

## I. Understanding the Bible Book by Book

We have really been putting a lot of emphasis on how to teach you the Bible. Starting a couple of weeks ago, we began to come through the Bible book by book. I am doing that so we can create for you an understanding of each book in the Bible, how it goes together, where it fits in, and all the pertinent stuff that you need to be able to put it in your Bible notes when you come to that book of the Bible, whatever it may be, so that you will have an understanding of all those things.

You know those little bookmarks we gave out today? We are going to revise those, and you all will get one. I have a Bible study over at Steve Bracken's on Monday afternoon, just a little short Bible study. It goes from 1:00 to 4:00 or 4:30. Anyway, they gave me an incredible idea. I am not going to tell you what it is because it is a surprise, but we are going to redo it. We are going to give you something that will absolutely—you think these are worth a lot of money—wait until you see these! All to help you learn the Bible. That is what we are all about here.

We have been coming through book by book. We are coming into the book of Deuteronomy, which is the last book in the writings of Moses, the first five books of the Bible, commonly called the Pentateuch. We have been trying to give you the information that you need.

I do not know how you do your Bible, but I want to give you a little insight this morning. You need to take these notes. These notes that I am giving you are what I call a skeleton outline. They give you the basic overall picture of the Bible. Yet, you are getting a lot of substantial stuff in the chapters that are great practical and doctrinal. You have to remember that every one of the books of the Bible that we are going to get into has a historical application, a doctrinal application, and a practical application.

In the first five books of the Bible that we have come through, the historical application is very easy. We know that Genesis is the book of the beginning. We have seen how everything gets started in Genesis, the creation and the formulation of the nation of Israel by the end of the book. Then the next four books of the Bible bring you through God calling them out of Egypt and God sending them to the Promised Land. Those second four books cover the expanse of 40 years.

Then we have a doctrinal application. You are going to find that in these books, over and over and over again, there are prophetic passages. Prophetic in the sense that the theme of the Bible, as you already should know by now from our past studies, is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are going to find that most of the Old Testament books, 75% or more of them, are prophetically and doctrinally dealing with that day, the second coming of Christ. So you are going to find passages that deal with the tribulation period, passages that deal with the second coming, and passages that deal with the millennium. All of those aspects are found in not only the first five books of the Bible but all the books throughout the Old Testament. Obviously, there is no way I can do all of that as we are laying all that out, but I give you as much as I can. Then, of course, we have Thursday night where you can ask whatever questions you want to ask, and also our own personal time where you can go through those things.

Then there is an inspirational application. The inspirational application will show you principles for your life. Most people think that the Old Testament is boring. The reason they think it is boring is because most of the time that it is taught, it is only taught from the historical perspective. Most men, most people today, most Christians living in the day and age that we live in, do not understand how the Old Testament applies to your everyday life. We focus on that a lot. We focus on the doctrine a lot. I try to give you a balance so that when I am done with the book, you are able to look at that, and the next time you read it, you know what to look for and you know what that book is about.

The book of Deuteronomy has 34 chapters, 958 verses, and 28,461 words. Again, you will see the importance of that as we get a little farther on in the Bible. Genesis talks about the beginnings. Now we see the state of man. In Exodus, it talks about the salvation of man, the redemption of man. In Leviticus, we see the standing of man, the priesthood. In the book of Numbers, we see the spiritual warfare of the believer. We talked about that last week. In the book of Deuteronomy, he pulls it all together. By pulling it all together and by Moses writing the first five books of the Bible, which are commonly called the Law or the Pentateuch or the Writings, we begin to see how this book really begins to show us some great principles that we need to understand.

As far as I am concerned, years ago when I began to study this book, I saw that there were a couple of major things about this book that I had to see. However you put your notes in your Bible, however you get it laid out, these couple of things that I am going to talk to you about this morning are absolutely essential. They are the foundational things that you are going to find within this book that really help you pull it all together.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for all that You do for us. We love You. We ask You now, Lord, in a very special way, to be with us today. Give us wisdom and insight as we teach Your Word. Help us to say those things that You have us to say. And Lord, give these people a challenge in their heart as they learn Your Word. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## II. The Law of First and Last Mention

There are a couple of major things here that you have to see. I do not know if you know it or not, but there are certain laws in the Bible. These laws are absolute. In fact, there are seven of them. Everything in the world and everything in the Bible operates by these laws. You are going to find that these laws are non-negotiable. These laws are absolute. These laws are fixed. If you want to figure things out in life, the way you do it is to find out the things that are fixed in the Bible that are non-negotiable, the principles in the Word of God that God lays down that are absolute. Then you base everything else that you learn in life off of those principles. That is basically what you do with the book of Deuteronomy. There are a couple of things here that we need to see.

One of the laws in the Bible that I have talked to you about before is the law of first mention. When you find something mentioned for the first time in the Bible, that usually defines it for you throughout the Word of God. We know that. You know the first time you find the devil showing

up in the Bible, it is very significant. The first time you find God, the Holy Spirit of God, mentioned in the Bible, it is very significant. Those things will define for you not only what you are looking at but define for you the course of action and define for you what those things mean through the rest of the Bible.

The one thing about the Bible that you never want to forget is the Bible's consistency. The Bible is consistent in everything that it does. It is not like another book that a man would write that has errors in it. When this book was put together, God's Holy Spirit preserved it, He inspired it, and He kept out any human error in it. You have the absolute perfect Word of God in your hand this morning that you can figure all these things out.

Here is the law of first mention. There is also the law of second mention, or last mention. I also sometimes call this the law of God's perspective. It simply means this: the last thing any man writes in the Bible is very important. When you start coming through the Bible and you have an awareness of what is going on around the Bible that you are reading, you will want to pay attention to this one fact: the last thing that a man writes in that Bible, or the last thing that he says, is usually very important.

*Deuteronomy 1:1 says:*

*These be the words of Moses, which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab.*

This book is different from the rest because this book is nothing more than a series of sermons. It is nothing more than a series of Moses giving his perspective of what he has learned. That is why everything a man says in the Bible for the last time is very important, because what it does is show you what he has learned through the trials of his life. It allows you to see the perspective that he has gained by what he has gone through.

Every man in the Bible goes through tough times like you and I do to find his relationship with God. There has never been a man, nor has there ever been a woman, that just got saved and then just went through life without any trials. Of course, you know why that is. The devil wants to stop you. The devil wants to discourage you. The devil will put things and people in your life to pull you away from what God wants you to have. That is your warfare. That is why we said last week our job is to stand. We are to take a stand for God no matter what.

