

2 Chronicles

Sunday 8/8/2004

As we turn to the Word of God, Jamie and Jim, thank you again so much for your kindness. God, we just love you kids so much. I don't know what to tell you. I don't think there was anybody there that was a visitor last night that wasn't touched by your hospitality. I mean that. I watched them say goodbye to you, and I know what they said to me. I just don't think there was any of your family that wasn't overwhelmed by the fact that somebody would open up their home to eighty people and say, "Come on in, go wherever you want, do whatever you want." My wife and I have a book to stay there next week. Love you kids. Love you to death. My goodness, that was so, so nice.

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn to the book of 1 Chronicles. Let me say something to you. As you know, if you're visiting with us this morning or you're not a regular attender, we are coming through the Bible book by book. For the first eight or nine months, we really began to try to lay out all of the preliminary stuff to help you build your own relationship with God. We're on a journey here. My journey is to bring the people that God gives us through the Bible, help you learn the Bible through all the events that we have, and to really help you be either the husband to your wife, the wife to your husband, or the parents to your kids. Whatever your desire is, our goal is to help you get to the place in your life where you become the man or the woman that God wants you to be.

Each one of the books that we've been coming through, we have been laying them out so you get a handle on the Bible. In doing so, we find that there is great material in there about your own personal life. Last week, you remember we looked at the book of 1 Chronicles, and I showed you how 1 Chronicles lays out the line of David, or the lineage of David, and then it shows you the life of David. In doing so, in a particular way, it shows us the character qualities of the Lord Jesus Christ. It shows us the heart attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you follow his life, chapter by chapter, we built on this last week. As you follow through with it, we showed you how, at the end, chapter by chapter, the process for a man or a woman to build yourself into what God calls God's mighty men of valor. These were men and women who were head and shoulders above the average person back in that time, translating to us, head and shoulders above the average Christian. They were people who learned the Bible, who operated by the Bible, who became Christ-like by learning how Christ was. It is an incredible book that shows you the inner makings of the man of God and the woman of God. I don't know of another book in the Bible like it.

We stopped on the last two chapters, and I told you last week, I know I preached for ninety-three minutes last week, but what am I supposed to do? That book and those last two chapters, I don't know what to tell you. If you didn't get it last week, you're not going to get it. I'm not saying you have to go home and make it all happen, but you now have the direction by which to do it. I'll help you put it together.

I. The Book of 2 Chronicles: Inward and Outward Focus

Today, we're going to study the book of 2 Chronicles. 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles go together in a number of ways. First of all, where 1 Chronicles is an inside commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles is a commentary on 1 and 2 Kings. Let me give you a little technical concept here. When Jeremiah, who is the writer of 1 and 2 Kings, writes 1 and 2 Kings, he gives us the royal view of man's reign over Israel, and he puts the emphasis on the thrones of the kings of Israel. When it comes to 2 Chronicles, Ezra writes that book. When Ezra writes that book, he covers the same period of time and many of the same events, but with a different emphasis. His emphasis is on the southern tribes and the building of the temple.

Here's what we have, and this is what I want to say, especially to our visitors today or people that are just maybe here. 1 and 2 Chronicles go together. Where 1 Chronicles shows you how to build the inward man, focusing chapter by chapter on you building yourself to be God's mighty man of valor inwardly. We all know that's what really makes a strong Christian: what's on the inside. Where 1 Chronicles focuses on what's on the inside, 2 Chronicles focuses outwardly. In 2 Chronicles, we're going to see today what our job is once we become that mighty man of valor, and it defines what our ministry is.

I'm saying all that to say this: if this is your first time here, or if you're visiting on an irregular basis, if I can't do anything else for you, I want to do this. I want to give you a copy of last week's message and a copy of this week's message. Those two books, if nothing else, and I never see you again—and I hope I do—but if we never cross again, those two books alone, I promise you, have all the material in them that you can find your relationship with God. If I can help you do that, fine. My job is always to give out truth. So I'm telling you, if you're here this morning and you're a visitor, or you've been here before, or you just want these, see Jason back there, and we'll give you last week's and this week's free of charge. I want you to have at least that much, so wherever you go now, you'll have the material. If I can help you put it together, or you want to come back for more, that's between you and God. But I'm doing my job, and my job is never to put a price on truth. My job is to freely receive, freely give. I want you to have that today just for being here, and it'll make today's message make a little more sense than what I've got to say. Though I usually make sense with whatever I say, sometimes it'll help put it all together.

