

## XVII. Timeless Truth for Timely Topics in Biblical Perspective

*What Does the Bible Say?*

“Armageddon”

Revelation 20:7–10

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July 5, 2015 – Evening Sermon

I'd like to start by looking at Judges 5. This is the great song of Deborah. This is our 17<sup>th</sup> study on the end times and we've covered various topics and themes. We've covered the millennium, the Judgment Seat, a recent teaching of the secret rapture of the church seven years prior to the coming of Christ and issue after issue from God's Word. This is the last one I propose to deal with concerning timeless truths and the battle of Armageddon. About a month ago I was standing in the area of the Valley of Megiddo and thought about all the things that have occurred there and the Bible's declaration at the end of time when Satan is loosed a great, cataclysmic battle comes to consummation. It says it takes place on the Armageddon or the mountain of Megiddo. I actually was able to visit 28 cities of Megiddo because there are 28 levels where it has been built and rebuilt over many years. The valley is also known as the crossroads of the world as the road of the sea and the road of the kings cross right there. That was the place where known civilization began. So it is interesting to realize what will occur there under the title of a battle that takes place at the mountain of Megiddo or Armageddon. The only problem is there is not a mountain. It's a valley. So what is it telling us? There are also a couple of other issues we want to sort our way through as well. I will give you some framework in this study on this.

There have been basically two ways to look at the battle of Armageddon. One deals with the dispensational theology that says God has two plans – a plan for Israel and a plan for the church. The church is the parenthesis and when God finishes that plan He raptures the church out and then there is seven years of tribulation and then Jesus comes back. So He has a halfway coming back where He takes the church out secretly and then seven years later He has another second coming to set up His earthly Kingdom for one thousand years. At the conclusion of that one thousand years there will be this battle of Armageddon and then Jesus returns again and ushers in the judgment and the new heavens and the new earth.

The historic position has been highly saturating evangelical Christianity for a number of years. It has been promoted by the Schofield Study Bible and other study Bibles. It was promoted by the book *Satan is Alive and Well on the Planet Earth* and the Left Behind Series. If you'd like to hear more on this I've already covered this and you can go back and read the transcripts or listen to the audio at [www.briarwood.org/sermon](http://www.briarwood.org/sermon) library.

The historic position of the battle of Armageddon has been that we are in the millennium where it is the expanding of the Kingdom of God and one thousand is not a physical number of years but it is symbolic like so many of the other numbers mentioned in the Bible. The Kingdom of God is expanding while Satan's evil empire, though restrained, strikes back in various ways. His basic strategies are infiltration, intimidation and imitation. He is constantly striking back against the Kingdom of God to try and thwart it but he cannot stop the Gospel from going to all the nations. After this time we

are told in the Bible that there will be a loosening of Satan with this three-fold of the beast of the sea, the beast of the land, and then an anti-Christ. When this happens there will be a concentrated confederation of national gathering to strike against the church of Jesus Christ. Our Lord will intervene at seemingly a moment when the church is about to be annihilated throughout the world, with judgment and that is the battle of Armageddon.

Will there be a physical battle on that plain of Megiddo? That position doesn't say there has to be or there will not be. It will be a spiritual battle that comes to a conclusion but with much physical ramifications as there will be persecution against the church, believers and the attempt to extinguish the church of Jesus Christ. That will be a worldwide movement that will concentrate itself. The historic position is that there is one place where there have been multiple battles in the Bible and in history that the prophecy of John that Jesus gave to him, uses that name as a symbol of this battle. It will have physical violence attached to it but essentially it is a spiritual battle in which Satan is attempting to annihilate the church. It is at that moment that our Lord brings judgment and then the final judgment and then the new heavens and the new earth and the lake of fire for those who do not know Christ.

There are sub positions of the position I just gave you but we don't have time to go into all of that for this study but those are the two basic views that are out there. Is Armageddon a declaration of a great conflict that is a spiritual battle that erupts with persecution and violence against the Lord's church and Christ will come and pour out His judgment? The Bible refers to this as a cataclysmic judgment and in Zephaniah it says there will be an earthquake that runs through the Mount of Olives as the Lord returns in judgment to bring it all to a conclusion. Or is Armageddon just a physical battle? I think by the end of this study you'll see where I stand on this but I want us to work our way through this and this is what I call a locker room discussion, not a battlefield discussion. This is something among believers where we can agree to disagree and the Lord will bring it out as it is stated. We always give those judgments in terms of the details of prophecy.

Prophecy is given in apocalyptic, symbolic and large language. Prophecy is God prewriting history. He knows where it is going. He prewrites it in a way we can get the essentials but with the details we have to be agnostic. We just have to wait to see how that happens.

