

Message# 319_12-29-2024 – What Next?

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

Happy birthday to Kody. Kody's first birthday was on the 28th. Would you believe that little guy is walking already? Amazing. Smiling little Kody. Just look his way and he's all smiles. And his Papaw was right there when he took his first steps, too. That was too cool! So Happy Birthday, Kody.

I heard one of the best sayings this week and I absolutely loved it. I was watching a video from a guy named Steven Alonzo. The interesting thing about Steven is that months before - and I don't hardly even want to say his name because my opinion has been for a while and is even more so now - but the “flat-earther” who supposedly went to Antarctica with blasphemer Will Duffy and his vile, foul-mouthed atheist troupe - the “flat-earther” whose name begins with a J - and then Austin Witset - who - incidentally was either arrested or ticketed - not sure which - in Tennessee for not having “license plates” (by the way)- I have no idea what those circumstances were (or if they were anything) - but several months before all those people supposedly went to Antarctica - Steven Alonzo had told all of them that they would see a 24 hour sun when they went down there. Why? Because God's world is a spinning, revolving, sphere? No. Not at all. Because the model that Steven had been working on - which included - at least what his understanding is of a firmament - clearly showed that when the sun is moving around the world at this time of the year - there is a 24 hour sun in Antarctica. No big deal. And that is exactly the same thing that I have been saying. And if you don't believe that, you can ask Teresa because I have told her the same thing.

The reality is, we have no idea what is really going on in the heavens with the sun, the moon and the stars - and the handful of planets - II Kings 23:5 - turn there for just a minute, please. Read beginning in verse 1:

[1] And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

[2] And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

[3] And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk

after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

One would think, that as many times as we see passages such as this in our Bibles, the bell would sound for a whole lot more people than it has. The people of God - those who call themselves Israelites or just call themselves Christians - especially those - would see that the whole theme of the Bible - our purpose - our reason for existence - is to

...walk after the LORD, to keep His Commandments, to keep His testimonies and His Statutes with all their heart and soul - to perform the Words of the Covenant that was written in the Book.

I certainly understand discernment as to what that means - to perform the Words of the Covenant that was written in the Book. I talk about this often. The things that were written in the Old Covenant were for that - the Old Covenant. However, we need to understand that the physical things that were part of the Old Covenant - while they were indeed physical - they had deeper spiritual meanings that extend beyond the Old Covenant and into the New Covenant. The easy things. The blood sacrifices. Keep your finger here and turn to Exodus chapter 12, read beginning in verse 1.

[1] And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
[2] This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

There is much to be said here about verse 2 - but I'll save it for another time. I will say this, however, three days from now is not the beginning of the months, it's not the first month of the year. Just chalk that up to one more thing we are missing. Fools for Christ's sake? When thinking about God's new year - what is said here in verse 2 - think more along the lines of the month of the year that begins with so-called "April Fool's Day." Verse 3.

[3] Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:
[4] And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next

unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

[5] Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

[6] And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Just an FYI here, this assembly is a religious assembly - as opposed to the Ekklesia. This is an assembled congregation for the purpose of a religious ceremony.

[7] And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

[8] And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

[9] Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

[10] And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

[11] And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

As we read this, we must understand that the centerpiece of this ceremony was the sacrificing of the lamb. Down to the minute details - this ceremony involves the sacrificing of a lamb.

[12] For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

[13] And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

This is a real lamb, with real meat, with real blood. This is what the Israelites were told to do - and - it needs to be noted they were told to do it - even while in Egyptian captivity. And they obeyed. The principle there is that there is no excuse not to obey God when He tells us to do something. Even when others say, "But we're in captivity."

[14] And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to

the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

This should be very easy for us to understand. In the Old Covenant, the Israelites were told to sacrifice a lamb 10 days after the new year began. They were to do this for ever. Well, here, the for ever was until the end of the Old Covenant world. This lamb pointed to the Lamb of God, the Messiah King. This blood, pointed to the blood of the Messiah King. Why no water? I'm not sure. I'm sure there was a reason, I just don't know what it was at that time. All the physical aspects of this Commandment are completed. They were for the Old Covenant World. But, we see, because they were fulfilled in Christ - that there were principles, there were symbols - and they transcend the Old into the New. We are going to seek for and find - those Old Covenants principles - even the ones that said they were for ever - and we are going to learn what they meant and how they apply to us in the New Covenant World. Back to II Kings 23. Read verse 3 again.

