

## **Matthew 24 Series - Acts 28**

### **Part 14 in the Series - Acts 28 - The Kingdom of God**

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At the end of last week's message, I was planning to move on to the Second Coming of Christ fulfilled in the Epistles. But I was contacted by one of my friends this week and he said, "But what about Acts 28, you didn't go back and cover that in the the study from the book of Acts."

And, yes, he was correct. So as I began thinking about it this week, I thought this would be a great time to talk about Acts 28, but look at it in the light of what I believe is the reason why the preaching that All Bible Prophecy has been fulfilled is so important.

This week I had some technical issues with my recording that I couldn't seem to fix, and I wanted this song as part of the message, so I found a really nice version by the Maranatha Singers. Listen to, Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God.

In this series, we've looked at quite a few passages of Scripture where I believe we made a compelling argument that the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in the generation - time, place and people - that Christ the Messiah was sent to.

We looked at Malachi and showed how that John the Baptist was clearly the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy concerning John the Baptist being the forerunner of Christ. We saw that John the Baptist fulfilling of Malachi's prophecy was also confirmed by Christ.

I told you how that when I was growing up in the Baptist church, a well-known preacher tried to convince me that John the Baptist was not the fulfillment of Malachi because the "jews did not accept him." Yet the Scriptures say in Matthew 17:14

"Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."

Irregardless of what the "preachers" say - we need to start believing the words of Christ.

I was listening to one of Ted Weiland's messages the other day and he was talking about preachers trying to teach that we need to heed the teachings of the early "church" fathers. Ted's argument was that when the early "church" fathers were wrong - we better listen to and believe Christ.

When the modern "church" fathers are wrong - we better listen to Christ. And while I'm on this subject, sooner than later, I believe we are going to have to change gears slightly and deal with this word "church." I would ask each and every one of you to do study William Tyndale. Tyndale's New Testament was the first completed New Testament in English and the word church is not used one time.

The word "churches" is used once and that is in relation to the pagan temple of the pagan goddess Diana. Tyndale was executed because he refused to use the word "church" in his English Bible.

The fact that he used the word "church" ONLY when referring to a pagan temple should be alarming to anyone who is sincerely seeking the Kingdom of God today.

We are going to go into greater detail soon, but the reason this is so important is because deceivers have transplanted the word kingdom for a much lesser potent word - and that word is "church." And worse than the word - is the meaning behind that word.

Today, the masses of people are playing a game called "church" instead of doing what we should be doing - and that is building the Kingdom of God. "Church" is the main reason behind the lie that the Kingdom of God is not for today.

So, again, the reason Fulfilled Bible Prophecy is so vital that we understand and teach it - is because it leaves us with the understanding that the Kingdom of God is a present-day reality and that it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature, to conform to the Kingdom of God - right now.

Last week, I believe we laid out a compelling argument that the Old Testament prophecies were all fulfilled in Christ - in addition to the few prophecies concerning John the Baptist - Christ's forerunner.

I showed several passages where the Christ said that He was the fulfillment of ALL the prophecies. Not only was He the fulfillment of the prophets, but He said He fulfilled Moses also. Luke 24:25-27:

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

[26] Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

[27] And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the

scriptures the things concerning himself.

When the disciples first found Christ, it was said like this, John 1:45-51:

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, the son of Joseph.

[46] And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

[47] Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

[48] Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

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

[50] Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

[51] And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Right from the very beginning, we see Christ confirming to His disciples that He was the fulfillment of the prophecies and that THEY would see the fulfillment of His Kingship.

The word "hereafter" as found in verse 51 is from the Greek *artee* and it means through the idea of suspension, just now, this day, hence forth, hereafter, hitherto even now, present.

When Christ said to Caiphas the high priest, who was directly responsible for the murder of Christ - in Matthew 26:61-64 - when the false witnesses accused Christ of being a terrorist - this what is said:

[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.

