

Kingdom or Church, Part 6

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Well, you just don't know how much I want to say "Good morning" to you - this morning. But my goodness, after what I've been reading this week, it's as if using the word "Good" should have been banned by anyone who claims the name of Christ.

I need to admit to you that I have read most of the writings of C.I. Scofield - who - for me - was the father of the pre-tribulation rapture teaching, millennialism a future two-fold coming of Christ and most of all - the worst of it all - a future king and kingdom. But what I need to admit to you is that while I have known for a long time that J.N. Darby was Scofield's predecessor, until this week, I had not spent much time reading his material.

As I have spent time this week reading Darby, I have to tell you that I had to quit. I had to stop reading. His teachings are so gloomy, so depressing, I literally found myself feeling sick to my stomach at the utter despair a man could fall into if he were to accept the teachings of JN Darby.

Most modern churchians have only grasped a bare summary of what Darby and Scofield taught. They just have a thumbnail sketch. And the truth is, that thumbnail sketch is so destructive - if a man has embraced that thumbnail sketch as truth - it is all that is needed to drive society into the depths of despair it has fallen.

If the modern churchian were to read the full teachings of JN Darby, then embrace them, one could only imagine the total depravity, the total depths of darkness that this world would fall into.

While he teaches some elemental truths - for instance - he teaches the fallen estate of man. He taught - and I guess I should have told you ahead of time - he was born in 1800 and died in 1882 - but he taught that when God created the Garden, it was perfect. Then he put man in it and man destroyed it. He taught that God then gave a way to seek forgiveness through the priesthood - and the very first priests messed it up. He taught how the Law was given and before it could even be shown to the people - the people were worshipping a golden calf they built for themselves. He taught how the kingship was set up and the kings destroyed that.

I get it. I understand the fallen state of mankind and its need for a Saviour. He even

admits that the Saviour came. But he concludes that the fallen state of mankind - even though a Saviour was sent - because a man was created to fail - nothing can prevent the continued decline of the world - it will get worse and worse and worse - with nothing to stand in the way - and then someday Jesus will come back to the world riding on a white horse - to destroy all His enemies - to destroy the earth - wipe it out all - and then start it over again. Nothing - nothing - we can do to prevent the continual fall of man.

He admitted that at least in his day, men were still performing most of their evil under the cloak of darkness and night, but even that would eventually cease to be the norm.

I'm telling you that as I read his writings, with this same central theme throughout, I was constantly reminded this is the reason why things are the way they are today.

I was also reminded of how important it is to keep perspective in mind when trying to understand what and where people are coming from in their approach to the Scriptures. Eventually we will get back to the source of our study - which is Church or Kingdom - and Darby's teachings - even though in his life - he actually came to understand that the word "church" should not have been in our English Bibles - his theology and perspective on a future kingdom - prevented him to see that "church" should have been Kingdom. How could it have been?

He was opposed to the Roman Catholic "church." He said this in his work entitled, "Christianity or Christendom?"

THE times in which we are, the question in every serious 'man's mind is, "Are we to go back to popery or not?" the fears of surprised protestants; and the insolent pretensions of papists and puseyites; while the only thing that has courage by their side is infidelity, and indifference to truth, which rather favours error than truth because truth is truth, and insists on itself; the heart sickening imbecility of those who govern, or rather, who are afraid to govern; the solemn sight that courage is found only on the side of evil, so that it looks like the judgment of God—leads one to ask, What is this church so vaunted by dishonest puseyites, and honest Roman Catholics, or those who from its prestige and influence, whatever that prestige and influence may be, cling to it, while they do not believe one word about it, for such is the case very widely in Roman Catholic countries —what is this church, this great system, which carries such weight with men? We must not suppose that anglicans, or evangelicals, or dissenters, have escaped its influence ; they may be anxious to avoid its being quite popish, or to lower its condition to open infidelity. Men may be high church or broad church, Roman or Greek, but they are all church of some kind, or would be. They may have altars instead of tables, or cry

establishments down, but if they do, they will dignify the once modest chapel with the name of church. What is this church? that word that has such charm in it; is it something from God, and of God as it stands? That it has some charm in it is evident from the well known fact that whereas in the popular English Bible of the day, there was "congregation" where now we have "church;" king James insisted that church and only church should be there. It has a successional character, and however small the rivulet in which some think to have pure water, still it is to be derived from larger ones into channels that, they pretend, makes the water pure. The grosser corruptions were purged away three centuries ago; what resulted has largely turned to infidelity, and many are going back to the superstitions as that which is in the old channel.

