

# News and Jesus' Stenographers

Fred R. Coulter—September 5, 2015

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! With all that's going on in the news, I'm going to cover just a couple of things that are very important for us to realize.

## The 1<sup>st</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the US Constitution

Kim Davis is in the jail in Kentucky for refusing to sign or to even issue any same-sex marriage license based upon her Christian conscience, while the left always goes out and digs up all the bad news about a person, and throws it up in the face of the public to discredit the person. The truth is, God always calls sinners.

When Jesus said He came to call sinners and not the righteous, who need no repentance, He's not saying they don't need repentance. He's saying, those self-righteous people who *think* they don't need repentance. If there were any a group of people that needed to repent it was the scribes and Pharisees and priests of Jesus' day.

They offered her several ways out and she refused to take them. So, she's still sitting in jail, very interesting thing indeed. We'll have to see how this works out. Remember the two bakers that they came after? Also in Oregon they're coming after a judge who will not marry same-sex couples. *There's a confrontation coming in America!*

I don't know what's going to happen with the thing with Kim Davis in Kentucky, but the latest word is that Mike Huckabee is going to go down there and support her. I imagine all the high-powered attorneys that fight for Christians will be behind this.

There are two things we need to understand and we can claim. Remember what Paul said? He said, 'I appeal to Caesar.' We have certain citizenship rights that we can cling to. So, I want to read you the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It reads:

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.**

I remember one time that for one of the children of someone in the Church, that the principal was going to flunk him for taking off the Holy Days. I wrote an excuse and then a personal letter to the

principal. I quoted the First Amendment. I said, 'If Congress can't do it, why can you? You're not even authorized to make law.' Guess what? *He got all the time off, passed all his courses!* Never heard a thing about it after that. All the kids in the family went through school with no trouble after that.

Now then, we have another part of the Constitution, which is this: Remember, the Supreme Court is not a supreme being. The Supreme Court's *sole duty is to judge the constitutionality of a law*, not to create law. Judge and interpret, but they cannot interpret it to the point of making new law, because Congress should make it.

If you remember the letter that I wrote concerning when this first came up, the four dissenting judges said, 'This is unconstitutional.' Further comment was made based on two facts. Two of the judges had performed same-sex marriage. They should have legally recused themselves. Therefore, that law, in effect, is null and void by the terms of the Constitution.

Remember the two bakers they came after? There's a judge in Oregon who refuses to do same-sex marriages, so the commission behind judiciary actions are investigating him.

A lot of people are saying there's a book out: *Prepare for Persecution. It's going to come!* They can shout, 'Kill the cops. When do you want them killed now? Pigs in a blanket and fry them like bacon.' Everyone is afraid to say black racism reigns.

Acts 5—this is after they already had a run-in with the Sanhedrin and the Sanhedrin was the ruling party there of priests, scribe, Pharisees and so forth. They set the law. Jerusalem was the headquarters of it. Here the apostles are out there preaching and teaching and doing miracles. They healed this one man who had been inhibited with his legs and feet from birth and healed him.

After that, in Acts 5 the people were coming from everywhere to be healed. So powerful was the Holy Spirit working with them, that even if the shadow of Peter passed over someone who was lying alongside the street that was sick, was healed. The Sanhedrin couldn't have this. 'We can't have any competition; we are the ones.'

What happened? *They put them in prison!* Then at night an angel let them out. In the morning all the august leaders got together in the Sanhedrin room. They had a special room of colored stone that they met in. So, they all got together. They told the

guards, 'Go bring them out of jail and bring them here.' They went to get them out of jail and they were gone. They looked out and there they were teaching. They gingerly went up and arrested them again, and took them before the Sanhedrin.

Acts 5:27: "And they brought them in *and set them* before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, saying..." (vs 27-28). If a high priest tells you to do something, you better do it. But he was also bound by the Word of God to not go against the Word of God, likewise with our Supreme Court. They are bound to interpret, not make law or interpret it so as to create law, which is what they've done with the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning abortion and concerning same-sex marriage. Look at the problems that we have.

Verse 28: "...'Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man's blood upon us.' .... [no, it was already there] ...But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, '**We are obligated to obey God rather than men**'" (vs 28-29).

This is where we are whenever there's a law of the land, regardless of what land we live in, that is contrary to the laws of God, contrary to the teachings of Christ that are life and death teachings. Even though it says we are to be subject to the powers to be (Rom. 13) that does not mean that we break the laws of God. That means that *if they are against God, then we are subject to whatever penalty is there!* "**...we are obligated to obey God rather than men.**" We're all going to have to be facing that somewhere down the road.

Verse 30: "The God our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by* hanging *Him* on a tree. Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And we are His witnesses of these things, as *is* also the Holy Spirit, **which God has given to those who obey Him.** Now when they heard *this*, they were cut *to the heart*... [not pricked, cut] ...and took counsel to put them to death" (vs 30-33).