You are going to find that in the Bible, men are just like that. You are going to find it is also true in history. When you go back and you read great men of history—I have always been a history major, especially military history has always been my thing—I have always read great biographies of great men as far as the world is concerned. You know what? I do not spend so much time looking and reading about what they did. I learned very early on in my times in the Bible that I always go to find the last things that they say because the last thing a man says before he dies or the last thing a man says before he leaves is usually very important because it shows you his whole perspective of what he has learned, what he has been through.

We think of General MacArthur, a great general that really led the campaign through the Philippine islands during World War II. You can talk about General MacArthur and how he was trapped on Corregidor and how he got out and his famous words, "I shall return," and all of that. But you know what? Anybody who reads his biography or knows anything about his life, you know what you remember about that man? You remember not the battles of Corregidor. You do not remember the times that he struggled and went back. The thing that you remember about him was the last thing that he said when he was at West Point before he faded off the scene. You know what he said? He said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." You know what that was? That was an incredible perspective of what he had been through in life and what he understood. It is an incredible thing.

Admiral Halsey, another great military mind that led great victories in the Pacific. When he retired, they gave him a watch. On that watch was a little inscription. That little inscription was given to him by the men. That little inscription simply said this: "Lest we forget, lest we forget." When he wrote his memoirs, you know what he said? He had everything he said, everything he wrote about the battles of Guadalcanal and all of the things that took place and all the great events of his life. The thing that came down to was, "Do not forget," because in that remembering is a bond of men that pays the ultimate price for you and I to have what we enjoy today.

Lest we forget John F. Kennedy back in the 60s. You know what? You think about all the things that he said and all the things that he did, the Bay of Pigs and all the things that he struggled with and all in the Cuban Missile Crisis. But you know what? When you think about John F. Kennedy, the thing that sticks in your mind is the last speech he ever gave when he simply said this: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." That is everything that he remembers, the last thing that he said.

William Booth, general in the Civil War, started a great organization, the Salvation Army. The last thing he said before he died, the last thing he said, one word sums up everything that he was and that he did all of his life. It was simply the word "others." His whole life, why? It gave his perspective. I am telling you, I do not care whether it is in history, I do not care whether it is in the Bible. If you want to find out a perspective on it, then you find the last thing that a man said.

Genesis 49 is the last thing that Jacob says and does, very instructive. The last thing that Christ says to His disciples is in John 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, very instructive. The last thing that Paul writes and the last thing that Paul says is 1 and 2 Timothy. You have got to look at it sometime. It gives you his perspective. The last book in your Bible that God wrote gives you God's perspective on everything. It is the book of Revelation. It comes right back through and takes you from all the way through from the church age, right on through to eternity, and shows you every event. You know what it does? It gives you God's perspective on things.

When Moses writes, Moses writes and gives us in the book of Deuteronomy his perspective, and we see incredible things in this book. We see some things that you need to remember and I need to remember and we all need to remember about what God is doing because the nation of Israel always had a problem remembering, and you and I as God's people, we always have a problem

of remembering. So this book shows some incredible things and brings up some incredible truths about how the nation of Israel dealt with God historically, how they will deal with God in the tribulation period doctrinally, but also in a practical sense, this book chapter by chapter is loaded, just like all the others we looked at so far, of what God wants to do in your life and my life on an everyday basis. These truths to me, as far as my own personal view of it and the years I spent in the Word of God coming through the Bible a few times, I am telling you, I think the whole Bible is built around these couple of concepts, and they are incredible concepts.

### III. The 11-Day Journey and 40 Years of Wandering

The first concept I want you to see, we could spend all morning on this, and I cannot afford to because I have a lot of things I want to say, but look at chapter 1, verse 2. It says this:

*There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.*

It says there were 11 days' journey. Look at verse 3:

*And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;*

You say, "What does all that mean?" It means this: God took them out of Egypt and wanted to take them to the Promised Land. Let me talk to you about the Promised Land for a minute. The Promised Land, wrongly taught today, is a picture of heaven. Every book you are going to buy on the Promised Land pictures the Promised Land as us getting to heaven. Of course, that is not true. That is typical of men that do not understand the Bible and do not understand how the Bible is put together. The Promised Land was never, has never been, nor never will be a picture of you and me going to heaven. No, no, no. That is the place where the nation of Israel, when they went into it, it was an inheritance that God gave them. It was a literal physical land that God gave them. He said, "It is your land, I am giving it to you."

But here is the deal: you have got to believe My book and keep the promises of My book. As long as you do, all those nations out there that hate you, all those other nations that want to see your demise and want to see you die and want to kick you down that land, all those nations will never be able to touch you because you simply live by the promises of My Word. As long as you live by My promises, you will get to stay in the Promised Land. When you forsake those promises, which they did, what happened? 606 BC. God gave them time after time after time. First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Chronicles, Second Chronicles, First Kings, Second Kings, time after time. God said, "Get it straight, get it right." He sent them prophets. He sent them preachers. He sent them men who said, "Come back to God, get back in the book, get back in the book." What did they do? They did not do it. In 606 BC, God sent down Nebuchadnezzar and kicked them out of the land, and they are no longer in the Promised Land.

That Promised Land is not our picture of heaven. That Promised Land is for you and for me, a picture of the place in your Christian life where you get that you are living in this world. This world is wicked. This world is against everything that God stands for. Yet you and I simply live

in this wicked world by the promises of God. You have to come to the place in your life where you get so in tune with that book. That is why I want to help you learn the Bible. That is why it is the most important thing. That is why I will do anything to help you, at your convenience, to learn that Bible, because the Promised Land for you and for me is not dying and going to heaven. It is living in this wicked world and being successful by the promises of God.

I said all that to say this: 11-day journey. It took them 40 years. You can get as much out of God as fast as you want. You can get to God where you are living by those promises in a very short time in your life, or it can take you 40 years of wandering to try to get there. I have known some of God's people, and when I start talking like this, let me just say this to you: I am not talking about people who just suddenly found out there is a God and there is a Bible and you really want to learn it. I am not talking about that. When I start talking like this, I give anybody in this building five years grace. You can do it. If you have been saved five years or less, do not even listen to it. Do not listen to it, but do not take it personal. I am not talking to you. I give you five years grace.

But let me ask you, why are you not farther along in the Word of God than you are? Why are you still struggling with the same things you were struggling with four or five years ago? The answer is in one word: wandering. You can get to God and the promises of God. Hey, I have people that I am meeting with in the Word of God right now that I am teaching the Bible that in the short time that we have got, they know more Bible and are applying more Bible than most of God's people who have been saved for 20 years. Why? Attitude. How quick do you want to get there? How quick do you—how much of a priority is it for you? Oh, it is going to be tough getting through this today because I am hung up here. How much of a priority is it for you to learn that book?