What is this great system, this potent idea? Is a successional church, corrupt or purified or infidelized (if I may coin a new word for a new state of things), a church of the past, on a pattern some centuries ago, or a church of the future, with no pattern at all but man's fancied competency in this age to do better and be wiser than all before him; is any church as now understood, coming down from ages past, however reformed and arranged, a thing of God? Is it to pass in some shape on this descendible principle? Is there that which, calling itself a church, exercises authority over the mind of man according to the mind of God? We are forced to look the whole question in the face: is the existing professing church, whatever shape it may assume, a thing which God owns? Is a successional body in any shape true or right according to God? I repeat, this question is forced upon us, the whole question; not Is this or that church right?

The universal confession, Greek rejecting Rome, puseyites coyly flirting with it, protestants abhorring it, dissenters seeking to pull down what exists, because it stands in their way, joining Rome for this purpose, episcopalians trying to keep it together, truth or no truth, Rome itself divided through idolatry of the Virgin, and infallibility of the pope, which notoriously contradicts all history, yet increasing her sway in the world, all in confusion as all admit from the pope to dissenters, all wanting to have the church right, though all for very different reasons thinking its state wrong ; making the inquiry as to which is right hopeless. They have raised the question: what is it they are fighting about? Each party, no doubt, trust themselves; but every man's hand is against his neighbour, and how is the sober looker-on to trust them 2 I am well aware that the good churchman will tell me that this is the effect of schism, and that people have what calls itself the church to look to ; but how am I to know which is the church? I am told there are marks of it, yet who is to assign the true ones? But be it so, catholicity is one of them, that is universality; but more than half professing Christendom is outside what pretends to be it, and hundreds of thousands of its most respectable members leaving it as corrupt. Sanctity? But history shews it to have been the most unholy thing that ever

existed. Apostolic succession ? A man must be a learned man to know if it exist, and if he is, he will know it did not; that nothing is more uncertain, if not certain that it is broken; besides, to make my sal vation depend on the right succession of a set of wicked men, who put down one another in the dark ages, is rather too strong. Then, unity? The oldest churches, the Greek, counting by millions, reject and denounce it. Unity, holiness, catholicity, are a fable as regards the church; excellent, blessed things, only not to be found now-a-days. The conscience of half Europe rose against the open, flagrant, impious iniquity of what they call the church; nay, take it altogether, the change of system shews, at the rate it has gone on, that the boasted church could not take care of its children, was incompetent to pre vent the mischief. All we simple people know is, that the church cannot be trusted, it has not been able somehow to take care of itself. In Roman Catholic countries, and now also in protestant ones, not only scientific men, but masses of the uneducated are turned, or turning infidels, and the remedy is, superstitious ceremonies and a going back to what was so notoriously corrupt that natural conscience would stand it no longer; when to be a clergyman, or of religion, was universally to be esteemed worthless, submitted to for the necessities of sacramental grace, and despised for licensed and unlicensed im morality. And this was the church. Is this what we are reduced to ? or to turn infidel and deny the Saviour that loved us and gave Himself for us? Assuredly not. The truth is as true as ever, divine love as full, above all our evil, the Lord as sure in His faithfulness, His arm unshortened. But the church, so called, cannot help us; it cannot help itself. Which church am I to trust to ? Who will tell me? The church, I am told. Where is it? In Rome? No, cry loudly both the most ancient church, the Greek, and all the protestants, who have more or less purified themselves from it, unless in despair of themselves they are going back to it, and now many of the most respectable of themselves who have broken with it. From Rome to which am I to go? Who will tell me that? I have a din of voices claiming to be right. We want Christianity not Christendom, we have had enough of that.

