

Genesis 1

Sunday 2/26/2006

We are about the Bible here. We started a study a couple of weeks ago about the seven baptisms. We are taking this study based on the systematic study in the Bible, how everything is laid out in a pattern of sevens. If you really want to learn the Bible, as we talked about every week, as you put these doctrinal concepts together, they form the timeless truths of the Bible that never change, that really help you and I as Christians figure out our relationship with God and everything we ought to have and everything we ought to be doing.

Last week we talked about the baptism of John, and we laid out the second of the seven baptisms. You remember now I told you that there is one true baptism which has nothing to do with water. We have explained all this. Then I told you that there are seven baptisms in the Bible. Those six baptisms all picture and teach us something about the one true baptism, which we have not really studied yet, but we will get into in a couple of weeks.

So last week we talked about the baptism of John, and that should help you now because it is only going to be a matter of time as you talk with people and you deal with people at work, and you are going to run smack into the baptism of John. Now you have an understanding of what that baptism is about. You see not only how people misuse it, but how it should be used in the right way in studying it and laying it out in your Bible.

We tied it back to Joshua 4 with the crossing of Jordan. We talked about how it deals with the nation of Israel and them laying down and taking up the twelve stones, which were a picture of the nation of Israel. We put it together how John shows up preaching the kingdom of heaven, which is the coming King to the nation of Israel. Israel was told to repent from their false religion, to confess their sin as a nation, and they would be baptized at the exact same spot in Jordan where they crossed back in Joshua 4, where they took the stones down and put them back up. It was a picture of Israel accepting the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, as He came to the nation of Israel.

Now let me clarify something. You and I are Christians. We are in the Church Age, and I talked about that last week. Jesus Christ is not our Messiah. He is not our Messiah. You hear that a lot today. You hear Christians who do not really understand how to put the Bible together; they talk about Jesus being our Messiah. He is not our Messiah in the Church. He is our Savior. He is a Messiah to the nation of Israel. He is their Messiah, not my Messiah. He is my Savior, and there is the difference of how the nation of Israel views Christ versus how we view Christ. That is just a little important thing that you need to understand.

Israel was told to repent. They were told to confess their sins as a nation. So they show up under John, who was prophesied to come to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, right down at the same spot. Old John is taking them in the River Jordan, and he is putting them down like the rocks went down, and he is bringing them up like the rocks came out. Those twelve stones represent, as we saw last week, the nation of Israel. So that is the baptism of John. It has nothing to do with you and me getting saved. It has nothing to do with the Church. It has to do with the nation of Israel and what God is dealing with them.

We learned a great thing last week. We learned the definition of baptism. We learned that the definition of baptism is that baptism manifests something. Baptism always shows us something. We are going to use that today.

I. Re-establishing Key Doctrine: Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of Heaven

Now before we get into the third baptism today, I want to take a few moments and I want to re-establish a key doctrine for all of us that we have got to know and understand. I laid this out in the first six months of starting our church, and I told you back then that it was the absolute key to getting the Bible together. A lot of time has passed since then; a lot of people have come and gone. Most of you at that point were not here, and we have talked about it off and on throughout the last two and a half years as we put it all together.

You know, and you have heard me say it many times, we have got a lot of new people, and I want to just take a moment, as we are right in the middle of this, to explain a key doctrine in your Bible. I want you to do, and we will do this again, we will do this periodically. One of the greatest books that I ever read outside the Bible, in fact, in my mind, I would simply say it is the greatest book ever written outside the Bible, was a book that is called *The Sure Word of Prophecy*. That book, when I read it back in the early 1970s, revolutionized my life. I have made it a purpose in the last twenty years of my life to read that book every year just to reaffirm those things. I could probably quote the book by memory; it has made such an impact on me. It is the only book outside the Bible that I believe, in my own personal opinion now, is the greatest book that was ever written.

John, would you not agree? John is reading it right now. Great book, great book. Now the official title is *The Sure Word of Prophecy*. The unofficial title is *The Kingdom of God Versus the Kingdom of Heaven*. What this author does, and he is one of the two men in my life that taught me everything I know about the Bible, which I know is not much, but it got me this far. This man particularly opened my eyes to the Word of God like nobody else did. He did for me what I try to do for you. Obviously, he did it better for me than I have the ability to do it for you, but he is a great, great, great, as far as I am concerned, he is the greatest mind on the English Bible in the world today. He has written a number of books. As far as I am concerned, the greatest book that he has ever written is *The Sure Word of Prophecy*, which details out the Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Heaven.

Before we get into this baptism this morning, I want to take a moment for all the new people, and I want to just reaffirm for the old people—I do not mean old in years, but have been around for a while—I want to reaffirm that great doctrine because it is the absolute key to your Bible.

II. The Biblical Timeline and the Two Kingdoms

Now I am sure you are wondering what this is up here. Very simply, I had to have a couple of illustrations this morning, and they are not profound, but if you have a notebook or something, if you want to, I would just for your own help, draw a line like this and put one, two, three, four,

five, six marks, something like that. I am going to explain these in a minute. You can take it home with you, and it will help you visually identify what is going on. I know that we are not like most churches; we do not have a big multimedia presentation. We just have tape on the wall. This tape, I had to look hard, I bought this from my wife who was going to paint the upstairs, and this tape was the tape that you put on and not take it off, but she has never used it to do that, so I figured I would use it. I am the one who was supposed to be painting those, am I not, honey? We had a deal, did we not? And I just blew it, did I not? Go ahead, stand up, tell everybody the deal. No, I do not.