In verse 64, when Christ used the word hereafter - as in

*Hereafter* shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The usage here is combining apo and artee. Apo meaning off, away from something near, in various senses of place time or relation. after, ago, at because of, before, by the space of, from, in, of, off, In composition as a prefix, it usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal.

Nothing in these definitions gives the idea that Christ is talking about some distant, far off, period of time. But instead, should lead someone to the understanding that the event is sooner than later.

This is why John records in Revelation 1 that every eye would see Christ at His Second Coming - and they also which pierced Him. Why does it say "they also which pierced Him?" It's significant because Christ told Caiphas that HE - Caiphas - would see Christ at His coming.

In proving the fulfillment of the prophecies in Christ, we looked at a couple passages in Zechariah - chapters 9 and 14, specifically. And we conspicuously do NOT see, are dual fulfillments and dual prophecies.

Look with me please to Acts 28. We'll begin with verse 1:

[1] And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

[2] And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

[3] And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

[4] And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

[5] And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

[6] Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly:

but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

Well, he wasn't a god. But the prophecy of Christ TO HIS disciples that they would tread down serpents was certainly fulfilled here in this passage.

It should be noted here that without exception, the false "churches" in America today that are part of a small snake handling movement - all preach that we are in the "end times / last days - today. While we clearly see this serpent have no effect on Paul whatsoever, depending on who you want to believe, as many as 125 religious snake handlers in America have died from snake bites since the first recorded one in 1922.

The words of Christ concerning serpents not hurting His disciples - if this required a literal fulfillment - and apparently this passage could make a strong argument therefore - nonetheless - the prophecy was directly for a specific generation - a specific time, a specific people. The fact that 125 modern religious snake handlers have died from snake bites should tell us something.

That great bastion of truth, the CDC says that between 5,000 and 8,000 people PER year, get bit by venemous snakes. Of those 5,000 to 8,000, only 5 die. So, it's actually quite rare for someone to die from a venemous snake bite. Yet, these modern day prophets in the religious snake handling "church" seem to die quite often when they get bit. It appears that the "ungodly" have a lesser mortality rate when bitten, than do the religious end times snake handlers.

It seems like these guys are about as successful as the date setters for the rapture. It's not wonder the modern "church" is mocked and ridiculed today.

Continuing in verse 7.

[7] In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.

[8] And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

[9] So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

Once again, Fulfilled Bible Prophecy in the generation - time, place and people to whom Christ was sent.

[10] Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.

[11] And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.

[12] And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.

[13] And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

[14] Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.

[15] And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appiiforum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

[16] And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

[17] And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Preaching the Kingdom of Christ is not a crime. It wasn't a crime back then - and it should not be a crime today. Calling men and women, boys and girls into repentance from the following the world and walking into the Kingdom of God is not a crime.

[18] Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

[19] But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

Why did the Jews continue to speak against it? Because these were EXACTLY the same people who - being led by their preachers of the day - said - We have no king but Caesar. And, whosoever maketh Himself a King, is not the friend of Caesar.

The Kingdom of God is for everyone. Let every soul be subject means every soul. Caesar presumably had a soul - even though he acted like he didn't - but every soul being subject was meant for Caesar, too.

Christ conquered Caesar when He rose from the dead. Preaching that Caesar should obey Christ was not a crime.

[20] For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

We touched on this in earlier messages. What was the hope of Israel?

Keep your finger here in Acts 28 and go back with me to Mark 1. Let's read starting in verse 14.

[14] Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

[15] And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

What are the clear, simple words of Christ?

The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is 2,000 years away, still.

The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, and is 2,000 years away, still.

No. The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent ye...repent ye because the kingdom is 2,000 years in the future, still? How ridiculous.

Again, what are the clear words of Christ?

The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Go down to verse 21:

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

[22] And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

The present-day reality of the preaching of the kingdom of God is the only Gospel that has authority. He preached with authority - and not as the scribes.

