

L18 | Prophecy 103 | The Vain Religion of Israel | Matthew 15:1-9

I. Intro/Review:

- 14 issues - last "the timeline of the Gentiles"
 1. Leviticus 26 - the 5 courses of punishment
 2. Israel had started to experience that - based upon Lev. 26 and the Palestinian Covenant God would bring them back into their land
 3. Daniel looking for this
 4. Receives a timeline -
 - Daniel 9:24
 - 70 Weeks Determined = 490 years
 1. "to finish the transgression"
 2. "and to make an end of sins,"
 3. "and to make reconciliation for iniquity,"
 4. "and to bring in everlasting righteousness,"
 5. "and to seal up the vision and prophecy,"
 6. "and to anoint the most Holy."
 5. The Covenants of Promise would be fulfilled according to this timeline
 6. Christ would come and fulfill the Davidic Covenant and function as Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, and Blessor

II. Preview:

1. The Establishment of Israel's Vain Religion
2. The Continuing of Israel's Vain Religion
3. The Features of Israel's Vain Religion

III. Sermon:

- Qualify and define terms
 - "**religion**" - bad word - not in scripture
 - **Acts 26:5** - Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our **religion** I lived a Pharisee.
 - **James 1:26** - If any man among you seem to be **religious**, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's **religion** is vain.
 - **James 1:27** - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.
 - **Colossians 2:11** - Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and **worshipping** of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
 - **Worship and Service**

- Romans 1:25 - "and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,"
- Romans 12:1 - "...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
- Religion - your worship and service to God
 1. Who are you worshipping?
 - Diana - Acts 19:27
 - Angels - Col. 2:18
 - Idols - Rom. 2:22
 2. How are you worshipping?
 1. Inner Man - Matt. 15:8, Mar. 7:6 (Isa. 29:13)
 - "spirit" - John 4:24
 2. Truth - John 4:24
 - Php. 3:3
- Therefore, the word "religion" doesn't intrinsically denote "bondage" or something not to do, but is a term that describes man's worship of God or a god.
 - Thus "religion" is further qualified by "vain" or "pure".
 - Other words used, "religious", "devout", "worship"
 - "sacrilege" - Rom. 2:22

1. The Establishment of Israel's Vain Religion

- Man's foolish heart and vain imaginations
- God gave Israel the law to worship and serve Him
 - Ex. 34:14 - (Ex. 20:1-7)
 - Deut. 4:19, 8:19, 11:16, 30:17
- Vain Religion (1 or combination)
 - Turn from God
 1. Turn from God unto idols
 2. Turn from God by not keeping the law
 - Lev. 26 - don't keep the Sabbath's
 3. Turn from God by teaching the fear of God by the precepts of men
 - Isa. 29:13-14
 - Not from the heart
 - Isa. 1:11
 - Isa. 65:3-5
- Israel's lack of faith - Deut. 32:20
 - "stiffnecked" - Ex. 32:9
 - Not trusting in God for the victory
 - Not trusting in God as their King

- Trust in idols
 - Isa. 2:8 - deserving of 5th course of punishment

2. The Continuing of Israel's Vain Religion

- Ezra 10:10-12
- Nehemiah 13:1, 23-31
- Matt. 23:13-36
 - "fathers" - Pharisees

3. The Features of Israel's Vain Religion

- The Jew's religion - Gal. 1; Acts 26:5
- The Leaven of the Pharisees - Matt. 16:6, 11-12, Luke 12:1 (Matt. 23 - woe you hypocrites)
- Matt. 5-7
- Matt. 15:1-12
- James 1:19-27
 - James 2:1-26 (:20)
 - James 3:1-18
- 1 Peter 1:18
- 1 Peter 4:3

IV. Conclusion:

- The 3rd installment of the 5th course of punishment
 - Grecia after Medo/Persia
 - Rome from Grecia
- Amos 8:11 - "that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:"
 - Famine of the hearing of the word of the LORD (false prophets)
 - Luke 3:2 - Word of the Lord came to John
- Ezekiel 21:27 - "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him."
 - Isa. 7 - virgin shall conceive
 - Isa. 9 - child born
 - Micah 5 - in Bethlehem