II. Breakdown of 2 Chronicles

Let's look at the breakdown of this great book, 2 Chronicles. It's very easy. They all are. Remember, you'll want to put this in the beginning of your Bible, just as we have all these other things.

- Chapter 1 through Chapter 9: King Solomon's Reign
- Chapter 10 through Chapter 36: The Divided Kingdom and Decline

Let's look at it in a little more detail.

- Chapters 1-5: Solomon Fulfills David's Charge
- Chapter 6: Solomon's Prayer and Dedication

- Chapter 7: The Great Sacrifice
- Chapters 8-9: Solomon's Wisdom and Millennial Reign
- Chapters 10-36: The Division and Kings

III. The Problem of Leadership and Apostasy in Israel and the Church

Here's what I want to focus on. I already told you that last week, the book of 1 Chronicles shows you how to focus on the inward man, how to be internally. My job is to take every young man, every young woman, every couple, every mom and dad, whoever wants to, and to teach them the Bible to bring you to the point where you become God's mighty man of valor. That you're a man or a woman that in these last days of apostasy, just like Israel, can stand for God in a day and age when nobody wants to. What I'm about to show you is quite incredible. As I've already said, these two books lay it out and go hand in hand. Where 1 Chronicles shows you how to build yourself as God's man or God's woman, the book of 2 Chronicles, as I've already stated, is a book that shows you what I as a Christian and you as a Christian are up against and how to stand as a mighty man of valor. One is inwardly and one is outwardly.

These kings that we've just talked about, all of these men, they are the spiritual leaders of the nation of Israel at this time. They are the men whom God has, by decree, given the command of the nation of Israel. They are responsible for Israel's spiritual condition. They are to be the leaders. We see them in chapter 10 through 36. I just listed them for you. We see them as the leaders of Israel that will either lead them to God in the Word of God or lead them away from God in the Word of God. We see that they are responsible for Israel's spiritual condition.

I've talked to you about this before, the great parallels between the nation of Israel and the church. I know that one is in the Old Testament and one is in the New Testament. There are hundreds of years between them, and I know that one is dealing with Israel and one is dealing with the body of Christ. One is under the law, one is under grace. I understand all of that. But you know, if you know anything about the Bible, that God told us in the book of Corinthians that those things in the Old Testament were for our examples, were for our own samples, and were for our admonition. There are some things that we can learn from them. This is why we need to be smarter than the world around us. We as God's people need to understand, and this is what makes somebody really spiritually mature as far as understanding the Bible, being able to go to the Bible, see the mistakes that somebody else made that God gave you by example, and applying them to your own life so you don't make the same mistakes. That's what the Bible is all about.

The parallels we see here are incredible. If these parallels hold true, that Israel and the things and the leadership and the spiritual condition picture the leadership and the spiritual condition that we are in in the church today. Don't forget, Israel in the last days before God's judgment came, very important. We're in the days of Israel right before God's judgment falls on this world. The apostasy of the nation and the leaders of that nation religiously were in total disarray. We are

living in a day and age, the Bible says, right before God's coming judgment. We too are in a time of apostasy. We too are in a time when the church and Christianity are in total disarray. There are many, many questions in Christians' hearts today and fears because of the uncertainty of the times that we live in. Let me just say this to you: there is no uncertainty about the times we live in, not if you know your Bible, not if you have somebody giving you the Word of God, or you can go to and lay out. You can find every fear laid out in the Word of God and put the rest because of what the Bible says. If these parallels hold true, and I know that they do, we need to study these men's lives, or you need to study these men's lives, because they show you what is wrong with the leadership, not in our country. We know that they're unsaved, but within Christianity.

