



ACTS CHAPTER 18

As we move into Acts chapter 18... there's a couple of things to make note of. The first thing that we want to make note of is that it's almost certain that Paul arrived in Corinth in about 50ad... this would have meant that it would have been about 15 to 20 years after the death burial and resurrection of our Messiah Yahshua Hamashiach (Jesus Christ).. so this movement called "The Way" and those who believed in the Gospel message that Paul was preaching was beginning to take hold.. even though there was still a great resistance from the unbelieving Jews.

And we have to remember that travel back then was not like travel is today. It took a much greater effort to cross over a mile of land back then than it takes to travel over a mile of land today... so the Gospel message took time to spread across the land... but spread across the land it did.

And with that being said.. lets go ahead and lets step into Corinth along with Paul... and lets read Acts chapter 18:

Act 18:1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

Act 18:2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,

Act 18:3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Act 18:5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

Act 18:6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Act 18:7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.

Act 18:8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

Act 18:9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,

Act 18:10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

Act 18:11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Act 18:12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal,

Act 18:13 saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law."

Act 18:14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.

Act 18:15 But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things."

Act 18:16 And he drove them from the tribunal.

Act 18:17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Act 18:18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair; for he was under a vow.

Act 18:19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Act 18:20 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined.

Act 18:21 But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.

Act 18:22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch.

Act 18:23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Act 18:24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.

Act 18:25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Act 18:26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Act 18:27 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed,

Act 18:28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Now Corinth was a major shipping lane... everything going from Asia to Rome had to pass through Corinth. So militarily.. this was an important city to Rome. Julius Cesar understands the importance of Corinth and so he makes Corinth a Roman colony, and it because it was a major thruway, it was also made the Roman capital of the providence, which was called Acadia... so Corinth was a pretty important city... the inhabitance of Corinth we know was about 750

thousand... so we know it was a pretty busy place at that time.

As we move forward we're introduced to Aquila and Priscilla who were tent makers, and Paul must have grown pretty fond of Aquila and Priscilla because he mentions them in some of his other epistles, and we find them the book of Ephesians and elsewhere through out his writings.

In verse 2 we see that Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.. and so it's important to understand that even though the Roman government was religiously tolerant.. that doesn't mean that every religion was treated equally.

This Claudius was upset because according to "Suetonius" who was a Roman historian, who wrote during the time of the early Roman empire... that the people were constantly causing riots over someone by the name of "Chrestus".

Now most Biblical scholars agree that this "Chrestus" that Suetonius mention's is the Christ our Messiah, and that it was those people who were believers and part of "The Way" that were coming into the synagogues, and the riots were because the Jews were fighting against the Gospel Message and those who belonged to what was known as "The Way".

And another interesting fact that goes right along with this... is the idea that some of the believers and the followers of "The Way" may have beaten Paul to Corinth... in other words there were most likely some Christians already in Corinth when Paul got there.. and we can kind of get a sense of this from what Paul says in Romans chapter 16 verse 7:

Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

So Paul alludes to the fact that even some of his own relatives were already believers before he was. So the idea that there were gatherings of "The Way" and those who already believed in Corinth before Paul even got there is pretty compelling... especially when we take a close look at these scriptures found in Acts chapter 18.

So with that being said.. it seems as though this Claudius was tired of all the ruckus and simply commanded the Jews to leave Rome in verse 2. We have to remember that the Roman empire was tolerant of religious freedom as long as it was peaceful. Once your religion started to cause a problem... it was no longer tolerated. And so because the non believing Jews that had no eyes to see, nor the ears to hear... were all up on arms against these new believers of "The Way"... and they began to treat these new believers the same way they continuously treated Paul. They always wanted to drag him out into the streets and beat him or stone him... and so it was with these new believers that they called "The Way".. hence the riots in the streets.

The Jews after a while would get a bad reputation for always causing these riots and this kind of

discord, and this is exactly what got them into hot water when Nero came into power... the rioting and the discord in the streets that came from the Jews every time someone disagreed with them just added fuel to the fire as far as Nero was concerned... and this just fueled Nero's hatred for the Jews, and as we know from our history books.. Nero murdered almost as many Christians as the Roman Catholic Church did during the dark ages.. and that my friends... is another whole study in itself that I highly urge you to investigate.