#### IV. Personal Responsibility and Accountability

Now we live in a day and age where we all like to be victims. We live in a society that says you are not responsible, you are not accountable. When some guy goes out and murders 28 people, the first thing the defense throws up is, "He is not responsible. He is either mentally deranged, he had a bad upbringing with his parents, he had a bad relationship with his father, therefore that is what really kicked him off, and there he is, he went out there and killed those people, he is really not responsible." We find somebody who goes out and rapes women, and they simply say, "First defense comes up, he is not responsible." We find people who are drug addicts. First thing, "He is not responsible. It is not a sin, it is a sickness." We find people who are alcoholics, and we say, "It is not a sin, it is a sickness."

Let me tell you something, as much as any time you and I cut our old nature slack, we are going to take that position, and we are going to deny accountability. This whole world that we live in, this whole society that we live in, wants to play the victim, and we want to take no responsibility for our failures. We want to take no responsibility, no accountability for where we are at. Well, let me tell you something, I do not care what your upbringing was, I do not care how bad it was, I do not care, and I am sorry, I do not care if it was terrible, I do not care what it is. The Bible says the day you get saved,

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

You are a victim one time. I said you are a victim one time. After that, you are a volunteer. You are a victim one time. After that, you are a volunteer. You have to understand that there is a personal responsibility and a personal accountability. As a child of God, I am not responsible for the things that happen to me. As a child of God, I am not responsible for the bad things that fall on me. As a child of God, I am responsible how I deal with it. We talked about it the last couple of weeks, turning to God or turning from God.

But we live in a world where everybody wants to just blame it on somebody else. Oh, every time you start to talk to somebody and they start to give you a reason why they are not farther along in the Bible, it will be somebody else's fault. It will be, "Well, my mother and dad did not raise me upright." It will be, "Well, this or that." We have an—you know, I mean, there was a time in this country that when you were a drunk, you were a drunk. But oh no, we want drunkenness not as a sin. We want it as a sickness. So now there are no drunks in America. There are only chronic alcoholics. Sounds good. Almost want to be one.

But there was a time when homosexuality and lesbianism and all the other child pornography and that stuff was perversion. It is not perversion anymore. It is just an alternative lifestyle. It used to be a time that when you were a drug addict, you were a dope head. Back in the twenties and back in the thirties when Gene Krupa, the famous drummer, got beaten around, who could beat on drums, got hung all on marijuana when he began to play the teenagers. Boudeem would not go to hear him play because he was on drugs. Now you could not find a drug addict in America if your life depended on it. Now we are substance abusers. We make everything from sin to being a sickness. In doing so, we give human nature exactly what it does not want or it does not need, and that is an alibi.

Let me tell you something. You can get to God and live in the Promised Land as quickly as you want. There is only one person, only one thing, only one element that will stop you from being what God wants you to be. My friend, that is you. You can blame it on everything and everybody. I listened to a TV program the other day. It just gets my blood going. They were talking out there and had all these adults, and they were sitting around and blaming their failures because they were not productive. They were dysfunctional. They all sat around and they were talking about having ADS, Adult Deficiency Syndrome. They were blaming it on the fact of this and blaming it on the fact of that. I sat there and I thought, "You know what? That is my problem. That is my problem." Except I have SADS. I have Selective Adult Deficiency Syndrome. I choose what I do not want to get messed with. That is the way we are. We think, "Well, you know what? That is because of this," or "I have..." No, you know what it is? I will tell you what it is. It is because of a lack of discipline in your life. That is what it is. It comes from your lack of ability to discipline yourself with that book. That is not easy. But you know what? It is not any easier for me than it is for you. It is not. We like to pretend it is.

If there is one thing I have learned over the years, it is simply this: denial is more than a river in Egypt. It is the place that we like to live where we like to excuse ourselves from any personal

accountability. We do not want to be disciplined because we are lazy. We do not want to think because our minds are lazy. We do not want to focus because we run around and sit and watch television. Instead of studying, we would never pick up the Bible. Now we are so far bad that when we do pick up the Bible, "I cannot get anything from it." No. The reason you cannot is because a long time ago you chose not to. Until you choose to do it, you are going to wander.

If there is anything I have learned about this book, anything I have learned about God and the Bible, it is that we are all the same. I am no better than you are. Some of you in here, and this is the question you have got to deal with, I am sorry. Some of you in here know much more of the Bible than others, and you have been saved in a lesser amount of time, given everybody five years, given new Christians a free walk. I am talking about you who have been around forever. I am not talking about the fact, "Well, maybe you just found out where the real Bible was and now you are getting plugged in." I am not even talking to you. I am talking about your garden variety Christian who goes through his or her life and never gets to the place where they can live by the promises of God. It is always somebody else's fault. It is your fault. You can be there in 11 days or 40 years, your choice. They could have been there in an 11-day journey. It took them 40 years. It was not the Amalekites' fault. It was not the Jebusites' fault. It was not the Amalebites'. It was not any of their enemies because God said, "If you just stay in My book, I will take care of the enemies." It was their fault. They chose something else over that book.

Chapter 1 is a picture of a Christian who has God. He has the Spirit of God. He has the Word of God. But they never grow. They are always fearful. They are always choosing to be a victim. They never stand up and say, "I am not going to be a victim anymore." I heard a lady one time talking about a rape class, and the counselor said, "Well, what would you do if you were raped?" She said, "You know what? They would have to kill me. I would never submit to being raped." She said, "I do not care who it was or how many it was. I would fight them with every breath that I have. If they were going to rape me, it was going to be my dead body and not my live body." Well, let me just say this. If an unsaved woman can come to that kind of conclusion about her physical body, that she is not going to let somebody else violate her and she is willing to die in the process, God's people need that same type of tenacity in their lives to say, "You know what? I do not care what it takes. This world is not going to have me. I am going to fight. I may die in the process, but I am going to fight. I would rather die in the process of fighting this world than die in the process of being in this world."

Over in Hebrews chapter 11, the great book, a great chapter in Hebrews on God's hall of fame. You know what it said about Moses? It said about Moses choosing to suffer the afflictions of God rather than the pleasures of sin for a season. You see? It is a choice. Always is, always will be. Do not you give me this victim crap. You are a victim the first time, you are a full-fledged volunteer with a bow tie and a uniform and your little name tag the second time. It is your choice.

## V. The Generation Syndrome and Teaching God's Word

Next thing I see, the second giving of the law in chapter 5 and 6. He gives the Old Testament again. The reason he gives the Old Testament again in chapter 6 is because they wandered for 40

years. For 40 years they had to wander until all that generation died and only their children could go in. But when you study chapter 5 and chapter 6, those that generation had died never told their children about what God had done. They had no understanding of the heritage of the great victories and miracles that God had done.