[3] And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

In the New Covenant world - we have a king. A king, a leader of the people, a guide, a prophet, a teacher, someone who leads by example - has always been what God wants for His people. At an early time, when Israel was in infancy, God was their King. He was all they needed - just like parents to babies. But sadly, sometimes when the babies grow up - they decide they can do things better. The Israelites grew up and decided they wanted a king like all the other nations. This was allowed. Not because that's the way God wanted it to be. Not because that's the way things are supposed to be. But sometimes, as painful as it may be, a loving parent needs to let their grown children go and make their own mistakes and hopefully learn from them and return to the original plan - which was that God would be their King. But in the Old Covenant World - because everything we see there is supposed to be for our learning - the good - do this - the bad - don't do that - we see the whole story. We see how the people went to Samuel and demanded a king like all the other nations. We see the conversation that Samuel had with God. We see the response God gave Samuel. We see what God told Samuel to tell the people. We have such a great advantage. We see all the behind the scenes things that went on. We saw the promise to David that God would someday raise up a King to sit on His throne and rule in righteousness. Then we have the ability

to read and understand all the way up to the times of Christ. We see - as clearly as anything should ever be from our Bibles - how that at His birth - it was announced that Jesus was the King. Jesus was born to be Christ, He was born to be King. This is not hard at all to see. We see as John kept telling the people to repent because the Kingdom was at hand. We see how Jesus preached the exact same thing. We see how that in pretty much every message that Jesus preached, all His parables, all His miracles, all His interactions centered around His Kingship.

We see Him prophesy concerning His Kingdom. We see Him calling Israelites to come out from the kingdoms of the world. We see His betrayal. We see His trial - and everything about all of it - is about His Kingdom and His Kingship. It's all about a return from the kingdoms of the world, the kingdoms of men - and into the Government, the Kingdom of God. First preached, in the Old Covenant. That should be as easy as can be - even with just a simple reading of the Bible. It doesn't take great study to see this. It doesn't take four years of Bible college, followed by two years of seminary to see this.

Christianity is supposed to be about following King Jesus Who spent His entire life telling people to:

...walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book...

Instead, somehow 99.9% of people in the world today have been deceived into thinking that when the Old Covenant World ended, any concept of exclusively walking after and obeying the Commandments of God, well that ended, too. It's been replaced with the unfathomable understanding that God has done away with His Laws and His Commandments - and says that obedience to man and his "laws and commandments" is the pathway to the correct relationship with God.

People that want to find out who Israel is? Great. I'm all for it. But it's actually pretty simple. Israelites are those who have embraced the King, the One true King - and just like their Israelite ancestors - they obeyed the voice of God and left Egypt. Or at the very least - they understand and teach that the people of God are supposed to be the people of God and they are to be coming out of the little g "governments" of the world - symbolized many times in our Bibles just like the coming out of Egypt.

Talk about being Israelites - yet open a billfold - the thing that contains man's

“identification cards” - and you won't find a single there in there that identifies themselves as Israel. There will be so many identification cards in there that links most of them to worldly citizens - how sad. And again, I'm not talking about sinless perfection. But it would be nice to at least see some evidence of an intention to leave Egypt.

Christianity is supposed to be about following King Jesus Who spent His entire life telling people to:

...walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book...

Yes. That is Old Covenant, but it transcends into the New Covenant. “Leaders” in the modern day “Christian Israel” movement - and they are trying to figure out whether or not so-called “Christians” are supposed to vote in men's little g “government” elections. We need real preachers, real men of God who will stand up and say Today is the day to walk after the Lord. Today is the day to keep the Commandments of God. But of course, we know why that doesn't happen. Even in the supposed “Christian Israel” movement - there's hardly a one of them that is not spewing futuristic filth and deception of a so-called coming king.

Most are still living in the physical Old Covenant World. Most still do not understand that Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophets - all of them - and what's worse than not understanding - is standing against those who do preach that Jesus Christ fulfilled all the prophets, that Jesus Christ did take the throne of David - that Jesus Christ is - right now - the reigning King that demands that people Come out from the little g “governments” of men and into the Only God Ordained Government and Nation allowed to exist - the Commonwealth of Israel.