What were the scribes preaching? They were preaching a future kingdom - because they did not believe that Christ was He Who was spoken of by Moses and the prophets. They did not believe Christ was the Messiah. Their message was the same message being preached today by the great majority of preachers today. Futurism.

Back to Acts 28: verse 21:

[21] And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee.

[22] But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

Concerning this sect? This sect is spoken against everywhere? What was spoken against everywhere? Here it is. verse 23.

[23] And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

I am telling you today, that when the true Gospel of Christ is preached - and lived - that being that the prophecies are fulfilled and that the Kingdom of God was fully instituted 2,000 years ago - I will assure you that this Gospel will be spoken against. And in a day which we now live - where wrong is right and right is wrong - where innocent babies can be slaughtered for a dollar - and where sodomites are not only legitimized but praised - even voted into office as governor - way to go Colorado - if the Gospel of Christ was preached today - like it was 2,000 years ago - I'll assure you that it will be spoken against.

Today, we must have the kingdom of God expounded and taught from the Law of Moses and out of the prophets - and with the testimony of Christ and His apostles - from morning til evening - if we ever expect to see anything happen for the cause of Christ today.

The Kingdom of God was the hope of Israel 2,000 years ago - it is the hope for Israel and ALL mankind today.

[24] And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

[25] And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

[26] Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

[27] For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their



ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Is this what we want our generation to be remembered by? Will you be one who hears the preaching of the Kingdom of God today, but agree not? I sure hope not.

[28] Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

[29] And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

[30] And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Now watch this, Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, receiving all that came in unto him,

[31] Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Here it is again. For two years, Paul preached the kingdom of God.

We began the book of Acts in Acts 1 where the text says that for 40 days after the resurrection of Christ, Christ spoke continually to His disciples things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

When it was discovered that Mary had conceived a baby, this baby immediately had its lineage traced to the kings in Israel as recorded in Matthew 1.

When Christ was first introduced to Israel as a baby - His birth announcement said right at the very top - "King of Israel." The wise men came looking for the King as they had seen His star from the east. That star was first prophesied in Numbers 24:17 and again in Isaiah 60:3. Christ the King was WORSHIPPED as a young child. The King was worshipped.

In fulfillment of Psalms 2, Herod declared war on this little child king. This child King, born in Bethlehem as prophesied in Micah 5:2 would be Providentially spared from Herod's sword because in Matthew 2:5-6 it was said

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

[6] And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Christ was prophesied to be the King and Herod the king was powerless to stop Him.

As the child began to grow, it wasn't long before He was found in the temple teaching the doctors the Scriptures.

In further fulfillment of the prophecies from Isaiah 9 in direct reference to Christ, Matthew 4:14-17 the Bible says:

**14]** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

**15]** The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

**16]** The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

**17]** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The kingdom has a King. And that King is Christ. And His Kingdom was at hand when He began preaching somewhere around the year AD30. And His message was that the full and complete institution of the Kingdom of God was at hand. Nothing - absolutely nothing in His message, in His life, in His ministry gives even the slightest hint that He was speaking to these people but meaning something for 2,000 years in their future.

Just now I set it to count how many times the word "kingdom" as in Kingdom of God is found in the New Testament books and I gave up because I didn't want to spend as much time on that as what it would have taken.

The Kingdom of God and the Kingship of Christ is without question the central theme of the book. And no where - can a man honestly say that Christ or John the Baptist or the apostles - preached that that Kingdom was anything other than - at hand. Very near in fulfillment.

The disciples found Him and proclaimed Him as the King of Israel.

They heard Christ' preach the Kingdom of God daily. They saw Christ back up His words with power. They saw Him heal the sick, give sight to the blind, make the lame walk. They saw Him raise Lazarus from the dead. They saw Him raise Jairus' dead daughter

and restore her life.