Now I do not know if you know this or not, but in every family and every situation, you find what I call the generation syndrome. That is simply this: your kids, the generation below you, will be worse than you are. That generation will be worse than they are. That is how it degenerates. It does not run up, it runs down. Unless God injects Himself into your life and into your family, God is the process that keeps the decay from happening. But it is going to happen if you do not do it. As you do not do it, you are going to find that it breaks down, just like it did in Israel. You are going to find this generation syndrome where the next generation is worse than the last, and the next one is worse than that one. Pretty soon you are down in the basement of this old world, just like we are today. There was still some morality in the 40s. There is no morality in the 90s and the 2000s. Why? The generations have degenerated. We see now the sins that mom and dad used to do that were hidden. Now they begin to get in them when they are in the fourth and fifth grade. You had to be 20 or 30 before you got into drugs back in the 30s and the 40s. Today our children are getting it when they are in the fourth and fifth grade. Premarital sex was something that did not happen until you were a teenager in college, the big frat party. Now it happens when they are in the sixth and the seventh grade. Why? The generation syndrome.

If you do not have something coming into your family, into your personal life. That is what he says in chapter 6. In chapter 6, he comes down through there and he says verses 4 through 9, he says you take your children and you teach them. You talk to them day and night. You make God a household word. He says you talk about what God has done for you. You let them know that God is powerful in your life. You let them know, as mom and dad, you fear God. All my life I have had parents come in and try to talk to me about their bad kids. All my life I always operate by the principles. I am a very principled person when it comes to the Bible. It is simply this: I learned a long time ago that every principle in that book is how I have got to live my life. Now I do not know them all and I do not do them all. But I know enough that I do not get myself bamboozled by somebody wanting to come in and play with my mind.

Somebody will come in and say over the years, "Well, Brother Bob, I just cannot tell you how my kids are disrupting my home. I cannot tell you the problems my kids are causing in my home." Now, see, that is you say that to the preacher. He is supposed to respond with, "Well, brother, you know, them kids, they are pretty terrible," and he goes out happy. You go out happy and everybody is happy. But that is not the problem. Let me tell you something. Kids do not cause problems in the home. Kids just reveal the problems that are already there. Principle. Principle. Your kids do not cause problems in the home. Rebellious kids. I mean, every kid has his problems. Look at the Steinmetz boys. I am not talking about boys being boys or even girls. I had some time with my kids. But see, my problem is simple. I just gave them two baseball bats, put them in the backyard, and said, "When the ambulance comes, and you see me, the other one will take you to the hospital." Not really. But anyway, I am telling you, kids do not cause problems in the home. Kids reveal the problems that are already there.

He says in chapter 6, verses 4 through 9, he says, "You teach them. You talk to them day and night. Talk about God." He says, "You make it a household word. He says, 'Put it on the post and the gates. Put it where they can see it. Put it on the refrigerator.'" Hey, I am going to tell you something right now. I can walk into a kid's bedroom and see what pictures he has got on the wall, what poetry he has got on the wall. I can tell you where he is at with God. I do not need to sit out and look deep inside his heart. I am telling you, man, that Bible says it is the things of God that we have to put up, the things of God that are to be in front of us day and night.

He says down here in chapter 6, verses 20-25:

*When thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.*

When this kid says, "Hey, Dad, what means all this? What made it this? Where is all this about God?" Tell him. Tell him what God has done. Tell him where you have come from. Tell him where you were a sinner. Tell him how God saved you. Tell him how God made a difference in your life. Tell him where you fail. Tell him where you love the book. Tell him. This is where Israel failed. This is where the church has failed. That is why it is called the book of Deuteronomy. Deutero. Two. The book of Deuteronomy simply means second giving of the law. You know why? Because the nation of Israel did not give that law down to their heritage or their kids, and God had to come back because of their wickedness and give them that law a second time because nobody in the nation of Israel carried through with their children.

You wonder what is wrong with America today. That is what is wrong with America. Oh, we are religious. So is Israel. Oh, we go to church. So did Israel. Oh, we do all the things. So did they. The bottom line is, my friend, it is like I have told you before, when you want to witness to somebody, do not tell them what God can do for him. Tell him what God did for you. I can tell anybody what God will do for him. It is something else for me to tell him what God has done for me. When I sit down to deal with somebody in a problem in their life, I do not just tell them what God can do for him. I take them back and show them what God has done for me. You need to have a heritage for your children that they understand that mom and dad, they have come from Egypt. They are saved. They are born again. Yes, they are not perfect, but they love that book. They have got standards of holiness just like they did in the Old Testament. But they did not. Oh, when they did not, they lost that generation, and God had to tell Moses, "Write that book, Deuteronomy, second giving." Well, they screwed it up the first time. So did we.

## VI. Avoiding Idolatry and False Gods

Then jumping back to chapter 4, you see, when you lose sight of God, then you pick up other gods. In chapter 4, verses 15 through 19, you find all the things that Israel were not supposed to make equated to God. You find the fish. You find all the little artifacts of birds and animals. All the things that Christians today like to make their little Christian seals. Are God's people, without a doubt, the dumbest people the world has ever seen? I do not know how many times I have been in some place in a church situation. I am not fighting anybody. Stupidity is a common thing. It is all right.

I do not know how many times I have seen them wear that little five-pointed star and then walk around. I remember one time we were on a mission trip. We had a missionary, a pastor and his wife with us, and she was kind of a flighty little gal, and she was giving me a tough time because of what I believe. So I figured, "You know what, let us see if you can dish it out and see if you can take it." We were on the bus one day, and she had a little five-pointed star. Star of David. I will tell you what right now, before we go any farther, in case you are already mad at me, I will give you a million dollars. Show me where that Bible word that five-pointed star is the Star of David. You said, "Bob, a million bucks. You do not even have a million bucks." Well, let me tell you something, Bozo, I could get it together for you if you could find the verse.

I said to her, I said, "What is that?" She says, "Oh, that is the Star of David." "Why are you wearing it? Are you Jewish?" "No, I am a Christian Jew." I said, "That is great. Star of David, five-pointed. Huh. I would like to get my wife one of them. Where do you buy that?" She said, "Oh, you get it at a Christian bookstore." "Oh," I said, "great. I said, I have heard a lot about drug paraphernalia. I have not heard a lot about Christian paraphernalia. Five-pointed star of David." I said, "Where is that at in the Bible?" She said, "Well, I do not know, but I am sure it is in there." I said, "Oh, it is in there." I took her to Acts chapter 7. Took her back to the book of Hosea or Amos.