Friends, that's “What's Next?” It's an understanding that Gospel of the Kingdom is what brings salvation. And that Gospel of the Kingdom came into existence in the first century and since that time - it has been the responsibility of every single living creature to come out from living a life according to the ways of men - to come out from living according to the “laws” of men, the “governments” of men - and into the Government of God. That's what the Gospel is. The Kingdom is now. The Government of God is now. There is no future return of Jesus. There is no time where God turned His world over to be “ruled by satans.” Those days are over. Those days ended.

And yes, I realize what an awesome thing it is to consider these things. Most people, 99.9% of people, have been raised in the understanding that men and women boys and girls are property of the state - whatever "state" that was closest to them when they were physically born. And that their births are supposed to be registered with that state. Their lives are supposed to be registered with that state. Their marriages, their children, their property, their cattle, their cars, their boats - everything they have is supposed to be registered with their state. And there doesn't seem to be a man in a million that understands how that chosen life is 100% diametrically opposed to a life of

...in Him we live and move and have our being...

Is there anything in our lives that demonstrates that we are in Him? What's in your billfold? Is there anything in there, anything at all that identifies you as a Citizen of the Commonwealth of Israel? That's where the rubber meets the road. Talk is cheap. Anyone can say anything, and most people do. Most people do talk. Lots of people say the sound J-e-s-u-s - but that's not what true, Bible Christianity is. Verse 4.

[4] And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

It's been rare, but some of the most awesome things I've witnessed as a follower of Christ have been when new believers bring out the vessels of Baal and burn them as a testimony of their choice to follow King Jesus. I've seen grown men cut up their u.s. "id cards". I've seen grown women cut up their u.s. id cards. It's an awesome thing to witness people taking their public stand in burning or destroying their vessels of Baal - in making a public declaration to follow King Jesus.

[5] And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem;

I typed in a search on the internet (I hope you do it, too.) for burning incense to Rome. This came back:

In the Roman Empire, burning incense to the gods was a requirement for citizens to

demonstrate loyalty to the authorities. The practice was part of a series of events that led to the persecution of Christians:

Edict of 250 AD

Emperor Decius ordered that everyone in the Empire, except Jews, must sacrifice to the gods and burn incense to the Emperor.

Libelli

The Roman government issued certificates called libelli to citizens who performed the required sacrifices or burned incense.

Christian persecution

Christians were often given the opportunity to avoid punishment by burning incense or making sacrifices, but were accused of impiety if they refused. Christians who refused were arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and executed.

Christian dilemma

Christians faced a dilemma of acknowledging the legal authority of the Roman government while refusing to worship the emperor or compromise their faith. Incense was an expensive aromatic resin that was imported from southern Arabia. It was used in many rituals and forms of worship, and the smoke was believed to communicate with the gods.

Burning incense, just a pinch. Just acknowledge the legal authority of man's "government. That's all you have to do."

When you type that search, there's all sorts of things that come up. Here's another:

<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=3491>

The Imperial Roman Government Issues Certificates of Conformation to Pagan Religious Practice

249 CE to 251 CE

During the the Decian persecution of Christians under the emperor Decius (emperor from 249-251) the imperial Roman government issued tickets (libelli), indicating that citizens had satisfied the pagan commissioners by performing a pagan sacrifice

(sacrificati), or burned incense (thurificati), demonstrating loyalty to the authorities of the Roman Empire. The government also issued libellatici (certificates) certifying that apostates had renounced Christianity.

Among the thousands of papyri excavated from Oxyrhynchus in Egypt, four papyri are libelli issued during the year 250. (A total of 46 libelli from the year 250 have been published.)

"Participating in pagan sacrifices was a sin for Christians and punished by excommunication, because the New Testament forbade Christians to either participate in 'idol feasts' or to eat 'meat sacrificed to idols'. However, not participating made one liable to arrest by the Roman authorities. A warrant to arrest a Christian (POxy 3035) was also found at Oxyrhynchus, this too has been dated precisely—to the year 256. The grounds for this arrest are not documented, however, and it predates the persecution under the emperor Valerian by about a year.

