



Why Are Things the Way they Are?—Part 1
From sermon 6.21.20

Read *Matthew 24:5-8*

Review from Sunday's sermon: These are unprecedented times we are living in. From the pandemic to racism, from rioting and to violence, and from to national division to global skirmishes. Everyone is on edge, worried, fearful. No one is asking: who's pulling the strings here? Someone or something is actively trying to divide and dismantle our country and world. Instead, everyone is looking at everyone else as the problem. As Bible-believing Christians we need to know the truth, prepare for the future, separate from worldly thinking and responses, and expose the devil's schemes.

1. From Sunday, what was the simplified, yet sad, answer to why the world is the way it is? Genesis = the total depravity of man. Revelation = the righteous judgment of holy God in abandoning man to his sinful, God-rejecting choices.

2. What parts of Jesus' prophesy from Matthew 24 are we seeing unfold before us? Various answers. Rumors of wars in so many international skirmishes and rhetoric. "Nation" is translated from "ethnos", from which we get "ethnic" = strife between ethnicities. Pestilence is various dangerous diseases popping up. Earthquakes would include unusual and increasing natural disasters.

3. Better than anyone, God knows man is sinful to his core and a slave to that sin. What are the four God-ordained institutions God has established to restrain evil and anarchy on the earth?

- Conscience—See *Genesis 3:22* & *1 Timothy 4:1-2*
- Family—*Proverbs 22:6*, *Ephesians 6:1-4*, & *Proverbs 13:24*
- Human Government—*Genesis 9:5-6*
- Church—*Ephesians 3:8-11*

4. What has man systematically done with each evil-restraining institution? Various answers: ignored it, dismissed, redefined, devalued, vilified, corrupted. As the restraints are corrupted, the days grow darker.

5. From Sunday, what is the dangerous pattern man falls into, governed only by Conscience? He will naturally and routinely choose the evil over good. Once he sins long enough, without consequences, he will think he's gotten away with it, or that it doesn't matter much to God. He will redefine sin to make himself feel better (less guilt) and demand the culture redefine and celebrate his choice.

6. Read *Romans 13:1-4*. Who established human government and authority? God
What is man's obligation to that authority? To show all due respect and to follow it until it clearly violates God's Law*.

7. What is the difference between what the Bible calls a "sin" and what the Bible calls an "abomination"? Sin is sin. But, abominations are the highest most punished sins. Now read *1 Samuel 15:23* & *Proverbs 16:12*. How does God view the lawbreaking/rebellion of the governed vs. corruption or abuse by authority? Authority is held to a much higher standard. Because they must be obeyed, their expectation and punishment is/must be far greater than the same sin committed by a non-authority.