*Amos 5:26:*

*But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.*

*Acts 7:43:*

*Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.*

That five-pointed star was the star their God referred to. Israel got that five-pointed star when they got into apostasy. They made that up after a false god they were worshipping. Here we are, stupid, dumb 20th-century Christians thinking, "Oh, look at that. I have got to get me one of them." Yeah, put your demon star on you and walk around. They go, "That is all you got." But you know what? That is the Bible. In chapter 4, he goes through it over and over and over again. He tells them, "No fishes, no birds, no animals. You did not see any similitude of any four-footed beast or this or that when you met God down there. He just gave you 10 commandments, His Word. It is all you need." All down through the apostasy of Israel, you know what they are doing? They are going after God. Remember that week I told you about the brazen serpent? Well,

you go a little bit later on in the Bible, you know what they did with that brazen serpent? They are worshiping it. They are holding it up, and they think that it is something to do with God. They are worshiping it. God said over and over, "You do not make any likeness of any image. Thou shalt have no other god before me." A child of God just should not walk around with a demon god's emblem on their chest. I am sorry, but it is okay.

## VII. The Ages of Ages and Prophetic Fulfillment

Acts chapter 7, oh, Acts chapter 7, I had better bypass this one. The ages of ages, he says in chapter 7, verse 9:

*Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.*

Now I am going to tell you something, this is very prophetic. I do not know how deep to get into this, and this is something I will, if you want to bring it out on a Thursday night Bible study, I would be glad to take you where I can go with it, but I will tell you, here it is. God said to the nation of Israel, once you get your millennial kingdom, that thing is going to endure for a thousand generations. That has never been fulfilled. The old-time Bible students, the old-time Philadelphia Bible preachers, put this down there between Ephesians chapter 1, verse 9, First Corinthians chapter 15, verse 28, and somewhere there in Ephesians chapter 2, verse 7, about the ages to come.

Here is what you have: some place after the millennium, and you know the events: rapture of the church any second, tribulation seven years, Christ comes back, millennium a thousand years. At the end of that millennium, it is commonly taught that eternity starts. Well, that is the short way to teach it, that is not exactly true. You have a period of time from the end of the millennium before eternity starts that God promised Israel that He would give them a thousand generations. Now here is the other problem you have: there are four or five different generations in the Bible. That thing could run 33,000 years because that is a generation. It could run 47,000 years, that is a generation. It could run 70,000 years, that is a generation. It could run a hundred thousand years, a hundred generations. In other words, at the end of the millennium, you have somewhere between, at the low side, 33,000, on the high side, a hundred thousand years that Israel is going to get what God promised them in Deuteronomy chapter 7 about the ages of ages.

I do not understand it all, and I do not understand it all. I never read anybody that did it, but there seems to be a period of time where God is going to give to Israel that promise that He is going to manifest more than just a thousand years, that they are going to have a thousand generations where God is on that throne before eternity starts. Pretty wild. If I were you, when you come to that passage, I would just put down there "the ages of ages" and I would put those reference verses: Ephesians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 15:28, Ephesians 2:7. Ask me Thursday night, I will go through it a little bit more and show you how those things all relate. Cannot do it now. Some of this stuff you are just going to have to put down, and then we will come back and fill up the pieces later.

## VIII. Discerning True and False Prophets

Chapter 13 through chapter 18. Oh, here is one for your tool belt. As a Christian, there are things that you are going to learn in that Bible. They are going to become tools you use all the time. They are principles. We talked about this last Thursday night. I told you how that one of the things that you know is you can always stay with the principles because God never violates His principles. When God sets down a principle, He never violates it, so you do not ever violate it. When you find somebody that does violate it, you know what you are dealing with. Because here is the deal: once you get saved and before you get your feet firmly planted in this book, there are going to be people showing up in your life, saved and unsaved, claiming to be God's man, claiming to have a message from God. The only thing that is going to keep you from getting messed up and falling into their trap is understanding biblical principles are absolute, and God never violates or moves off of His principles.

Now that is what Deuteronomy chapter 18 deals with because here is the problem: he has been telling all through these couple of chapters, "This is what I am going to do, this is what I am going to do for you. I am going to send you this prophet, this prophet is going to preach, this prophet is going to teach, follow the prophets." Then somebody says this, "Hey, Lord, that is all fine and good, but we also know there are false prophets. How are we going to know the true prophet from the false prophet? Give us a gauge, give us a standard. How am I going to know in the day and age that I live in? How am I going—how do I know how many times have you heard it? I am not saying the Baptists are the only religion. In fact, I think there would be more Baptists in hell probably than anybody else. I am not a Baptist. You say, "Well, this is called Old Path Baptist Church." Yeah, but that is because we did not know what else to call it. I am a Bible-believing Christian. I go by the principles found in the Word of God. Only thing I operate by.

He says in Deuteronomy 18:20:

*But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

He said, "Okay, you are going to have men come in, and they are going to speak in the name of other gods, or they are going to lie to you." You are going to find these people, saved people and unsaved people, they are going to come into your life, and they are going to lie to you because they want to discourage you or they want to trap you or they want to get you to a place where you lose faith in God and you become what they are. Now I am telling you, you better get it straight. If you are going to take a stand for that book like we talked about last week, you are going to have people who hate you for that stand, and they are going to do everything they can to lie about you, to destroy your character, and to get you to quit. They are going to get you to lose faith. They are going to try to get you to come to the point where you get discouraged, and they want to suck you into their cult.

Now he said a prophet presumed to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded or he speaks in another name. He says, "You kill him." We cannot do that today, but in the Old Testament they did.

*Deuteronomy 18:21-22:*

*And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

Real easy, is not it? Now you know what? If you get that concept down right there, you have eliminated 99% of the problems in your life by one principle, one principle. I do not know if you know it or not, but the Bible says in Revelation chapter 1, verse 2, that Jesus Christ has a testimony. Now we all have testimonies. We talk about having a good testimony. When you are out in the world and you do what the world does, and I know you are a Christian, that is a bad testimony. But we do not ever stop and think much about Christ losing His testimony, but you know He could. You know what Jesus Christ's testimony is? It is not that He would go out to get drunk. It is not that He would go do this or do that. No, no. The testimony of Jesus Christ is defined for you in Revelation chapter 19, verse 10. You know what it is?

*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

You know what that means? He put Himself under His own principles. You know what He told you in Deuteronomy chapter 18? He says, "If you find a prophet that says something is going to come to pass or something is going to happen or this is going to take place and it does not, that is not the prophet." He put Himself under that. That is why I know this book is absolute. That is why I know it had nothing to do with man. If that book has one mistake in it, if there is one prophecy that falls through, if there is one thing that Jesus said that was going to happen and it did not happen, then He is in the trash bin with all the rest of them.

