "Come out from among them and be ye separate thus God, and I will be your God and you will be my people."

For years, I heard preachers - especially when they were going for the dramatic effect - say things like - "If God doesn't destroy America for the sin of homosexuality, then He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrha." Those were things I heard them say back in the 80s. Back in the 80s, the U.S. wasn't passing out "licenses" to sodomites. Though gaining momentum certainly, for the most part, there was still a closet and most of them wanted to stay there. But not today.

I'm telling you fellow Christian, the demand and call from God to "Come out from among them and be separate" is getting louder and louder. Will you hear His voice? Will you mourn for an hour during this message, then go right back to the laughter?

I'm telling you again, what we are seeing today is NOT the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. What is happening today cannot be blamed on God as being part of His ultimate plan and design for His creation.

What is happening today is absolutely by design - but the designer is not the God of heaven. The enemies of Christ have designed and orchestrated the events being

played out on a world wide stage and they have succeeded - not because they have infiltrated "churches" and "preachers" and the Bible - but because they CREATED "churches" and "preachers" and they used their creations to pervert and subvert the clear teachings of the Word of God and they have led the sheep to the slaughter by the millions and millions and hardly anyone will even speak against it - let alone - "Come out from among them and be separate" for fear of jail, torture or what man perceive to be as something they call death. All of which are very real for those who will dare to "Come out and be separate."

As you well know, in my series of Matthew 24 messages, I have done everything I know to do in presenting the Word of God that "the end of the world" and "the last days" and the "judgements" and the "coming of Christ" have all been fulfilled. And this isn't simply because I'm trying to correct what I believe to be false doctrines put out by the government controlled "churches" but it is because I am trying to get people to see that if ALL Bible Prophecy has been Fulfilled - then the conclusion is that Christ and Christ alone - is not only King of kings and Lord of lords - but He is the LAST of the Kings that God allows for His creation.

Here's why we are in the shape we are in. We have decided it is better to have our own kings and our own laws - like all the other nations. We have created this mess all by ourselves. And rather than take responsibility for our own sin - we create twisted theologies that justify the mess - and we blame God Himself because this is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy and we're just going along with your plan.

The days whereby God allowed men to choose kings like all the other nations - those days are over. The days where God allowed men to set up democracies or constitutional republics - or even monarchies that claim to be ordained of God - those days are over.

ALL - and I mean ALL - governments that men set up among themselves - that do not establish that the Laws of God are Supreme and that ALL acts among the people are to be judged by qualified men who will rule - or measure - the acts of men according to the Laws of God - they are ALL in place - not because God has ordained their existence - but they are in place out of their own rebellion, opposition and desire to eliminate the Kingdom of God as a real choice and possibility for anyone who would seek to walk in it.

The New Heavens and the New Earth, the New Jerusalem - all aspects of the New Covenant - are the elements that make up The New World that was created when the temple in Jerusalem and the city were destroyed at AD70.

This coming new world, this coming Kingdom - is exactly what was meant by John the Baptist when he preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

This coming new world, this coming Kingdom - is exactly what was meant by Christ when He preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Virtually every single message that Christ preached had as it's central theme - the Kingdom - His Kingdom - the Kingdom prophesied by Moses, hoped for by David - prophesied by ALL the prophets of old and heralded by the kings of the east at His birth and by Nathaniel when He began to reveal Himself to His disciples.

This coming new world, this coming Kingdom - was summed up in Acts 17:3-8

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.

I will absolutely assure you today - the quote unquote "rulers of the cities" are once again troubled when the true Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ is preached. Why? Because they are in place at the ordination of God? No. Because their rebellion to the King of kings and Lord of lords is exposed and rather than fall down in repentance - they rise up in war against the King and His followers.

When you understand this - then you will understand what it means to be an overcomer. This is what it means to "overcome the world."

In all my messages, I have sought to lay Biblical foundation for my statement that not only is He King of kings and Lord of lords, but He is the last of the kings that God allows for His creation.

I hope you are seeing the full ramifications for what I am saying.

Many say the same thing - except for the "last of the kings" part. Even the quote unquote "church" says that He's king. But I'm talking about living it. I'm talking about emulating the lives of the apostles who regarded no man or no earthly government when going about preaching the Kingdom of God.

Look, to say these things, to live this way, you better make sure that you have the Authority from the God of heaven to take that action.