Anyway, put this line. This is going to represent for us, whether you know it or not, this is going to be right over here, it is going to be Genesis 1. Right here is going to be Revelation 22. In other words, the beginning and the end of your Bible. Let me say this to you: everything in your Bible you are going to read, everything in your Bible you are ever going to learn, everything in your Bible that I am ever going to teach you or you are ever going to read yourself, is going to fall in one of two categories: Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven.

For you to understand the Bible and unlock the Scriptures, you have to know where you are at that particular time, that you know which kingdom you are in. Every heresy in the world today in the Bible, every bad teaching, every false church, every religious person who is going to, sorry to say it, going to wind up buying into a church, buying into good works, buying into something else other than Christ as their own personal Savior, who dies and spends an eternity in hell—the simple answer is the reason why they are going to go to church all their life and wind up in hell is because they never figured out, or the guy that was teaching them never figured out, that there is a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the absolutely most crucial key in your Bible.

When we are coming through these baptisms, this is why I am doing this now. You are going to find, and we talked about this very early on in our study, we talked about how that baptism was the number one confusing issue in all the world with Christians. The absolute people are more confused and messed up, and more people are in hell over the issue of baptism than all the drugs, the alcohol, and everything else in this world. It is the number one killer that puts people in hell because why? Because they do not understand the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, and therefore they try to apply something to the Kingdom of Heaven into the Kingdom of God and vice versa.

If you would ask the average pastor in this city, the average Christian, what is the difference of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, they would tell you that they are the same. You will hear that over and over and over and over again, and I am here to tell you this morning that they are not the same. Every Bible seminary in the country, except maybe a handful, will teach you that they are the same. I am here to tell you this morning, and I am going to show you this morning, they are not the same, because if you are ever going to figure your Bible out, you are going to have to get this down. So before we get to the next baptism, let us just take a few minutes and talk about it.

III. Defining the Kingdoms

Let me define them. The Kingdom of Heaven will always be the visible, physical land given to a physical, literal nation, the nation of Israel. When you read in your Bible the Kingdom of Heaven, it is going to be talking about a piece of ground called Palestine that a literal man, Abraham, was given literal promises that his literal seed, through his literal having children, would get this literal piece of land that was on a literal place of a planet Earth, which we know as Jerusalem and Palestine. They would fight literal physical battles to keep that literal physical piece of land, and someday the Lord Jesus Christ will come, and He will set His literal visible throne in a visible city, Jerusalem, on a visible piece of Palestine, on a literal visible Earth. That is the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven will always be the literal kingdom of Christ when He comes and establishes His literal kingdom, not spiritual, literal kingdom, to a literal people, Israel, in a literal city, Jerusalem, on a literal piece of ground, Palestine, on planet Earth. That is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not literal. The Kingdom of God is spiritual. You and I are not part of the Kingdom of Heaven. You and I are part of the Kingdom of God. The book of Romans, again, in the book of Luke, tells you that the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom. It is a kingdom that is in you. When you and I got saved, here is what happened: have you ever got saved? You trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, and the moment you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, you were born again by a spiritual birth, right? That puts you into a spiritual family, right? And that family is the spiritual kingdom, the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is in you; it is not literal.

I could take you, and we can get on a bus to KCI and get on a plane and fly to Tel Aviv, and I could take you for a bus, and I could show you, I could go up right now where the temple is going to be, and I can say, "Guys, this is where the literal visible Kingdom of Heaven is going to play itself out." It is in Jerusalem, on one spot where the throne is going to be. That is where all history started; that is where history is going to end, and that is why we have had wars all down through history. It is over who is going to run that kingdom. The devil says he wants to run it; God says, "I am going to run it." The Kingdom of Heaven is the literal visible kingdom that is established on this Earth when Christ comes back. You find it coming all the way through the Bible. You are going to find that the Kingdom of God is the spiritual kingdom that you and I are born into the day we get saved. One is literal, and one is spiritual.

Now Jesus Christ is King over both of them. He is King over both of them. So you know what happens? Sometimes you find them both showing up here on Earth. Sometimes you only find one of them. Sometimes you find both of them again. Because you find both of them sometimes, and somebody does not know their Bible, they do not know how to divide it out like I am showing you how to divide it. Because they find them in the same time period, they think, "Well, they must be the same." Now that is a logical conclusion if you do not know your Bible. I am going to break it down for you. You are going to get a theological education this morning in about nine hours and forty-five minutes. Lunch will be served at 12.

IV. The Timeline of the Kingdoms

This line here, right, Adam and Eve. This line here, right, the Fall. This line here, right, 606 BC. This line here, right, the First Coming of Christ. This right here, right, the Rapture. This right here, the Second Coming of Christ. Got it? Second Coming of Christ. Got it? Do it again. Here, Adam. Here, Adam falls. Here, 606 BC, that is a date in history. Here, First Coming of Christ. Here, Rapture of the Church. Here, Second Coming. For most of God's people, it will be a rapture, but that is beside the point.