Then Gamaliel gave them counsel, '***Don't do it. If it's of God, you're not going to stop it. If it's of men, it will come to nothing.***' So, that's where we are in the situation here and why we need to learn and memorize the first amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, to petition the government for redress of grievances.

That's the law of the land. When we get into a position where we have to stand our ground, remember that. ***No judge has the authority to go against that!*** They may go against it, but then they declare themselves illegal. So yes, we need to know that.

### **Current Economic Conditions & Middle East**

Let's cover a little something concerning what is expected to happen the rest of this month. I am taking a contrary view of Jonathan Cahn, because I've had some research done and every September and October during Trumpets and Atonement- the market always goes down *every year*. The biggest downturn was in 2008 and that was deliberate. As soon as Congress said, 'We'll bail out,' it stopped.

If we are dealing with the hand of God, then there is no way stopping it. Jonathan Cahn has a number of good points, and his book *The Harbinger* was a very good book, but that doesn't mean that he has all Truth because he's very weak on Scriptures. So, that presents a problem.

In analyzing all the things that's going on, I've had Ron Carey take my musings of it. The market went down in China. The long and the short of that is, all the BRIC's nations, thinking they were going to take over the finances of the world, were punished and brought down very low.

Remember the super-elite control the finances. The Shemitah applies to Israel, not to the whole world. {note book: *Mystery of the Shemitah* by Jonathan Cahn} We need to keep that in mind. I think that they have taken the market down to punish them and with all their planning to do with the arrival of the pope and all of this thing, I don't think they will have a disastrous downturn of the stock market. I just don't see how that's going to be.

Since Jonathan Cahn has called for a fast on Sept. 11, if it doesn't go down he will say, 'Our fast persuaded God.' If it does go down he will say, 'It was not God's will that it stay up.' Either way he can come out. What we need to do is step back and take a bigger picture. What is happening in the Middle East? Look at all of them immigrating into Europe. What's going to happen there? The Middle East is nearly flat broke, all of them!

They are going to have to, when they finally get rid of ISIS, spend all their oil revenue to build up their nations again because they themselves are destroying it. What does this tell us? Let's think a little bit in long terms. There may be a whole lot more time left than we have ever anticipated. Just because something big and disastrous happens may take us a step closer, it doesn't necessarily mean that everything is imminent.

The Middle East and Europe have to get into a position where Europe is recovering, coming together, probably under the pope, and the King of the South is in power, and he comes against the King of the North. Think of all that has to be done for those nations to be built up enough so that they can have an impact on Europe. What kind of impact do they have today? *Refugees!*

We need to look at the bigger picture. Always remember this: If there is repentance, God always honors it. I think right now He's waiting to see what will we do with the abortions and with the same-sex marriage. Everybody gets all excited when a policeman is killed, but no one is standing up for the 3,600 that are killed every week with abortion. God is looking to the bigger picture. Likewise, we need to look to the bigger picture, as well. That's all of my politicking for today.

One question: What are you going to do with all the immigrants coming in there, plus the ones that are there? You think they will integrate? *No, I don't!* What will happen? *They will have to move back.* If you have mass immigration to get in there, can you have mass immigration for them to go home? *You can!* Who knows how all those things will work. But I do not see all those Muslims becoming Catholics. It's going to be a difficult proposition. That shows there are a lot of things that have to take place.

### **Jesus' Stenographers**

Now I've been reading a very interesting book called *Jesus' Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort, a Dutchman. He has it in Dutch and in English. I downloaded it and had Ken put it into a book for me so I can read it.

What he says is this, which is completely contrary to the *theory* of how we got the New Testament and the Bible, but mostly the New Testament. Most of the *theories* that are out there run like this: *Well, it was all word-of-mouth and traditions, for up to 300 years.*

How many have ever tried this, just on the Sabbath Day? So let's test the memory of people, especially to get it absolutely, exactly right, word for word. After a sermon, have you ever gone up to people and said, 'What was the sermon about?' They might say, 'I don't remember,' yet, they just heard it.

How can you expect the most important book, starting with the Gospels, to be left to the memory of men to repeat and repeat for 300 years? And then graciously have the Catholic Church write it for us? *Nonsense!*

Let's look at Moses here for just a minute. He wrote it, didn't he? *Yes, he did!* What did God have

Moses do? *Lead the people out of Egypt and bring them to Mt. Sinai!* God called them up to Mt. Sinai, told them what He was going to do, told them what He was going to give them. All the people said, 'Yes, we will do it.' God took two tablets of stone and wrote on it the Ten Commandments. *Even God wrote it down for the people!* That's how important they were. Gave them to Moses.

But by time God was done with Moses, the people already apostatized under Aaron and built the golden calf, in spite of the fact it was written down. A covenant was made and sealed with blood. Why does God have it written down? *Because He knows better than to trust the memory of human beings!* That's why!

So, everything was written down. You read all the way through and it was, 'And the Lord said to Moses, tell the children of Israel...' Moses wrote it down. Let's see what he did with it; this is not only the song that is in Deut. 31-32.