When virtually the whole world is demanding obedience to men's governments - and then claiming from the authority of the quote unquote "church" that God says so - it's a very very serious thing to oppose it. I'm saying in almost everything that I preach - the exact opposite of virtually everything that nearly the whole world says is so.

I will tell you this. It's no longer a fearful place to be. Because I claim all the promises - the exact same promises - even though Christ has already kept His Word to those from the first century - but I claim the same promises as everlasting principles that He made to those first century followers - I claim them for myself knowing that He will perform His good will in me.

I have in my possession and have quoted from it many times, Hal Lindsey's 1973 book entitled There's A New World Coming, published by Bantam Books, Incorporated, located at 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

I'd like to read the Introduction of this book and make some comments as we read.

Quote: Introduction

The information in the book you're about to read is more up-to-date than tomorrow's newspaper. I can say this with confidence because the facts and predictions in these next few pages are all taken from the greatest sourcebook of current events in the world.

Alright. Here you go. What you are seeing in the world today is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. So, there is nothing that's going to change any of it. Continuing.

We'll be centering our attention on one segment of this sourcebook - the Book of Revelation in the Bible. I think you'll be surprised to see what kind of predictions were made almost two thousand years ago!

Yeah, we're going to be surprised alright.

For almost eighteen centuries the mysteries of the Book of Revelation remained largely unexplored. Churchmen of most faiths regarded it as a closed book.

Alright. We need to stop here for just a minute. "Churchmen of most faiths regarded it as a closed book." Absolutely, he has that right. Leaving all the minute details aside from the Book of Revelation for just a moment - what is the theme of the book? The

theme is two tiered and it is exactly the same theme as the rest of the New Testament and the Bible for that matter. Judgement and Kingdom. That is the theme of the book.

Because "churches" are creatures of the state - incorporated for the benefit of the public and they must obey the laws of their creator - it is entirely consistent with "churchmen" that they would make sure that the Book of Revelation would remain largely unexplored and it is entirely consistent with "churchmen" that they would regard the book as a closed book. It is entirely consistent with "churchmen" that they would disregard the final admonition found in Revelation 22:6-10

[6] And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

[7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

[8] And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

[9] Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

You might say, Charlie, you are so hard on the "churchmen." Yes. Guilty. I am hard on the "churchmen." How could Hal Lindsey even admit that "churchmen" have regarded the book of Revelation as a closed book for more than 2,000 years when the book says as clearly as it can be stated - NOT TO SEAL THE BOOK?

Yeah. It's aggravating. Not because the minute details of the book are not discussed, but because the entire theme of the Book is about the Revealing of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. Yes. "Churchmen" - because they have gone to the godless, sodomite promoting state for their existence and for subsidies - do not want people to know that the book that destroys their foundation is for today and has been for the last 2,000 plus years.

Lindsey goes on to say, quote:

It was not until the 19th century that the renaissance of Revelation took place. Then people began to study the book with an intensity unparalleled in the history of Bible study. Scholars began to write lengthy volumes on the meaning of the mysteries.

Absolutely. There was an ever intense need to discredit the true meaning of the book of Revelation for several reasons. One, the biggest reason, was to take any remaining people who in the later years of the 1700s had declared loudly and strongly - "No King but Jesus" and get their minds away from "King Jesus" and onto their newly established constitution which declared "our laws, and our treaties, shall be the supreme law of the land."

The Book of Revelation must be unraveled. It must be twisted into something it does not say in order for men to adopt their laws and their statues and to remove the present day reality of the Kingdom and the Kingship of Christ.

Let me show you something else that happened in this new renaissance of the 19th century.

Remember the Civil War? A time on this soil where fathers were killing their sons, uncles were killing their nephews, families were killing their own relatives. Supposed Christians were killing each other. How does this happen? How could men become so twisted and torn that they would be willing to kill their own people?

Once again, the answer comes in the fact that the book of Revelation had been perverted and subverted by the "churchmen".

I'm going to make a controversial statement - how about that? I actually believe that the Civil War - was about slavery. I know that many people are going to resist that statement - but I believe it was about slavery. But, that was only a part of it. I believe the biggest part of it was in the fact that there were people who did not want to be part of the United States of America. Whether for Godly reasons or not, they were wanting to "Come out from among them and be separate." I'm not at all saying that was the reason for the south wanting to secede - but nonetheless - they wanted out.

The North was not going to allow that to happen. "Coming out from among" the mainstream - whether for Godly reasons or not - may not be easy. And in the days of the Civil War, the north was going to make sure it was not easy.

