

Message# 295_7-07-2024 – In the Beginning

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

I have some updates for you concerning Doug and quite frankly, they are just not particularly good. I'm going to put these updates on the Prayer Request page. Please continue to keep Doug in your prayers.

Alright. Because this series is so new for us - the way I am approaching the subject. I want to just go back over a couple things because I want all of us to be clear in what I'm saying. I include myself in the "us" here. I have to constantly remind myself of the way I'm approaching this series.

The purpose of this message is to do this. To bring us all to a point in our lives where we understand this one simple thing. And I think we may have gotten away from this. The only thing that matters to us - as followers of Jesus Christ, followers of the God of Creation, of the Bible - as people who believe what the Word of God has for us - the only thing that should matter for us is: "What does the Bible say?"

If we can't establish the Word of God as the baseline of truth, then we have nothing. We live in a world where lying is the norm - and truth is the exception. And it's been this way for a lot longer than I think most of us realize. In my opinion, there was truth on the land we live on - sometime around the 1600s. Then, gradually, and again, in my opinion, when the next generation did not stand for the same truths, truth began to fade and with each successive generation - truth lost more and more and more - and now - here we are.

I noticed this many years ago. I can't remember if I shared this with you or not. But when I studied the New Haven Colony Covenant - that was probably around 1989 to 1990 some where around there and I noticed - very obviously - how those people made no mention to any earthly king or any earthly authority when they established that Government. They only mentioned God, Christ, the Bible - that was it.

Then, when I began to look at other "state governments" most of them around the 1700s - I noticed - very obviously - how each one of them bowed down in worship to the king of England when establishing their "government." To me, I understood exactly what had happened.

It took less than 100 years to go from Government established for God, for Christ, for the Bible - back to "government" established by men, for men. As I have understood things, the great fall of America was not at 1789 when they "ratified their CON" - that was just the official declaration that the God of the men who established their Government according to the God of Creation, Jesus Christ, the God of the Bible had been replaced. Seventeen eighty-nine was the official date and time - but it happened way earlier with the CONstitutions of those states. I remember reading some of those years ago and it was just disgusting to me to read things like, "Oh great king of England, oh most high king" and stuff like that. It's disgusting. For mere men to speak of other mere men in those terms is disgusting to me. Who do they think they are? They spoke of those people in the way the Bible says we are to speak of God, or Christ.

So what happened with the people of the 1600s that established the New Haven Colony with only references to the Authority of God - to others who appealed to the "authority of the king of England?" Who knows? You can't believe history. In my opinion, and the older I get, I realize that we have been lied to about everything.

We must get back to the Word of God and accept it as the truth. It is the baseline, the foundation upon which every thing we believe - which then is what causes us to live the way we do - we must get ourselves back to, "Thus saith the Lord."

So, I said that to say this. Again, I do not base my beliefs on videos that I see on youtube. Whether those videos are from "flat earthers" - if a man tends towards that belief system - or if a man is a "glober" and tends toward that system.

I am at the place in my life where, when it comes to people, I only believe people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. I believe people who claim to be Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel. I believe people who claim to have their beliefs from the Bible. All others are received with the highest amount of skepticism - and - even from the viewpoint that unless they claim Christ, unless they claim the Commonwealth of Israel, unless they claim the Bible as their sole Authority - my first thought - the first thing that comes in to my mind - is that they are probably lying.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that someone is not capable of having truth if they do not meet that specific criteria. I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying that if a man is not a follower of Jesus Christ - an exclusive follower of Christ - listen to me now - and this may be hard for some people to swallow - and I'm not trying to discourage anyone who's trying - I'm not trying to discourage people who are just coming to these

understandings - but if someone comes to me - and is not an exclusive follower of Jesus Christ - and I mean that they have no identification with the world - then I will have trouble just believing without question - what they say - because the perspective will just not be the same. Someone who has no identity with the world whatsoever - is going to have a different perspective on things - no matter what they are - than someone who has identification with the world. That's not being unkind. That's not being judgmental - it's not being condescending or anything like that, it's just a simple fact.