I will give you an illustration. The Bible tells us two times in the Old Testament that before Jesus would come that Elijah would be the one who would come before Him. Then we find out in Jesus Himself that, that was fulfilled in John the Baptist. So it wasn't actually Elijah being resurrected from a grave and then brought back but it was the spirit of Elijah and the blessing of God that was upon Elijah that was now deposited upon John the Baptist who became the forerunner in this great calling that he had in which no one greater than John the Baptist had been born because of the calling he had. So that was the fulfillment of it. It wasn't a non-literal fulfillment but a non-physical fulfillment. The literal fulfillment was it was fulfilled by the power of the Spirit of God that had been upon Elijah and now rested upon John the Baptist.

People ask me if I believe in a literal fulfillment and I say yes it needs to be fulfilled as God has revealed it in the 'literature' of the Bible. Spiritual is not non-literal. Spiritual is the way it is literally being fulfilled. So some things are not physically fulfilled but spiritually fulfilled in their literal fulfillment. Some are physically fulfilled

and some are both physically and spiritually fulfilled in the Bible. So we have to be careful as we work our way through this and give the judgment of charity.

When John records the battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16, that is nothing new to them. Let's look in Judges 5 in which there was a very significant battle where visited in a supernatural way the enemies of God and destroyed them in a place called Megiddo on the plain of Megiddo in the valley of Jezreel. Deborah was the judge and Barak was the one who was called of the Lord under Deborah to bring forth this battle. They fought against extraordinary odds looking as though there was no way they could win this but God intervened.

Judges 5:19–22 says [19] *“The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. [20] From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. [21] The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might! [22] “Then loud beat the horses' hoofs with the galloping, galloping of his steeds.* Then he goes on to speak of this full and complete victory. This was in the history of Israel as they had been brought from Egypt and were driving out all of these Canaanite nations as an instrument of God's judgment.

There was a place at Megiddo where child sacrifice would take place under the god of Moloch. It was there that all the Canaanite nations came together with their superior weaponry and their fierce countenance against this nomad tribe that had come into the land. It was there that the hand of God delivered them through Deborah's leadership and Barak's generalship. It was a glorious moment there at Megiddo, there at the valley of Jezreel. In II Kings you'll find another battle in Jezreel and it is there that the Egyptian kings defeat King Josiah. It was there where God's judgment was not turned upon Canaanite nations but upon His own people. Even the King was killed.

It doesn't stop there for it goes out throughout history. It is there that the Crusaders came and were defeated. It was there that Napoleon looked upon it fighting his battle against Turks and Arabs. This is the most amazing battlefield that has ever existed. There have been battle after battle there so when you would speak to the people of the Bible talking about the Mount of Megiddo on the one hand they would know you are speaking about warfare and on the other hand they would say, 'what do you mean mountain?' It's not a mountain. It's a valley. By calling it the mountain of Megiddo is God giving us a hint as to how we are to work our way through this. As we move to that battle will it be a retro war of chariots and horses or is that the language of the day trying to get across point of the intensity of the battle against the Lord and the weaponry of the world against the weaponry of the Spirit of God?

This battle is anticipated in numerous passages and I won't have time to cover all of them but I will get to some of them in the Old Testament. Let's start by looking at Ezekiel 38 and 39. There is this Gog and Magog. Gog seems to be the ruler and Magog, the people who are following the ruler of Gog. Ezekiel 38:1–12 says [1] *The word of the LORD came to me: [2] “Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him [3] and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. [4] And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. [5] Persia, Cush, and Put are with them,*

*all of them with shield and helmet; [6] Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes—many peoples are with you.*

*[7] “Be ready and keep ready, you and all your hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. [8] After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them. [9] You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you.*

*[10] “Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme [11] and say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,’ [12] to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.*

Much more could be said of this chapter but let’s look now at Ezekiel 39. Here is the Lord telling Gog and Magog and this confederation of nations from East, West, North and South that are all coming together with this massive army, that they think they are coming together but I the Lord have a hook in your jaw for I’m bringing you together. They actually think they are coming up with a scheme and He is actually putting it in them. He is bringing them in here for what He will do to them and they will come up against His people, Israel, upon the mountain where He has gathered them. They will see them as a peaceful people who cannot defend themselves, an easy prey for their great weapons they would bring against them. All the while God is bringing them.

*Ezekiel 39:1–8 says [1] “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. [2] And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel. [3] Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand. [4] You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. [5] You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD. [6] I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.*

*[7] “And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. [8] Behold, it is coming and it will be brought about, declares the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken.*

God is with His people on that mountain and He is with them and against you. You have risen up with all of your armament but you are actually being gathered by Me for the purpose of judgment which includes the judgement of fire. The Canaanites received judgment in a place called Megiddo as well. Although this judgment will not be a temporary judgment upon Gog and Magog as many of God’s judgments have been throughout the ages. This will be a final judgment for no nation will ever be able to

blaspheme God again after this judgment. I'd like to look at some other passages. I don't have time to go to Zephaniah 3 but I want to look at Zechariah 12.