They saw Christ walk on the water and calm the seas. They watched Him feed 5,000 men with 2 fish and five loaves of bread.

This man Jesus, was not just any man. They were there and saw the dove descend from heaven and heard the voice of God proclaim, "This is my Son in Whom I am well pleased."

Just like you are hearing my voice today. Just like you spoke face to face with your family and friends today - these men heard and saw Christ. They ate with Him. They walked with Him.

When Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zechariah 9 and 14, the disciples were there when the multitude cried out Hosanna to the King and cast their palm leaves in the way - again - in fulfillment of Zechariah 14.

They were also there when it all began to change very quickly. It had to, though, because once again, this Christ was the fulfillment of all the prophecies.

At the trial of Christ, they watched and listened as the charges were read.

"We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King."

They didn't speak up. They didn't come to His defense. There was one that betrayed Him and one that denied Him. But they had to. Because it was prophesied and Christ fulfilled all the prophecies.

They heard the chief priest say that they had no king but Caesar. They heard them say that whosoever makes Himself a King is not the friend of Caesar.

They saw everyone in Jerusalem choose the wrong king.

They saw the inscription that Pilate had placed over Christ's bloodied, crown of thorns head. THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

There was one there that day that believed on Christ. The thief hanging on a cross next to Christ asked Jesus to come into his heart and save him that day....No, it is recorded

that thief said, Lord, - which in the Greek text means - one who is supreme in authority - the thief said, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

In Christ's death He was mocked as the King by the majority - but the one who received Him that day - spoke of His Kingdom.

Christ' response was not futuristic. It was not giving the thief hope for 2,000 years down the road - it was, "Today, thou shalt be with me in paradise."

On the cross, He continued fulfilling Bible prophecy. He fulfilled Psalm 69:21 when they gave Him vinegar to drink.

His last words were, "It is finished." He had completed His mission. He had done all that the Father had asked Him. The rest was now in the hands of His Father Who was going to reward Him with the promised Kingship of the world.

His disciples saw it all. But because it had to be fulfilled as the prophecies foretold, He went through these things alone.

You would have thought that seeing the many miracles and fulfillments of the prophecies, that those things alone would have made permanent believers of the disciples - but it did not.

It was not until the angels rolled that stone away and He came walking out of that grave victoriously triumphing over all His enemies - that they finally understood what it was all about.

The promises He had made to them concerning death, concerning their enemies, concerning judging the world, concerning His Kingdom were now so firmly a part of these men that nothing was going to stop them from preaching in the authority of this man Jesus.

Look with me please to Matthew 28. Last week, we discussed the following events, but we did so out of Luke 24. If you missed last week's message, I would strongly encourage you to go back and listen. If you do nothing but listen to the last 10 minutes - you would do well to hear the Word of God preached from Luke 24.

In verse 16, the Scriptures say:

[16] Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

I have for many years found some very interesting principles from these few verses of Scripture. First, in verse 16, it says they went to a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

I am not going to say that these men took something that was not theirs. I am not going to say they did this without order or decorum. But the point is, they obeyed the voice of Christ and did not ask for permission from anyone else do what Christ had told them to do.

If the King told you to do something - would you ask someone else for permission to do what the King told you to do?

This King had just put the a world super-power under His feet. This King had just demonstrated to all of creation that Caesar was not all-powerful, that Caesar could no more kill Him as a grown man - than Herod could as a little baby.

Do you see that the world power of Caesar did not have power over this man Jesus?

Verse 18:

[18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Now I ask you. At this point - when Jesus told these men that ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth.... did they believe?

I think we can say with all assuredly, that after He made this statement to them, they believed Him.

And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. That is age. That's the exact same word He used in Matthew 24:3.

Do you see He was telling them that not even a crucifixion could keep Him away? When

He said, "I am with you always," He was saying "Not even death by crucifixion can do away with me."

He had told those men that if they followed Him, they would do even greater things than He did.