"At various times under Roman rule, failure to sacrifice was punishable by death. Christian theologians (for example Cyprian) debated whether the threat of the death penalty mitigated the sin of having communion with idols, leaving room for forgiveness and restoration to the Christian community" (Wikipedia article on Libellus, accessed 02-02-2013).

All of this is not about some ceremonial act of a sacrifice. That was just a symbol. What it symbolized (the pinch of incense)was, quote:

demonstrating loyalty to the authorities of the Roman Empire.

That's what it's all about. Do you know how many times in my life I've had people say to me - "it's just a piece of paper. It doesn't really mean anything." That's in reference to a "driver's license" or a "birth certificate". "It's just a number. The social security number doesn't mean anything." Yes they do. They are all pinches of incense. The Old Covenant Israelites were condemned for doing it - and the New Covenant saints knew they weren't supposed to do it. It's all about demonstrating loyalty to man's little g "government" - and friends - if you don't believe that - then the next time you encounter an agent from one of man's little g "governments" and he demands to see the libelli, the ticket, the certificate - and you refuse - just wait and see what happens.

Now, let me tell you this. Do you know why that's so hard on the .1% of people today

that refuse the libelli, they refuse the ticket or certificate? It's because there are so few people who have refused. If just a small percentage of people who claim to be Christians refused the libelli, refused the ticket, refused the certificate - there wouldn't be enough room in their jails to handle them. I do understand that sometimes when men's little g "governments" have the choice between a murderous insurrectionist and Christ - they choose the murderer. I understand that. But today, in the world in which we live, there is enough knowledge of Christ out there - that if more and more people would begin to live the Christian life as demonstrated by Christ and His disciples (found in Old Covenant principles) - I believe there could be an incredible awakening.

An incredible awakening. A turn to Christ, a turn to the God of the Bible. That is what God wants. That is the Will of God. But it's going to take men and women boys and girls who refuse the libelli, refuse the ticket, refuse the certificate - even if it could cost them everything they have - when the world sees what true Christianity is - I have the greatest amount of hope that they will turn to the Gospel, turn to the One true Government - the Kingship of Christ.

Sadly, today, most of what the world thinks is "Christianity" is a lie, it's one of the greatest deceptions the world has ever known. That thing called "church."

As most of you know, I've been trying to reach David Weiss with the truth of Who the real Jesus Christ is. The "flat-earth" community is in a lot of apparent turmoil right now over the 24 hour sun in Antarctica. And as I said earlier, that's ridiculous. First of all, if they were operating off of what the Bible says - then the existence of a 24 hour sun would have just been ho-hum. Like it is here. Like it is with the others who believe what the Bible says regardless of what anyone else says or claims to show in their "models."

There was a video that I watched this week and the "flat-earther" was railing on David Weiss and had even played an excerpt of a video where Dave was supposedly denying the existence of Christ. Yes. It was the words of Dave. He did say what the video said. So, I sent Dave the following email this week, and I want to share it with you. Oh, and in the statement that Dave was making, he had made reference to the "walking on the water story." So, this is what I sent to Dave, quote:

Dave – I heard you talking about "Jesus" and the story of His walking on the water.

What you think you know about Jesus Christ is only from what you have heard or read from "church" (or from Rob Skiba [Bible conman], or Dean Odle [Bible conman on*

steroids], or Jeran Camponella [lying deceiver], or Sean Hibbeler, or Eric Dubay) ALL of which HAVE NO CLUE what that story means or Who the real Jesus Christ is.

Have you ever heard of Maritime law or the law of the sea? This is the embodiment of man's "laws." By Jesus' walking on the sea – He was demonstrating that HE was above man's "laws." Ever heard the condescending phrase, "He thinks he's above the law?" Well, that came from accusations against the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. He and ALL of His followers are to live above man's "laws" and to teach others to stop living according to man's "laws."

It is no coincidence that the water He walked on was the Sea of Tiberius. It wasn't just any water that He was walking on – it was water claimed by "Caesar!"

This goes hand in hand with true Bible teaching that Jesus was executed because He taught His followers they were forbidden to "Render unto Caesar."