I do not believe that men's "governments" have one shred of authority from God to exist. Doesn't matter if they are trying to pass "laws" to bring back gold and silver. Or they try to pass "laws" for election reform, or immigration etc. It doesn't matter - for instance - the "state" of Oklahoma passed a "law" a couple weeks ago - quote - from the New York Times, 6/27/2024

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/27/us/oklahoma-public-schools-bible.html>

Oklahoma's State Superintendent Requires Public Schools to Teach the Bible
The state superintendent, Ryan Walters, said the Bible was a "necessary historical document." The mandate comes as part of a conservative movement to infuse Christian values in public schools.

That's great. Well, first of all, the Bible says parents are to teach their children at home. There's no way a parent can teach their child the Laws of God when they wake up in the morning, all through the day, and before they go to bed at night, when the kid is in "government" school.

From Louisiana, apnews

<https://apnews.com/article/louisiana-ten-commandments-displayed-classrooms-571a2447906f7bbd5a166d53db005a62#:~:text=The%20legislation%20that%20Republican%20Gov,kindergarten%20to%20state%2Dfunded%20universities.>

New law requires all Louisiana public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana has become the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom, the latest move from a

GOP-dominated Legislature pushing a conservative agenda under a new governor.

The legislation that Republican Gov. Jeff Landry signed into law on Wednesday requires a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in “large, easily readable font” in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities.

“If you want to respect the rule of law, you’ve got to start from the original lawgiver, which was Moses” who got the commandments from God, Landry said. End quote.

Hang on a second. The thought just came into my mind. The “government” made a “law” to require posters to be printed. Where did the “government” get the money to print the posters? From TAXES. They stole the money from people to print the 10 commandments.

Sorry. Not good enough. God was not the original Lawgiver. God is the ONLY Lawgiver. Display the 10 commandments, by all means display them. But displaying them without obeying them is worthless. The very first Commandment of the 10 is Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

So they pass a law - they make a law - their law violates the very Laws they are claiming to require to be posted in their classrooms. “Look at us, we're passing a law. And look at how good the law is we're passing.” It doesn't matter that it involved theft to do what they did. It's blasphemy. I had no intention in doing this this morning. But now I feel like I must. Turn to I Samuel chapter 15. And let's read from the story of Saul. I learned this principle over 40 years ago. It has been guiding me in my life for the entire time I've been an adult. Begin with verse 1. Hopefully, this will capture some young person today just like it did me back then.

[1] Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

[2] Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

[3] Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

My son-in-law Kristopher was telling me about an online discussion he'd been having

with someone who claimed to be an atheist. And the atheist was telling Kristopher he just couldn't believe in a "god who would kill 'innocent' people. And he was referring to what we are reading in I Samuel 15. And, I heard Carl Sagan speak of this exact same thing in his denial of the existence of God, citing this passage where God told Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites. And listening to these "atheists" refer to this is the absolute height of hypocrisy. First of all, the Amalekites were not innocent. But that needs a lot more discussion and isn't what I'm driving at anyway. My point is - these people claim they don't believe in the God of the Bible because He demanded "innocent" people to be killed. But yet when their god kills innocent people, women, babies, somehow that's heroic. Quote, and again now, take this how you want to, I have no idea whether the writer of this article is a follower of Christ or not. But listen to this and do with it what you want.

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/08/counting-the-dead-at-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>

Counting the dead at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

By Alex Wellerstein

August 4, 2020

How many people died as a result of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? There is one thing that everyone who has tackled this question has agreed upon: The answer is probably fundamentally unknowable. The indiscriminate damage inflicted upon the cities, coupled with the existing disruptions of the wartime Japanese home front, means that any precise reckoning is never going to be achieved.

But beginning in 1945, people have tried to estimate the number of the dead and injured. The casualties from the first atomic bombings are not of mere historical interest. They are part of how we understand the effects of nuclear weapons today [and that's another topic for later]— for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, thankfully, remain the only instances of these weapons being used in warfare, and thus provide an invaluable "data set" upon which to base other understandings and simulations. The estimated casualties also play a nuanced role in the various narratives and arguments about the end of World War II.

Earliest estimates

Hiroshima was bombed on the morning of August 6, 1945. The city, flat and surrounded by hills, was in many ways an ideal target for the atomic bomb, at least from the

perspective of its creators. Their goal was destruction and spectacle, to show the Japanese, the Soviets, and the whole world, what the potential of this new weapon was. The geography of Hiroshima meant that a bomb with the explosive yield of “Little Boy” (the equivalent of 15,000 tons of TNT), detonated at the ideal altitude, could destroy nearly the entirety of the city.

