

The Kingdom of Heaven Destroys the Kingdoms of this World, Part 1

2021 Kingdom Series, by Leon King-2021

Bible Text: Matthew 24:1-3; Revelation 11:15-19

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The scripture cannot be broken and I thought about the many people that I've talked to recently who say we don't believe the Old Testament prophecies, we don't preach from the Revelation, we don't believe there's going to be a kingdom of Christ on this earth. I thought, how can anyone say that and say they believe what's written? As we learn and grow, there is a danger that we formulate a doctrinal base of our own, and if we read something that doesn't fit into that preconceived notion, then we have to throw it away because it interferes with our thinking. I beg you, brothers and sisters, read the book and believe what you read. If you believe what you read, you and I and many others who believe the Bible are going to be on exactly the same page.

I thought about this; this is just one illustration. How many prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled word for word exactly as they were prophesied? Just one example, "*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*" Matthew 1:22 says, "*Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*"

Now I want you to see this as we go into this section today. There's absolutely no question that those of you who are believing in Christ as your Savior are saved eternally. You're never going to be lost. God has promised to be merciful to your unrighteousness and to remember your sins and iniquities no more. I don't care who the person is, if he believes in Christ he's saved eternally. But it does matter for all of us how we live our life as a child of God. Paul warns those who build upon the foundation of Christ: some build with wood, hay and stubble, some build with precious stone, and he went on to say that *the day shall declare* our work, that is, our whole body of work for our whole life, of whatsort it is. "*If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*" That to me is just as plain as John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8, 9. It means exactly what it says and I'm convinced that there are people who have lived their life knowing that they should be doing differently and not doing it and building with wood, hay and stubble, and will see their whole life go up in smoke, yet saved eternally.

Now I want to read from Luke 21:29-36. The Lord here had been talking about the destruction of Jerusalem and the things that were coming, and here is an encouragement and a warning. "*And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.*" So we do. "*So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*" He's talking about the sun darkened and the moon turned to blood and the stars falling

from heaven. He said, *"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away,"* that is, the people that are living on earth at that time, it won't pass, *"till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."* Listen, *"And take heed to yourselves,"* he's talking to his people, *"lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and,"* look at this, *"cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."* Now I don't know all the answers to this but I know that's a warning for us to live godly.

I want to look at this one now. I think this is a promise and with it there's a warning to the church at Philadelphia. Revelation 3:7-11, *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."* Now watch this, *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly:"* I come suddenly, *"hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."* A crown is a reward. This church was promised that they would be spared this terrible time. Now I don't know how the Lord will do that, but I believe that with all my heart, that that's exactly what's going to take place. I know there are some of us who are going to live up to [the time of] the coming of Christ. Most, I think, are going to die but we're [some are] going to live until the coming of Christ.

Now let's get into our message and I want to just remind you of a few things right quick and we'll get right into it. We saw that the gospel, that's usually just called the gospel, the gospel of the kingdom was preached by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by all the apostles including Paul. Jesus said, *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."* We saw people pressing into the kingdom and taking it by violence. We discussed that. We looked at the prophecy from the book of Daniel concerning Nebuchadnezzar's dream. There the vision shows us that God will, in the days of the broken kingdom after Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome have gone, establish a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. The stones, speaking of Jesus as our tried cornerstone, will strike the image of Nebuchadnezzar in his feet so that it takes away all that remain of the various kingdoms of this world and shall become a mountain and fill the whole earth. It speaks of Christ's kingdom. We saw the rejection of the King, that is how that the leaders of the nation of Israel rejected him and he said to them, *"Ye shall not see me henceforth,"* the nation, *"till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."* We also considered that the apostles and the church were promised the kingdom of our Lord and we considered that God had put Israel aside until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. Then shall all Israel be saved and brought into the bond of the covenant.

Now read with me, please, from Romans 11:25-29, *"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until,"* Do you see that word? *"Until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."* Future. *"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of*

God are without repentance." This passage tells me that God is not finished with national Israel. I've told that to dozens of people in the last weeks. Not one would answer it. It can't be answered.

