Intro:
- Jn. 8:32 know the truth, truth makes us free
  - knowing the truth is the only way to be free from the slavery of false teachers and false doctrines

- illus.: Mt. Dora congregation, and Web Harris
  - history regarding realized eschatology
  - what has happened to Web: stopped believing Jesus is God’s son, no longer has anything to do with the church
  - what happened to members: some studied the truth and were strengthened, some stumbled have still have not returned to the Lord
  - study of the truth, diligent, was the only way to avoid becoming ensnared by a false teacher, false doctrine

- importance of this study for us:
  - Heb. 12:15 to make sure none of us come short of the grace of God by believing the 70 AD doctrine
  - churches dividing today over the issue, so we must be on guard
    - illus.: visiting with family Beth lived with shortly after becoming a Christian, the man told me that churches of Christ are dividing in Alabama over this issue
What is Realized Eschatology?
- “realized eschatology” means the fulfillment of final things – e.g., final judgment already taken place
  - also called
    - 70 AD Doctrine (more info below)
    - Fulfilled Eschatology, Covenant Eschatology, Transmillennialism, Preterism (Full Preterism vs. Partial Preterism), Kingism (Max King Doctrine)

- the doctrine dates back to the 17th century
  - first systematic Preterist exposition of prophecy was written by the Luis De Alcasar during the Counter Reformation
  - Preterism used to the benefit of the Roman Catholic Church, in an effort to prove that the Roman Catholic Church wasn’t the persecutors of the church prophesied of in the book of Revelation, as the book is interpreted by some
  - note / beware: some proponents of Preterism allege that it is the position held in the 1st century of Christians, which is expected

- Max King preached this doctrine in churches of Christ, and wrote a book (The Spirit Of Prophecy) on the doctrine in the early 1970’s
  - the falseness of this doctrine has been preached about and written about by brethren over the years
    - Harry Osborne preached a sermon on it in 2002 that looks very good from the slides (ReasonForHope.org)
    - with the recent increased interest among churches of Christ, and subsequent divisions that are occurring, it’s good for us to investigate this doctrine, study, learn why it is false

- 70 AD doctrine: this term often used by Christians for realized eschatology
  - all end time prophesies fulfilled at destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
    - e.g., the final coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, the end of the world
    - all Bible prophesy has been fulfilled – none yet to be fulfilled today
  - ties all prophesy in the book of Revelation to 70 AD, and all relating prophesy in Daniel to 70 AD
    - i.e., equates prophesy of destruction of Jerusalem by Jesus with end time prophesy in Revelation and Daniel - destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
The perversity of realized eschatology – not just difference of opinion, but results in damnation
- realized eschatology results in people turning away from God – weapon of Satan, doctrine of demons
  - 2 Th. 2:1-2 brethren are shaken and falling away as a result – Thessalonians
    - we must take time to study because there are churches splitting over the issue today, and brethren losing their souls as a result

- people who teach the doctrine are accursed, and people who believe and turn from God are lost
  - Gal. 1:8-9 brethren teaching the doctrine are accursed
  - Gal. 1:6; 5:4 brethren who believe it desert God - so they’re severed from Christ and fall from grace

- sin / false doctrines resulting from realized eschatology – areas brethren have stumbled
  - note: not know if Max King taught all doctrines resulting from 70 AD doctrine, but they are conclusions brethren make from the doctrine, resulting in falling away
    - We shouldn’t observe the Lord’s Supper today
      - 1 Cor. 11:26 false doctrine: since Jesus has come, and we are to only observe the Lord’s Supper till He comes, we are not to observe today – incorrect on several levels, including the word “until”
      - 1 Cor. 11:27-32 result of obeying false doctrine: spiritual weakness and death (sleep), condemned (vs. 30, 32)

- Jesus doesn’t rule over God’s kingdom today
  - 1 Cor. 15:24, 28 false doctrine: end has already come, so Jesus has handed the kingdom over to the Father and He no longer reigns – don’t obey Jesus today – incorrect on several levels

- Since Jesus doesn’t rule over the kingdom, the gospel isn’t in effect for us today
  - not saved by obeying the gospel – not saved by being baptized for forgiveness of sins

- Since Jesus doesn’t rule over the kingdom:
  - we don’t assemble with saints – disobey God by not assembling with saints, not go to church
  - we don’t live under the law of Christ – disobey Christ
  - we don’t have to obey the word of God – disobey the word

- Since the judgment has already passed, we are not judged in the future – no judgment, removes fear

- realized eschatology is an extremely perverse doctrine
  - results in sin in many areas
  - destroys fundamental beliefs essential to salvation
Immediate contradictions to Scripture show the absurdity of realized eschatology
- usually find that false doctrines are absurd on the surface, when if examine them with the simple truth of the gospel – problem is that some people unwilling to accept simple truth
  - illus.: baby is born in sin, inherits the sin of Adam
  - Ezek. 18:4, 20 don’t inherit anyone’s sin
- illus.: don’t have to be baptized to be saved
  - Mk. 16:16 Jesus, believe and baptized, saved – 1 Pet. 3:16
- illus.: God predestined some people to be lost in hell, and there’s nothing they can do about it
  - 1 Tim. 2:4 God desires all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth

- immediate contradictions to realized eschatology, showing all prophesy has not been fulfilled, and therefore we understand 70 AD doctrine is a false doctrine
  - Jn. 5:28-29 bodies (people) still in graves, still adding bodies, exhume bodies sometimes
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false
  - 1 Th. 4:15-17 Christians living on earth have not risen up to meet the Lord in the air
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false
  - 1 Cor. 15:24 all authority and rule and power have not been abolished, evidenced by men ruling over world nations – thus Christ has not handed over the kingdom to God
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false
  - 1 Cor. 15:54-57 there is still sin and death in the world
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false
  - Heb. 12:27-29 the last shaking of kingdoms has not occurred, because world kingdoms are still in existence – illus.: USA
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false
  - 2 Pet. 3:6-7, 10 earth has not been destroyed with fire – text: physical destruction, like flood
    - all prophesy not fulfilled – 70 AD doctrine false

- Why are these contradictions dismissed by people who believe realized eschatology?
  - Max King developed a hermeneutic to support his doctrine, which categorizes these things as happening spiritually rather than literally
  - more about this in the next lesson

- end Part I
  - stop here, not want to cover too much at a time, so can digest what we study as we go
  - future lessons examine important components of the 70 AD, so when we hear them we understand
  - inv.: the end has not come, Jesus is still ruling over the kingdom, so you can still be saved by obeying Him