Deuteronomy 31:22: "And Moses wrote this song the same day... [wrote it for prophecy] ...and taught it to the children of Israel. And He commanded Joshua the son of Nun and said, 'Be strong and of a good courage, for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land, which I swore to them, and I will be with you.' And it came to pass when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this Law in a book until they were finished" (vs 22-24); everything that he had. Granted the book of Genesis was a compilation of previous writings, but when you get to the book of Exodus it is God telling Moses what to write all the way through.

Verse 25: "Then Moses commanded the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, saying, 'Take this Book of the Law, and put it in the side of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, so that it may be there for a witness against you, for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck....'" (vs 25-27).

That's why he wrote it. *Because if there is no law, there is no sin!* If God has given a law and a person says, 'I never heard that,' He's got it *written as a witness!*

How about Jeremiah? Let's take Jeremiah for an example of the prophets. Not only did God call him to be a prophet, but He gave him a secretary: Baruch. Secretaries or stenographers, always accompanied those who preached the Word of God. That's very important to understand. It's all *written down.* Why? Because:

- there's a *first* fulfillment
- there are cycles of *other* fulfillments
- there is the *final* fulfillment

*God inspired and caused it to be written down!* What happened when Baruch wrote something to give to King Jehoiakim and sent it to him? King Jehoiakim was reading it; it was on a scroll. He had a nice little penknife and he stuck his nose up to God, cut it out and threw it in the fireplace. Pretty soon the whole thing was gone. *All the valuable words were gone!*

What happened? God says to get Baruch and give him a scroll and tell him to write. So, he wrote the same words again and added many more to it. *Don't provoke God with stupidity!*

What was the most important thing to happen in the history of the world? *The coming of Christ in the flesh!* Do you suppose that God had those responsible for His Word educated? It's not like O'Reilly's stupid movie, *Killing Jesus*. It looks like they just came right out of the garbage dump—dirty, filthy, long hair and stupid. *They were educated! They knew how to read and write!* We will see that some of those disciples had to be very educated indeed.

Here's what it says concerning Jesus, Deuteronomy 18:15: "The LORD your God will raise up unto you a Prophet from the midst of you, of your brethren, One like me. **To Him you shall hearken**"—in the Hebrew means *to hear and obey*. Hearing passively is not in the word *hear* or *hearken* in Hebrew. You hear to do.

Verse 16: "According to all that you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, so that I do not die.'"

That's why God uses other human beings and instrumentalities to carry out His will. What do you think it would be like if every time someone sinned God came down here and personally did something? *There would be no free choice!*

Verse 17: "And the LORD said to me [Moses], 'They have spoken well what they have spoken.'" In other words, they are well intended. Are human beings well intended? *Yes, all the time!* 'I didn't mean to do that.'

Verse 18: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, *One* like you [Moses]..." Who was he? *Priest, mediator and lawgiver*, bringing the laws of God as intercessory between God and the people! Since they didn't want to hear God's voice, they listen to Moses, and because God knew they wouldn't, He had it written down.

Stop and think of the magnitude of the number of Bibles in the world today. Add to that the hundreds of millions of cell phones. You can call up

[afaithfulversion.org](http://afaithfulversion.org), and there are another 269 websites that go worldwide that have the Bible on it. So, this generation is going to be *without excuse*. **We** have to learn to stand for God, the way we need to. *The coming of Christ was the most important thing!*

"...and will put My words in His mouth..." (v 18). What did Jesus say? *'I spoke everything God commanded Me to do! I do what I see the Father do!'*

That's why Jesus' education was not left to lying rabbis running a school in the local synagogue. Isa. 50 says that 'He wakens Me morning by morning.' Jesus was taught directly by God the Father from the very first beginning. God was not going to leave it to lying rabbis to teach His Son, His Only Begotten. 'Oh, but human beings don't do that.' What do they do? There are books out: *Jesus the Rabbi and Rabbi Jesus*. That's why we need to believe God without any doubts. But the only way you believe God is to prove what is right.

"...And He shall speak to them all that I shall command Him. And it shall come to pass, whatever man will not hearken to My words, which He shall speak in My name, I will require *it* of him" (vs 18-19). That's pretty powerful.

Then it talks about prophets and so forth. What if a prophet comes along? If it's really from God, it'll happen. If it's not from God, it could be from Satan and a fulfillment to deceive you, but not according to the will of God. Just like the magicians with Moses and Pharaoh. They could do certain things. You can have half-right prophets. Those are the half-right prophets who are preaching in contention, like Paul said. He said there are some who are preaching the Gospel while he was in jail out of a good heart; others who are causing strife and trouble and out of contention. But he rejoiced because Christ was being preached.

How do you suppose that in the ancient times they were able to get the decrees of the king out to all the people? *The king would speak it! He had secretaries or stenographers to write it down!* How would they get every word? *Which they had to or it would be their head!* If you're the stenographer for the king and you miss a word, it's your head!