Now I do not know if you know it or not, in your Old Testament, there are 48 prophecies about one man. Those 48 prophecies are about the Lord Jesus Christ. They are given 600 to a thousand years before He was born. Those 48 prophecies have to do with when He was born, where He would be born, how He was going to die, where He was going to live, what age He was going to be when He died, all the implements of a man's life that would be absolutely impossible to foretell 600 to a thousand years. In fact, when they took those 48 prophecies and ran them through a computer to find out the odds against 48 prophecies about Jesus Christ coming to pass 600 to a thousand years before He came, those 48 prophecies, the chances against those 48 prophecies coming to pass on the day, the hour, and the time that the Bible said that they would, are 10 to the 157th power. That is 10 with 157 zeros on it. You say, "How big is that number?" I know 10 with 157 zeros. How big is that number? There are not that many electrons in the universe. My friend, go home in your little dresser, pull out your little hat pin, hold that pin up, look at that little flat head of that pin. You can get a hundred million electrons on the head of that pin, and there are not 10 with 157 power electrons in the whole universe. That was the chances against 48 prophecies coming to pass, and every one of those prophecies was fulfilled at the first coming of Christ. You cannot beat it.

Now I do not know how you deal with people, but I deal with people on that principle. I do. Somebody said, "Well, what about all these other religions?" Well, I do—that is how I go. You know how I know the charismatic mess is not of God? I will tell you why. The first time you have one healing, it does not take, it is wrong. He said here one time, and then the comparison comes back and says, "Well, wait a minute, that guy did not get healed because he did not have enough faith." Principle. Jesus raised dead people. How much faith can a dead man have? You see, you think I am as stupid as you are. I was a couple of years ago.

Five or six years ago, I always have one of these ready. I will make one of these for you if you want. I saw two guys coming down the street, recognized me immediately, Jehovah's Witnesses, big guy, little guy. I played dumb. Was in the house, knocked on the door, walked out, said, "Yes." He said, "Hi." I said, "Hi, my name is Bob Alexander." He said, "Well, we just want to know where you go to church. We would like to talk to you about the Bible." I said, "Hey, I would love to talk about the Bible. Where do you go to church?" "Well, I am a Jehovah's Witness." Little guy. I looked at the big guy, and he said, "Well, we all know all the Jehovah's Witnesses. Did you just move here?" "No, lived here 20 years." "Well, how did you become a Jehovah's Witness?" "I—we do not—we would—where do you go?" I said, "Well, I became a Jehovah's Witness about 24 years ago when I accepted Jesus Christ, Jehovah God, as my own personal Savior, and I asked Jesus Christ, Jehovah God, to save me from a literal burning hell, and I read in the book of Acts chapter 1, it says that ye shall be my witnesses. I said, 'Therefore, I am a Jehovah's Witness.'" Little guy looked at the big guy, looked back at me, he said, "Well, that is not the kind we are." I said, "That is the only kind there is. You guys must be phonies."

Then he said, "Well, we want to talk to you about the Bible." I said, "Good." I reached out and pulled my little sheet down here. You see, you may go and talk with them about hell, 144,000. I do not ever mess with that. I found a long time ago, every cult house, you never attack the cult at its front door. You always go into the screen door that is unlocked or the window is just a little way up, and while he is up there watching the front door, that is all his pet doctrines, he has got the answers to, you sneak up behind him and go, "Boom!" Get him. So I always keep this right up my window there by the door, and I pulled it down. I said, "Good, I am glad you are here. Let me ask you a question." I said, "You have a Bible?" "Yeah." "What kind of Bible do you have?" "We have a New World Translation." "That will do. Open it up." I read Deuteronomy chapter 18. Says the same thing. His does, mine does. I said, "Who would judge Russell?" "Well, he is the founder of our religion." I said, "Who is Rutherford?" "He is the founder of our religion too." I said, "So those two guys were the founders, right?" He says, "Yes." I said, "Okay, let me ask you a question. You believe everything in the Bible?" "Yeah." "Explain to me what Deuteronomy chapter 18 I just read, what does that mean?" He said, "That means that if a prophet claims to be the prophet of God and he says so that does not come into pass, he is not the prophet." I said, "You agree with that, big man?" "Yeah." "How about you guys? You believe with it?" "Yeah." "Okay, me too. All right, let me ask you a question. In 1889, Russell, in his book *\*Time Is At Hand\**, page 248, said that the second coming of Christ was going to come in 1914. We are still here. In 1904, Russell's book *\*New Creation\**, page 328, he said the second coming of Christ was going to be here between 1910 and 1912. Next, 1920, in his book, Rutherford, *\*Millions Now Living Will Never Die\**, he says the second coming of Christ will take place at the end of

1925." I said, "Did it ever happen?" "No." "Then according to what you just said, you guys are false cults because my Bible principle, principle, principle says if it does not come to pass, that is not the prophet." Principle. You do not have to get hung up in it. You do not get hung up in it. You follow the principles.

I have a book that the chances against 48 prophecies against it are 10 to the 157th power, and more electrons in the universe, and every one came true at the first coming of Christ. Let me tell you something, that book is absolute, and you do not have to worry about whether it be a Baptist or a Methodist or a Presbyterian. That is not the issue. The issue is, do you have a book and do you believe it and can you believe it and does it have enough power in it to save you? That is the Bible. If you want to know who is telling you right, who is telling you wrong, just get the principles.

All my life there have been people telling me one thing when my Bible says something else, and for some reason I do not understand it, God's people just cannot get it. Why are you so taken in with all of this stuff when you have a Bible right in front of you? I am telling you, if you are going to take a stand for God, you are going to get it from the unsaved world and from the saved world, and they are going to target you just like the cults do. They are trying to get you because they prey on weak Christians. They prey on people who are wandering, who have never got to the Promised Land, and they wander, and those are the ones that they feed on.

Then you have saved people. They see you, and they are out in the world. They are not doing what is right. They do not like the Bible. They do not like God, but they want to maintain their Christian respectability, and so they see you on fire for God, and they are going to try to discourage you. I remember years ago when I was growing up, there were two men in my life, and those two men were—I mean, they were my mentors as far as learning the Bible. I am not saying they were God. They were men. They had their faults just like everybody else. But I watched growing up around them, I could not understand why everybody hated them. I could not understand why everybody was against them. It came to me one day. I have other preachers come to me, and they would say, "Well, you need to be careful if someone is over here. Now he is a little too radical." They would say all kinds of things, things that would assassinate their character.

I finally came down to it, and I asked one of them one time, I said, "Man, why do you get kicked from one end to the other?" He said, "It is simple, Bob." He said, "You better learn it." I am telling you because you better learn it. He said, "You know what? I made up my mind a long time ago I was going to stand for that book, and when you stand for that book, you are going to come into close contact and close proximity with a lot of God's people that do not love that book, and they do not want anything to do with it. They want to maintain their nice little oozy-goosy lives without the power of God in it, and they are comfortable, and they can get away with it until you show up, and then you come in with your 25-pound King James Bible with all your Bible verse spurting off the mouth, and you know what it does? It is like somebody turning a light on in the kitchen in the middle of the night, and all the cockroaches are caught."