Now what I am going to do: Genesis, Revelation. We started out Genesis with Adam. We start and end the Bible with the Second Coming of Christ and out into eternity. Adam, when God makes Adam in Genesis 1, the Bible says two things about Adam. The first thing He says is that Adam is made in the image of God and he is made in God's likeness. You will find those two words in Genesis 2 and Genesis 1. He is made in God's image and he is made in God's likeness.

What is the likeness? The likeness is the physical appearance. The physical appearance is that Adam had a head, two arms, and two legs and a torso. So when he is created in God's likeness, he is created in a physical form like when God is going to manifest Himself. When at the First Coming of Christ, Jesus shows up with not two heads, just one; not four arms, just two; not six legs, just two. Adam is created in that likeness. Then the Bible says that Adam is also created in the image of God. What does that mean? It means that Adam was created as a son of God. Adam got both kingdoms. Adam was made in the likeness of God, and where was he put down at? He was put down in a literal garden on a literal place on this Earth, and he was told to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the Earth literally. That is what he is told to do, and that is what he does because he is king over the Kingdom of Heaven. But at the same time, he is made in God's image, so he has the spiritual image that you and I have. So Adam, when God makes him right here in Genesis, he is king over both kingdoms. He has the image of God; he has the likeness of God. He is king over both kingdoms, and both kingdoms are here in Adam.

Here we go. What happens? The devil shows up. The devil always shows up. When the devil shows up, he shows up to rob Adam of what God gave him. You know what the devil wants? He wants both kingdoms back. You know what the devil's original problem was? He wanted to be God, and to be God, you know what you had to do? You had to be God over both kingdoms. The devil wants to be God over the literal visible kingdom. He wants to be God over the spiritual kingdom. So what does he do? He comes in the garden and he gets Adam and Eve to fall. When Adam and Eve fall, you know what happens? Adam loses the spiritual image. Now he is a sinner. He loses the spiritual image of God. He is still in God's likeness, but he loses that image. Adam now is a fallen human being. Eve is a fallen human being.

You know what happened when you and I got saved? When you and I got saved, we got that image back. You know what happens from this point to this point? There is only one kingdom on Earth: the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a literal visible kingdom. Adam and everyone in his descendants produces children in his own likeness and the sinful likeness of Adam. Every child born, every man, every woman from the Fall to 606 BC, there is no Kingdom of God. Nobody is born again. Nobody is born in the image of God. You have only one thing: the literal visible Kingdom of Heaven given to a literal visible nation, the nation of Israel.

So you know what happens? Here is what happens. We come through the Bible. We start to come down through here. We see in the early, middle, and later part of the book of Genesis, we find the twelve tribes coming from Jacob. At the end of Genesis, they go down in Egypt. They are down there for 430 years. God brings them out. God sends them on a journey where they go. We studied it last week in Joshua 4. They are going to the Promised Land. Why? Because God is going to take a literal nation and build a literal kingdom on a literal piece of ground, Palestine, with a literal city, Jerusalem, called the Kingdom of Heaven.

So when you come down through this thing, you start to walk this thing down here. From this point here to this point here is Genesis in your Bible to Second Chronicles in your Bible. Now we just covered a big major piece of your Bible. From Genesis to Second Chronicles, from the Fall to Second Chronicles, there is no Kingdom of God on this Earth. All you have is the Kingdom of Heaven and the nation of Israel, a literal nation being built, a literal kingdom through Samuel, David, Solomon, and all the kings of Israel found in First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles.

You know what happens during this time in here? It brings us up to 606 BC. 606 BC is a time, a very important time in history. It is a very important time in your Bible. It is a time that the nation of Israel was told to build this kingdom, and the devil shows up again. He is always showing up, always showing up. When he shows up this time, you know what he does? I will tell you what he does. When he shows up this time, he shows up right here to get back from Israel what he got back from Adam. It is so simple.

I have a confession to make, boys, and this is God calling me from the bench. We are not going to get to the third baptism today. We are going to lay this thing out so everybody goes out here today and understands your Bible. It is them, and I do not know why I did not think of it before. I know why I did not, because I am an idiot, but I got it now. See, I may be dumb, but I am the fastest one in the slow class. I do not know what I am thinking of. You have got to have this before we ever get into studying the Bible together. So, okay, let us just sit back and relax and just do not worry about that. We have got plenty of time, and you know what? If we do not have enough time and the Rapture comes, who cares anyhow? We will have it all put together there.

What is your little ear things out? Oh, you got them on your arm. He wears these all the time because Scott was in Vietnam, got his ear shot off, and he has got to wear those like that. So, okay, you know what we got in here? You can take them off, Scott. You are so, you know what? Rose has trained you in obedience. That is so good. Good.

All right, from here to here, from here to here, from here to here, you have got from the Fall, Genesis 3, to 606 BC. Now you know what you have got? You have got God saying to the nation of Israel, "Build a nation, build the greatest nation on planet Earth." And so they do. They get a bad king, first Saul, and then God gives him a good king, David. Good King David and good King Solomon bring the nation of Israel to the highest point, the highest point in all of their, in all of the nation of Israel. We will put them right about here. Right about here. They never get higher than that.