I think one of the greatest keys to understanding the book of Revelation is the book of Zechariah. I know the book of Daniel has things to say about it and to it but I'm looking forward to doing a series on Zechariah in the near future. Zechariah 12:1–5 says *[1] The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: [2] "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. [3] On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. [4] On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. [5] Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.'* Then He goes on to give greater description. Let's look at chapter 14.

Zechariah 14:1–5 says *[1] Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. [2] For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. [3] Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. [4] On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. [5] And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.*

This is being set up the same way with the nations coming and God's drawing them. There will be casualties among God's people as they come against them but then God's people will be delivered by the coming of the Lord and it will be the day of God's wrath upon the nations from which they will never bring blasphemy against Him again. Now this is picked up for us from the book of Revelation so let's look at Revelation 6.

I enjoy teaching the book of Revelation because I think it's a progressive unfolding. First you have the seven churches, then the teaching of the seven seals, the seven trumpets, the seven plagues and then the seven bowls of wrath. I believe God is recapitulating His judgment throughout each one of those. He explains the seventh seal by giving us the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet by giving us the seven plagues. Then He explains the seventh plague by giving us the seven bowls of wrath. So this book seems to be unrolling step by step and recapitulating itself as God is telling us what His plans are and He keeps building it with greater clarity and detail as He works through it. In Revelation 6 we have the seven seals that only Christ is able to break to unfold the work of redemption. We will start by looking at the sixth seal.

Revelation 6:12–17 says *[12] When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, [13] and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree*

*sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. [14] The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. [15] Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, [16] calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, (quote from Zechariah and Ezekiel) [17] for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

Let's now look at the seven bowls of wrath which builds from this sixth seal in Revelation 16. Revelation 16:10–16 says *[10] The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish [11] and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.*

*[12] The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. [13] And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. (Using the language of the plagues in Egypt but you have this unholy trinity of the two beasts (the false prophet and beast of the land which is the religious power of a false church that supports the beast of the sea which is the confederation of rebellion against God and His Kingdom) and Satan (dragon)) [14] For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. [15] ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") [16] And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon (or the Mountain of Megiddo).*

He is drawing them together to come upon them like a thief to pour out His wrath upon them and they will not expect it. God's people are to keep their garments on for their trust is in Him and the garments of Christ and not in the armor of the world. He is their Defender and will uphold them. You stay awake and be on the alert. This day will not come upon you like a thief as it comes upon them in that day. He will assemble them in this place of Armageddon. This particular theme continues to unfold in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:11–21 says *[11] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war (This is Jesus who didn't come the first time to make war and judgment but came on a donkey to bear our judgment at Mount Calvary). [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

*[17] Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, [18] to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of*

*horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” [19] And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. [20] And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. [21] And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

So it is a full and absolute final judgment that ends up fueling the flames of hell, even as God’s judgment of fire comes upon them. Christ comes to bring His people to victory as He comes to bring this final judgment to all who gathered. The theme is picked up again for us in Revelation 20:7–15 which says [7] *And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison [8] and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. [9] And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, [10] and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

*[11] Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. [13] And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. [14] Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15] And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Who is not thrown in the lake of fire? It is those who are not in the books but those who are written in the book of life by the blood of the Lamb who know Him as Lord and Savior. This great battle ushers it in at that moment. The question that is before us is whether this could be a physical battle that could take place. Certainly it could but while I believe that there will be warfare, there will be physical persecution against the church to the end time. I believe all of that is being summed up as a battle. It is a spiritual battle with physical implications. We have been paying the price. Many missionaries have given their lives. Many martyrs have given their life for Christ throughout the years. In fact, the Bible tells us that the martyrs are the seed of the church. That has been going on for a long time and will intensify.

I think the picture we have been looking at in this series has been simply this. The Kingdom of God is going to irrepressibly fill the earth and the evil empire of Satan against Christ’s Kingdom will strike back with greater intensity, greater deception, greater animosity and greater blasphemy throughout the years until it comes to a cataclysmic event. I don’t believe that one event is just at one place in Israel. I believe it will be happening all over the world. The nations of the world will be arrayed against the church of Christ and their might and power will look so enormous that there will be the

thought, ‘will it disappear?’ Look what has happened to our children, our spouses and see what has happened to the many who have given their lives now crying out ‘how long O Lord, how long?’