Neither those in the airplanes that observed the attack nor those on the ground experiencing it could get more than a qualitative sense of the destruction in the immediate aftermath; the smoke, fires, and carnage were too great. Observation aircraft tried in vain to photograph the damage later in the day, but the city was too obscured by smoke to accurately assess. On the ground, eyewitnesses were largely unaware that it had been a single attack, and a consistency across accounts is their shock at realizing that the entire city had been affected at once by a single plane.

The American announcement that it had been an atomic bomb was released 16 hours later, and in response the Japanese high command dispatched a scientific team to make measurements to confirm or refute the claim. The Americans, in turn, scheduled further overflights, seeking photographic evidence of the effectiveness of the bomb. These efforts would inaugurate what has been 75 years of research into the effects of the bombing, both in the United States and in Japan.

On August 8, news reports from Japan, plus a damage report created by the United States, began to paint a picture of the destruction. Aerial surveys revealed at least 60% of the city’s “built-up areas” were destroyed, leading to the conclusion that perhaps “as many as 200,000 of Hiroshima’s 340,000 residents perished or were injured,” as one United Press story put it. The same story quoted “unofficial American sources” that estimated that the “dead and wounded” might exceed 100,000.

Then this one from plough.com

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/justice/nonviolence/blessing-the-bombs>

Blessing the Bombs

As an Air Force chaplain I blessed the men who dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. All I can say today is that I was wrong.

George Zabelka, a Catholic chaplain with the U.S. Air Force, served as a priest for the airmen who dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945,

and gave them his blessing. Days later he counseled an airman who had flown a low-level reconnaissance flight over the city of Nagasaki shortly after the detonation of "Fat Man." The man described how thousands of scorched, twisted bodies writhed on the ground in the final throes of death, while those still on their feet wandered aimlessly in shock – flesh seared, melted, and falling off. The crewman's description raised a stifled cry from the depths of Zabelka's soul: "My God, what have we done?"

Then this from the Watson-Institute an article titled Costs of War, quote.

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians>

The U.S. post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Pakistan have taken a tremendous human toll on those countries. As of September 2021, an estimated 432,093 civilians in these countries have died violent deaths as a result of the wars. As of May 2023, an estimated 3.6-3.8 million people have died indirectly in post-9/11 war zones. The total death toll in these war zones could be at least 4.5-4.7 million and counting, though the precise mortality figure remains unknown. Civilian deaths have also resulted from U.S. post-9/11 military operations in Somalia and other countries.

People living in the war zones have been killed in their homes, in markets, and on roadways. They have been killed by bombs, bullets, fire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and drones. Civilians die at checkpoints, as they are run off the road by military vehicles, when they step on mines or cluster bombs, as they collect wood or tend to their fields, and when they are kidnapped and executed for purposes of revenge or intimidation. They are killed by the United States, by its allies, and by insurgents and sectarians in the civil wars spawned by the invasions. End quote.

So see, when it comes to their gods - somehow civilian casualties are perfectly fine, that's just the way it goes. But if the Bible mentions what the atheist wants to call "civilian casualties" or innocent women and children - even though they don't even know the faintest truth of what really happened - well - then the God of the Bible just doesn't exist - or - is so mean and nasty - He needs to be put away from the minds of the people. The hypocrisy and double-standards of these people is just astounding. But in the minds of the people - their gods can do no wrong - but when it comes to the God of the Bible - it's totally different. So strange. Hypocrites. Double-standard.

Back to I Samuel 15, verse 4.

[4] And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

[5] And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

[6] And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

I see mercy here. I see a merciful God instead of someone just dropping bombs on women and children. Kind of makes you wonder a bit about this story. If I recall, I could be wrong, but I think the punishment that God dealt on the Amalekites was close to 400 years after the Amalekites had brutalized the Israelites. So why wait 400 years? I don't know. That's not mine to question. And why did people pay for the sins committed by others after 400 years? I don't know that, either. But it does make you wonder if maybe God gave the Amalekites 400 years to repent of what they had done - and they still didn't do it - and even esteemed their ancestors as great war heroes - instead of rejecting what their ancestors had done - standing against that evil - rather than embracing it themselves. Maybe God just finally said, "Enough is enough. I gave them 400 years to repent and they still didn't, so, let's just go ahead and balance the scales, now." Maybe that's what was going on. Maybe 400 years was God's way of demonstrating how long-suffering He can be. How patient He can be. How willing to forgive He is. But, finally, pay-day has come. Maybe that's what was going on. I don't know. But I do know this - I'm not going to rebel against the One Who can even the scales at any moment.