They were generally well-educated, near-free slaves. Go back to the book of Esther. Remember the decree that was sent out with the king's signature on it that Haman the Agagite had to kill all the Jews. It was read. There it was; they took it out and read it to all the people. Fast-forward a little bit. What happened one night when God wanted to make known to the King Ahasuerus what Mordecai had done? He couldn't sleep! God wouldn't let him sleep! What happens when you can't sleep? *Like we do today, you get up and read something!* So, he told

his servant, 'Bring the chronicles.' That's the record of every day what went on at the throne, all the decrees, who came in, who went out, what was done. What did he read in those chronicles? *He read what Mordecai did to save the king from being assassinated!*

You read the rest of the story. That's a marvelous account. Here comes ole' Haman the Agagite, 'Today is my day to be exalted.' Comes into the king and the king had read the chronicle and he asked what had been done to him to reward Mordecai for saving the king's life. He said nothing.

Here comes Haman into the king. The king says, 'Haman, I have a question for you. What should be done to the one whom the king favors?' *And he said, 'Oh, that's me. Put him on your horse, give him the robes of authority, and send him through the city proclaiming this is the one whom the king favors.'* Ahasuerus said to Haman, 'Very good. You do this: We're going to put these on Mordecai because he saved my life and you are going to lead the horse around the city and proclaim this is the one whom the king favors.' It was to be on one of those days to solidify the killing of the Jews.

I bring that out from the point of view: ***when there's something important to happen, it is written down!*** There's a reason. Do you think that the coming of Christ was greater than saving Mordecai and saving the Jews? *But of course!*

This is how they took notes: There were special stenographers and they had writing tablets, not like you think. These were pads, like an iPad. Instead of having electricity, they had beeswax. They had a stylus; one edge was smooth at the other end and the other end had for writing. They had such sophisticated shorthand that they could get literally every word out between two or three, safety, stenographers writing it down. A whole word can be just a blip. The case of the tense of the verb would be a blip. That's all there is.

Let me tell you my experience on my first Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley many years ago. I wanted to really take copious notes, because it was my first Feast. It's always cold down on the lower and I had on my long overcoat, so I went clear way up to the top where they had the benches, but they also had like little desks. That's where the press was during the Olympic Games.

I sat down there and had my Bible and had my notebook. Here they're up there preaching all this good information I'm hearing for the first time for my first Feast and I couldn't write it down. I'd miss this. What did he say? *I don't know.* What did he say? *I don't know.*

What I did right there, I invented my own shorthand. I started writing things like God; instead of G-o-d, just G. Jesus Christ—JC; come—cm. the—just a little like a cross t; that—two of them; do—d; commandment—cmt.

I was able to get my notes and I can go back and read them to this day. If dumb ole me can figure that out, what do you think they did in ancient times? How did they get the things right? *They had stenographers, professional well-respected, highly-educated slaves!* Is that was Daniel was when he was taken to Babylon? *Yes, indeed!*

***They wrote it down, word for word!*** Then they would get together and prepare the writing of it on paper, papyrus; or, if it's very important on velum lambskin.

Sidebar: You know many lambskins it would take to do the whole New Testament on velum? *Fifty lambs!* You can't use the whole lambskin. What are you going to do with the legs? You've got to cut it off to get the pages to do it.

Then it would be written. They also had archives. Remember what happened when there was a dispute, a letter was sent during the days of Ezra coming up there to build the temple and to do all of these things? They sent a message back to Babylon to look in the archives and get the decree. Guess what? *They found it! They kept records!* They were intelligent people!

After they got done with the beeswax, they would just heat it up and melt it and they had a new page again. This is how they did it. They could take down the words as fast as a person could speak.

(go to the next track)

There's quite a bit of telltale evidence here for us; Luke 1:1: "Since many..." Not a few, but many. Jesus' coming, as the Messiah, was so important. With the healings and miracles everyone was following. There were a lot of those writing things down.

Remember how many disciples there were before Pentecost: *120.* If you heard Him speak, think about what you did the first time you came to the knowledge of the Truth, or the first time you attended Sabbath services. You wanted to write it down. Think about them listening to what Jesus was saying, that He came from God. He told them to pray to the Father. They were writing things down.

Verse 1: "Since many have taken in hand to compile a *written* narration..." That means *as it was happening.* When you are writing contemporary, ongoing history taking place, you're writing it down.

Dolores said that when she went to school they even taught shorthand. You could become so

skilled in it that you would actually be thinking in terms of shorthand when people were speaking. You could write down everything that they said accurately with shorthand, but you had to go back and finish it out in readable form.

That's what they were doing, a written narration. They were writing it down as it happened. I remember one time when we were going through Matt. 5-7. I don't know if we'll get there or not, but I made the comment, 'This sounds like it was written as He was speaking it.' Wouldn't you want to do that if this is the Son of God and He spoke? *Yes!*

"...written narration of the matters, which have been fully believed among us" (v 1). The Greek can also read, which is probably better: *which have been fully accomplished*. That means that their narrations were *written down and recorded* as they were happening for a compilation of the events that had been accomplished.