You know what God established at that kingdom almost with David and Solomon? That is why Solomon's reign in the chronicles and kings is the most perfect picture of the millennial reign of Christ in all the Bible. You know why? It pictures the fulfillment of the literal visible kingdom on planet Earth. Here is what happens: Solomon is on the throne, and all the world is hearing about the nation of Israel. All the world knows about the fame of the nation of Israel. I just got a terrifying thought. If I am not going to preach that, I do not have any notes on this, so I am going to have to make this up as I am going along. That is okay. I read the book every year for twenty years, man. I got it. I got it. You know what I learned a long time ago? I can tell you this backwards. You want to hear it? I can do it in Spanish. I can do it in Japanese. Ohio, Ohio, Ohio, bonsai, avocado. What is avocado? Oh, we do not have any avocado. Anyway, so I will get it done.

Here we go. From here to here, Israel gets this highest point when Solomon is on the throne. All the nations know about God's glory. I know you do not get that at UMKC. You do not get it in high school in the history department. You will not get it anywhere, anyplace. I am telling you, during that time between the Fall and 606, about 1000 BC, 400 years before 606, all the world knew there was a God in Jerusalem. The Queen of Sheba comes in. She looks at Solomon's kingdom. She sees all of the majesty and the glory of that literal visible kingdom on this Earth with a literal temple and a literal everything and a literal king on the throne, and she says, "Wow, nothing in the world is like this." She was right. You know what you had? You had a picture of the coming kingdom when Christ shows up. I am not excited or what today? I do not know. Where are my glasses? Oh, there are my glasses. Hang on. There is a hold that in my mouth, but then I could not talk. Okay, put it in there.

You know what she got? She comes in and she says, "Wow, this is the greatest kingdom in the world," and it was. It foreshadowed the great coming King, the Lord Jesus Christ, Revelation 19, at the end of the Bible, where He sits down and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Christ. Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of Heaven. I am telling you, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, from here to here, there is only one kingdom. Adam had them both. The devil got him to lose one. The Kingdom of God is gone, and from there to here, all you have is the literal visible kingdom under the nation of Israel.

All right, Israel does not do what is right. We studied this in the last couple of weeks. This is where John's baptism figures in. They go after Baal worship. We studied it when we studied the Baal worship of the Old Testament, Roman Catholicism in the New Testament. We see them go after Baal worship. We see them do everything they are not supposed to do. Then what happens? Finally, God gets fed up with them. Finally, God gets fed up with them.

All right, let us put your Bible together a little farther. Not only is this from Genesis to Second Chronicles 36, but it is right about 1000 BC. From the end of your Bible are all the prophets and the minor prophets. That would be Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Malachi. That would be Zechariah, Zephaniah, Nahum. All of them fit right in there. What do those prophets mean? It means that once Israel starts to go bad and she has a chance of losing that literal visible kingdom, God sends preachers to the nation of Israel. You know what they say? "Repent, Israel! You better get right because if you do not do right, God is going to judge you." See how it works now? That

is the way it works. In a New Testament kind of way, God does not send you a prophet; He sends you a preacher. You know what I say to you as individuals? The same thing that Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah said to the whole nation of Israel: "Do what is right with God, or you are going to get it." See, I mean, I just follow the same pattern. Two different kingdoms, but the message is the same: do what is right, and God will bless you; do what is wrong, God will not bless you.

All right, what do we got? We come down through here, and now we have got all the books fitting in here. Israel will not do what is right. She gets deeper into sin. She gets so far away from God. She takes all the things of God and the things that God taught her, and she just gives them over to Baal, the false religion of the world. What happens? God says, "I have had it." And He says, "You know what I am going to do? I am going to take the nation of Israel that I called out of Abraham, and I called them to be everything that God wanted them to be, and they have rejected Me, My Word. They have taken My offerings and My sacrifices and given them to Baal." He says, "I am going to take that kingdom from them."

You know what He does? 606 BC, Kingdom of Heaven goes out. You know what happens? God brings in Gentile nations. Assyria comes down in 721 BC. Babylon with Nebuchadnezzar comes down in 606 BC, destroys Jerusalem, takes them away captive. From that point on, this would be Daniel 2. From that point on, you are going to find that this world is not under Jewish rule anymore. The Jews are put on the back burner, so to speak. From 606 right here, from 606 to right here, there are 400 years. From here to here, 400 years. The Kingdom of Heaven goes out here, and from here to here, there is no Jewish kingdom either literally or spiritually on planet Earth. Well, you know why? Because Israel has rejected, and God now has turned this world over to the Gentiles, and that is why it is called in the Bible, "times of the Gentiles."

400 years. 400 years. You know what anybody gets on planet Earth from God from here to here? Nothing. Not a thing. God writes a few books right after 606 when the Jews do go back under Ezra and Nehemiah, but as far as any new revelation, as far as any prophecies, as far as any new books of the Bible, none. Heaven is silent. In fact, the old theological boys, the old boys that believe the book, you know what they call this period right here? 400 silent years. Yes, sir. Boy, why? Because there are 400 years that God gave man on Earth nothing. You know why? No kingdom here. God gave him in Adam. Adam lost the Kingdom of God. Kingdom of Heaven goes here. Israel loses the Kingdom of God. It goes out. Now there is no kingdom from here to here. No kingdom.