[7] And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

[8] And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

[9] But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

What was the command that God told Saul? To utterly destroy. Destroy every bit of it. There's a principle here. It's profound. It's huge - colossal - whatever hyperbole to insert here. The nature of God is revealed in what He wants for His people. When God tells us to do something - we do it all. Do every bit of it. Don't leave anything undone. Apply it

to today. Man does not have the power - from God - to make their own definitions of good and evil. We are to cast that concept completely down. We don't tear down what we want and keep what we want. It's what I'm saying about Oklahoma and Louisiana. You can't disobey God on one hand - then try to appease God on the other hand. That's not how it works. We don't give an inch of God's Authority away. It doesn't matter if they make a "law" that says the Bible must be taught in government school. It doesn't matter if they say the 10 commandments must be displayed in government school. The simple fact they call themselves lawmakers ruins the whole pot. You can't call yourself a "lawmaker" and think that because you make a "law" that says display the 10 commandments - that somehow makes the fact that you call yourself a lawmaker - somehow that makes it all right. It doesn't. They are doing the exact same thing that Saul did. And God hated it. A little bit of perceived right - doesn't make any amount of wrong, good.

[10] Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

[11] It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not performed My commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

[12] And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

[13] And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

"Look at me, Samuel. I passed a law that said the Bible must be taught in government school. I passed a law that said the 10 commandments must be displayed in government schools. Look at me. Look at the good things I've done."

[14] And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

You say that God was the original Lawmaker. But now, you are making your own "laws?" The Government of God, the Kingdom of God, is supposed to be the Commonwealth of Israel based on the exclusive Laws of God - but you've gone about creating your own "laws" doing your own thing - but saying because you display the 10 commandments in your schools that somehow that makes all the rest of the rebellion ok?

[15] And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people

spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

“We display the 10 commandments. We say the Bible must be taught in the schools. See how good where we are? See what great things we are doing? Sure, I realize the first commandment says not to create to ourselves our own governments - but we are doing it to sacrifice to God. Doesn't that make it all right?”

[16] Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

[17] And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

[18] And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

[19] Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

[20] And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

“Saul, you liar. You did not do what God told you to do.” “But see, we made this CONstitution, and even though it clearly says, 'Our laws, our statutes, our rules, our regulations, our ordinances, our treaties - shall be the supreme law of the land - even though it says that - see, it's all based on the Bible, I mean that's what we told everyone, and that's what the preachers have told everyone.’”

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

The word for gods is Elohim. It means rulers, judges, magistrates. It mean lawmakers. It means congresses, senates, parliaments, it means republics, democracies, democratic republics - it means governments that make their own definitions of good and evil - they call them “laws” and force everyone to obey them - at gunpoint if need be - though they love to lie to the people and tell them they have a choice - they have consent. That's what it's all about. It's about God's Laws versus man's “laws.” And God never gave man the Authority to define good and evil. God made that clear as can in the Garden of Eden just a short time after God created Adam. “Of this one tree - I've given you all these other trees - you can have 99.9% of Creation - but this one tree - the

tree that defines good and evil - you can't have that one. That one is mine. I'm keeping that one for Myself." This is not hard. Should not be hard for people to understand if they'll just think.

Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not commit perjury - and just a few other things. That's all you need in order to be happy, to be free, to be prosperous. Just leave those few little definitions of right and wrong, good and evil to Me. But no. Man knows better than God. Mans ways are higher than God's ways. God has a tiny little handful of Laws - and man has millions of them. Totally ridiculous. And I'm telling you today - that our responsibility as followers of Christ is to stand for the Garden of Eden, stand for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and tell the world they do not have the Authority to enforce one single "law" that is not codified in the Word of God. That's what it's about.

Saul said he was doing what he was doing in order to please God and Saul fooled no one but himself. Probably didn't even fool himself. He probably knew he was rebelling but convinced himself he could bluff his way past Samuel.