Verse 2: "As they delivered *them* to us... [this was official] ...those who from *the beginning*..." When were they writing it down? *From the beginning!* He mentions here about Peter, James and John] ...had been eyewitnesses... [they saw it, they heard it, they wrote it] ...and ministers of the Word."

What does it mean to be ministers of the Word? *That means writing down and compiling accurately the sayings and teachings of Jesus and the narration of the events as they came along!*

Verse 3: "It seemed good to me also, having accurately understood everything from the very first..." Luke was there as well. Later, he hooked up with the Apostle Paul. How did that happen? When there were a great many believers in Antioch, Barnabas was sent down there. Perhaps Luke went down there with him and then hooked up with the Apostle Paul at that time.

"...everything from the very first... [or the beginning] ...to write *these things* in an orderly sequence to you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you might know the *absolute* certainly... [that's what it means] ...of *the things* in which you have been instructed" (vs 3-4).

Then it starts out with great detail. This was organized. Let's look at the ones whom Jesus called; these apostles were personally selected by Jesus Christ. You can rest assured He did not call the dunces of the society, because He knew what they were going to have to do.

Matthew 4:18: "And as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a large net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you

fishers of men'" (vs 18-19). So, they left and followed Him.

Verse 21: "And after leaving there, He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother..." What actually was occurring here is that their father was of the priestly blood, but the priests only worked two weeks a year by the twenty-four courses. What did they do the other weeks of the year? *Their occupation was fishermen, teaching in the synagogues, etc.* James and John were well-educated.

Remember later, the night of the arrest of Jesus, John knew the high priest and walked in there like he owned the joint. Peter was left outside. He couldn't get in until John came over and said, 'Oh, let him in.'

Let's look at something else; let's jump ahead to what Jesus did. We can glean a whole lot more once you understand that there were stenographers writing everything down and they were keeping it. Like Luke wrote, there were many. I'm sure they didn't know what they were going to do with it at the time, how it would all come out. Did they have the slightest clue that Jesus was going to be crucified? *No!* They were astonished! They thought He was going to set up the Kingdom on the way up to Jerusalem.

Sidebar on the way up to Jerusalem: Momma Zebedee came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, I've got a little favor to ask you.' *What is that?* 'That these my two sons, one may sit on the right hand in Your Kingdom and the other on the left.' The two boys were right there with her. 'Good, Mom, that's really nice.'

They were supposing that Jesus was going to set up the Kingdom when He got to Jerusalem. So momma was asking ahead of time, 'When You get there and You have Your throne, put one of my sons on Your right hand and one on Your left hand.' So Jesus said, 'You don't know what you're asking.' He looked at James and John, and said, 'Are you ready for the baptism that I'm going to be baptized with?' They said, 'Yes!' He said, 'Okay, you will, but to sit at My right hand and My left hand, that's My Father's decision. It's not Mine to give.' (Matt. 20). He didn't tell them, 'And by the way, it's going to be over 2,000 years before the Kingdom is set up, so don't sweat it right now.' He didn't do that.

Since they were of the priestly line, they knew the Greek, and by the way he says it's impossible to have an Aramaic original writing of the New Testament or Hebrew. I can tell you this, based on the Greek, they do not have the technical precision of the Greek verbs. People say, 'I wonder if Jesus spoke Greek?' As God of the Old Testament, Who created all languages?

What happened? *Jesus was resurrected, ascended to the Father, came back!* The two going to Emmaus, He came to them so they couldn't recognize who He was. They were talking and He said, 'What are you talking about?' *We're disappointed. It's been over three days since He was killed and we don't know what's happened to Him. We don't know where He is. We were looking for Him to be the Savior and set up the Kingdom, come to Jerusalem, be king, get rid of the Romans.*

He walked with them all the way down to Emmaus and then when they had something to eat, He broke bread and asked the blessing and they said, 'It's Jesus.' He disappeared, gone. They run back, all the way back to Jerusalem. They get up there where all the disciples are assembled for fear of the Jews and come in and say, 'We saw Him!' They couldn't get over that.

Then all of a sudden Jesus stood right in the midst, scared the living you-know-what out of them. He said, 'Peace be to you.' He appeared as flesh and bone. Then Jesus said, 'Why are there doubts? It's not an apparition, it's not a demon spirit, it's Me. Come and touch Me, see Me, and everything.'

Luke 24:41: "But while they were still disbelieving and wondering for joy, He said to them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' Then they gave Him part of a broiled fish and a *piece* of honeycomb" (vs 41-42). I don't know how that would taste, but I suppose it may be pretty good.

Verse 43: "And He took these *and* ate in their presence." I imagine they were all amazed. 'He's eating it. Look at Him. This is Jesus. It's really Him.'

Verse 44: "And He said to them, 'These *are* the words that I spoke to you when I was yet with you, that all *the* things which were written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and *in the* Prophets and *in the* Psalms must be fulfilled.' Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (vs 44-45). BANG!