I want us to consider the promise of Christ's coming. All of us know that the disciples watched him ascend into heaven and the angel said, *"Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."* He said, *"... if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also."*

Now I want you to look with me, please, in Matthew 24:1-3. *"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be,"* that is, the destruction of the temple, *"and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"* Here is a threefold question. This is Peter, Andrew, James and John as Mark 13:3-4 tells us, and Jesus now is answering their question about the destruction of the temple that will take place in AD 70, and in verses 27 through 31 of chapter 24, he told them the sign of his coming.

Let's read that from Mark 13. It's in Matthew 24:27-31. Let's read Mark 13, beginning with verse 5. *"And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows."*

Now I want you to drop on down in the same chapter to verse 23. *"But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation,"* after that tribulation, *"the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then,"* after that tribulation, *"shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels,"* after that tribulation, *"and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."* And the rest of this talks about the fig tree that we spoke about a minute ago.

Now please turn to read Luke's account, chapter 21, of the destruction of Jerusalem which took place in 70 AD, and the prophecy of the Lord's return, verses 20 through 24. *"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them,"* them, *"which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."* That's what we're talking about. Jews are scattered just like the Lord said.

Now drop on down to verse 25. *"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." How do we know we're close? When we see these things the Lord is talking about, signs in the sun and the moon, the stars, and distress of nations, that's just before he comes.

The second point I want to make with you is this, that before the coming of the Lord, the man of sin shall arise, the son of perdition, the antichrist to whom God will give dominion over the saints for 42 months, 3 ½ years. You're saying, "Preacher, what are you saying? Aren't we looking for the Lord's coming?" We are, but he has said there are some things that must happen before he comes again. This is one of them.

Now we have three witnesses to this momentous thing. Go back to Matthew 24 and read verses 15 and 16. "*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,*" Look at the parenthesis, "*(whoso readeth, let him understand:)*," That's meant for us. "*Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*" Now look at verse 21, "*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*"

Brothers and sisters, this is also written in the 13th chapter of Mark. It says almost exactly the same thing and I'll leave you to read that. Let me just read the verses from Mark 13 at verse 14 where he says, "*But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains ...*" And then in verse 19, "*For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.*"

There's twice where it says you're going to see the abomination of desolation. Do we have a corroborating scripture? Yes, we do. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Now stay with me a minute. Paul is writing to the church at Thessalonica. They thought they were in the day of Christ but he wrote this to them to comfort them and said, "You're not, and here's how you're going to know." "*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means:*" I pray to God that none of us are deceived, "*for that day shall not come,*" positively, "*except there come a falling away first,*" a great apostasy, "*and that man of sin be revealed,*" What is this saying? It's not going to come until the apostasy comes and the man of sin is seen for who he is. You're going to see this. "*the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*" He's going to make the world worship him and the false prophet is going to make them worship him. Them that will not shall be killed. "*Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*" He said, "*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth,*" or prevents, "*will let [prevent], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong*

delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." How much plainer can it be? You're going to see this man reign.

Now I want you to turn to Daniel and read chapter 7, verse 21 and 22. *"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."* Do you see that? That's talking about the antichrist.

Now turn to Revelation 13:6-8. *"And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

Well, you're going to say, "Well, that's the saints that are saved in the tribulation period." I'll tell you what I'll do with you, you show me one scripture in Revelation where anybody repented of their sin. I'll show you three where it says they would not. No one is ever saved except they repent and the world will refuse to repent in that day because God will send them strong delusion and they'll believe a lie. You say, "Well, the saints, we're going to be taken out in the rapture." The rapture, brothers and sisters, is a lie that somebody made up. It's not there as we're going to see.

Third point I want you to see is the mystery which Paul reveals of the resurrection of the dead saints and the changing of the living ones. 1 Corinthians 15:51, Paul said, *"Behold, I shew you a mystery;"* This is something that had not been revealed heretofore. *"We shall not all sleep,"* that is, we're not all going to die, *"but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,"* are you looking at this, *"at the last trump;"* Who put that in there, "at the last trump"? That's when we're going to be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *"for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* That's the mystery revealed. We're not all going to die but we're all going to be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump.