End Quote.

The problem here is the same problem many face today. Darby wanted to throw out what he saw in his day - the organized church - but his false future kingdom theology caused him to not see what Christ truly meant concerning his ecclesia. Darby threw out "church" but had nothing to replace it with. So as his article was so correctly named - Christianity or Christendom - he decided that Christendom was what produced the Roman Catholic church - and then all the splinters of it - he basically developed a theology that removed any influence that Christianity could or should have in society.

But the result is, that true Christianity, has since been replaced by churchianity.

Christians have now become churchians. While he claimed to have been opposed to the Roman Catholic church and the protestants who sprang from it - with this process he removed dominion from the King of kings altogether. So, he proverbially "threw the baby out with the bath water."

I came across a 2018 article by Neil Carter entitled, "Why Evangelicals Just Don't Care." The majority of the article is just plain garbage, I'll tell you that upfront. But there is a paragraph in it called, "Don't Worry, Jesus is Coming Soon" and there is a summary of Darby's teaching here that I think is worthy to be discussed. Quote:

I'm embarrassed by how long it took me to grasp this, knowing that privilege blindness has a lot to do with it.

*In the decade of searching that ultimately led to my deconversion, I gravitated toward George Marsden's more theological explanation for how evangelicals got to be the way they are. I read his book *Fundamentalism and American Culture* and came away with a profound appreciation for how John Darby's Dispensationalist theology took rural America by storm in the days following the Civil War, thanks in no small part to the popularity of C.I. Scofield's annotated Bible and to the winsome preaching of D.L. Moody, himself a disciple of Scofield's dispensationalism.*

*Dispensational theology undergirded the preaching Billy Graham, charged as it was with the expectation that Jesus could return at any second to gather his people "from the four corners of the earth" (surely you can imagine how appealing that would be to people living in the tumultuous days of the Civil War). It also provided the apocalyptic framework of Hal Lindsey's *Late, Great Planet Earth* and Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind* series preserved for us in the critically panned and only barely profitable film franchise by the same name, starring Kirk Cameron and then later Nicholas Cage (need I say more?).*

In a nutshell, apocalyptic worldviews like Dispensationalism teach that in the end God is just going to torch the world and start over again, so there's no point in trying to change the way the world works today. Are you troubled by the lack of financial and political equality in the world today? Fret not, dear ones, God is going to make all things new when the time is right. He's going to wipe the slate clean and start over again from scratch.

You need not worry your pretty little heads about the responsibility of the church (or the government) in any of the world's social ills. One doesn't polish brass on a sinking ship,

as J. Vernon McGee famously said, himself a graduate of the same Dispensational theological seminary that produced Dallas pastor Robert Jeffress (quoted in the first paragraph of Ladd's article) as well as many other notable evangelicals including Andy Stanley, Charles Swindoll, David Jeremiah, Tony Evans, and of course Hal Lindsey.

It's easy to see how such a pessimistic view of current events could excuse an apathetic posture toward injustice even among a people claiming to follow a man who valued the poor and the weak over the rich and the strong. But Ladd is right—the roots of this incongruity don't trace back only to the Civil Rights Movement or the Scopes Monkey Trial but to the Civil War itself. The seeds of this way of thinking were sown into the very roots of this entire theological tradition from its beginning.

Learning to Care Less

Theological systems of belief evolve in the same way that living organisms do: mutations and variations which advantageously adapt them to their cultural environment help them fare better than their less congruous counterparts. Ultimately those belief systems that don't fit the "spirit of the age" are discarded for systems which better suit the climate, and for the Deep South in the late 19th Century that meant churches were in the market for a theology which absolved them of any social responsibility (for reasons that should be obvious).

That's why Dispensationalism caught on the way that it did with its carelessness toward social justice. It wasn't just the brilliance of Scofield in publishing a Bible with study notes popularizing Darby's pessimistic outlook toward the world, nor the industriousness of Moody in inventing a new way to educate ministers without subjecting them to a legitimate course of formal study from an accredited college or seminary (Moody helped pioneer the concept of the Bible college, which doesn't require an undergraduate degree for admission).