This is the time when you have Babylon, and you have Persia, then you have Greece, then you have Rome. This is the time of Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato. This is the time where the wisdom of God is replaced by the wisdom of men. This is the time where God does not write any books. If anybody gets anything from God, they have got to get it out of the Old Testament that God wrote from Genesis to Second Chronicles 36, or the prophets from 606 on to the next 400 years. God gives them nothing.

So the devil goes to work. You know what he does? He brings up those great Roman and Greek and Persian empires. They take the world by storm. They now, instead of God being in charge, the devil is in charge. You know why the devil is in charge? God's kingdoms are not here. He

turns this world over to the Gentile nations who are run by Satan and his religion, and they run the world. For 400 years, all you get is Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. You get the Alexandrian Library, greatest in the world. You get Clement. You get Pantaenus. You get all the great minds. You get all the Greek "reeks." You get the Greeks and all of their wisdom that all the world marveled. "Well, my goodness." You know, the Greeks and their godless worldly wisdom made such an impact on this world that even today, even today, Bible scholars have got to tell you, "If you want to really learn the New Testament, you have got to get it from the Greek wisdom." Bad move. Why?

You go to UMKC, you go to Missouri, you go to K-State, you go to Arizona State, any college, you know what you will find? You will find in those institutions of learning what they call sororities or fraternities. You know what they are represented by? Alpha, Beta, Greek letters. Why? Because Greeks to this day are associated with wisdom. You know they are really associated with fornication, drug abuse, alcohol, and all the ungodliness that goes on in this world. That is what they were associated with then. That is what they are associated with today. Same thing. Things never change.

Well, time goes on, and of course, we have got 400 years, and the devil builds up. You see, the devil knows Christ is coming. The devil knows that he has got to have something to counter the greatest book the world is ever going to see. So he takes 400 years, and in those 400 years, boy, he goes to work. He destroys everything that the Old Testament said. He comes out with a bunch of new stuff. I mean, now you get evolution. So you thought evolution came with Darwin? No, no, no, no. It came back with the Babylonians, the Greeks, way long before Darwin had the corn syrup taken out of his formula, man. I mean, it goes back a long way. He begins to change the stars and name the constellations not after the Bible characters, but after Perseus and Andromeda and all the great mythological Roman and Greek gods and goddesses. It is a whole thing that is changed in that 400 years.

The only way to find the truth is to get one book on planet Earth, an Old Testament. That Old Testament talked about Adam having both kingdoms and losing one, and it showed where Israel lost the other one. I will tell you what, if I did not know that there is a hand in my Bible any other way that was a supernatural hand of God, I know it was just by the way God laid out history. Somebody told me one time, "Well, you just believe that Bible because you do not have anything better to believe." Amen, brother. I do not have anything better to believe. You bet I do, because I know that book, and I know that the God of that book is the God of history. If you want to find out what is going on, it is like going to a football game and not knowing who the players are and watching a bunch of guys running around, and you are too far up to see their names on the jersey. You can barely make out the numbers. You do not know who is playing, what is playing, you do not know what is going on. But suddenly you buy a program, and you get your pair of binoculars, and boy, then you can look down and see close, and you can read in the pamphlet there, know who is who and who the players are. That is what the Bible does for me in history. It becomes my program of history and my binoculars in history that shows me who is playing what, where. It is as simple as that.

V. The First Coming of Christ and Israel's Rejection

So we come down through here, those 400 years, they are getting nothing. Suddenly, around zero BC, two BC, four BC, depending on how you want to count the calendar, here comes an old boy out of the wilderness. He has been prophesied in the book of Isaiah. He has been prophesied in the book of Malachi. Long before, long before, when God took this thing out, God said, "Hey, I am taking the kingdom out, and there will be no kingdoms, but I am going to send you, Israel, a Messiah, because the promises I gave to Abraham your father were unconditional, and I am going to take the kingdom away, but I am going to give it back to you."

It is all about four BC, maybe three BC, like I said, depends on how you cut the calendar. At that time, here comes some old grizzly looking guy out of the wilderness. Wow, looking eyes, hair all over, hair all messed up, bad hair day, big old leather and girdle, big old hairy stump, tree stump legs, big old biceps on him. He has got a pocket full of wild honey, and he is eating bugs, locusts. That is what the Bible says. He comes out of the wilderness, and he looks across that thing, and somebody says, "Whoa, what is that?" He comes down there, man, I mean, he walked down through there. You know what he says? He says to Israel, "Repent." Matthew 3, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Luke 2, he says the same story, "Repent, kingdom of God is at hand."