[21] But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

There you go. The people got involved in the party, too. It wasn't just Saul. The people got in on it, too. That's because the people then - just like the people today - think that "government is god" and if "government can disobey the God of the Bible, then the people can too."

[22] And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

God does not care about all the things you think you are doing that are good - if you are not obeying Him. You don't get to have the ideology that you are your own "lawmaker" - even if you pass a "law" that says people have to display the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments say you can't be a "lawmaker." You are not allowed to make your own definitions of good and evil and then force people to obey them. It doesn't matter how much good you think you are doing. Violating the first commandment of the 10 - puts you in the exact same situation that Saul put himself in. God is not interested in

your offerings and sacrifices. He's interested in your obedience. Are you obeying the first commandment? If so, then, yeah, we can talk about "offerings and sacrifices." But if you aren't obeying number 1 - we can't even get started.

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.

There's that word again - behold. This is a really big deal. You better get this. This is of utmost importance. Obedience is what God is after. He's not interested in the things Saul determined were important. He's not interested in the things the people determined were important. God wants obedience. Do we not understand that people today have created this entire religion that basically says that people are supposed to obey their manmade "governments" no matter what? Obedience to men instead of obedience to God - is what people are supposed to be doing today, is what they say. That's where we are in civilization today. And that is not right. It's obedience to the Word of God. That's what it's about. Verse 23.

[23] For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Look. This was immediate judgment. God passed His judgment on Saul immediately. Contrast that to what happened to David when David was a king in Israel. It wasn't the same - and an argument might be made - from a human standpoint - that what David did seemed worse than what Saul did. But there's principle here. There's eternal, everlasting principle here that is established in I Samuel 15 and it is that we are to obey God - no matter what our opinions are - no matter what might happen - no matter what others might say or do - God wants obedience to Him.

[24] And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

Why are most people - even professing "Christians" not obeying today? Because they fear the people around them. We've got to understand these things were written for our learning. This is the inspired Word of God that was written for us to understand what God expects from us. It's not hard. It's not hard to obey God. Overcoming the fear of men might be challenging at time, but if we allow the principles found here to overtake our lives - to believe them - and trust them - this is what God wants for us.

Saul continues with Samuel.

[25] Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

[26] And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Oh my word. We have got to let this sink in. If we don't get this, we won't get anything else. This is foundational. This is what it means to be a true Christian, a true follower of Christ. We must not reject the Word of the Lord.

This is so disheartening. I'm so hoping that it was just poor communication. But a few weeks ago, I had a man, who I deeply care for, was arguing with me about Creation and I had just sent him pages of Scriptures verses and verses and verses where the Bible says the sun moves. And he wrote back to me and said the Bible was wrong. Rejecting the Word of the Lord - as we see here in I Samuel is the worse thing that any of us can do. This is why I'm telling you - as we progress through this current series - we can't base our beliefs on youtube videos - no matter how truthful they may seem to be - we can't base our beliefs even on what we believe to be our own experiences - if those things do not line up with the Word of God - we have to let those beliefs go and believe what the Bible says. Whether anyone else gets it or not. We must believe the Word of God. The Word of God must be where our system of belief comes from.

Friends, my own dad, who used to make a living flying airplanes - told me once he saw the "curvature of the earth" from an airplane. And with all due respect, I told him it was impossible that he saw that. But he believed that he did. Probably still does. But it's not so. Maybe he saw a hill or something like that. But he did not see a curved horizon - horizon - from horizontal. And you know what, let me say this, if you've been told all your life that something - anything - that's the way it is - if you've never questioned it - your mind might just confirm that to you.

Funny thing, I watched a video the other day. It was with this God hater who calls himself, "Professor Dave" and he was debating what I'm seeing as a seeking man - who calls himself - "Flat Earth Dave." And the Professor Dave who was just mean and nasty and disrespectful and was just biting all over "Flat Earth Dave" - but it was hilarious - during Professor Dave's speaking - the globe scientist - said - several times - quote - "As we see the sun move across the sky..." and I just laughed out loud. I wish "Flat Earth

Dave” would have stopped him mid-sentence and just blasted the professor for saying the sun was moving, but he didn't catch it either. In fact, “Professor Dave” said it a couple more times, before he corrected himself. It was funny. We see the sun moving across the sky. And no matter how many times people have tried to say, “No, the earth (as they call it) is moving and the sun is sitting still”, even the globers revert back to saying the sun is moving.