Some might be thinking, ‘why would you think that?’ Very clearly the text keeps telling us the battle is on a mountain and there is not a mountain at Megiddo but Megiddo is a place that is known as battle. It is giving us the picture of how enormous this battle is that is taking place that actually has physical implications of people losing their lives and it will intensify as we move toward the end of the days. But it is our God who will come and deliver us through the fire and from the fire, through the waters and from the waters. It is our God who will deliver us into His presence and then in the final analysis, He will deliver us by bringing His judgments upon all that stand opposed to Him.

Could there be a physical battle on the plain of Megiddo? Yes there could but I think you’re missing the point if that is what you’re looking for. You’re in the battle right now. We have lived in a nation that has known the blessings of God’s grace and we haven’t felt it like those Ethiopian Christians on the sands of the Mediterranean or like those who are fleeing for their lives in Iraq under the onslaught of ISIS. We are in the battle and it is intensifying. Our God actually with the battle is drawing our nations in rebellion against Him and in this final confederation of rebellion He then pours out His judgment because the Gospel has gone to all the nations. All of the elect have been drawn. Satan has been loosed for a season. The false prophet has gone out. The beast of false religion will permeate the earth. The beast of political, economic and military power arrayed against God in absolute mockery against God will be arrayed against Him.

God’s people will be fighting the battle with the weapons of the Spirit as they evangelize the lost, as they disciple, as they worship, as they love one another and as they love everything that is dear to the Lord. We will fight the battle with the weapons of the Spirit and the armor of Christ. It will sometimes look like we’re losing but in reality it is God drawing them all together for His last judgment.

Wait a minute because it keeps saying a mountain of Israel and Israel. The Bible says that we are the new Israel, circumcised in the heart and not in the flesh. I think it is the language that they knew, God’s covenant people that is now being displayed in the Israel where this is not replacement theology but realization theology. This is fulfillment theology and what He promised Abraham, a Gentile that He converted to establish a nation to send the Seed of a Redeemer so that the Gospel would go to the nations and bless all the nations. He will rise up His covenant people, this time not with ceremonial cleansing but with cleansing of the Gospel, the blood of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. He will raise up all His people from all the nations both Jew and Gentile and they will be His people.

In fact, we even see it described as the church is the New Jerusalem, even in the passage that comes next in Revelation 21. Revelation 21:1–3 says [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. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride (the church of Jesus Christ made up from every nation) adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*



Then He goes on to give this great description of the new heavens and the new earth and our eternal existence with Him. I want to look at one other text and try to show you again why I believe this Israel and Jerusalem is speaking of the church of Jesus Christ, the new covenant camp of the saints. You are in the camp of the saints. You are the New Jerusalem. You are the Holy City. We are fellow citizens in the common wealth of God. I want to look at Hebrews 12.

Hebrews 12:18–24 says [18] *For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest [19] and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. [20] For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."* [21] *Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."* [22] *But you (God's covenant people) have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, [23] and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, [24] and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

The blood of Abel cried out judgment and Jesus' blood cries out forgive them. That is where you are. We have been gathered as the camp of the saints into the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of God. We have been enrolled with the Firstborn and we are upon the Mountain of Israel, Mount Zion and that's Christ. Christ is the mountain that we are anchored upon in the day of the storm.

So what should we do? It is clear that things are moving in that direction. We keep doing what God has called us to do – the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. We have a Defender and He is the Lord our God. I am grateful that I have lived in a nation that sees its responsibility to defend the rights of the freedom of religion but I do not rest in this nation. I rest in the Lord who is my Defender. I will labor for a nation that recognizes the rights of the freedom of religion. I will labor for that good, public policy in the public square but my confidence is in the Lord. Will this nation be affected again with the Gospel? I'm praying, preaching and trying to pastor and lead for such an awakening, a heaven sent revival upon the church that would give a Gospel awakening but my confidence is still in the Lord who does all things well. If that awakening doesn't come but judgment comes for it will be one of the two, the Lord even in my death will preserve His glory and deliver me. So He will with you.

So my brethren, you have received a Kingdom so be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your toil is not in vain. Our Savior will come, the Lamb Victorious. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word to fellowship, to sing it, to pray it, read it and study it. Father, be faithful to all of Your Word and that ultimately not a preacher but Scripture interprets Scripture and the Holy Spirit be the Teacher. I want to thank You for the extraordinary privilege to be a teacher and a preacher but Father we bow to the infallibility of only Your Word. So Father may Your people test all things by Your Word and may they test it from the Word as it points to and

exalts Christ from all the Scriptures. May Jesus be exalted and may His Kingdom spread throughout all the earth. Ride on King Jesus, I pray in Your Name, Amen.