

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- This week we begin our study through the Book of Leviticus
- And as we've said... God is a God of revelation and He reveals Himself to us through what He says and what He does

### ***The scripture we need to keep in mind as we study Leviticus is...***

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- We are going to study what it means to be the people of God, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special people as we study the Book of Leviticus
- Read the first 5 chapters and join us this Thursday at 7 PM

### ***Over the past 2 weeks I've been in the Midwest with Mike MacIntosh***

- We've gone to churches in Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan and the spiritual warfare was extremely intense
- Many churches were taking a step of faith... some for the first time... to reach out to their cities

EX: In one place, as soon as we started the meeting the wind and the rain kicked up... it was so intense that there were 6 people holding down the canopy on the stage... Mike turned and said pray and so we began praying and immediately the wind died down... the rain continued, but the wind stopped and as soon as Mike's message was done the rain stopped. You might say it was a coincidence, but it reminded me of Jesus rebuking the wind as He crossed the Sea of Galilee and the wind stopped.

### ***Whenever God sends His servants to a region 2 things happen***

- God exposes the hearts of the people... so in the final judgment when the people say we never heard... we can stand as witnesses and say we came, you were invited but you didn't come
- God strengthens what remains... I believe it was a time of encouraging and supporting the churches in the Midwest... in California we have so

many Calvary's they're competing for the same dirt... in the Midwest they are isolated from one another... so keep them in your prayers

***The Bible says in the last days lawlessness will increase***

- Many are asking this question today... are we in the last days?

Matthew 24:4–8 (NKJV)

**4** And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ (Messiah),' and will deceive many. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these *are* the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs).

***Notice... the first warning is against deception***

- Most preachers will tell you this has to do with false doctrine...
- Jesus wasn't talking about religious deception only... but a broader form of deception that will affect all people... believers and unbelievers alike
- The Greek word for deceive means to mislead you to accept a lie as truth or to divert, to keep you from the right course of action
- That is what we are experiencing in our nation today...

In World War II, the Nazi's had to get inside the heads of the people gradually in order to get them to hate the Jews.

***We are in a season of unparalleled mass deception***

- In previous times, wickedness was hidden below the surface
- But now it's out in the open... the media, certain leaders are openly misleading and deceiving the American public
- On Thursday I read a headline... Studies show people with psychopathic or narcissistic traits are less likely to follow face mask rules...
- Now... every church that doesn't wear masks... those people are psychopaths and self-centered... The message? Christians are crazy
- Another headline... Trump's refusal to wear mask a lack of leadership
- What's the message? The President is unfit to lead
- Another study shows masks do not protect you but dehumanize and weaken you... what's the message? The experts are untrustworthy

- This is what I mean by mass deception... there are so many experts and studies being quoted, each contradicting with the other... you don't know what the right course of action is... that is what deception does
- It creates an atmosphere of anger, division, hatred
- Jesus said Satan has one agenda... steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)
- So when you see people stealing, killing and destroying like we've seen on the news you can be sure all of this is coming from one place... Satan
- Satan is angry because He knows he only has a short time

***In the passage on Spiritual Warfare Paul lists 4 realms of warfare...***

- **PRINCIPALITIES** (the principle demons over nations and world movements)
- **POWERS** (evil working through legal power)
- **RULERS OF DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD** (world leaders and social influencers... including social media influencers)
- **SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES** (demonically influence people who use their influence to intentionally pervert moral values)

***Organizations led by bad people manipulate people by using social media and media influencers to stage protests and riots***

- They are blatantly anti-family, anti-church and antichrist
- And yet... believers are participating in their events
- Mayor DeBlasio is openly quoting Karl Marx to justify his policies
- Look up the Georgia Guidestones... they list the 10 commandments of the globalist agenda... commandment 1 says... maintain humanity under 500,000,000 people... commandment 7 advocates lawlessness
- SCOTUS just redefined the definition of sex to include sexual orientation
- The Biblical definition of male and female is no longer the law of the land
- SCOTUS also rejected to hear two anti-discrimination cases imposing stricter limitations on churches so churches cannot meet
- In Ohio, churches cannot gather outside in groups greater than 10
- Jesus said... do not let anyone deceive you
- Did you know that the 7 states with the highest death rates are all led by governors who have imposed guidelines to stop churches from meeting?
- You can't pray, meet or sing and in California the Governor declared that home Bible Studies are illegal... it's clearly antichrist

***Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 24***

**Matthew 24:9–14 (NKJV)**

**9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

- Notice... Famines, Pestilences and Earthquakes in vs. 7 turn into persecution, betrayal and lawlessness... this is where we are NOW
- I’ve been warned that certain organizations are now encouraging the attack of churches and pastors
- On July 6 it was reported Black Lives Matter physically assaulted Christians on the steps of a church in Troy, New York
- On July 12 a man drove his minivan into a church while they were holding services and set the church on fire
- The Mayor of New York has cancelled all large events, including church events... with the exception of Black Lives Matter protests... because this is a historic moment of change
- Christians are being targeted... persecution is not coming... it’s here

***Notice the progression of violence in vs. 10***

- Many will be offended, will betray one another and will hate one another
- This is how the enemy works... first, you get offended
- The word offended literally means to “disbelieve”
- Maybe you’ve thought... I can’t believe those people... They’re not wearing a mask... they’re standing too close... singing in church... gathering in groups... I’m offended by them... I need to report them

***The word betrayal means to surrender over to an authority***

- It’s the idea of exposing, uncovering and reporting them to authorities
- California is creating “strike teams” from 10 government agencies to enforce his guidelines on churches and businesses
- Their mission is to go after people that are outspoken against them
- In our neighborhood watch website there are neighbors who are reporting people and businesses not wearing masks or socially distancing and they are saying to stay away from these people

***The word hate literally means have a strong dislike for***

- It means to have an aversion for... I don't want to be around you
- Notice the progression... you offend me, I'm reporting you and finally I don't want anything to do with you
- Jesus said the love of many will grow cold (decrease or become cool)
- And in less than 4 months we've seen this cold divide in our nation
- People say... this happened so fast... but that's what a birth pang is... it happens fast and then it goes faster with more intensity

***BUT... Jesus said he who endures to the end will be saved (safe)***

- He who perseveres, who refuses to stop, who refuses to join the crowd, to go after the things of this world...
- He who endures will be safe during this time of world crisis

***The question is... how do we endure to the end?***

- I believe there are three things we must do to endure to the end
- We must be led by the Spirit... the Spirit is the oil that greases the gears
- We must abide in the love of God... love covers all the offenses
- We must preach the gospel... that is our purpose for being here
- We can't preach the gospel without the power of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

- One of the characteristics of God that we've studied throughout the Book of Exodus is God is a God of power and a God of Presence
- By His great power He defeated the gods of Egypt, He divided the Red Sea, He destroyed the Egyptian Army
- He is Present in the cloud by day, the fire by night and it is the Presence of God that sets the nation of Israel apart from all other nations...
- The Spirit is also symbolized by oil and oil makes things run smoothly
- Our sliding glass door was stuck for years and Roxie's brother just put some oil on the bottom wheels and for the first time in 10 years the door works effortlessly... I felt so stupid... all it needed was oil
- In these last days, we need to oil of the Spirit so we don't get easily offended like the world, we don't let people rub us the wrong way

### ***Second we must walk in love...***

1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

**8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”**

- Jesus said in the last days people will expose, report people to the authorities... love covers... love protects
- In order to endure, we need to have persistent (fervent) love for each other... the kind of love that doesn't give up but endures
- Listen... the Governor is not the enemy... he's just a man... the enemy is Satan... We're not fighting Newsom... we're fighting Satan
- The Church is mistaking the mistake of using the world's tactics
- We are not warriors, we are ambassadors for Christ

EX: You may remember a bill that was being introduced to ban books that were considered anti-gay, including the Bible. A group of pastors met with the senator introducing the bill and found out he was a backslidden Christian who was mistreated by the church. But after showing him the love of God, he decided to withdraw the bill. That's an ambassador.

### ***Third we must preach the gospel***

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

**14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

- Sandy MacIntosh sent Mike a text that said... Jesus is coming and the church has left the building
- Just like the diaspora in the Book of Acts... the church is being forced out of Jerusalem... out of the building
- The Governor is forcing Christians to go outdoors... let's not demonize the Governor... let's use this opportunity for God
- Let's pray and ask God to give us opportunities to preach the gospel
- Jesus is coming soon... we don't have much time...
- Now is the time to walk in the power of the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, to walk in love and share the good news of Jesus Christ
- Be faithful in this and you will endure to the end AND you will be safe!