When it came time for Matthew to do his Gospel, and don't you suppose that someone was writing all this down, as well? Isn't this more important than anything He said before which they wrote down? *Yes!*

When it came time to do the Gospel of Matthew, which we will see was almost instantly, they had all the Scriptural quotes from the Old Testament that Jesus told them what it was, and they put it into the New Testament. 'That it might be fulfilled by the prophets, saying...' How many times does it say it? *Over and over again!* Jesus revealed it to them. The Old Testament was written down. They had access to it—right? *Yes!*

Then He explained everything. Then they had to go out and teach and preach, and so forth. That gave impetus for Peter's fantastic sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

Remember what we read in Luke 1, *ministers of the Word*. That means that they were writing down what Jesus said. You have to get every word.

There was this dispute between the widows who spoke Greek and those who spoke Hebrew or Aramaic, so there had to be some writings given to them in Aramaic. That was after the fact from the Greek. *The Peshitta New Testament* is a translation, not an original writing. Anyone who says that, the New Testament was original Hebrew or Aramaic are completely wrong. He proves it in this book. They were neglected.

Acts 6:2: "And after calling the multitude of disciples to *them*, the twelve said, 'It is not proper *for us* to leave the Word of God in order to wait tables.'" Were the writings they took down and compiled in their narrations of what Jesus said, was that the Word of God? *Yes!* Jesus told them that when He opened their minds to understand the Old Testament. They started reading what they had written and compiled.

It was so important what they were doing and this was within the first year. They were compiling and putting together the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and part of John. Some parts of John were not done until later on. John was the one who finished the canonization of the New Testament. He was of the priestly order and so was James.

Remember, it was only Peter, James, and John that saw Jesus in the transfiguration. He said, 'Don't tell anyone until the Son of man is raised from the dead.' That was important for them to see it so that they would have this vision of what they needed to do with the New Testament. What this is telling us is *ministering the Word of God*.

Verse 3: "Therefore, brethren, search out from among yourselves seven men of good repute full of *the* Holy Spirit...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer..." (vs 3-4). Asking for, 'Lord, of what we have copied down here in these narrations, what do You want us to do?' God wanted it done in three versions—Matthew, Mark, Luke—because 'in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word will be established.' This was the most important book to be published in the history of the world. Where would we be today without it? The Old Testament is important, too, but this interprets the Old Testament.

"...to prayer and the ministry of the Word" (v 4). Did they not have to, when they would go out and preach? 'You're preaching about Jesus, what did

He say?' *Well, here, read it, we'll teach it.* This is what was going on.

To say it was just by word of mouth, and you can't even remember what the sermon was when it was ended, how are you going to remember this 300 years? *It was written down!* They were ministering the Word and they were putting it together to compile the teachings of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Only Begotten so that the Word could go out. God did not want it just based upon word of mouth. Why? *Because someone would say, 'How do you know?'* All the apostles died; you had to have it finished before then. *Yes, indeed!* You could say to some of the others, the early church fathers, 'How do you know?' *God wanted them to know!*

1-Timothy 6:3: "If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

- How are they going to know the words of the Lord Jesus Christ if they were not written down and had it in possession?

*And it would be in the local church that they had.*

- How could you judge what someone was doing and teaching?
- On what basis would you make a decision on that?

There were false teachers coming in and saying, 'I knew Jesus. I was there in the crowd when He did that.' Listen to this. It's so important that it was written down so that when it comes to this you have to square it by the Word of God. That's why going by the Scriptures, and Scriptures alone, is so important. These words of Jesus Christ, as we already covered that were written down, He said they are Spirit and they are life. So, *it was written down.*

- How are you going to tell someone who's important, 'You get out of here because your teachings are contrary to the writings and the teachings of Jesus Christ?'

*I heard someone with oral traditions say so!*

- On what basis?
- What did Paul say about some of those teachers?
- What did they do with the Word of God?

*They twist it, they turn it, they lie about it!*

- What did Peter say about the writings of the Apostle Paul?

*Our beloved brother!*

- Even after that argument of Gal. 2, what he has written in all his epistles?

That means that before Peter died, he had all the Epistles of Paul. They were written down and copies were made. They know for sure that at Ephesus that was a scriptorium there for the Church

of God. That's where John was when he died. He was in charge of canonizing the New Testament. He knew everything right from the beginning. It was written down.

Notice the judgment that is made, v 3: "...to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to Godliness." That means all the teachings referring to the plan of God and how to become the sons and daughters of God.

He's just slightly mistaken and he's a well-intentioned person. *No!* You could not write dogmatically like this unless you had it written down.

When you go to court over any matter, if you have a written contract signed and notarized, you got him. But if you go into court and say, 'Well, judge, my memory is this.' How good is your memory? How do you know you're telling the truth? Because even though you put your hand on the Bible and say you swear to tell the truth, you'll lie to get your way, won't you? ***Write it down!***

That's why when even you rent an apartment or rent a piece of equipment, you must have a contract and it is written down.

Notice the judgment against him, v 4: "He is proud and knows nothing...."—which tells us the only way you're going to know anything is by the words of Christ.