End Quote.

I'm not saying that futurism, dispensationalism, pre-trib rapture, theologies fail to produce social - I'm saying it fails to produce ALL justice. It is the facilitator of all things UNJUST. And, I stand by everything that I have said and written before - that this false theology was seized upon by some very influential - and I believe evil people - who used this - knowing the potential for complacency that it produces - and they have used it to advance their goals for world government and the enslavement of men only achieved when we believe that Christ is not King today - that some Satan is the ruler of

this present world - and that someday - we can only hope - that Jesus will return riding on a white horse to destroy everything and make things better.

Over and over in Darby's writings the reader is bombarded with the constant reference to Satan is the current ruler of the world. Man is in a continual state of getting worse and worse and worse - and it is the plan of God to be so.

Even though Darby claimed to be arguing against the organized quote unquote "church" - I challenge anyone today to find me a quote unquote "church" in America - or anywhere else for that matter that is not promoting obedience to men's governments, the supposed second coming of Christ, a future King and future Kingdom. I will go publicly today and state that nearly 100% - and I said nearly - but nearly 100% of the quote unquote "churches" in America are 501(c)(3) government approved corporations, they nearly all fly the U.S. flag outside their buildings, they teach futurism in some form or another - and none of them teach that Jesus Christ, that Yeshua the Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords - right now - and it is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to conform to His Kingship and His Kingdom - exclusively today.

One of the things that Darby did get correct - and it is important to remember that most people will not follow out and out deception - there usually is some truth in what is said that entices people to follow initially - but one of the things he got correct was that what was called the quote unquote "church" in his day - in the 1800s - did not resemble anything from the teachings of the Scriptures related to what Jesus established with His disciples and apostles and what was being lived in the first century.

And I stand by what I have said many times - that what is being passed off today in the modern quote unquote "church" in America - resembles absolutely nothing of the faith once delivered to the saints in the first century. It is a false adaptive theology that has conformed to society - rather than a true theology that demands that society adapt to the teachings of Christ.

As concerning the modern quote unquote "church" in America today, I can only speak hearsay - as I determined many years ago not to be a part of quote unquote "church." But I read constantly. I watch videos of what is taking place inside some of these buildings. Though I have no first hand knowledge - I still feel like I have somewhat of an understanding of what is taking place.

When I was young - in my teens - so forty years ago - at that time - and those of you

who are or were Catholics who are listening to me - will find some measure of relief in this statement - but in the independent, fundamental, premillennial Baptist quote unquote "churches" I can tell you from first hand knowledge - those institutions were filled with pedophiles. They were filled with sodomites. For the life of me, I don't understand how the Baptists have seemingly been able to get away with their pedophilia and sodomy while the Catholics have been unable to hide some of theirs. I guess governments feel like if they can make some examples out of the biggest fish - it serves their purpose to keep all the other guppies in line. I don't know.

But, I'll assure you that the Baptists - at least when I was playing that game - were filled with it. The quote unquote "Baptist colleges" were filled with it. I don't have much firsthand knowledge of the Pentecostals - but I have friends who did - and they share some of the same knowledge concerning the Pentecostals as I have with the Baptists.

The quote unquote "churches" are not only neutralized by their owners - the state - but they are enablers of the sodomite and pedophilia movements because of their false theology.

As I stated my claims to nearly 100% of my accusations against quote unquote "church" I will go the other way and say that nearly 100% of those who advocate for the present day reality of the King and His Kingdom preach a message that is nearly the opposite of the message preached in the quote unquote "church." It is a message of obedience to the King. It is a message of calling men back to the Laws of God and the Perfect Will of God contained in the Scriptures. The message of the quote unquote "church" and the message of the Kingdom are opposite one from another.

On occasion, a member of the quote unquote "church" will be a throwback somewhat. Might even be called a rebel. There is a man out there named Dave Daubenmire. I do not know him. In fact, I've only had one brief communication with him. I know that he has been labeled a right-wing extremist. His website says the following:

Quote:

Dave Daubenmire, a veteran 35 year high school football coach, was spurred to action when attacked and eventually sued by the ACLU in the late 1990's for mixing prayer with his coaching. After a two year battle for his 1st amendment rights and a determination to not back down, the ACLU relented and offered coach an out of court settlement.