We are in the mess we are in in America because of our leadership. We as Christians like to blame the problems we have on the leadership of our country, and the problems are many in America. We look at the political state of America, and it's pretty much a joke. We look at the homosexuality and the lesbianism, and the concept that, do we even have to have a vote anywhere that says same-sex marriages are wrong? No, but in the world that we live in today, there's a question mark after that. That becomes a problem. Drugs are unprecedented. In Colombia, they raise drugs like they raise corn in Iowa. It's incredible. Terrorism. I heard this morning that great detailed plans to blow up something else in New York City. Around this country, people, I don't care what your leaders say, people get up and they're afraid. It's scary times we live in. You don't know if you, the kids, when we grew up, you had some bad kids in high school. But come on, I don't remember a time when I grew up, if any kid bringing a gun to school and putting a conspiracy together to kill his teachers and other kids around him. You're afraid as a parent to send your kid to school. So we think that sending them to a private school or a Christian school or whatever is the answer, and that's not the answer. We live in terrifying times. We live in a day and age where marriages fall apart because they have no substance. People get married today without ever understanding or contemplating what the Bible says, what a husband's role should be to his wife or the wife to her husband. Consequently, we live in a day and age where when the newness wears off, when the shininess is gone, when there's no more, the marriage is over. There's nothing binding in our country today. There's nothing binding in our families. We're losing our children like casualties of war. Parents who go to church and are supposed to believe the Bible and all of these things, their kids are growing up saying, "I don't want to go to church. I don't want to do this." They lose control over them because we've lost control in this world. Drunkenness, crime, you name it.

We as Christians are quick to blame the world. We want to blame the people in Washington because of the crime rate, because of the immorality rate, because of same-sex marriage and all this stuff. We look to our leaders, and preachers in the pulpit this morning are taking political sides because they think that God represents one side and the other side is represented by the devil. So we're going to take this guy versus this guy because this guy has standards and this guy has morals and this guy has all the things that will put this country back to where it needs to be. I want to tell you something: that is the biggest mistake anybody on the face of this planet could make in teaching and training leaders. I've done it all my life. You're not talking to somebody at this point that doesn't know what he's talking about. I may not know how to fix my car. I may not

know how to do this or do that. I may not know how to do much, but I know how to take a man and a woman and teach them from the Bible standpoint to be the leader that God wants them to be.

There's an old axiom in leadership training, and it's so true. It's simply this: everything rises and falls on leadership. If it fails, it's because the leader who is in charge didn't follow through. If your family fails or your marriage fails, I'm telling you right now, husbands, you are designated as the leader, and your marriage will rise and fall on that leadership. If you lose your kids, I'm telling you right now, you can blame whoever you want. How many times I've had a parent say to me, "My kids are causing problems in my home," to which I respond, "Kids don't cause problems in the home. Kids just reveal the problems that are already there." Leadership, leadership, everything rises and falls on leadership. That's why for the nation of Israel, they fell apart because of the leadership spiritually.

I'm telling you right now, my Bible tells me in Matthew 5:13, when Jesus Himself was speaking, He said:

Matthew 5:13

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Salt is a preservative. Salt preserves. Salt is likened to the Word of God. What He's saying is that Christians, it's the leadership Christians that preserve anything that is decent. How can you and I expect the unsaved world to maintain a line of morality? I promise you, the thing that made this country great one hundred years ago was not the government. It was corrupt then. Whatever party you were in, it was as corrupt then as it is now. The thing that made a difference then is you had men in the pulpit who were not dinkily dialing in politics, but were stepping in that pulpit, taking that book, and preaching the preserving truth of that book that preserved this nation. It was men in leadership positions that weren't becoming part of a political plan. They were part of a biblical plan that took moms and dads, young men and young ladies, women and men, and trained them in the Bible to be leaders, to be mighty men of valor. Inwardly first, 1 Chronicles; outwardly second, 2 Chronicles.

He says in the book of Colossians, when Paul wrote that book—remember now, the book of Colossians matches up to the Laodicean church period, which is where we're at. You find Laodicea mentioned five times in the book of Colossians. He says in Colossians 4:6:

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

The problems in this country are not caused by the political leaders, they're not caused by the John Kerrys, they're not caused by the George Bushes, they're not caused by Ralph Nader, they're not caused by any political man or any demise. It isn't caused by Larry Flynt, it isn't caused by all the people out there that we look at that we want to blame for America's downfall. The problem

lies in churches, in pulpits, in pastors of not getting into that pulpit and preaching that book. That book is salt. That book is a preservative. It'll preserve your marriage. It'll preserve your family. It will preserve any country, any nation. The problem lies in the leadership. Our pastors today, just like the leaders of Israel, have left the power of Almighty God. Those kings are like our spiritual leaders.