Did these men fear Rome? Did these men fear the Jews? Were they afraid to once again call Christ King?

After all this, is there anything that was said to those disciples in the ministry of Christ or John the Baptist, or in the Law of Moses and the prophets that would make them think that Kingdom of God was not going to be implemented for another 2,000 years?

I don't know how anyone could conclude such a thing.

Again, this is why Acts 1 says that for 40 days after His resurrection, he spoke to His disciples concerning the Kingdom of God.

I'm sure Christ was now helping His disciples fill in all the blanks. After the resurrection of Christ and after their eyes were opened in Luke 24, the disciples must have had a thousand things they wanted to discuss with Christ. They were then getting ready to take this Gospel of the Kingdom and fill the whole world with it.

What a task they had? No other men, then or since, could have been filled with such power to boldly speak of the things which they had seen or heard. If we could just get a little bit of that in our lives - what could be done for the Kingdom of God?

It first has to be understood fully that the prophecies were fulfilled in Christ and that the Kingdom was instituted exactly as the Scriptures say. When we begin to understand and obey accordingly, I believe that God will give us more. The Scriptures say that Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. They that worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth. I do not believe that the ignorant worship of God is where we should be today.

The rock is Christ. The foundation of truth is in His established Kingdom - which is why He said, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

So Paul preached for 2 whole years that the hope of Israel was the Kingdom of God.

The gospel according to Philip in Acts 8 was preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God.

After Paul was nearly stoned to death, the Scripture said as they stood around him, he stood up, and in Acts 14 it says:

[21] And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

[22] Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Didn't Christ say in Matthew 24:21-22?

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

[22] And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

And right here in Acts 14, Paul is saying the same things that Christ said from Matthew 24.

Tribulation - then Kingdom.

What was happening in Acts 14 was the same thing going on in I Thessalonians 3: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

[4] For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

Acts 19:8

[8] And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Once again, there is nothing in the text that leads us to believe anything other than that the Kingdom of God was fulfilled and was being fulfilled and would see be 100% completely implemented in the generation - time, place, people to whom Christ said it was going to be fulfilled.

Nothing in these texts would have us to believe that any one in the book of Acts was preaching some kind of kingdom - 2,000 years in the future - for the people that were hearing the gospel.

To say that the preaching of the Kingdom of God was 2,000 years in the future for these people is to twist the Scriptures into things it simply does not say.

In Acts 20, we find the following statements from Paul:

[22] And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

[23] Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

[24] But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

[25] And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

[26] Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

[27] For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

There is nothing here that leads us to believe that Paul's preaching concerning the Kingdom of God is anything other than the full implementation of that Kingdom. Everytime I read this verse 27, I am reminded of the time - and I believe I even mentioned it again last week - where the Baptist preacher and I had the conversation regarding "Lordship salvation." He said that I preached "Lordship salvation" as if that was something bad. Being totally perplexed by the conversation, I asked him, "Well, isn't that what you believe?" And he responded, "Absolutely not." It wasn't just a no, it was an absolutely not.

We live in a time today where over half the Bible is declared null and void. And then the biggest majority of the rest of is declared as "not for today."

The Gospel is dilluted down to saying a few words and going to church.

Paul said he shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God.



It takes the whole counsel of God for men to see the Kingdom of God. Living in the Kingdom of God is not something to be taken lightly - especially in the day in which we live now. The world is very antagonistic toward Christ, toward the Bible. And I don't just mean the world as in those who do not claim Christ.

My biggest enemies in life - I mean people who want me dead - are people who claim to be followers of Christ.

When the Gospel was preached, it was preached - and we've read these passages over and over - it was preached from the Law of Moses - and the prophets.

We are so far gone today as a civilization - we've even allowed men to pervert the Biblical account of creation. Not only do we need to have the Law of God preached to us again and the prophets - but we need a good dose of Genesis 1 as well.