As a result of the experience, Coach heard the call to move out of coaching a high school team, to the job of coaching God's team. PASS THE SALT was formed to encourage the Body of Christ to step into the cultural war. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." PASS THE SALT is convinced that God has given the Body a window of opportunity to take our culture back.

PASS THE SALT is committed to bringing together the body of Christ across denominational, racial, and economical borders to demonstrate to America the power of Biblical unity. Our vision is to unite, organize, and mobilize the Army of God to be SALT and Light as stated in MATTHEW 5:12.

End quote.

This past week, I read an article of his titled, "What if American Christians Actually Thought We Could Win?" In the article, he is calling attention to the fact that the quote unquote "church" in America is failing in the culture war. What he does not realize is that quote unquote "church" in America is not only failing in the culture war - but it is one of the biggest allies of those destroying the culture in America. That is their design. Their 501(c)(3) rules require that they abide by public policy and they are not allowed to speak against public policy or they risk losing their tax-exempt status.

Except for his constant references to the quote unquote "church" - I see several things in Daubenmire's article that I agree with and applaud him for having the courage to take a stand today. For instance, he says this, quote:

The frontal assault on Biblical morality is astonishingly bold and our grandchildren are in the cross-hairs of the sexual deviants all across this land.

This is what we fight at Pass The Salt Ministries yet we find it to be a very isolating form of ministry. We often ask the Lord why he put us into such a "confrontational" ministry when our walk would have been so much easier if He had raised us up to preach the "peace and prosperity" message. We are shunned by most of the church brethren and ridiculed by the sissy, skinny jean-wearing, mousse haired, metro-sexuals that fill America's pulpits.

Real masculine men are not welcome in most churches today. In fact, masculinity has been so swept into the closet that any thought of "fighting" for the culture has gone the way of hymnals and strictly enforced church discipline. Today's Christianity is so different from the Gospel preached in the Book of Acts that most churches and their

messages have become nothing more than self-help centers where attendees pay weekly dues to be reassured of how much Jesus loves them.

It makes me want to barf. How can ANY congregation sit passively by and watch the children of this nation be spiritually assaulted by the "doctrines of demons" and do nothing to fight against the darkness? Homosexuals are now welcome in most of America's churches while those of us who fight against it are shunned. Whole congregations now accept deviant sexual activity as if it were perfectly Christian. What has caused the church to do such a complete flip-flop in one generation? Why do those who want to fight for the future of our grandchildren feel so out of place in most churches? How is it that God's children have become so spiritually apathetic?

End quote. Now those aren't my words. Those are his and he has first hand knowledge of what is going on in the quote unquote "churches" in America. So apparently, I'm correct in my own assessment without even stepping inside one of their buildings.

As I always do, at the end of the article, I read the comments. As expected, here is one of them:

I like your spunk! But your detractors are right - the Book tells us how it will end. It is just as wrong minded to think that we can win or change God's plan (a delusion of the opposite extreme). Too many Christians have given up - as you say. But too many have also started to believe the WE can change God's plan (many Trump followers). Why can't we just continue to actively FIGHT for God's truth while still KNOWING what the Word tells us lies ahead - we will only WIN when Christ returns.

In the article, Daubenmire quoted another one of his detractors:

"You are wasting your time, Coach fighting against the culture. Things are playing out just exactly as the Bible says they would. Things are going to only get worse until Jesus returns. We are not long for this old world!"

So Daubenmire appears to be at a total loss for why the modern quote unquote "church" people don't receive his message. You can read his frustration in his writings.

I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard that bilge come out of a fellow Christian's mouth. Those are the ones who are quick to tell me how wrong I am for going about things the way that I do. Those in the Christian peanut gallery always have a better way of doing what they are not doing.

The problem, Dave, is they are not in the "Christian peanut gallery." They are in the "churchian peanut gallery."