"...Rather, he has a morbid attraction to questions and disputes over words..." (v 4). Think of how that would be if it were only verbal tradition. You could say, 'No, no, I talked to this ancient man and he told me this.' *Where is he?* 'Unfortunately he's buried.' None of those things work. But you read some of the things that the so-called experts say about the Word of God, and it's satanic to the core.

"...from which come envy, arguments, blasphemy, wicked suspicions, vain reasonings of men who have corrupted in *their* minds and *are* destitute of the Truth..." (vs 4-5)—which Christ had written down. He said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.'

That sounds like an ecumenical conclave there in the Vatican trying to decide what's right and wrong. Theirs is all based on traditions. They've already thrown out the Word of God. They use it to make it look authentic, but people are so stupid and not educated, they don't know anything about it.

Give them a Bible and say, 'Here, read it.' *I don't know how to read it.* 'You better start.' *I want eternal life; I'm going to heaven.* 'No, you're not. The Bible says you're going to die. What are you doing going to church on Sunday?' *The pope says he*



*made it that way.* 'Jesus said He's Lord of the Sabbath. Now what are you going to do?' We rely on the Word of God. 'Thus says the Lord...' That's why when I give my opinion I ring my cowbell.

"...corrupted in *their* minds and *are* destitute of the Truth—*men* who believe that gain is Godliness...." (v 5).

Jonathan gave me a video of a comedian who wrote off to some of these televangelists and it showed pictures of what they did and what they said, and so forth. They have no clue! That's what happens when people do not stick to the Word of God and the Word of God only. That's why there are so few people who truly follow God.

Let's see the conclusion of the matter on the Word of God. Paul says unless they adhere to the words of Christ.

2-Timothy 3:15: "And that from a child... [to Timothy] ...you have known the Holy Writings... [Old Testament; that endorses the whole thing. Jesus revealed to them from the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.] ...which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus." That brings the Old and New Testament together.

Verse 16: "All Scripture *is* God-breathed..." We'll see how that was done, and I am convinced that James was the main one at the time in Acts 6 supervising that, because Peter and John were going out and preaching.

Verse 16: "All Scripture... [each and every word] ...*is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work" (vs 16-17). That is to preach and teach. Then you can read 2-Tim. 4 what happens if they don't stick to the Word of God.

John 14-17 contains some of the most highly spiritual teachings of Jesus Christ and the love of God. How did they get every word?

John 16:7: "But I am telling you the truth.... [Jesus always spoke the truth, but He wanted to emphasize it] ...It is profitable for you that I go away because if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. However, if I go, I will send it to you. And when that one has come, it will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment: Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me" (vs 7-9).

*If you don't believe in the true Jesus Christ, that is a sin!* If you believe in another Jesus, or you have thrown away the Word of God and have accepted the traditions of men, you have already been convicted.

Verse 10: "Concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer will see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have yet many things to tell you, but you are not able to bear them now.... [How would He tell it to them?] ...However, when that one has come, *even* the Spirit of the Truth, it will lead you into all Truth because it shall not speak from itself, but whatever it shall hear, it shall speak. And it shall disclose to you the things to come" (vs 10-13).

We understand that today because of modern way of having communication. Jesus brought to their remembrance everything that was necessary to be written in the New Testament. That's why we have the verbatim, John 14-17.

You come to John 17 and the final prayer of the Lord. When Jesus went out from the Passover and came to where they always assembled and then went into the Garden of Gethsemane and He went to pray, who did He take with Him while He prayed? *Peter, James and John!* Even though they were drowsy James and John and Peter, but especially James and John, were there when He prayed.

I don't think they were writing anything down. I doubt that, but even if they were asleep, could those words be lodged in their mind? Then with the prompting of the Holy Spirit to write it down? Especially John 17, those are powerful words.

How's anyone going to memorize and pass down by tradition everything in the four Gospels? An impossibility, especially if you don't have the Holy Spirit, because you want a little favor from God, so you're going to put yourself in a little better light and you're going to make some of the words say things they don't say so that you can give yourself a blessing. That's what human nature does. Isn't that what kids do? Mommy said... Daddy said... And they didn't. Same thing!

Matthew 5:1: "But seeing the multitudes, He went up into the mountain; and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him." There was a particular mountain that He went to, to get away from the multitudes. They have cabins in the mountains for people who want to get away from the city today.

Verse 2: "And He opened His mouth *and* taught them, saying..." They had to *write this down when it was being spoken* and those skilled in that shorthand or stenography can do the same thing as skilled shorthand and writers today can do. You can write down every single word as fast as it comes out of the mouth.

We don't know how many disciples had that. But think of this: In John 1, that's before this

occurred, Peter, Andrew and John were there. Then Nathan came. What did they say? 'We have found the Messiah.' They knew who He was. *The Messiah, the most important promise of all the Old Testament!* 'He is here.'