Respectfully, Dave, it would be better for you to keep your opinions of Jesus Christ to yourself – until you find out Who the real Jesus is – or at least until you've heard the rest of the story.

Charlie

(Bold is not yelling, just for emphasis.)

**If belief is the enemy of knowing, [which is what Dave says all the time] then think is even further from truth than belief.*

And, shortly after I sent that, I received a response from Dave saying that his statement was made 10 years ago and that his opinions have changed since then. As you know, I have recommended Dave's videos - when he talks about the shape of the world. Now when he goes off on some of his other opinions, then I'm not so sure. If Dave was a blasphemer of Christ - I would not recommend him - no matter how much I like his videos on the shape of the world. But I like Dave because he states, almost every time he makes a video, that the deceivers promote the spinning ball theory because it says "There is no God." And if there is no God, there is no God's Law. Dave says that if the spinning ball theory was exposed, then man's little g "governments" would come crashing down. In theory, I like what he says. In reality, it isn't true. If man's little g "governments" were to come crashing down - if they were not immediately replaced with the exclusive Government of God - then it would be no time at all before man's little g "governments" would be right back where they are.

Christianity is more about coming into the Government of Christ than it is about destroying men's little g "governments." When more and more people enter the Government of God, the little g "governments" of men will fail. Keep your finger here and turn to John chapter 3. We've seen this before, but let's look at it to find another principle. Verse 22:

[22] After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judaea; and there He tarried with them, and ~~baptized~~ washed.

The English word should never have been "baptized." It should have been washed because that's the word that was used in the Old Covenant Law to describe what it was that John the Washer was leading the people into. They were washing according to the Old Covenant Law God gave Moses. This was an act of purification according to the Law. If we don't understand this, there is no possible way we can understand what these people were doing and worse than that - we'll be deceived into believing that we are supposed to be "baptizing" - even though there's not a "preacher" not a "church" anywhere in the world that can tell us exactly what it is we are supposed to be doing with that ritual wrongly named - "baptism."

The word should be washed.

And it is the same exact word that's found in the Law - many times - in regards to cleansing according to the Law God gave Moses. The physical aspects of the water washing requirements of the Old Covenant Law are as finished as the blood requirements are. Water and blood. Blood and water - all over the Law - and it pointed to Jesus Christ - Who when He was executed by the state - at the leading of the Jews - when the spear was thrust through His side - water and blood flowed for the final sacrifice. Verse 23.

[23] And John also was ~~baptizing~~ washing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were ~~baptized~~ washed.

[And to make the text clearer, add the phrase "for the remission of sins, as required in the Law God gave Moses." If that was added for clarification, that would really help a lot of lost people and would cast down a lot of false religion.]

[24] For John was not yet cast into prison.

[25] Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews

about purifying.

There it is. As plain as day.

...there arose a question about purifying.

The whole discussion is about “baptism” - which - if it had been correctly translated as washing - just like the 1611 KJV translators admitted in their original 1611 KJV translation - people just casually reading the Bible - if they had any knowledge of the Old Covenant Law - would instantly know that the discussion was not about something new - it was about washing according to the Law. This is easy, easy, easy.

[26] And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, He that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth [washeth according to the Law], and all men come to Him.

[27] John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

[28] Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him.

[29] He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

[30] He must increase, but I must decrease.

[31] He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: He that cometh from heaven is above all.

When the Kingdom / Government of God increases, the earthly will decrease. That's what needs to happen. We need more people to come into the Government of God. We need more people to understand that the whole theme of the Bible is to obey God and not man. When that happens, we will see Christ increase. We will see the Government of God increase.

But seeing a collapse of man's little g “governments” without the increasing of Christ - would actually be worse. According to Christ, it would be 7 times worse. The Gospel. That which saves. That which saves generations. That which turns worlds upside down - is the Gospel, the Good News that tells men and women boys and girls that there is another King, One Jesus. You can't talk about collapsing men's little g “governments” unless you are calling people out of them and into the Government of Christ.

Those of you that think Trump is going to “turn the government around.” Because it's not a turning to Christ's Government - it could be 7 times worse. He must increase - we must decrease.

Back to II Kings 23, verse 5 now. We better read all of verse 5 to get us back into context.