Christianity and "churchianity" are as far apart as night and day. Dave is trying to apply Kingdom Law and Kingdom principles where it is not allowed. Kingdom Law and Kingdom principles are not for the quote unquote "church" and you can take this truth back to JN Darby and lay it as his feet and say - "This is what your false theology has given us."

Darby was telling his followers back in the 1800s the same garbage that Darby's mouthpieces today are telling their followers: "You don't polish brass on a sinking ship. Everything you see today is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. If what we are seeing is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, then there is nothing you can do about it. In fact, not only is there nothing you can do about it, there is nothing you should do about, because to resist the fulfillment of Bible prophecy is to resist God Himself."

Neutralized. Powerless. Complacent. Christianity has been replaced with something called "churchianity" and it was by design. When the elite, ultra-rich devilish cabal was planning their one world government of enslavement - they knew the best way to accomplish their goals was through religion. When Scofield took Darby's assumptions and the elite then - what I call - "puffed" Scofield - put money behind his false theology - they knew exactly what they were doing. And it wasn't something they just invented.

The principle of creating complacency for a eliminating opposition to an agenda was not new to Scofield's time.

Listen to the Works of Josephus. This is describing the time right before the destruction of Jerusalem at AD 70. The same message of the false prophet of today - was the same message of the false prophet of that day. I believe this is where evil men have learned the value of instilling complacency in the people who could potentially resist them:

Quote:

A false prophet was the occasion of these people's destruction, who had made a public proclamation in the city that very day, that God commanded them to get upon the temple, and that there they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance.

The people were being told they were soon to be delivered - even though the truth was - they were soon to be destroyed. Continuing - listen closely:

Now there was then a great number of false prophets suborned by the tyrants to impose on the people, who denounced this to them, that they should wait for deliverance from God; and this was in order to keep them from deserting, and that they might be buoyed up above fear and care by such hopes. Now a man that is in adversity does easily comply with such promises; for when such a seducer makes him believe that he shall be delivered from those miseries which oppress him, then it is that the patient is full of hopes of such his deliverance.

This is the origin of "don't polish the brass on a sinking ship." Every indication around these people told them they were getting ready to be annihilated. They could see the Roman army. All points were pointing to destruction. Just like today. All points are pointing to collapse, to destruction. There's even blood flowing in the streets of America today. Open sodomy is rampant. The culture war is being lost. But - continuing with Josephus...

3. Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation, but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them.

Everywhere we look today the denunciations that God caused to be recorded in the history of His Word - are everywhere. Everyone knows the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Christians know it, churchians know it, the sodomites themselves know it - but very few have either eyes to see or minds to consider. Scofield and his Zionist compatriots knew exactly what they needed to do to cause their agenda to advance - and this is where they got it from. The ironic thing is - they got it from Fulfilled Bible Prophecy. What Josephus was recording, was the Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy!

So Scofield and his cronies pushed their false theology of a coming saviour - knowing that it would keep the status quo - it would prevent desertion among the ranks - until the conquest was secured.

Some who have been listening but maybe haven't put the pieces together yet, might say, "Wait a minute, Charlie, those people WERE soon to see the coming of Christ, they were going to be saved." Not so. Let me remind you of the words of Christ from Matthew 24. Christ told His followers that when they saw certain things taking place - they were to "what?" Flee Jerusalem. The followers of Christ had left Jerusalem by the time Josephus was recording these things. What Josephus was recording was happening to the "churchians" - not the Christians. Let's go on with Josephus, for those who want to demand some sort of historical record of the coming of Christ in the first century, listen to this:

Thus there was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year. Thus also before the Jews' rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month Xanthicus, [Nisan,] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time; which lasted for half an hour. This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskillful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes, as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. At the same festival also, a heifer, as she was led by the high priest to be sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the temple. Moreover, the eastern gate of the inner [court of the] temple, which was of brass, and vastly heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and rested upon a basis armed with iron, and had bolts fastened very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night. Now those that kept watch in the temple came hereupon running to the captain of the temple, and told him of it; who then came up thither, and not without great difficulty was able to shut the gate again. This also appeared to the vulgar to be a very happy prodigy, as if God did thereby open them the gate of happiness. But the men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord, and that the gate was opened for the advantage of their enemies. So these publicly declared that the signal foreshowed the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one and twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the temple,] as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." But, what is still more terrible, there was one Jesus, the son of Ananus, a plebeian and a husbandman, who, four years before the war began, and at a time when the city was in very great peace and prosperity, came to that feast whereon it is our custom for every one to make tabernacles to God in the temple, began on a sudden to cry aloud, "A voice from the east, a voice from the west, a voice from the four winds, a voice against Jerusalem and the holy house, a voice against the bridegrooms and the brides, and a voice against this whole people!" This was his cry, as he went about by day and by night, in all the lanes of the city. However, certain of the most eminent among the populace had great indignation at this dire cry of his, and

took up the man, and gave him a great number of severe stripes; yet did not he either say any thing for himself, or any thing peculiar to those that chastised him, but still went on with the same words which he cried before. Hereupon our rulers, supposing, as the case proved to be, that this was a sort of divine fury in the man, brought him to the Roman procurator, where he was whipped till his bones were laid bare; yet he did not make any supplication for himself, nor shed any tears, but turning his voice to the most lamentable tone possible, at every stroke of the whip his answer was, "Woe, woe to Jerusalem!" And when Albinus (for he was then our procurator) asked him, Who he was? and whence he came? and why he uttered such words? he made no manner of reply to what he said, but still did not leave off his melancholy ditty, till Albinus took him to be a madman, and dismissed him. Now, during all the time that passed before the war began, this man did not go near any of the citizens, nor was seen by them while he said so; but he every day uttered these lamentable words, as if it were his premeditated vow, "Woe, woe to Jerusalem!" Nor did he give ill words to any of those that beat him every day, nor good words to those that gave him food; but this was his reply to all men, and indeed no other than a melancholy presage of what was to come. This cry of his was the loudest at the festivals; and he continued this ditty for seven years and five months, without growing hoarse, or being tired therewith, until the very time that he saw his presage in earnest fulfilled in our siege, when it ceased; for as he was going round upon the wall, he cried out with his utmost force, "Woe, woe to the city again, and to the people, and to the holy house!" And just as he added at the last, "Woe, woe to myself also!" there came a stone out of one of the engines, and smote him, and killed him immediately; and as he was uttering the very same presages he gave up the ghost.

4. Now if any one consider these things, he will find that God takes care of mankind, and by all ways possible foreshows to our race what is for their preservation; but that men perish by those miseries which they madly and voluntarily bring upon themselves; for the Jews, by demolishing the tower of Antonia, had made their temple four-square, while at the same time they had it written in their sacred oracles, "That then should their city be taken, as well as their holy house, when once their temple should become four-square." But now, what did the most elevate them in undertaking this war, was an ambiguous oracle that was also found in their sacred writings, how, "about that time, one from their country should become governor of the habitable earth." The Jews took this prediction to belong to themselves in particular, and many of the wise men were thereby deceived in their determination. Now this oracle certainly denoted the government of Vespasian, who was appointed emperor in Judea. However, it is not possible for men to avoid fate, although they see it beforehand. But these men interpreted some of these signals according to their own pleasure, and some of them

they utterly despised, until their madness was demonstrated, both by the taking of their city and their own destruction.

The concept of a false saviour bringing delivery to men who desperately need it is not new. The concept of a false coming saviour creates complacency. Futurism, the pre-trib rapture and millennialism constructed by Darby and advanced by Scofield through the quote unquote "churches" in America and throughout Europe - and even the rest of the world is why we find ourselves where we are today. I continue to stand by my statement that until we expose and tear down this false theology of futurism - indeed - things will continue to get worse and worse. It's by design. It's like clockwork. It does what it was designed to do.

The only thing that can stop it is the realization that the King has already come. The Kingdom was established in the first century and it is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom.

Friends, Jesus or Yeshua - is not coming back to this earth - ever. The Bible does not teach it. There's no need for it. It is finished. He's done all He was required to do. He set it up. He put it in motion. He gave His disciples the blueprint. They followed it in the first century and they turned the world upside down.