It's amazing that even those people, who have said this a thousand times about the sun sitting still and the world moving - yet they even say the sun is moving. That's pretty funny to me. Anyway, back to I Samuel 15:27

[27] And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

Before I go on, let me say this. Because I was talking about the friend of mine. The Bible says the sun is moving. And it says it over and over and over. We've got to believe what the Bible says.

[28] And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

Wow. I hopes this strikes fear in every single person listening to this today. When Saul was accused of rejecting the Word of the Lord - his judgment was swift and it was immediate.

[29] And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

[30] Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

[31] So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

[32] Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. [Ha ha.] And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

[33] And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women.

Apparently what the Amalekites had done to innocent women and children 400 years

earlier - they were still doing it. And God evened the scales. That's the rest of the story.

And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

[34] Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

[35] And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

If that story has not changed your life before - I sure hope it has now. I am so glad I learned that so many years ago. This is where I have gotten my staunch allegiance to the Word of God. And this is where I have gotten my understanding of living exclusively for the first commandment - thou shalt have no other gods before Me. It's not a scale. It's not about balancing out the good and the bad and if the good seems to outweigh the bad - then - and I'm talking about men's little g "governments." It's not about thinking that one is a little better than another. Or about the lessor of two evils.

Man does not have the Authority from God to define - not one shred of good or evil. It's not allowed. Not even a little bit.

So, I'm telling you our beliefs must be based on what the Word of God says. Now, with that said, I'm not saying we don't watch videos - I've told you this morning I watch videos, we don't read articles, that's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that everything we watch, everything we listen to, everything we read, every person we talk to, it all must be carefully considered based on, "Hear the Word of the Lord." When we do that, then we can become and will become, discerning, and then, I believe, we can truly learn.

There is a man that I've watch some of his videos this week. I had heard his name a little, but had not seen any of his videos in the past. As I watched some this week, I really like the direction he's heading and I reached out to him, I'm sure he probably gets a lot of emails, but I do hope that he will make contact with me. He's not a follower of Jesus Christ. And the sad reason is, is because he does not understand that "church" and Jesus and the God of the Bible are as far apart as night and day, left and right, east and west, north and south. He's a smart guy, intellectually. He's a logical guy. But he does not know that the people he associates the Bible with are "churchians" and not Christians. So, in throwing out "church" - rightfully throwing out "church", outwith Christianity, too. That's really sad. If someone could reach him with the truth, that Christianity and "churchianity" are not the same thing, I think this guy might be reached

for Christ.

In the videos that I've watch of his this week, he keeps coming back to this very simple truth - and it's one that you and I agree with. And that is, the reason we have been lied to about everything - everything - you know it and I know it - but his big thing is the shape of the world - and he says it is because of control. The people that seem to be in control today attack the existence of God because if there is no God - there is no Lawmaker - other than - as Carl Sagan said - "It's just us." And in this regard - knowing that that thought is in 100% total agreement with the Word of God - he's right. Even though he doesn't claim to be a Christian, he's not a Citizen of the Commonwealth of Israel - he is right. His conclusion is correct. He doesn't even know that it's in agreement with the Word of God, but it is. And it's truth.

In case you haven't already figured it out, I'm talking about the guy who calls himself "Flat Earth Dave". And I do recommend his videos. They are very good. Anything in there that doesn't line up with God's Word, toss it, of course, but what does line up with the Word, store it in your ammo bag.

But I have noticed that in almost all his videos he has concluded that the reason for the scientific lies is for the purpose of denying the existence of God - which gives men control over other men.

When we understand - and I mean truly believe - not just lip-service - but we truly believe in the existence of the God of the Bible - then we will understand that our only goal in life - is to obey God, His very few, easy Laws - and to not be conformed to the world that says, "Our laws, our treaties, our ordinances and statutes are the supreme law of the land." I see these types of conclusions, more and more, from people who are fighting against the globe, fighting against evolution, fighting against false-history, fighting against NASA, fighting against the COVID lie, fighting against the Big Bang. I see these types of people as being the non-conformists.