Another thing that's important for us to remember is that Paul always earned his own way... Paul... even though he came from a very well to do Jewish family.. being a Roman born citizen himself, and a Pharisee that came from a family of Pharisees.. we know that even among the well to do Jews, it was always a custom to know a trade... and so Paul was a Tent Maker... and that's what he did... and he mentions this in more detail in 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 verse 9 and elsewhere through out the scriptures. So we can see that Paul was certainly not into preaching for the money... even though he needed a lot of it to travel the thousands of miles that he did.

Now we see that when Timothy and Silas finally catch up to Paul in verse 5 from Messidonia... Paul then becomes more occupied with the word.. so the assumption that many biblical scholars make here.. is that Timothy and Silas took up offerings in Messidonia and had brought money with them when they came to see Paul... and so Paul could then stop giving all of this attention to Tent Making, and get back to the matter and hand... and so we see Paul becoming more occupied with the Word and seems to be less concerned with making money for his next journey.

And it's important to understand that no ministry continues with out money... as much as we don't like to give up our money... every ministry needs money to continue.. and Paul's ministry was certainly no exception to that rule.

Now with that being said... I would also submit to you.. that Paul did not go around selling books, and building monolithic architecture, and putting together all kinds of denominational charters of men. Paul simply preached the truth of Gods word and just as it was freely given to him... he freely gave it to others... just some food for thought.

In verse 6 we see Paul once again trying to teach the Jews whats in their own scriptures and once again... they just don't have the eyes to see or the ears to hear... so once again they oppose Paul and we can see that Paul gets pretty angry with them and tells them that their blood is on their own heads then... and he shakes his clothes and knocks the dust off his sandals and says in verse 6... that from now on he's going to the Gentiles.

Now with that being said we know that Paul simply said this out of anger because we see Paul all through out the scriptures continuing to go back to the synagogues when ever and where ever he could find one.. so once again... this is just a small sign of how difficult it must have been for Paul who was himself a Pharisee... and still could not get through to his own people

who should have been smart enough to readily accepted the Gospel message... after all... it's all through out their Torah and the writings of their forefathers.

Never the less.. just as Paul says in Romans chapter 11... the Jews would become the enemies of the Christian for the sake of the Christian.. but as regards their election... they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. And again you can find that in Romans chapter 11 verse 28 if you'd like to read that.

But never the less. we see that Paul does indeed continue to go to the synagogues where ever he can find one.. and he still continues to try and reach them in between the work that he does trying to reach the Gentiles.

And I want us to notice that after Paul's rant about not going to the Jews anymore but only to the Gentiles... we notice what he does... In verse 7... he goes right next door to the synagogue... to Titus's house... and what does he do?... he makes Crispus... who was the ruler of the Synagogues... a believer!

And it says in verse 8 that Crispus this ruler of the Synagogue and his whole family believed and were baptized. So.. once again... when Paul shook his clothes and said he was going to the Gentiles from now on.. we can clearly see that he just speaking out of haste... because he then goes right next door and baptized the leader of the Synagogue who was obviously a Jew... and his whole family.

Another thing that I want us to take note of is found in verse 9:

Act 18:9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,

Act 18:10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

We can clearly see from verse 9 and 10 that Yahshua felt that it was necessary to give Paul some re-assurance because of the fear that Paul must have been feeling. After just escaping another turmoil with the Jews.. our Messiah has to tell him not to be afraid, and he promises Paul that no one will attack him.

And so I want us to just step back here for a moment... and I want us to understand the constant fear that Paul had to live in, because I don't think many Christians really understand how many obsticals Paul had to overcome in order to do what he did. Once again I just want to remind us of what Paul said in second Corinthians chapter 11 verses 24 through 28:

2Co 11:24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was

shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

2Co 11:26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;

2Co 11:27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2Co 11:28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

So when we talk about Paul being a mans man... we're not kidding. Even though Paul had some anxiety and was experiencing some fear... he didn't let that stop him from doing what he came to do. Paul was an extremely brave man... and with out fear... there is no bravery.. bravery is doing what your fearful of... and it's bravery that defeats fear.