In the 1600s on American soil, there were some communities of true Christians that took that blueprint and followed it - and the blessings of God on those people were so vast - that the blessings lasted well beyond their generation because of the foundations they had established. Even when their ancestors turned against those foundations - the blessings that God bestowed on those people in the 1600s outlasted their generation. As those foundations continue to erode - starting with the most damaging blow to the roots coming in 1789 - we now are seeing those blessings turn into full blown cursings. And only a return to the King and His Kingdom will save us. Will we begin to seek His Kingdom or will we will continue *like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, fail to regard the denunciations that God has made to us?*

In our remaining minutes this morning, take your Bibles please and turn to Acts 19. Once again it is very important that we not only hear the text, but see it. So please take your Bibles and turn to Acts 19 and we will begin in verse 1. "Church" or Kingdom? What does the Bible say?

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
[2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

[3] And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

[4] Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

[5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

[6] And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

[7] And all the men were about twelve.

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

Stop for a minute. Look at verse 8 again very closely.

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

Paul was there for 3 whole months teaching - look - disputing and persuading things concerning the Kingdom of God. For 3 months Paul was teaching that Christ had come, and that He was King and the Kingdom of God was soon to be implemented. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He was persuading concerning the Kingdom - not a "church." The Greek word here is basilia, 932 in Strong's meaning royalty, rule, a realm, kingdom, and reign. Wow is that cool. Hopefully that didn't sound sacrilege - but that's just plain awesome. 932 says it comes from 935 through the notion of a foundation of power, a sovereign, a king. Yes! That's Who This Jesus we preach is. And He's the same now as He was in the first century. Now watch, verse 9:

[9] But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude,

Notice - they spake evil of that way. Yes. The Kingdom of God and the Kingship of Christ is a way, it's a way of life, it's the way of the New Covenant World in which was established in the first century and it is supposed to be established from generation to

generation and it is established in the lives of those who will allow His reign - from generation to generation.

But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

[10] And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

[11] And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

[12] So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

[13] Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

[14] And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

[15] And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

[16] And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

[17] And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

[18] And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

[19] Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

[20] So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

[21] After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

[22] So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

[23] And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

[24] For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

[25] Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

[26] Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout

all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

[27] So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

[28] And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

[29] And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

[30] And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

[31] And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

[32] Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

[33] And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

[34] But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

[35] And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?

Alright. Notice here how political this has gotten. The townclerk is now involved.

[36] Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

[37] For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

[38] Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another.

Once again, clearly note the political language of the discussion. "A matter against any man, the law is open, there deputies...etc."

[39] But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

This is all political language. This is not quote unquote "church." This is government. This is secular government being talked about here. And what Greek word do you think is used for "it shall be determined in a lawful assembly?" The Greek word for assembly here is ecclesia. This whole dispute here is political. It's the Kingdom of God versus the kingdom of men. It's all ecclesia - God's ecclesia versus man's ecclesia. Church is not here. "Churches" is - and it is referencing the temples of Diana. The KJV translators got it right here - "churches" are buildings and they are the false temples of Diana. Ecclesia - Christ's ecclesia - is the Kingdom of God - it is not the temples of Diana. Verse 40:

[40] For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

[41] And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

When who had spoken? The townsclerk. He dismissed the assembly. What assembly? The secular ecclesia. My friends, if we do not see the true meaning of ecclesia described in Acts 19 - I don't know what else we can do. There is more, though. I'll assure you of that. There's more. I find it more than ironic that in this chapter - we see Paul arguing, fighting, disputing for the Kingdom of God. We see the secular government coming against Paul - and the Greek word is ecclesia for the secular government. Then, we see the word "churches" here in this chapter - and it does not come from the Greek word ecclesia - where it is wrongly translated over and over in our English Bibles and the one time it IS correctly translated as "church" it is in reference to the pagan temple of Diana.

Until we tear down the false teachings of futurism and the false teachings that Christ was building churches - we are not going to see the Kingdom of God advanced in our generation. The great thing about generation to generation is that every new day begins a new generation. Think about that one, until Lord willing, we meet again.