Now, don't get me wrong, just because I see non-conformity in them - I'm not saying that makes them right. Just because they seem to be non-conformists - that doesn't make their beliefs on the shape of the world correct, or on any of their other beliefs concerning Creation.

I'm just saying - just making a statement - that I see more of advocacy of the Genesis account of Creation among those people - than I see from those who believe in NASA,

the big bang, evolution, the globe etc. Those people are the ones I see mocking God, mocking the Bible, mocking the Genesis account of Creation, etc.

Alright, with all of that said, let's get back to Genesis chapter 1 in the remaining minutes this morning. Read please from verse 1.

- [1] In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- [2] And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- [3] And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- [4] And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- [5] And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
- [6] And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
- [7] And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.
- [8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.
- [9] And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.
- [10] And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good.
- [11] And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
- [12] And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.
- [13] And the evening and the morning were the third day.
- [14] And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
- [15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
- [16] And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

[17] And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

[18] And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

[19] And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Admittedly, I've been kind of jumping all around this first chapter. I've not been staying in any particular order. Reason is, it's very just awesome and I mean, I've never done this series before and there's so much here, I've just been going to places where it seems to be the easiest place to go for now. We talked a little about the firmament, need to talk a lot more. We talked about how God created man - from the dust of the earth - not as a fish.

This morning, I want to talk about the Creation of the sun and the moon and particularly the moon. In Genesis 1:16, God calls them two great lights. One rules the day, the sun, obviously, one rules the night, the moon, obviously. They are both called lights. In verse 16, where both of them are called lights - they come from the same Hebrew word - reading from the KJV, as I'm sure you probably guessed. The Hebrew word is *mā'ôr* and in Strong's it means

מָאֹר *mâ'ôwr*, *maw-ore'*; or *מָאֹר* *mâ'ôr*; also (in plural) feminine *מְאֹרָה* *m'êwrâh*; or *מְאֹרָה* *m'êwrâh*; from H215; properly, a luminous body or luminary, i.e. (abstractly) light (as an element); figuratively, brightness, i.e. cheerfulness; specifically, a chandelier:—bright, light.

In Brown-Driver lexicon, it mean

מָאֹר noun masculine luminary — absolute Genesis 1:16 +; construct *מָאֹר* Proverbs 15:30 +; plural *מְאֹרֹת* Genesis 1:15; *מְאֹרֹת* Genesis 1:14; Genesis 1:16; construct *מְאֹרֵי* Ezekiel 32:8 — light, light-bearer, luminary, lamp, of sun & moon Genesis 1:14, 15, 16 (3 times in verse) (P) Ezekiel 32:8; moon Psalm 74:16; *מְנַרְתֵּי הַמָּאֹר* the lamp-stand of the luminary or light (where *'הַמ'* is sum of seven sacred lamps on golden lamp-stand) Exodus 35:14 (twice in verse); Exodus 35:28; Exodus 39:37; Numbers 4:9, 16, compare Exodus 25:6; Exodus 27:20; Exodus 35:8; Leviticus 24:2 (all P); *מְאֹרֵי עֵינַיִם יִשְׂמַחֲלֵב* Proverbs 15:30 the luminary of the eyes (= the eyes as a lamp) gives the light of joy to the heart; *מְאֹרֵי פְנֵיךָ* Psalm 90:8 the luminary of thy face (thy face as a lamp) in the light of which the secrets are exposed.

So it can also be figurative.

To me, this is very simple. They are both lights. It does not say, doesn't even lend itself to saying, I mean, there's not the slightest hint that it could be - the Bible does not call the moon a reflector. The Bible calls the moon a light. It uses the exact same word for light for the sun - as it uses for the moon. The sun and the moon are both lights. Luminous bodies. They are lights. That's what the Bible says. That's what God inspired the writer of the Book of Genesis to write down. And that's what I believe.

If the moon was simply a reflector of the light from the sun, the Bible would have told us so. I don't know if this is even a valid argument to make or not, you'll just have to listen and if rings true, fine, if not, throw it in the dumpster. And I'll just tell you, it comes from my own observation in life. If it doesn't line up with the Word, throw it away.