Consider this with me and see if this is not what is meant here. We're not all going to sleep, that is, we're not all going to die. We're all going to be changed. I want to ask you now what does the term "last trump" mean? It's the sound of a trumpet. Is there a last trump in scripture? If so, where is it? I want to read first Revelation 8:12 and 13 and this will give us the prelude to the last trump. *"And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"* Four trumpets had already sounded. The fifth and sixth trumpet brought great devastation to the earth.

Now notice Revelation 11:14 through 19. *"The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe,"* or the last woe, *"cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded;"* There's the trumpet. *"The*

seventh angel sounded and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever." Listen, when Christ returns with his saints, he will destroy all that are ruling over the earth. It's going to be a horrible time for the earth because his kingdom is going to be set up right on the heels of that.

Now notice verse 18 in the same chapter. *"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth."* Here is the last trumpet in scripture. I contend that 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52 talks about this very time when the last trumpet sounds. Why is it put in there? It's put in there for our learning and for our admonition.

I'm sorry, I don't find a rapture. Now I'm going to tell you this, somebody argues we're not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Listen, you're never, ever going to experience the wrath of God, but you're going to experience the wrath of man just like the thousands upon thousands upon thousands of our brothers and sisters have suffered in a million different ways since the first century and died. Someone said, "Well, the Lord will take us away from that." There's no evidence that he will but there's every evidence that the man of sin will kill the saints. But they'll overcome him. How? *By the blood of the Lamb ... they loved not their lives unto the death.*

Fourth point, consider this, the prophesied destruction of them which destroy the earth, the fragments of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the fifth kingdom which we are living in today. See Daniel 2:34 and 35. Daniel tells the great king, *"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold,"* that represents all of these kingdoms, *"broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain,"* That is, Christ became the great kingdom. *"and filled the whole earth."* We'll talk about more about that later.

Now look at verses 41 through 45 in the same chapter, chapter 2 in Daniel. *"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."* Do you know why they can't establish a kingdom today? Because men are jealous and hateful toward one another and they will not mix together. It will take a sovereign King to come back and set it in order, and that's exactly what's going to happen.

Notice this verse, *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."* Christ will rule where? On this earth. What kingdoms does he destroy? The ones on this earth. And his kingdom will cover, then, the whole earth.

Consider this: the church shall have been resurrected; the living changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. At some point after the resurrection, the marriage supper of the Lamb shall be conducted. Now I admit I need more study about this but I know it comes after. I think it happens in heaven before the Lord comes back to earth with his saints.

Now the saints have been caught up, they're present with the Lord and they'll always be with him. Revelation 19:1-10. *"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore,"* That is the Roman Catholic system. *"which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife,"* Which is the church. *"hath made herself ready. And to her,"* That is, the church. *"was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints,"* Which is the righteousness of Christ. *"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

One more point and then we'll be done. I want you to consider the Lord's coming with his saints to destroy the beast, the man of sin and all his army and all the enemies of Israel. Chapter 19, Revelation, verse 11 and 12, *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses ..."* I thought about that and I looked up "armies" and what does that mean? Tyndale said it means warriors. You, brothers and sisters, are going to judge the world and here's where it happens. *"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast,"* The man of sin. He's only going to be here 3 ½ years and he comes to his end right here. Verse 20, *"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."*

Now consider these points from what we just read. One called the Word of God, Faithful and True on a white horse coming to judge and make war. He was so gentle, so meek, so soft while he was here, but when he comes back with his saints, he comes as a warrior from heaven. None of us can doubt this is Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords who shall smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. This sounds like he's going to make them behave – he's going to – because he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The saints are called the armies. Listen, the very least of the saints is qualified to judge more than the most highly educated man on the face of this earth. Christ has been made unto you wisdom. You know exactly what to do. And these are with the King of kings and Lord of lords as he comes to execute judgment on the earth.

Oh brethren, a little bit of trouble is nothing. Though they come and shoot us all, don't worry about it, just die one time. Don't die in your mind all the time. Wait until it happens, and you're not going to know anything except you're present with the Lord which is far better. Hey, I love this. I love what it says.

I'm through for this time. We'll pick it up next time.