"Did You Ever Wonder If It Is All True? Have you Ever Doubted?" Matthew 11: 1-15

Verse 1 - 6 Are you really the Messiah?

With Holy Spirit guts, John confronts Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee, with his sin

It cost him his life!

John was not silent about sin, and neither should we!

Post Christian American values and morals have permeated the so-called church – TRAGIC!!

The Bible is honest:

John is in prison having doubts

For any of us, the right stressor at the wrong time, and the doubt flood gates can open



Satan's "DOUBT" target = your mind!

Jesus counters the "DOUBT" barrage with the TRUTH!

TRUTH:

God is with me

God is in control

God will take care of this

Somehow, sometime, GOD!

Do not allow doubt to marinate and soak into your soul

Deal with doubt before doubt deals with you!

Speak the <u>TRUTH!</u>

Speak God's Word

Speak it out loud

Speak life into your soul and your mind!!

"DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS BEFORE YOU DOUBT YOUR BELIEFS."

Verse 7 - 10 Momentary doubt does not define a life

John was a man of steel, honor, and integrity; even he succumbed to doubt

The right stressor at the wrong time and doubt can creep in

Momentary doubt does not define a life!

It is important to not live in doubt -

COUNTER WITH THE TRUTH!

Verse 11 Earthly great does not equate with Kingdom Great

John knew a lot about Jesus!

He was intimately acquainted with Him, but did not have full revelation of Him

In the Kingdom, every believer will see Jesus as He is – KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS!

Every Kingdom dweller will know more about Jesus than John did while on earth!

Scripture speaks of rewards or loss of rewards in the

Kingdom: Matthew 16: 27

Matthew 25: 14-30

Matthew 19: 29

Romans 2: 5-6

1 Corinthians 3: 11-15

2 Timothy 2: 14

Being great in God's Kingdom is not about prestige or privilege, rather it involves responsibility and sacrifice

There will be no believing braggers in the Kingdom; no jealousy in the Kingdom – **COOL!**

Verse 12 The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence - WHUTT?!?

Jesus' offer of the Kingdom resulted in opposition from the Jewish authorities and the people

It seems that in Jesus' day, men wanted the Kingdom on their terms

The violent resisted the movement taught by John the Baptist, Jesus, and the Apostles

The violent wanted the Kingdom their way - defeat Rome and make <u>us</u> great, Jesus!

Jesus had to die for the sins of the world

He had to be their Savior before He could be their King

Today, violent men reject Jesus' rule in their lives

This violence will continue until Jesus returns and establishes peace on earth and good will toward men

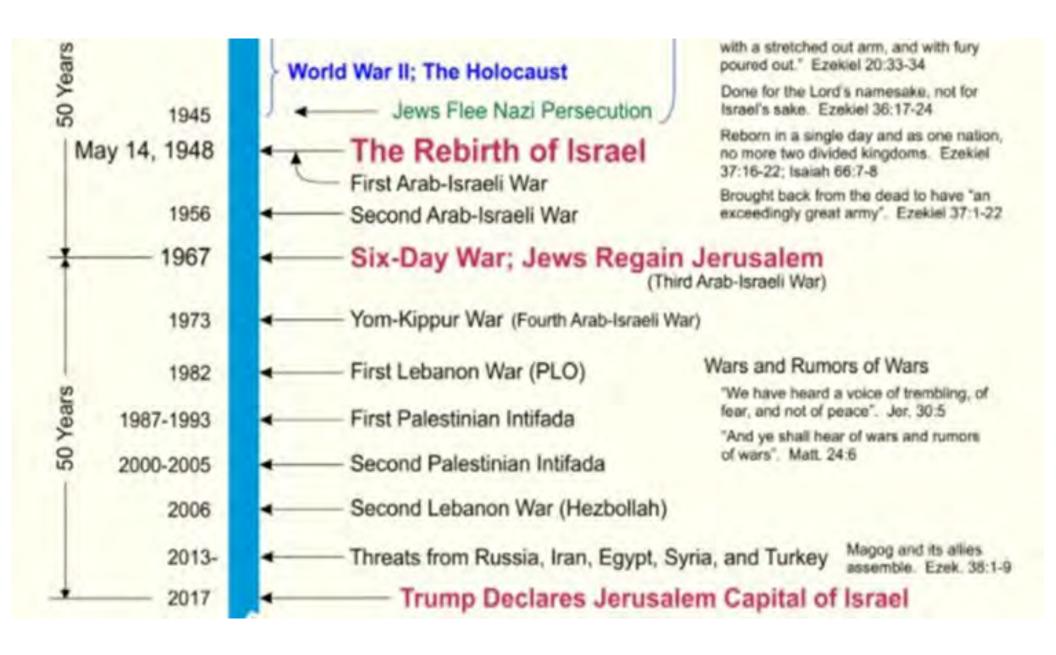
Verse 13 - 15 The Prophets longed for this day - MESSIAH IS COMING!!

The Jewish people, trampled by world empires (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome), are hated today

Against all odds, against constant Satan and world attacks, Israel (the wife of Jehovah) survives and thrives today

Why?

The answer loud and clear - GOD!!



In 1867, author Mark Twain came to the Holy Land.



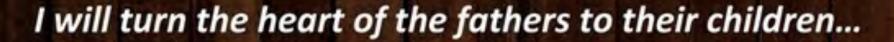
"A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action."

"I would not desire to live here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land."



John was the last in a long line of prophets with a message, "Messiah is coming, He is here now!"

Had the nation received the Kingdom offer, then John would have fulfilled a type of Elijah



Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV



"He who has ears to hear let him hear"

Anytime you hear the Word of God proclaimed, it's personal, *God's mouth to your soul!!*

CLOSING:

Do you ever doubt if Jesus is real, and if the rest of the world is right and we are wrong?

DOUBT CORRECTORS:

- 1) <u>Jesus' Life</u> He actually existed; no one credible doubts this
- 2) **Bible Prophecy** The Bible is the only Holy Book with fulfilled prophecy
- 3) The Existence of the Jewish Nation The only people group dispersed and relocated to their homeland, just as the Bible prophesied!
- 4) The Creation Account Evolution or Creation Can something come from nothing and that something has morals?

- 5) Einstein's Theory of Relativity Has been confirmed, space, time and matter are co-relative, you can't have one without the other. They came into existence at the same moment. Why? How?
- 6) The Anthropic Argument The universe has been fine tuned for human life; the environment is perfect for us. Coincidence, blind luck? What do you think?

Doubt can happen to anyone; the right stressor at the wrong time and doubt can come in

Remember Church:

We counter doubt by simply knowing the <u>TRUTH!</u>

DOUBT – What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing!!

"DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS BEFORE YOU DOUBT YOUR BELIEFS."