In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth. Most people who call themselves Christians today - and sadly - I would even include the most sincere ones - do not have a clear understanding as to the creation that God made and called it good. That's to our shame - because we have not only failed to preach the whole counsel of God, but we have allowed preachers to take the Word and shred it from cover to cover.

As you know, I love music - good Godly music. I was raised on quartet music and southern gospel. A big part of that music is about the phony rapture, so I do a lot of song skipping. But there's some songs that I really like and there are some musicians that I like to listen to more than others.

I'm not going to name names here, but the other day I was watching a video and it was about the personal life of a well-known gospel singer. I was very excited when I heard this Guy talk about the way God was leading him into looking at the blessings and cursings described in the book of Deuteronomy.

I very much believe they apply today. The other well-known singer that this Guy was talking to said he thought that Deuteronomy was an ugly book and he just tries to stay away from those ugly books.

When we understand the present-day reality of the Kingdom of God, we don't find anything ugly in the Word. It all harmonizes. It provides all the answers and it is imperative that we teach the whole counsel of God.

When we teach the whole counsel of God, we will conclude that the Kingdom of God is

a present-day reality and it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom today.

To somehow take the Scriptures and try to force them into saying that there are dual prophecies or dual fulfillments regarding the Kingdom of God is to twist the Scriptures into sayings and meanings that they simply do not say or mean.

You might say to me, ok, ok, the Kingdom of God is fully instituted today, how does that affect me?

We need to realize that the implementation of the Kingdom of God means that everything we do, everything we say is done - "in the name of Christ the King."

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other **name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

What does this mean? One of our biggest misunderstandings today has to do with name.

In the name of means - by whose authority are you doing what you are doing?

I'm telling you that the reason the apostles turned the world upside down is because every single thing they did was in the name of, by the authority of King Jesus.

Let me give you a practical application today.

Who instituted marriage - between a man and woman? Very early on in God's creation, God created marriage. Christ told His listeners - what God hath joined together - let not man put asunder. Now, I ask you, who has the authority to join together a man and a woman? In whose name and by whose authority should a man and a woman be married?

Then would someone please tell me how, "By the authority of the state of Missouri, I pronounce you husband and wife" is not total rebellion to the God of Heaven? I'm telling you today that when or if you have gone to man to get permission to do what God commanded you to do - you have committed a greivous sin against God and His Kingdom.

Call me stupid, call me a simple mind if you want to. But I can't imagine that Christ

would have told His disciples to do something and those men responded by saying, "Yes, Lord, but just in case you really don't have ALL power in heaven and earth, we better go get permission from the local government." Are you kidding me?

He didn't say He had all power in heaven ONLY - He said Heaven and Earth. Do you want to know what's missing? Do you want to know why things are the way they are? It's because we do not believe that He is King. We do not believe that He has ALL power and we much prefer to get our authority from the state because we fear men more than we fear God.

And that's because we have not preached the whole counsel of God and it is because we have ultimately believed the lie that He's not King now. He's a coming King.

The apostles didn't believe that - and in a very short period of time - they turned the world upside down.

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.

Today, we are scared to death to trouble the people of the rulers of the cities and that is exactly what it's going to take to turn the world upside down for King Jesus.

Sadly, most professing Christians will not even obey God in the holiest of unions called marriage. When the state issues a marriage license, it creates a limited partnership with 33% belonging to the man, 33% belonging to the other man and the controlling interest to the state. Did I say man twice? Oh yeah, the same entity that issues a license to supposed Christian men and women also issues the same license to two sodomites.

And we still can't figure out what is going on. My friends it's because we have been lied to about the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is now. It's not future. There's no excuses for people who call themselves followers of Christ to not truly follow Him.

We are required to live according to the Kingship of Christ right now - whether anyone else does or not. Who knows what the early "church fathers" did or did not do. What did the early Kingdom Fathers do? They followed the King - and only the King.