And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

[6] And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

[7] And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

The sun, the moon and the planets. Where are the stars? Planets are stars. They are a little different, but they are stars. God only made the world, the sun, the moon, and the stars. There is a direct reference here to the planets - the stars that are planets - because these stars are different from the other stars. These are the stars that make up the “zodiac”. At least that's what the definition is according to Mr. Strong:

מַזְלָהּ mazzâlâh, maz-zaw-law'; apparently from H5140 in the sense of raining; a constellation, i.e. Zodiacal sign (perhaps as affecting the weather):—planet. Compare H4216.

The Greek Septuagint has the word Mazuroth instead of planets. Apparently there isn't a Greek word for Mazuroth so they just used the Hebrew word there. And it refers to the constellations.

If you recall before we left that thought, I was saying again - that without an understanding of the firmament - we cannot understand what the sun, the moon and the stars and planets are doing above us. If we think we have an understanding of the eclipses for instance - but the firmament is not part of our understanding - then we are fooling ourselves. This is why people who believe in the “globe earth theory” said “without a doubt, if there's a 24 hour sun in Antarctica, then the 'earth is a globe.'”

But Steven Alonzo and Joe Hanvey had made models of the world using Gleason's map as the floor - and a vaulted ceiling or dome as the ceiling with water above - and they demonstrated very easily how there would be - Steven said without any doubt - he said he had no doubt at all - and you can find his videos from last summer when all the talk about the "Final Experiment" was going on - he said they would see a 24 hour sun in Antarctica.

Now, my mind was made up long before I even heard of Steven Alonzo. It didn't matter to me whether there was a 24 hour sun or not. I'm sticking with the Bible and am not going to be swayed by observations or mathematical equations - especially the mathematical equations of the Greeks. As I said earlier, I've been telling Teresa for a long time now - we have no idea what is really going on up there because we don't have a firm understanding of what God's firmament is. Now that we know that the 24 hour sun in Antarctica affirms the Bible - some of these guys that are a whole lot smarter than I am - maybe God will allow them to figure some of this out.

I do like that Steven Alonzo says he believes in fulfilled Bible prophecy. I don't like that he calls himself a preterist. But maybe we can reach him with the truth and he will allow God to use the skills that God has given him to draw more people to the truth of God's Word.

I said all of that to say this...then we'll get into today's message. Steven said something that I thought was great. He said, "I can't tell you *what* to believe, but I can tell you *how* to believe." That was great. Really awesome. And as soon as I heard that, I applied that to what I preach. "I can't tell you what to believe. I don't want to tell you what to believe. But I can and I will tell you *how* to believe." And what you do with that is between you and God.

Last week I was telling you about the young man who was telling me about the Book of Revelation being fulfilled soon. The Book of Revelation is not being fulfilled soon. The Book of Revelation has already been fulfilled.

In order to understand the Book of Revelation - you've got to understand the very first verse. This is the how. And the very first verse says, "Things which must shortly come to pass." And just two verses later, affirms again, "The time is at hand."

The Book of Revelation was written in the first century. And it was written concerning the things which must shortly come to pass. One of the things that is so amazing to me

about this, as I've heard all these "church" people for my entire life get this completely wrong - is that they want to talk about all these things that nutjobs like Jack VanImpe and Hal Lindsey and others like them have made up all these extravagant, outrageous characters and events inside the Book of Revelation - what they have completely - and purposely (I believe) - missed - is that the Book is about the Revealing of Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords - and just like the Words of Christ that said - repeatedly - His Kingdom was at hand - meaning soon and near in proximity - they would rather spend time talking about their Antichrist and their tribulation period and all this hyped up stuff - as opposed to the fact that Jesus Christ was revealed - in the first century - as the King of kings. And all men, women, boys and girls are to repent for following the kings of the earth, whether monarchies, theocracies, democracies, or democratic republics - they are to repent from having any loyalty to any of those - and they are to come out from among and be separate Citizens of the Commonwealth of Israel - so named in Ephesians 2:12.

The Book of Revelation is about the Revealing of Christ as King - and putting anything else in the Book over that - is to attack the whole meaning of the Bible and our whole purpose in being a part of God's Creation.