I learned principles, principles, principles. I learned very quickly who is right, who is wrong. Principles. I will tell you, and he told me this, he said, "You know what, Bob?" He said, "I have learned." He said, "I never get worried what people say about me." He said, "I never take it serious. What I take serious is when people come and talk to me about something." I thought to myself, "That is a profound thing." He said, "Because the people are going to say things about you, true or not true, all your life, and they are going to lie about you on the job." I know that is true because I have talked to somebody in here that are working out in a factory someplace right here, and you know that is true. That is exactly what happens. He said, "I never—I never worried about what people said about me. I always took seriously what they came and talked to me about." I learned from that over the years, and the next time somebody came up to me about my father in the Lord and said something about me, the first thing I would say is this: I would say, "Let me ask you a question, did you go talk to him?" "Well, no, I have not." "Now what are you talking to me for?" Principle. "I do not have a problem with him. You obviously do. Why do not you go talk to him?" Now here is the impression you are giving me: you are giving me the impression that you are right because you are spiritual and you can see all these things and he is wrong. Okay, if that is true, why are you violating principles? Go talk to him. If you go talk to him, work it out with him. Why are you bringing it to me? Are you trying to discourage me in my faith? Are you trying to—are you trying to hurt me? Are you a satanic implant? What is the deal? I am telling you, whether it is saved or whether it is lost, it is principles. God gave you a book of principles. When the Jehovah's Witnesses come, principle, Deuteronomy chapter 18. When somebody in your own Christian life comes in and they try to discourage you, principles. You have to take charge. You have to be the one that says, "You know what? You are wrong. You are wrong. You have got a problem with Sabacca, go talk to Sabacca. Do not come to me. I cannot solve your problem." But I am telling you, you better learn a lesson like I had to learn it. You better learn a lesson like I had to learn it, like every strong Christian in this room had to learn it, and they know what I am talking about in their own personal lives. When you take a stand for the Word of God, you are going to pay the price. Not only from the world, First Corinthians chapter 2 says it so clearly, he says, "Well, when you give God the uttering glory that men see it, and because they are not doing it, it is a witness against them." Oh, I am telling you, these are great principles in the book of Deuteronomy, the last thing that Moses writes.

## IX. Israel's Atonement and Divorce Laws

Then in chapter 21 and 22, we find the great chapter on what the nation of Israel has to do because they killed Christ. Oh yeah, long before Christ ever shows up, it is put in the form of one slain in the land back here in chapter 21, and nobody—nobody brought the trial on it, and nobody knows for sure who brought the trial, who killed, but they find one slain in the land, and nobody covers the blood. That man is Christ. You come down to verse 3, and they get a heifer, take him down to a rough valley, that is Gehenna. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The priest has to do it, and see, Israel cannot do it right now because nobody knows who the priests are, but there is coming a day when they are going to learn who the priests are in the tribulation, and then they are going to perform this in the tribulation period. The elders washed their hands just like Pilate did. He knew what the Old Testament said. Then suddenly in chapter 21, verses 8, 9, and

10, the story suddenly changes, and now it is the nation of Israel. Lo and behold, in chapter 21, verses 21, 22, 23, it is a picture of the crucifixion, and that is the only way we have to get the thing that Israel has to do is get clean from the innocent blood. That is exactly what Paul and Stephen are preaching in Acts chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. All this is prophetic. It all shows you what Israel has to do because all this deals with Israel getting back right with God.

In chapter 23 and 24, the Old Testament law and putting away your wife or divorce. Every seminar I have ever heard in my life, every book I ever read in my life, every tape I ever listened to in my life, once I talk to the church about divorce and remarriage, go to Deuteronomy chapter 24 and Matthew chapter 19. Those are the standard teachings for divorce and remarriage in the Christian circles. You know what? That is not the teaching for the church. The church teaching for the church on divorce and remarriage is not found in Deuteronomy chapter 24, that is Old Testament. Not found in Matthew chapter 19, that is Old Testament. It is found in First Corinthians chapter 7. The whole chapter, verse by verse, lays out every aspect of everything you need to understand how the church is to deal with that issue. Matthew chapter 23 and 24 is how Israel dealt with it.

## X. Blessings, Cursings, and the Song of Moses

Then in chapter 27, 28, and 29, you have the cursings and the blessings on Israel for their disobedience or for their obedience. The great three chapters on showing you that God tells Israel, "You know what? If you do what is right in the Word of God, I will take care of you. I will be there for you. Nobody will ever hurt you. My blessings will be on you, and nobody will ever touch you. But if you do not, then My hand will be against you, and I will pick your enemies, and your enemies will whip you." He says over and over again, your whole success of the Promised Land, your whole success of staying in that land by the promises of God, are based on the blessings of God, which are based on the Word of God. I am telling you and me, if you ever want to get to the place—took them 40 years for an 11-day journey—but if you want to get to the place in your life where you can be where God wants you to be and live by the promises of God, you are going to have to have the blessings of God, and that only comes by obedience to God. Oh, what a great three chapters it is.

Then in chapter 32 through chapter 33, the song of Moses. He sings about the greatness of God. Chapter 4, he says, and what a great verse this is:

*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

All through here he talks about God's people going to be the premier people, and all the world is set up after the 12 tribes. He gives the Jews civil rights that nobody else has. He gives them religious rights that nobody else has. He gives them material possession that nobody else gets. He talks about in chapter 32, two rocks, two cups, two vines, two kinds of blood, two kinds of drink. I am telling you, the whole thing lays out and shows you the greatness of God built around the devil's crowd and built around God's crowd. All the book of Deuteronomy, what a great book.

## XI. The Death of Moses and God's Principles

Then chapter 34, and we are done. But oh, chapter 34, the death of Moses. As far as I am thinking, one of the greatest chapters in all the Bible, one of the greatest chapters in all the Bible. Somebody said, "Really?" "Well, it just says in verse 5 that he dies and no man knows his sepulchre unto this day." Oh no, no, no, no, no, more to it than that. Oh no, this is the last thing Moses writes, and this is the last chapter in the book of Deuteronomy, and boy, it shows God's perspective on some things, and you better learn this. You have got to learn this. Oh, I have tried to jam a lot of things in today, but if you do not go home with anything else but this, you have got to get this.

Here is the picture. Here is the picture. Israel had been wandering for 40 years. They finally got there. Could have been there in 11 days, took them 40 years. Now they are all camped on this side of Jordan, getting ready to go over, and it is the night before they are going over. Oh, and they are sitting around, that campfire is burning. They are talking about how long a journey it has been, how excited they are. They are talking about getting to the Promised Land finally. Moses is walking through the camp like every good commander, and he is shaking hands, and their people are standing up and saluting him, and he is talking to them, and they are thanking him for getting them that far and all the things that God has done with him, and he is saying this and saying that and checking on all the tribes and making sure everything is all right. He is saying to himself, "Boy, it has been a long 40 years."