War broke out. But how could it be that Christians (so-called) were convinced it was ok to kill each other? Fathers killing sons. Relatives killing relatives. How could this be?

I am submitting to you today that it was because the "churchmen" were going around the countryside preaching that the civil war was the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. If you can believe history, at the urging of [The Reverend James Freeman Clarke](#), he suggested to Julia Ward Howe that she write new words for the fighting men's song. Staying at the [Willard Hotel](#) in Washington on the night of November 18, 1861, Howe wrote the verses to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic.

If you read the verses of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, you will find that they come from Revelation 19. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored. As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free.

In a non-published version of Howe's song was this final verse:

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
He is Wisdom to the mighty, He is Succour to the brave,
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of Time His slave,
Our God is marching on.

What I'm telling you is that the "churchmen" in America during the time of the civil war had convinced the sheep that the civil war was battle of Armageddon from the book of Revelation - and those sheep were turned into ravenous wolves because they were convinced that they were fulfilling Bible prophecy. So, now, it's perfectly fine for fathers to kill their sons, for nephews to kill their uncles. The Kingdom of God does not have place for believers killing believers - so the Kingdom must be relegated to the future - and if the Kingdom of God is in the future - then what remains are the kingdoms of men and not only is it reasonable that men should kill each other in defense of their governments - but God has ordained it to be so.

In less than 100 years from the establishment of the United States of America with a document that plainly says, Our laws made in agreement with this constitution, shall be the supreme law of the land, on this soil, Christians so-called were killing each other - amazing, simply amazing.

So, Mr. Lindsey, your version of this renaissance age where people began to study the Book of Revelation more than ever was not a good thing. Especially in light of the truth that they were studying for the purpose of twisting the Book into something it does not say.

Continuing with Lindsey's introduction to There's a New World Coming. Quote.

As I have quizzed many of my friends over the past few years, not more than a dozen of them have ever read the Book of Revelation or any commentary on it!

With statistics like that, something's got to be very wrong.

Well, to that I will certainly agree. And of course, that's easy to see. When you realize that the Book of Revelation is about the judgement on the end of the Old Covenant World - and the revealing of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords - yes - it's easy to see why very few people are interested in reading about it. The straight and narrow way is not the broad way. Christ said because straight is the gate and narrow is the way

- few there be that find it. And the professionals in society today - are doing everything they can to make sure that fewer and fewer there are that will find it.

Lindsey continues.

Revelation is the only book in the Bible that I know of which promises a special blessing to everyone who reads it and heeds the things that are written in it.

Revelation 1:3.

Well, again, that's absolutely the truth. And that's because the Book of Revelation is about the Revealing of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords - and if it is preached any other way - then it becomes a lie and will actually lead people AWAY from the Kingdom of Christ - rather than to the Kingdom of Christ.

This is the whole purpose of what I've been trying to say now in 27 messages.

Futurism - in any way shape or form - is dangerously opposed to the Kingdom of Christ. This is one of the biggest reasons why I am convinced - now - more than ever - that the 1,000 years of Revelation 20 is fulfilled and that 1 day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day.

Listen, if you believe that Bible prophecy - in any way shape or form - is being fulfilled in the New Covenant - New Heavens and New Earth - then what you are saying is that it is okay to basically sit back, do nothing, and go along for the ride. Nothing you can do or say is going to change anything.

If the war, and the judgment(s) found in Revelation 20 are occurring today - then there is nothing that any one is going to do to make a difference. Satan will be Satan. Evil will be evil. So just go along the best you can - make the best out of the situation and wait for Jesus to come back on a white horse and take care of business.

Well, again - what if I am right. What if Jesus is not coming back on a white horse to take care of business?

Think about it. Evil is spreading at an exponentially alarming rate - right in front of our eyes. The Kingdom of God is the only thing that is going to stop it. If you believe that the Kingdom of God is future - and you are wrong - then absolutely NOTHING is standing in the way of what's coming.

If the Kingdom of God is the only thing that can stop it - and the Kingdom is Now and not future - then I suggest if you are still of the opinion that being one of the UNITED is your only option - I strongly suggest that you explore Come out from among them and be separate - because until God's people obey His voice and do what He says - not only are we not going to win - but we are going to face some unbelievably perilous times.

If you think the sodomites are content with just being out of the closet - you have another thing coming. They have an agenda and it's not pretty for those who call themselves Christians. They are bold, they are vocal - they have an agenda for progressing their goal.