2 Timothy 3:5

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Let me tell you something. If you would go back to the book of 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, and walked in Manasseh's reign, or you walked in Jehoiakim's reign, or you walked in Josiah's reign, or whoever you want to pick, if you walked into their life and their kingdom, you would see God, you would see all the concepts of God, you would see men praying to God, you would see pictures of this and that, you'd see all the things representative of God. The only thing you wouldn't see or feel or experience is the power of God. Why? It was all a sham. It was all a show. It has switched from being spiritual to becoming political. It has switched from being the power of God, which changed people's lives, to a form of godliness without that power. That's what we've got today.

I'm not mad at anybody. I'm not picking on anybody. I mention no names. I will not mention any names. I don't care. I just know what my job is. My job is to take you, every young man, every young lady, everybody that wants to learn that Bible, every mom and dad, every couple, I don't care, and make sure you get the best shot at your marriage and raising your kids in a world that wants to destroy them. I'm telling you, that's why parents are afraid today. That's why they're afraid of this. I'll tell you something else. I don't know what you know about the Bible. I don't know how much time you spend, but you look at guys like Jehoiakim. You look at guys like Zedekiah. You look at guys like Josiah. You look at guys like Jehoram, Jotham, Jehoahaz, Joash. Do you ever notice how they all start with "J"? Do you know how they all start with "J" and they have "E" and "O" and "H" in them? Do you know why? Because those words are derivatives of the word Jehovah. Those men had God in their names. Those names are derivatives. When you go back and get the meaning of their names, Jehovah is found in their name. They're just like the leaders today that say that they're following God. These men had Jehovah in their name, but it didn't have Him in their heart.

So many of God's people, and especially the leaders in Christianity today, have taken God's name. Oh, they like to stand before the throngs of people and display how much they know about God, and they're great, all they're great. But I'm telling you something, that doesn't cut it when the rubber hits the road. When you've got problems in your life, when they're too busy being a main chandelier in the ballroom to come over and shine a light on your back porch. How many times I've heard this story of people in churches having problems and they go to the pastor and the pastor is too busy to talk to them. How many times I've heard this story over and over and over again, a thousand times in the last five years. Some little couple go to that church, faithfully attend, tithe to that church, give to that church, and then something happens in their own family, in their own life. Some catastrophe involves them, some problem, or they just want to learn the

Bible. When they go in and talk, if they can even talk to him, you've got to run with him down the hall because he's busy going to some big meeting that he's got. We have locked the spiritual leadership in this country, and I'm not mentioning any names. I don't have any names in mind. I just know the way it works. I've been in this business 35 years. I'm not some novice. I've seen how it goes. I know how it goes. I know that most pastors today are busy pastoring inanimate objects. When you have a problem, they'll subcontract you out to somebody else. These men, these men with God in their name, oh, they've taken God's name in vain. They've taken God's name, but they have taken it in vain.

I ask you today as a child of God, only something that you can examine. If you're saved this morning, you have taken His name. The question is, have you taken it in vain? God in this chapter shows the attitude of heart of each man. When you come down through each king, you actually see God actually lays out for you their attitude of heart about the two greatest and most vital concepts in all of history of the Bible, whether in the New Testament or the Old Testament. That is:

1. The Word of God
2. God Himself

I list them in the order of their importance according to the Word of God. Right in the middle, if you thought I was stretching all that, if you thought I was just putting all these things, I wasn't making the right, if you thought right in the middle of this book in 2 Chronicles 15, look at it. Verse 1, you can't miss it. Incredible. What we're dealing with here is a picture of the leadership of the nation of Israel that led them spiritually wrong. Now we've got the problem we've got today: men in the pulpit, Christians in churches that don't believe the Bible anymore, will take a stand on the Bible anymore, that are not interested in building people's lives.