About that time, he sees this man walking through the camp, and he recognizes him. It is the Lord. It is the Lord. He recognized Him because he had walked with Him for many, many years. Moses is 120 years old now. He had walked with God for a lot of years. He walks over there and he says, "Evening, Lord. Good to see You down here, just kind of walking through the camp." Lord said, "Yeah, I am, Moses. Come down, have a little talk with you." He says, "Well, good." Lord says, "Come on, walk with Me." He says, "Yes, sir." About that time, Moses said, "Lord, I want to tell You something. I know it was a long 40 years. I will tell You, Lord, I know it was tough, and I know there were times when I failed You. There were times that the nation failed You. But Lord, I want You to know there is never a time that You failed us. Lord, I just want to say this, we have been together through some things, and I want to tell You, I love You, and You are my friend, and I could not give or get to where I went. I remember the first time I met You back there at that burning bush, and how feeble I was." Moses. God says, "Yeah, I still remember. I remember how proud you were when you threw that stick down, Moses, and it turned into a snake." Moses said, "Yeah." Then God said, "And I remembered how scared you were when I told you to pick it up. You were dancing around that snake like, you know, it was all right when it was a stick, but when you had to pick it up." And he said, "Yeah, I was pretty stupid back then." God said, "Yeah, but you have come a long way, Moses, and You are My friend too."

Moses said, "Boy, you know what? Everybody is excited." God said, "Yeah, I see it in the camp. Everybody is fired up." He says, "Yeah, it has been a long time, but we are going to go over tomorrow." The Lord says, "Moses, I want to talk to you about that. Why I came down. You are not going over tomorrow." He said, "What?" "Moses, you are not going over with the people tomorrow." He says, "Well, Lord, I do not understand. After all I have been through, 40 years in

the wilderness, 40 years on the backside of the desert down there before Pharaoh and all this, and I know I made some mistakes, but I—I cannot tell me tonight, the day before we are going to go over, that I—I am not going over." He says, "No, Moses, you are not." He says, "Well, I do not understand." He says, "He says, 'Was that thing with that rock?'" Lord says, "Yeah, it was, Moses. I told you to speak to that rock, and you smote it." He says, "Well, Lord, okay, so I smote the rock. I do not want the big deal. I am not going to get to go into the Promised Land because I smote the rock when You said to speak to it?" And God said, "That is right, Moses, you are not." He said, "But I do not see the big deal." He said, "I know you do not, but that rock is a type of something, and when you hit that rock instead of speaking to it, you broke My principles, and I cannot violate My own principles, Moses, and you cannot go."

"Lord, I do not know what to tell You. I—I just never had such a big disappointment. What am I going to tell everybody?" "You are not going to tell anybody. We are not going back." He says, "Lord, you know what that means to me to go over there?" He said, "Yeah, I know." He says, "Lord, just let me sneak over tonight. Just let me just get—let me—I will sneak over tonight. It is right across the river. Just let me get across there and just let me stand in that land that was promised because, Lord, I know what that is, and I know the problem. Lord, just let me stand there five minutes, Lord, and I will be back, and then whatever You want to do, if I cannot go over, just let me sneak over." "You are the camp, Moses. You see, My principles are unchangeable, and I cannot let you do it." He said, "But I will tell you what, I will let you come back a little bit later and get in the land." He says, "And I will tell you something else, Moses." Come on, boy, put His arm around Moses, and they were walking that thing away from the camp, and He says, "Let me tell you something, Moses." She said, "I know you do not understand about that rock, but I want to tell you something, you better learn it, Moses. You do not always get everything down here. You see, you would live in your life, Moses, like you had to get over to that land, and for you that land is your inheritance. For us, it is the millennium." He said, "You do not always get it all down here, Moses. Sometimes I just put you down here to do the work, to do the dirty work, and then I pull you out before you get the blessings. You know why? Because the blessings are not down here, Moses, they are over there. Moses, do not ever forget that the blessings are over there because it is easy to think they are down here, and you want to get all satisfied, and you want to go over there. You know what, Moses? It is easy to make that Promised Land so much important in your life that you forget about the One who got you there, and you are not going, Moses."

Moses said, "Okay, you know what, Lord? All along these last three or four years, I thought You had something up Your sleeve. You would not tell me about it." The Lord gets that smile on His face that He does when you are sitting on the end of the tree branch and He is sitting back at the tree with a saw in His hand and a smile on His face. You know, been there. And He says, "I will tell you what, Moses, it is going to be okay. Just trust Me." Moses said, "You know what? For 80 years You have done me no wrong. I will trust You." I will tell you what, there are lots of places I would like to have been in the Bible. I would like to have been at the resurrection when Christ came out of that tomb. I think that would have been a great time. I would like to see the Red Sea split. I think that would have been neat. I especially like to see Pharaoh when this guy is getting drowned. But I will tell you where I would like to be. I would like to have been just a little off

center, listening to that conversation because I have had that conversation. Then I would like you to stand there as the whole camp was down there getting ready to go over, and all I saw was those two figures walking hand in hand up that mountain. The man who face to face talked to God like a man speaking to his friend. The man who would turn through the trials of Pharaoh, the man who went through the trials of the Red Sea, the man who had put up every trial. The Bible says at 120 years old, his eye was not dimmed, nor his natural force abated. He was just as strong in the day at 120 as he was the day God found him. You know what? I watched those old two figures walk up that mountain together, and I walk them farther they get, the more okay it is. By the time they get up there, old Moses is swinging, singing, "In the Sweet By and By," and they are talking about going up there and being with God. Moses gets up there and looks back at that camp, sees that land over there, and he says, "You know what, God? You know what, Father? Going with You is better than going over there because that is not what it is all about. You are what it is all about."

You do not always get it down here, folks. Sometimes God shuts it down so you lose everything you have, but you do not always get it down here. You get it over there. Sometimes God puts His arm around you, and you walk up that mountain, boy, and you have to leave it all behind, and you go with Him. When you come to that point in your life, Moses and God face to face, but God would not violate His own principles to let him go in, and even as much as He loved him. I am telling you, it is principles. If you ever want to get the promise of God, if you all want to live that life where you live by the promises in that book, you are going to have to principle yourself to the place where you discipline yourself that that book becomes everything in your life, and whatever God calls for you is okay with you. Boy, I see them arm in arm walking up that mountain, and that old moonlight disappearing of that mist, and the Bible says to this day no man knows where Moses' sepulchre is. You know why? Because he went home to be with the God of the Lord. What a way to go. Every head bowed, never got close to the book of Deuteronomy.