And so now with that encouragement from our Messiah Paul stays in Corinth for another year and a half according to verse 11... and this would be a great time to take a break and go read first and second Corinthians... so that you can see what was going on in that vile city that Paul's in right now. You can get a much better picture of what Paul was up against in first and second Corinthians. But for times sake we won't do that right now, but that's your homework.... read first and second Corinthians so that you can see what happened in Corinth during Paul's year and a half stay.

In verse 12.. once again we see these wicked Jews trying to perpetrate this idea that Paul was preaching against the law... just like they always do... but this time they were outsmarted by this Roman procurator by the name of Gallio... and Gallio tells the Jews to knock it off and to go away in verse 14, because this has nothing to do with Roman law... so lets re-read that in verses 14 through 17:

Act 18:14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.

Act 18:15 But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things."

Act 18:16 And he drove them from the tribunal.

Act 18:17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

So who got the beating that time...not Paul.. but the ruler of this particular Synagogue by the name of Sosthenes got the beating this time... and remember what Yahshua told Paul... he told him not to be afraid and that no harm would come to him there.. so we see a rather important turning of the tables there in Corinth... and this of course allowed Paul to then continue to preach in Corinth because they knew that they couldn't incite any more false accusations against him because this Gallio wasn't going to have any of their nonsense.

Now... whats even more interesting... is that Paul in 1st Corinthians chapter one verse one.. refers to his brother “Sosthenes”!... so apparently Paul makes the first head of the Synagogue a believer..remember Crispus... and baptized his whole family.. and they replace him with Sosthenes, and soon after this.. Paul converts Sosthenes who was the second head of the Synagogue that replaced the first one, and somewhere in there Sosthenes becomes a brother. So it seems to have worked out for the best all the way around... once again... God works in mysterious ways.

THE VOW:

Now if we read verse 18... we find that Paul cuts his hair due to a vow that he's taken. Now there are a lot of commentators out there who get a real burr in their britches about this verse.

Some say that this has to do with a Nazerite Vow... but according to what's said here in this verse... it can't be a Nazerite vow because when you finish a Nazerite vow there's offerings that need to be made at the Temple and very specific things that need to be done.. and we don't see any of that here.

So what Paul was most likely doing was finishing some kind of Jewish vow found in the Halakah. The Jewish Mishna has a lot to say about all kinds of different vows... there are vows for healing, there are vows for returning home from war safely, there are vows for praying for a son.. and so on and so fourth... but because we're not told specifically what kind of vow it was that Paul took... the truth is.. we just really know.

One thing is for sure... and that is just because Paul is a believer... does not mean that Paul has lost his Jewishness and this is important to grasp. And we've talked about this before in this study... a Jew does not need to convert to Christianity... When a Jew believes... all he has to do is have faith in the Messiah and be baptized and continue to keep Gods commandments... and we should all know that we need to keep Gods commandments... regardless and let me repeat that... regardless of what we've been told by today's modern day Pastors, Priests, Bishops, and Popes.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

... so a Jew doesn't stop being a Jew... Our Messiah was a Jew who came from the house of David and the Tribe of Judah.. he did not stop being a Jew because he was the son of God.. it was in fact prophesied even by Moses clear back in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 15,

verses 15 through 19... that our Messiah would come from the 12 Tribes of Israel... so there is no “conversion” that a Jew needs to go through in order to become a believer.. Belief in their very own... very.. Jewish Messiah is simply an extension of what they already know to be true.

The only one who has to convert is the Gentile because the Gentile knows nothing about how to keep the commandments of God, and so for a Gentile to believe... there is a conversion process that must take place in their lives that they have never known about.