Bible scholar looks at that and he says, "Hmm, see, he says Kingdom of God, he says Kingdom of Heaven. They have got to be the same." No, no, no, no. When you know your Bible, you know that both were here in the first Adam. What makes you think they both would not be here in the second Adam? They are. They are. When John the Baptist shows up, he is prophesying that the Messiah has come to Israel, and Israel again is going to get the chance to get both kingdoms: the Kingdom of God, spiritual; the Kingdom of Heaven, literal. When he shows up, the Bible says Jesus Christ was King of Peace, King of Peace, King of Peace, Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of Righteousness, Kingdom of God. See, He is King over both kingdoms. Adam was King over both kingdoms. He lost the Kingdom of Heaven, this Kingdom of God, the spiritual kingdom, through the Fall. And the Kingdom of Heaven ran down through here, and then Israel screws it up, so now it is gone. And now it comes down through here.

At the First Coming of Christ, the Second Adam shows up, and He brings it out to John the Baptist. I told you last week, he was a forerunner of Christ by six months. He was born six months ahead of Him, and his ministry runs six months ahead of Him. What he does is he heralds the coming King to Israel. That is why last week when we start John 2, or excuse me, Matthew 3, you had John the Baptist down in Jordan, baptizing in the same spot Israel crossed when they put the twelve stones, and he is doing everything to manifest Christ to Israel.

Christ shows up. John says, "Hi, how are you?" He says, "Fine, I need to get baptized." John says, "Whoa, I do not need to baptize You; You need to baptize me." Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so right now, John, baptize Me. Do not ask a lot of questions. Baptize Me because My baptism is going to manifest Me as the King of the Jews to the nation of Israel." And he baptized Him.

When Christ shows up, why? You do not even have to go past His baptism to see what the problem is going to be. He is down there going to be baptized in the River Jordan. Who shows

up? Scribes and Pharisees and the Sadducees. Here they come. Here come Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine. Here come the great religious minds of the day. Here come the religious leaders of Israel who have forsaken the Old Testament, have bought into all the Greek and Roman junk that has been put out there. Now they are going to come up, and from that point until they, when they nail Him on the cross, they have one thing in mind: that is to keep Israel from getting those kingdoms.

You know how it works. Every time He shows up to preach, the scribes and the Pharisees show up. They ask Him all kinds of questions, not because they want to learn, but because they want to entangle Him in His talk. They pick apart everything that He does. They are jealous of His power. They are jealous because the people are following Him. They are jealous because He is moving the nation of Israel back toward God. The day Satan had not only during this time put himself and embedded himself in the Gentile world, but at this time the nation of Israel, as you full well know, is under the iron rule of Rome. The devil himself has embedded himself in the religious structure of the nation of Israel.

All through the First Coming of Christ, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, it is a battle for two kingdoms. The rightful heir, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes and says, "Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven." The unrightful heir, the devil, wants to do everything he can to keep those kingdoms. Israel is hanging in the balance. Christ goes out. He preaches to the common people. They love Him. They love His message. It is the religious constituency of Israel, the scribes and the Pharisees, that reject Him. They want nothing to do with Him. They try everything they can to destroy Him. What happens is that in time they want a killing.

So here is what takes place. He comes down through here, and He begins to preach. He begins to preach down through here, and they just reject Him. Scribes and the Pharisees begin to conspire against Him. They want to get rid of Him. They make a deal with the Roman Empire to get rid of Him. Everything begins to go political. They find somebody on His own apostle team who is willing to sell Him in, Judas. They go into a conspiracy. Oh, the picture of it is so beautiful. The picture of it is so beautiful. I mean, if He loses those things like the first Adam did, we are in trouble. We are in trouble.

Boy, I will tell you what, finally Israel makes their final rejection. Israel as a nation says to God's Son, "We do not believe You are the Messiah anymore. The scribes and the Pharisees have told us differently. In fact, we think that the power by which You are doing all these miracles is the power of the devil himself." Boy, I will tell you what, you know the rest of the story. They crucify Him right there, right there. Three and a half years after John the Baptist says, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." The nation of Israel takes that sinless Savior, that Messiah to Israel. They haul Him out of Jerusalem, carry a cross to the place of the skull, Golgotha. There they put the nails in His hand. They put the nails in His feet. There the Romans put the spear in His side. They hold Him up before all of mankind. The Roman Emperor puts a sign over Himself. He said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." You ever see that sign? He put it in three languages. You know what three languages it was? He put it in African. He put it in Greek. And He put it in Jewish Hebrew. You know why? Because there are three people groups in this world. There is the Jew, the Gentile, and the nation of Israel. I mean, there is the

black man, the white man, and then there is the Jew. Three races come out of Israel, and they put it in Adam. So, when He put it up there, He put it up there for Ham, that is Africa. He put it up there for Shem, that is the Jew. And He put it up there in Greek, that is the Gentile, Japheth. It is all laid out.

When He is hanging on that cross, when He is hanging on that cross, He dies. Brother, right there, right there, Israel makes its rejection. When they crucified their Messiah, you know what they said? They said, "No King but Caesar." They took that sinless Savior, and they killed Him. At that spot, at that spot, Kingdom of Heaven goes out. Kingdom of God stays in. You know what we move into now? Israel gets put on the back burner again, and God moves His attention to the Gentile Church, which we commonly call the Church Age. Now there is no literal visible kingdom. All there is now is a spiritual kingdom that you and I have to get born again to get into.