2 Chronicles 15:1-4

1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

He said to that king, "If you seek Him, you'll find Him and He'll bless you. If you don't, you won't find Him." Now look at this. Oh boy, verse 3, here we are. "Now for a long season, Israel has been without the true God." Yet God is everywhere. These men have Jehovah in their names, but He's not there. "Without a teaching priest." The teaching of the people, the Word of God, had ceased to be the most important aspect of Israel's existence. They're busy now with political things. The king is busy now being the king. Oh, it's a far cry from Solomon, when he knelt

down and asked God, asked Him what he wanted. He said, "Just give me the ability to teach my people to be like You." But now we've been a long season without a true God, without a teaching priest, and without the law. I'm telling you, welcome to the nation of Israel in 787 BC, and welcome to the state of Christianity in 2004 AD.

If there ever was a day for the need of mighty men of valor, if there ever was a day for moms and dads to say, "I'm going to learn that Bible. I'm going to learn it for my children. I'm going to learn it for my marriage. I want truth. I want to build my marriage based on the Word of God. I want to be the best husband I can be. I want to be the best wife I can be. I want to be the best mom and dad to my child. I don't want that child growing up and I don't want somebody else, a Sunday school teacher, winning that kid to the Lord. I want to be the one. I want to learn how to be sensitive to my children. I want to be learned. I want to train them up in the right way. I don't want them when they grow up to be faced with the world. I don't want them to grow up wanting to do the things of the world more than the things of God." How does that happen? It happens by mom and dad doing what the Bible says, and building their individual relationship and their marriage and their children. By the way, let me just say this: your marriage will only be as strong as your individual personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Your family will only be as strong as your marriage. It all goes back to your one-on-one relationship with the Lord Jesus. All in this great chapter we see it.

We see why God said in Ezekiel 22:30:

Ezekiel 22:30

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

I'm telling you, ladies and gentlemen, you may not believe me. It may take you to get into the judgment seat of Christ before you get your head screwed on straight. I don't know. But I'm telling you this: we live in a time when the parallels with the nation of Israel right before God's judgment fell. We're living in a Laodicean church right before the rapture of the church and God's judgment is going to fall. I'm telling you, we're in the same boat they were back then. The leadership has corrupted themselves spiritually, not the president, not those guys. They've always been part of. I'm talking about the men in leadership spiritually. You just go to the next Christian bookstore you want to find. You bring me any ten books you can find. We'll sit down with the Bible and we'll find out if they're biblical or not. It's a good test. It's a good test, but there's a better one coming. I'll show you the next one coming up here in just a minute.

IV. Josiah: A Light in the Darkness

Then we come to chapter 34. In chapter 34, we've got a man we've got to look at here. Remember, I told you that 1 Chronicles deals with you inwardly. It shows you how to build what God wants you to build. That's why I want to give anybody that wants it, both tapes. Just stop on your way out, we'll get them for you. The bottom line is this: now we come to see outwardly. What we have in this man called Josiah, Josiah means "supported by Jehovah." You see, it's got the J-O in his name, Jehovah, supported by. They're all that way.

2 Chronicles 34:1-3

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

Josiah is the bright spot in this time. You know what that shows me? That shows me no matter how bad the leadership and spirituality becomes. That shows me no matter how dark it gets and how polluted Christianity becomes and how misdirected and how much disarray it is, that God still can find a few men and a few women that are willing to stand up in this darkness and say, "You know what, God, I will be the man You want me to be. I won't put my trust in the confidence of man. I'll put my trust in the confidence of that book. I'll be the man You want me to be. I won't play the political game. I'll find out what You love and I'll begin to love that. I'll train my family. I'll raise my kids. I'll do what's right. I'll do everything I need to do." Josiah is that man.

For it says in verse 3, "For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David, his father." Oh, so much in that verse. So much about raising your children in that verse. So much about you. See, some of you right now, you've just come into this church. Though you may be 25, 26, 27, 28, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, no matter where you're at, the Bible says that in God's mind, if you're just beginning to learn the things about God and really want to learn the Bible, you're still young and tender. My whole life is built around people that come in and they embrace truth. Then they have a response to that truth. Old Josiah, he embraced truth. He was like David, his father. If you come down through verses 4 and 7, you'll find he's a Baal kicker. He goes down and he tears down the temples of Baal. He rips them up. He's a good man. He takes out the false stuff that is pretending.