Nearly all of so-called Christians have an agenda, too. And it's, sit back, do nothing, say nothing, Jesus is coming on a white horse. I wish that was true - but it is not true.

There has been some opposition to my preaching that the beloved city of Revelation 20 verse 9 could not be Old Covenant, first century Jerusalem. As you well know, I believe that it is. And I believe so, because of the process of elimination. I believe that we have in recent weeks, proven conclusively that there is no physical Jerusalem in the New Covenant world. I believe that the New Jerusalem cannot be compassed by physical armies. The only thing left is Old Covenant, physical Jerusalem of the first century.

The brother who wrote to me concerning my teaching stated that at the time of the writing of the Book of Revelation, Jerusalem was a blood thirsty, evil city and it was not reasonable to think that John would refer to that city as "beloved."

Turn with me please to Matthew 23. I would submit to you that Jerusalem had been an evil, blood thirsty city for many years prior to the writing of the Book of Revelation. We have looked at this Matthew 23 passage several times before and I would go there again today to reinforce my teaching that the beloved city of Revelation 20 is first century Jerusalem.

Matthew 23 is where Christ delivers the most scathing rebuke and condemnation upon a city and its inhabitants that is found anywhere in Scripture. The lengthy narrative is longer than the condemnations against Sodom and Gomorrha.

Christ rails on virtually every segment of the population of that city. In verse 31, He says this:

[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.

Christ was telling these people, the inhabitants of first century Jerusalem - that every drop of righteous blood that had been spilled - all the way since the days of creation until that day - and even in the future - was going to be used against them in judgement. All of it. This was the most amount of guilt ever to come against any generation of people since the world began. Yet, in the middle of all this condemnation and rebuke, listen to the tender words of Christ. Verse 37.

[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!

As I read these words of Christ, I see a broken heart. I see tenderness and softness. Can you see this any other way? He is saying even as evil as you were and as evil as you are - He would have gathered their children together, even a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings... This is proof positive that it was not unordinary or strange that John would have referred to physical Jerusalem in Revelation 20:9 as the beloved city.

It was the beloved city. David wrote in Psalm 48 concerning the city:

[1] Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

[2] Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

In John 12 verse 12 - even if it was just for a short period of time - here is something that happened in Jerusalem:

[12] On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

[13] Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

[14] And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

[15] Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

Like I said, even if it was but a short period of time, once again, Jerusalem was the city of the Great King.

Mark's account of this is interesting also. Look at Mark 11 and let's start in verse 1. Now, we've looked at this in previous messages - and we did it as part of trying to lay foundation for the things we are talking about today.

[1] And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

[2] And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat;

loose him, and bring him.

[3] And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.

[4] And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

[5] And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?

[6] And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go.

[7] And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him.

[8] And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way.

[9] And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

[10] Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

[11] And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

[12] And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

[13] And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

[14] And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

[15] And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

[16] And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

[17] And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

You see that as He entered Jerusalem, the common man called Him King. They cut down branches - in fulfillment of Zechariah 12 - that's very very important - and I don't know how many - many - was but they

cried out saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

[10] Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

So right now - at this time - Jerusalem was certainly portraying itself as the beloved city - the city of the Greatest King of all time.

Then, as He entered the temple - where the "churchmen" were - here comes the rest of the story. One of the things I find most interesting about this part of the story is in verse 17. Christ quotes Isaiah 66 and in doing so - He lays claim to the ownership of the temple. "This is My temple. This is my house." But you "churchmen" with your corporations and your commanding men to follow your statues - you have made my house a den of thieves. But it needs to be noted that He never relinquished His claim of ownership.

So as you can see, I have no problem whatsoever teaching that the "beloved city" of Revelation 20:9 - very well could have been - and most probably was - first century Jerusalem.

I don't guess I'm going to learn my lesson anytime soon. I'm going to quit telling you what is coming next in this series. I may have certain plans - and I do - but as I am having my daily Bible studies - when I see things in the Word that impress me to speak on - I have to do it. And when I receive your emails with questions - I feel like I need to respond to them and assuming that others may be having the same questions - it seems easiest to respond through the weekly message.

So, Lord willing, at some point, I will present the alternative viewpoint to Revelation 20 - but as of now. I have no idea when the Lord will lead in that direction. Blessings to you. May the Father keep you safe. As you consider coming out of the kingdoms of this world and into the Kingdom of Christ - may you be protected, comforted and assured by the power of His Word.