VI. The Church Age and the Spiritual Kingdom

During this time from the crucifixion of Christ up to the Rapture of the Church, right now in our time period, it is all about being born again. It is about a man and a woman seeing their need to trust Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. It is about a man and a woman coming to the point where they understand that they have to trust Him as their own personal Redeemer. He is not my Messiah. He is my Savior. I have a personal sin debt. I am guilty of my sins. I am not a Jew. I am a Gentile. All through the Bible from here back, I was the outcast of God. I could not get anything from God. It went all through the nation of Israel because God was dealing with a literal visible kingdom. Now suddenly, I am in. I am in because God made a spiritual kingdom. I am in because the death on the cross opened up the door for every Gentile lost man and woman on the face of this planet for 2,000 years to get what they could not get in the Old Testament, and that is salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because it is not a literal kingdom anymore. It is a spiritual kingdom now.

You want to see it? I will show it to you. So beautiful. Adam back here. Adam was made in God's likeness and God's image. The devil got him to mess up. God put him in a garden back there. Beautiful place. I mean, it was just absolutely the most astonishing place in the history of the world. Every writer from here to here tried to counterfeit that. Aristotle and Plato came up with a great utopia. They talked about paradise. They talked about that great place where, and Ponce de Leon back in the 13, 14, 1500s. Well, he was not that old. But back in that time period, you know what he is doing? He is stomping across the Everglades of Florida. You know what he is looking for? He is looking for a fountain of youth, and if he drinks it, he will never die.

The story of the Holy Grail. You know that story, do you not? You know what the Holy Grail is? It is the cup that Jesus gave in the Last Supper. You know how the story goes? The story goes that Joseph of Arimathea took that cup. Joseph of Arimathea was the guy that begged the body of Christ. You know what it is? It is that Joseph took that cup in Matthew 26 that Jesus said, "This is the cup in the New Testament of My blood." Then Joseph of Arimathea somehow got Christ's blood in that cup. You know what Joseph of Arimathea did, according to the story? He hid that cup, and he ran out of Jerusalem, and he wound up in Scotland. He built a church in Scotland. You know what the name of the church is? Church of the Holy Grail. You know what the legend

is about that cup that Joseph of Arimathea got the blood in? It is that if you can find that cup, ladies and gentlemen, if you can find that cup and you drink out of that cup, you will have eternal life. That is the story. Wrong story, but that is the story.

That story is woven down through time. King Arthur, Lancelot, Guinevere, all about the cup. There were men that believed that Holy Grail and that story existed, that any time on the History Channel you can find a story on the Holy Grail, and they will bring it right through and tell you the story. There are guys that have knocked holes in the walls of that church of Scotland, dug up in the backyard looking for it everywhere because they believe it exists. Why? Because they want to have eternal life. Adolf Hitler looked for that Holy Grail. You know why? Because he wanted the power. Mussolini looked for it. Every world power. Charlemagne looked for it. The Roman Catholic Church has been digging around for it for 2,000 years. Why? Because with that cup that held the blood of Christ, if you can find it and you can drink it, you would have eternal life. I have some news for you, buster. You do not have to look for any cup to get eternal life. You just have to drink out of that cup and the blood of Christ on the cross, and you are saved. No cup. No cup. But you see, that is how it goes. When you do not understand the Bible, you make all these things up. You know how many hundreds of thousands of millions of people have died and split hell wide open, believing that stuff about the Grail and all of that stuff and on that pursuit? Incredible, when all they had to do was go down to Walmart and for \$2.95 get a King James Bible and get the answer.

First Adam had it all. Had God's likeness, had the spiritual image. He loses that spiritual image, and from here to here, man is incomplete. There is something missing, and that is why from there to there, man wanted to conquer worlds. They wanted to do everything in the world to fill that missing void, and they could not fill that void because that void could not get filled until Christ came. When Christ came with the First Coming of Christ, the Bible says that He is the Second Adam. You know what the Second Adam did? He did what the first Adam could not do. You ever study it? First Adam sinned, failed in the garden. Second Adam was tempted in the garden, prayed through in the garden, and where the first Adam was denied the tree of life because he failed in the garden, the Second Adam prayed through the temptation in the same garden and became the tree of life for the first Adam that lost the tree of life. That is some book you have got.

When Christ comes back, He comes back twofold. He had two plans. See, God does not always show you what He is going to do sometimes. There was not anybody in the Old Testament that knew about the Church. Nobody. That was a mystery, was in God's heart, depending on what the nation of Israel was going to do. I know this is an oversimplification, but you will get the story when you leave here if you are paying attention. You will go out of here with a megaton piece of your Bible this morning.

When Christ shows up, He shows up, and when He comes down through here, He comes to Israel bringing both kingdoms. He wants to restore both kingdoms to Israel. Israel rejects. So God takes out the physical kingdom, and He says, "You know what? I am now going to open up a spiritual kingdom called the Church Age, which is going to be based on the Kingdom of God, and for 2,000 years or so, I am going to spiritually put people into My body through a new birth

that only comes not through physical things." That is why the idea of you working your way to heaven is ridiculous. That is why the act of baptism saving you is ridiculous. Those are literal things. Literal things will not work in a spiritual kingdom. You cannot get to heaven in a spiritual Kingdom of God by doing literal things. But you see, when you do not understand that and you think both kingdoms are the same, then you have people running around telling you to do something to get to heaven. There is nothing you can do to go to heaven outside of trusting what Christ did on the cross because you are in a spiritual kingdom. Literal things will not cut it. You have got to get the spiritual things.