In verses 8-14, he begins to rebuild God's house. You know why? Because God's house is in terrible disarray. He tries to rebuild God's house based on God's Word. That's all I'm doing. I look at Christianity and I see it for what it is. I know where the problem lies. I know I'm not going to solve the world problem. I know Bob Alexander isn't the answer to it. But let me just say this to you in a popular time: "My name is Bob Alexander, and I approve of this message." I know where the answer is. Everybody else does it, why can't I? I know where it's at. I don't want you to get the idea that I'm down here as the expert. I'm not an expert. I've made as many screwed up mistakes in my life as you have. I don't look at myself as better than you. I've told you that before. I don't look at it that way. We are in this thing together. I have the same struggles that you have. I have the same passions that you have. I have the same things I have to deal with that you do. I had to put my kids on the line and raise them right or mine would have been gone. The jury's not out on mine because the Bible says the real jury is in your grandkids. But I know where the answer is. I know that that Bible is truth. All I'm trying to do in all my frailties and all

my human mess is I understand what this story represents. I understand 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles and how it fits inwardly and outwardly. Honestly, what I'm trying to do in this little church, I'm not looking to build a thousand people. Maybe God will do that. That ain't my goal. My goal, I never look beyond tomorrow. I'm looking at one person at a time. I look at what God gives me, the people God brings in who want to do what's right, who want to learn the Bible. My job, as best as I can do it, just like old Josiah, is to try to rebuild God's house with the Word of God right in the middle of a disarray.

In 2 Chronicles 34-35, we have a picture of our work typified through a man called Josiah, a man who was a light in the darkness. A man who tried to rebuild God's house and bring it out of the destructive mode that it was in, repair the disarray. He's not a great king. You'll never hear him touted anywhere else at all in the Bible. He's one of those little guys, just like you and me, who just got a glimpse of the Word of God and what God wanted to do and build it inwardly first and then try to build it outwardly second. That's all I'm here for. That's all we're here for. We're in this together.

When you study his life, turn with me if you would, to 2 Chronicles 34. We're going to blow through here. We're in great shape today, time-wise. I've got part two of this message I may throw in as a trailer here. Just kidding you. But there are some things here that I think we need to see.

Here's the storyline. Israel has been in a mess. The Bible said, we've already looked at it in chapter 15. They've been a long time without a true God. They've been a long time without a teaching priest. They've been a long time without the law. They're a lawless nation. They're a nation that has a form of godliness, but denies the power that's inside. They're powerless. Yet, they're a gigantic kingdom. You know why? Because once you lose God's power, because of our pride, we have to build everything up to make it look like it's real when it isn't. That is the stupidest thing we could ever do in our lives. There are so many holes in that. That means everybody in the world knows what's going on but you.

Here's little Josiah, just a little guy. He's down here, and he's the king. All the story that takes place is the story that took place in Bob Alexander's life. It's a story that started a journey for me some 35 years ago, but I'm still on. It's a journey that includes many of you. It's a journey that many of you have just gotten into in the last year, but we're on that journey. It'll maybe help you understand a little bit better what Old Paths Baptist Church is all about, what I'm about, and what the Word of God's about. Josiah was just a guy that wanted to rebuild the house of God in a time when it was in terrible disarray. He's down there, and look at verse 14. Four or five things here we've got to see. Oh, these are incredible. But here it comes. You want to know what your work is? I'll show you very simply. This is why Bob Alexander is not interested in building a big building. This is why I'm not interested in having 25,000 people come and hear me preach. I'm completely satisfied with just what God has given me this time. As it grows, it grows. You'll see how it's got to go here. I'm getting ahead of myself. Let me come back to my thoughts here. I'm really excited right now, and I'm about to lose control, but I'm going to get a grip.

➤ 1.) Finding the Book

- 2.) Realizing the Power of the Book
- 3.) A Tender and Humble Heart
- 4.) Settling the Word in the Heart
- 5.) Telling Others What He Found