Nathan said, 'I don't know about that.' So he came up to Jesus and Jesus said, 'I knew you when you were sitting under the tree. I saw you.' What did Nathan say? '*Oh, Lord.*' *This was quite a thing!*

This was before He called Peter, James, John and Andrew; that's why they left immediately, because He communicated to them, 'When I'm ready, I'm going to come and get you.' They dropped everything. They were ready, probably told their father ahead of time, 'Jesus is coming. When He comes, I'm going to leave right away.'

People don't understand that and they think, that that was pretty nasty of Jesus to take James and John from father and leave him with all the fish and nets. They also had servants, too. I've heard people say that.

Let's see what He says. If anyone out there in the video-land or CD-land and you hear this, and you know shorthand, I want you to get out your shorthand pad, put this on pause, go get it, and I want you to write this down as I read it to see if you can keep up with my reading. I'm going to read it like it's being spoken, not fast.

Verse 2: "And He opened His mouth *and* taught them, saying, 'Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'" (vs 2-5).

You can probably, if you had one of those beeswax tablets with you, you could just take your little stylus and for every 'Blessed are...' one little tick and that's all you need.

Verse 6: "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteous, for they shall be filled. Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall find mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called *the* sons of God. Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when they shall reproach you, and shall persecute you, and shall falsely say every wicked thing against you, for My sake. Rejoice and be filled with joy, for great *is* your reward in heaven; for in this same manner they persecuted the prophets who *were* before you" (vs 6-12).

All flows right along! Can you imagine how excited they were listening to that and writing this down, knowing that He was the Messiah?

Understanding that this was teaching from God? That was a fantastic time. They wanted to remember it. They didn't know that it was going to be in the New Testament later, because there are probably a lot of things that Jesus said, as John said, 'If it were all put into books, the world wouldn't be able to hold them.'

There were a lot of things that when they were ministering the Word, as we saw in Acts 6, that John, James, Matthew, and the others that were there who heard it, they knew that they had to put it together in a form to teach people. There were some things that were not included. These were included.

Verse 17: "Do not think..." When you get into the Greek, you can't have this in Hebrew or Aramaic, this is a double negative, 'ou me': *no-no, not-not, never-never,; don't let it enter your mind.*

Verse 17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled" (vs 17-18).

That's pretty powerful. Yet, Sunday-keeping ministers get up there and say, 'Jesus has abolished the Law, did away with the Law.' Then someone says, 'No, He said He'd fulfill it.' *Well, if you fulfill it, it's over with!* They didn't understand that fulfill doesn't mean just to complete it, it means to *fill it to its fullest meaning*, not do away with it and put it on the shelf. As I've said many times:

- Heaven and earth still here? *Yes!*
- Word of God still here? *Yes!*
- What's going to judge us? *The Word of God!*
- How's He going to judge us? *By what we know!*

Then He says this, v 19: "Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments... [of God] ...and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Is law-keeping required to get into the Kingdom of Heaven? *Yes!*

Then He compares it with the traditional teachings of the scribes and Pharisees, v 20: "For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." Why? *Because they followed traditions*, even though they had the Word of God.

You read in the book that Phil Neal wrote on *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* and you will see that the rabbis claim greater authority than God. Where they actually say that some of these rabbis were so righteous that God had

to submit to their authority. Doesn't sound too much different than the pope. Now you see why it had to be written down, and early on.

I just want to mention something here that a good number of the fellowship groups have been doing. That is, they've been going through the *Love Series*. It has two CDs to go with it.

If you've been on our mailing list for a long, long time, these are scattered through many different sermons. We have them all compiled with transcripts, thanks to Bonnie Orswell our transcriber, who has put all of this together. This is a great learning technique.

- you hear it
- you read it
- you learn

What is happening? If you hear it, that's one way. As you're reading it while you're listening to it, that's another way. It really helps you. If you don't have this, I'm giving Ken lots of work, if you don't have this, you write in for it, the *Love Series*. Especially if in the fellowship group you are in, there are difficulties and tensions between brethren, which in many cases that is true, because of all the problems you have filtered through coming out of the collapse of WCG and other churches. You need the *Love Series*.

You need to go through every bit of it. This is especially true with all of the potential things we'll be facing in challenging our belief and our faith. We'll have it for you. Ken can catch up on it by doing some extra between now and after the Feast.

***Remember, the Word of God is true and it will be fulfilled!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 5:27-33
- 2) Deuteronomy 31:22-27
- 3) Deuteronomy 18:15-19
- 4) Luke 1:1-4
- 5) Matthew 4:18-19, 21
- 6) Luke 24:41-45
- 7) Acts 6:2-4
- 8) 1-Timothy 6:3-5
- 9) 2-Timothy 3:15-17
- 10) John 16:7-13
- 11) Matthew 5:1-12, 17-19

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 13
- Deuteronomy 32
- Isaiah 50
- Matthew 20

- John 14-17
- 2-Timothy 4
- John 1

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Prepare for Persecution* by Maria Kneas
- *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn
- *Mystery of the Shemitah* by Jonathan Cahn
- *Jesus' Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort
- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal

Sermon Series: *Love*

FRC:lp  
 Transcribed: 9-25-15  
 Formatted: bo—10-7-15

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