So getting back to Paul's hair cut because of the vow that he was under.. what we do know is that Paul took a very Jewish vow of some kind.. once again what kind of vow we're simply not told.. but much of what today's modern day Christendom believes is derived from what they've been told by what they call their early “Church Fathers”. And their (so called) “Early Church Fathers” have torn this scripture to pieces trying to prove that Paul gave up being a Jew when he converted to being a Christian... even though that's not found anywhere... and I mean anywhere.. in the scripture.

Now.. I want to make this very clear my friends.. no where in the scripture will you find it commanded to listen to.. and obey your “Church Fathers”... it's not in there, and you can't find it... and the reason you can't find it.. is because it's not in there. The truth of the matter is that we are in fact commanded by our own Messiah “NOT”.. to call anyone our Father here on this earth:

Mat 23:8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

Mat 23:10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

Mat 23:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mat 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

So anyone calling a man their “Church Father” is directly disobeying the commandment given by our own Messiah.. so we need to be clear about that before we move on.

Just because someone's self proclaimed “Church Father” says something.. does not in any way make it Gospel, nor does it make it Truth.. unless... it aligns with the scripture that we're given... and I want to make this extremely clear to everyone.. because the first thing that these wolves in sheep's clothing will do when they can not show you their doctrine in the scripture... is to go back and point to what their “Church Father” said... like that has anything to do with the truth at all... in many cases my friends... it does not.

We do not bow the knee to any “Church Father” here at Holy Impact Ministries...nor do we bow

the knee to any denominational charter of men, nor do we bow the knee to any denominational dogma, or Papal bull... nor will we ever... and I just want to make that extremely clear to those who justify what they believe according to their “Church Fathers”.

The early “Church Fathers” have taught in many cases that Paul gave up his Jewishness when he became a believer because some of these early “Church Fathers” wrongly teach that a Jew can no longer be a Jew if he is a believer... even though this goes directly against what the Scripture itself tells us if we read it correctly. And while not universal.. the consensus is to simply apologize for Paul mistake of taking a vow... and then to sweep it under the rug because it doesn't fit their own derived belief system.

Many people still believe that the law was done away with back in Acts chapter 15... but if you've been with us through out our study on Acts chapter 15.. you know full well better than that... not to mention that fact that Paul himself says that we do not overthrow the law by our faith.. Paul says on the contrary... by no means... we uphold the law in Romans 3:31. And we have many teachings on that at HolyImpactMinistries.com the teachings are all free and so are the downloadable pdf documents that go along with them.

Here's what one of their early (so called) “Church Fathers” said, and this comes from a man by the name of Jerome who lived around the mid 4th century A.D.. he said this:

“Granted that there he (Paul) did what he did NOT wish to do, through the compelled fear of the Jews: why did he let his hair grow in consequence of a vow and afterward cut it at Cenchrea in obedience to the law? Because the Nazarites who vowed themselves to God were accustomed to do this according to the commands of Moses”.

So according to this (so called) “Church Father” of theirs... Jerome says that Paul did not take this vow of his own free will. Jerome declares that the vow was “forced” upon Paul against his will.. out of the fear of the Jews.

Later we find “Bede the Venerable” writes this:

“Paul did these things (performed the vow ritual of hair cutting) NOT indeed because he had forgotten what he, along with the other apostles, had settled at Jerusalem concerning the abolition of the Law, but so that those among the Jews who had come to believe might not be scandalized, so he played the part of a Jew himself in order to win over the Jews”.

So what these two (so called) early “Church Fathers” are proclaiming... is that somewhere along the line.. Paul had renounced his Jewishness... even though that's not found anywhere.. and I mean anywhere... in the scriptures.

They are also proclaiming that Paul only played the role of Jew... and was tricking the Jews into believing that he was a Jew so that they would believe in the Gospel message that he came to deliver. Even though you won't find that written anywhere in your scripture... and I mean it's not written anywhere... but once again... that's what they simply choose by their own free will to believe.

You see they believe that Paul was only “pretending” to be a Jew who lived in accordance with the law... but what does the scripture tell us about Paul always living in obedience to the law? Lets read what the scripture... and what James the brother of Yahshua... and the Jerusalem council... had to say about whether Paul always lived in obedience to the law or not: Lets read Acts Chapter 21 verses 18 through 24:

Act 21:18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

Act 21:19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Act 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,

Act 21:21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Act 21:22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

Act 21:23 Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

Act 21:24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.