But when I was younger, one of the ways I made a living, was in photography. I did a lot of what you call still photography. I took pictures of products that people sold and I used those pictures in brochures, sales sheets, etc. I had sometimes, one single light source - usually a strobe-flash - sometimes I used multiple strobe-flashes - and these were always called lights. They had light bulbs. They were a light source, a source of light. Always called lights. Sometimes, I needed a little bit of light in a certain spot and I would use a reflector. I could point the reflector at one of the strobe-lights - and aim that reflection of light to a certain part of the object I was photographing. Never. Not once ever, in all my years of photography, in all my years of dealing with other photographers, did I refer to the reflector as the light. The flash was the light and the reflector was, it was the reflector. But I never called the reflector a light, and I don't recall anyone else in photography ever calling the reflector the light.

I realize that doesn't mean anything, ultimately. But I'm just trying to make a point that there is a light and there is a reflector and they are not the same thing, at least in the field of photography. The strobes, they were called lights. They were a light source. And a reflector was used to fill in the shadows. Lights and reflectors are not the same thing .

When I read Genesis 1:16 - the sun and the moon are both called lights and they are separately called lights but using the same Hebrew word.

In the Genesius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon, it says, light, a light, used of the sun and the moon. The second definition is a candlestick. I'm just saying that in the Bible and with

Bible definitions, there is no reason to even think that the moon is reflecting the light of the sun. It says they are both lights.

Now if I'm just stupid. I guess it's just going to have to be that way. I have atheist, God-haters, Bible deniers that created a theory - and that's exactly what it is - a theory - and their theory requires a sun, a spinning ball earth as they call it - and a moon that reflects the light of the sun. If the moon is not a reflector in their theory - then their theory doesn't work. The moon must be a reflector. It cannot be its own light source.

So I'm telling you right off the bat, if the atheist, God-hating, Bible denier tells me that their theory is that the moon is a reflector - my immediate reaction is that they are lying. The fool hath said there is no God. They are altogether corrupt. I'm not believing them. If the Bible says the sun and the moon are both lights - then that is what I'm believing. And I'll stand for that no matter what it costs me in this life. No matter how many times I'm called an idiot, I'll stand for the Word of God.

If the moon was a reflector, God would have used a different word. The writer of the Book of Genesis did not write according to his own thoughts, imaginations or observations. He wrote what God told Him to write.

From the NASA website:

<https://www.nasa.gov/solar-system/why-can-you-see-the-moon-during-the-day-we-asked-a-nasa-scientist-episode-19/#:~:text=Unlike%20our%20Sun%2C%20the%20Moon,reflecting%20off%20of%20its%20surface.>

We think of the Moon as a nighttime object because it's often shown that way to us in books and movies. Even the weatherman uses the Sun as a symbol for day and the Moon for night. But the Moon actually spends almost as much time in the daytime sky as the night. You just have to look a little harder to see it.

Let's think about why we can see the Moon at night at all. Unlike our Sun, the Moon doesn't create its own light. We can only see it because light from the Sun is reflecting off of its surface. The same is true during the day, and unlike the stars which are also still up there during the day but we can't see them because the sky is too bright, the Moon actually shines bright enough that you can see it day or night as long as it's in the right part of the sky.

Ok. So the moon does not make its own light. Turn to Deuteronomy chapter 33. Just about out of time, we'll plan on getting more into this next time. Look beginning at verse 12:

[12] And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

[13] And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

Now watch.

[14] And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

The sun puts forth precious fruits, and the moon puts forth precious things. In the Hebrew dictionary, the word describing what the moon does is *gereš* (geresh) and here's what it means:

a thing put forth, yield, produce, thing thrust forth

Strong's says to yield. To produce as if expelled.

Turn again to Psalm 148, verse 1.

[1] Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

[2] Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

[3] Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

The context clearly leads us to believe the sun, the moon and the stars are all lights. The sun and the stars are lights and the moon is different. That's not what the Bible teaches. These verses of Scripture are not what old, ancient men who didn't know science were just trying to figure out with their primitive minds. These are the Words of God. This is the inspired Word of God which God told men to write.

There's so much more, but last for today, turn to Isaiah chapter 13. Read beginning in verse 9.

[9] Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

[10] For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

The moon causes her light to shine. There are still more verses to look at. The Bible teaches the moon is its own light source. The Bible does not teach that the moon is merely a reflector of the sun.

This - and so much more that we will get into - is what the Bible teaches. This is the Word of God and I will not reject the Word of the Lord.