If we approached the Book of Revelation with the proper understanding of its time and place - so easily shown in the very first verse. Then, and only then, will we have any chance of understanding anything else in the Book.

Last week, we read verses 1 through 7. Reading any book, not just this Book, but any Book, we understand there is an introduction. There's a foundation. There's a premise. Then there's a body, then there's a conclusion. Turn to Revelation chapter 22. We've seen the beginning. Let's go to the end. Before we can understand the body - we need to understand the beginning. I want us to the end this morning - because the end confirms the beginning. If we understand the beginning - and the ending - the body of the Book will be even easier to understand. Revelation chapter 22, beginning with verse 1.

[1] And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

[2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

[3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb

shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him:

Friends, I'm telling you today that the reason most people in our world today do not live according to the throne of God and of the Lamb - but rather they live according to the little g "governments" - the thrones of men - is because they believe the fulfillment of the Book of Revelation is future. You can talk to people about following Christ all you want to today. But if the Book of Revelation is future - the best results you'll get is that thing called "church." Which is nothing other than an impostor. It is not the representative of the God of the Bible - but rather an evil force that compels men and women boys and girls to submit to the "state" instead of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

You won't be able to get people to see how evil the social security number is. It's not a number for simply keeping track of earnings - though the reality is - if people knew their Bibles, if they knew the Will of God - they would have screamed bloody murder at the concept of keeping track of people's earnings. Taxing labor makes God so angry He wants to declare war. That is so easily proven from God's Word - but amazingly - so few people have heard it, let alone believe it.

Last week, I showed you, right from the Social Security website - how that the number is used as an identifier - and they said - specifically - they would never use the numbers 666. And I wouldn't be surprised one bit if "church" people who heard me present that would respond by saying, "See, right there, they're saying the number is not like the mark of the beast. They won't use 666." Friends, don't you see that's addition by subtraction? "Even though this number is absolutely in the spirit of the mark of the beast, we're telling you to ignore that because, after all, we're not going to allow the numbers 666." Just by saying we're not using 666 - that means they ARE using it. That's just part of their scheme.

[4] And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.

But because this is all future, the name of the state is in most people's "foreheads." What does that even mean anyway? The forehead is where our thoughts are. If you've listened to me preach for very long, you've probably heard me say that most people can quote their social security number so fast it's almost unbelievable. That number is so firmly in most people's foreheads it's amazing. And, according to most, there's not a thing wrong with that. "Oh yes, Jesus is king." But when pressed with reality - the reality of what a king really is - they will ultimately admit that he's really just a coming

king. Until that time that he comes again - we are commanded by God Himself to obey men's little g "governments" and kingdoms. Verse 5.

[5] And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
[6] And he said unto me,

Who said unto me? The exact same messenger from chapter 1, verse 1. It's all the same Book. All the same theme, the same message, the same time period.

[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.

How many times does the same thing have to be said? Over and over. The time is at hand. Things which must shortly come to pass. The things which must shortly be done. This was written in the first century, to first century saints. To people who Jesus said would be alive at His Kingdom, they would be alive to see His Kingdom revealed. The "this generation shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled" people.

[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:

"What are you doing, John? I really didn't mean the time is at hand as in 'the time is at hand.' Shortly doesn't really mean shortly. We've still got thousands of years before this Book is fulfilled. Get up John. There's a whole lot of time left before this all takes place." No. That's not what comes next.

[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.

Friends, it just can't get any clearer than this. The Book was about the soon coming of Jesus Christ, the Revealing of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. Everything in this Book is fulfilled. There's nothing that's not been fulfilled. Jesus Christ is King. It's the responsibility of every living breathing creature to come out the Egypts of the world, to come out of the Sodoms of the world, to come out of the Babylons of the world, to come out of the Jerusalems of the world, to come out of the Romes of the world - to take up their cross and follow King Jesus.

It's about leaving the little g "governments" of men and coming into the Government of Christ. It's about repenting that we followed the ways of the world and we are choosing the ways of Christ. Ask yourself, every time man compels you to do this or that - did God tell me to do that? Did King Jesus tell me to do that? The Laws of God are so few. Romans 13, 8-10 is such a great place to begin to understand the Government of God versus the little g "governments" of men.

Come to Jesus. Come to the Government of Christ. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.