You see when you show these verses to these men who have put all of their faith in their (so called) early “Church Fathers”.. and their collage professors.. and their store bought education.. the first thing that they will try to do.. is to run back to their (so called) early “Church Fathers”... their “Professors” and their “store bought education”.. because it's the only way that they can justify what they believe.

They can't point to the scripture and the scripture alone because they do not believe in the scripture and the scripture alone. They have forsaken the very commandment that their very own Messiah has given them in Matthew chapter 23 verses 8 through 12.. in order to create.. manufacture.. and distribute.. their own doctrine.. and their own theologies.. and their own

philosophies... rather than having faith in... and believing in... and trusting in... what's clearly found in the scriptures and the truth that they would have received... if... if... they would have gone to their prayer closets.. bowed their heads.. bent their knees.. and chose to seek the truth from the Ruach Hakodesh... the (Holy Spirit) of God who our Messiah says... leads us to all truth.

The scripture only commissions the Ruach Hakodesh... the Holy Spirit of God to lead us to all truth... never and I mean never... does it commission a man with out the Ruach Hakodesh... the Holy Spirit of God... to lead men to all truth... and once again... how do we know if a man does or does not have the Holy Spirit of God?

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

But never the less... is it the wisdom of their (so called) early "Church Fathers" that modern day Christianity continues to preach and teach to this very day. And because of many of these influential so called "Early Church Fathers"... this is the source of what the majority of today's Christians believe.. because this is what they've been taught for generations.

And this mindset... this doctrine of demons... this path that leads us away from our Messiah.. is enshrined in some of the most foundational doctrines of today's modern day version of Christianity... and why?... because of their so called... "Church Fathers"... not because of scripture.. not because of the Ruach Hakodesh the "Holy Spirit" of God... not because of any Apostle, Prophet, or High Priest... not because of the Messiah, not because of our Father in Heaven... but because of their belief and their faith.. in their (so called) "Church Fathers" that our Messiah says not to even call our "Fathers".

But you see this is where we are because of the false doctrines, theologies, philosophies, and belief systems that have been handed down from generation to generation by those who claim to be full of the wisdom of men, and their denominational charters of men, and their collage professors, and their store bought education.. rather than the discernment and wisdom that comes only from the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

My question would be to these men who believe in the doctrines of their (so called) "Church Fathers" is this.. So once Paul disguises himself as a Jew (as they claim)... and does all these Jewish things.. and tricks the Jews... how then after he gets them to believe in the Messiah.. does he explain the trickery and the deceit, and the lies that he told them... in order to get them to believe?... and... once again... where is all that found in scripture?

It's so ridiculous... so outlandish... so down right stupid... that those of us who have the good God given common sense that God gave us can only laugh... that is... if it weren't so serious.

The demonically inspired doctrines of men that teach us the lie, that says that all of Gods laws are nailed to the cross somewhere, and that his commandments, his precepts, and his moedeem.. his appointments have all been abolished... are the very same demonically inspired doctrines of men that have made the little (g) god of this world... the god of this world.. just as is written in 2nd Corinthians chapter 4 verse 4.

Man has decided to follow after the lie rather than the truth... man has decided to follow after the doctrines of demons rather than the doctrine of scripture... man has decided to follow after his "Church Fathers" rather than to follow after his Heavenly Father.

And so here we are right back where we started with the pagan worship of Chirst-Mas, Good Friday, Easter, Advent, Lent, Valentines Day, and Halloween (also known as "All Saints Day" when the lost pray to the dead).

With all of that being said... I'll leave you with what our Messiah clearly said with out stutter with his own breath... with his own tongue... and with his own red letter words found in Matthew chapter five... verses 17 through 20.

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Mat 5:19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

My friends... I would submit to you... that if our righteousness dose not exceed that of our Pastors, Priests, Bishops, and Popes... we will.. never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

And we'll finish chapter 18 and move into chapter 19...next Wednesday evening at 7pm EST.