So when you come down through there, you will find that God started the Church, and from here to here, no Kingdom of Heaven. Now let us just go back. Both in Adam. Adam loses the spiritual image. Kingdom of God goes out right here, goes out from here to here. Literal things. No kingdom. Kingdom of Heaven. No Kingdom of God. Here the Kingdom of Heaven goes out, and from 606 to the First Coming of Christ, there is no kingdom. Gentiles run it. Times of the Gentiles. Christ shows up at the First Coming of Christ. He says, "Behold the Kingdom of God, behold the Kingdom of Heaven." He comes back bringing both kingdoms. Israel rejects. The Kingdom of Heaven goes out. Kingdom of God is the Church Age, and you and I talk about the fact that we are winning people to Christ and putting them into a spiritual kingdom.

But God is not done with Israel. All this stuff in the Middle East right now is all getting ready. You are so close to it right now that you know if it was how close you got to the Rapture of the Church, it was how hot you were, you would be on fire this morning. You are burning up. We used to play that game when I was a kid, put a blindfold on, you know. Well, thank you, Jimmy. What is that? Little vodka. I like that. Boy, it was. Well, the boy does not lie, that is for sure.

When I was a kid growing up, you would play a game, you all played it too. We used to go to birthday parties, you know, and they would blindfold you, and they would put something over there, and you had to find, you had to walk around, and they would tell you how close you were by cold, hot. Remember that? "Oh, you are cold, you are cold, you are cold." That is a cup of water. "You are cold, you are cold, you are cold, you are freezing to death. You are freezing to death. Oh, now you are getting a little warmer. Oh, you are getting really warm. Oh, you are getting warmer. Oh, you are getting warmer. Oh, you are burning up. Oh, you are hot. Oh, yeah, you just burst into flames." Well, if you want to play that game with Gentiles in the Church Age, let me tell you, stop. Compared to where you and I are after the Rapture of the Church, you are burning up. Right there, boys, right there.

VII. The Impending End and Christ's Return

The world cannot take much more, you know that. Romans 1 and 2 talks about the earth prevailing in and travail.

Romans 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

The whole world cannot take much more. Man has abused it, everything in all the world. Sin has abused it, man has abused it. The earth is torn up, man has violated every principle God had to get away with it. Well, all you have got to do is look around this world. I mean, we are worried

about the ozone layer; they blame it on women's hairspray. They are worried about this, they are worried about that, they worry about global warming. They are worried about crop failure. They are worried about all the great hurricanes. They are like, "You ain't seen nothing yet." That is all pre-game, boy. This whole Earth is not going to take it much anymore. She has had 6,000 years of rocking and rolling with sin and ungodliness that God never intended for her to put through.

You read all that in Romans 1. Even the animals are glad when Christ comes back because you know when Christ comes back, all the curses are off the Earth. The wild animals are not wild anymore. The Bible says a baby leads a bear or a lion or can pick up a snake, and there are no more wild animals. The curses are off.

Romans 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

This old Earth has had it, and if you do not know that, you do not know much. This old Earth is rocking and rolling. They are worried about it. I get it all the time. Last night there was a movie, I did not watch it. There is a movie on called Armageddon. It is Armageddon. Now you would think it had something to do about the Bible, would you not? It did not. It had to do with a killer asteroid. Oh, they are worried about it. Right now while we are here, down there in Washington or the Nellis Air Force Base or down somewhere in the basement of the Pentagon, someplace down there, you have got a bunch of pinheads sitting around thinking about, "Now if a killer asteroid comes toward Earth, what do we do to find it?" They are spending billions of dollars a year tax money every year searching out there trying to find, "Oh, there is an asteroid going to hit us. Are we going to get hit with an asteroid? Oh, we are just, and what are we going to do? How can we stop it? How do we knock it off course?" Watch the movie, dingbat. Get Bruce Willis and take care of it.

Everybody is worried about it. Hey, and I have watched God. I have had God's people say to me, "Oh, that really shook me up. You think that is going to happen?" What? Come on. This is a joke, right? Killer asteroid? Global warming? I had somebody say it one time, "Well, I am afraid we are going to get hit by a comet." A 1968 or a 1969? Well, you can sure tell the generation gap on that one. Young guys do not even know what a comet is, John, do they? What is it? I am not sure either. I read it in the newspaper today. Oh, man, we are worried about everything. You have got to be worried about one thing: He is coming. He is coming. He is coming to establish His kingdom. I do not care what the world. Hey, the whole concept of the devil is to get your focus off what God is doing and get you worried about eating up the ozone layer with your hairspray. Killer comets. Killer asteroids. Well, I am telling you what, war in the Middle East. Worry about this. Communism.

I will tell you what, when I grew up, you know, as a kid coming up, I came up in the Cold War. I remember the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember it. We had, it was, you know, back then you had, when you went, you had what they called an open house at school. School started in September, and then in October, you had open house, and you went in, and your parents got to meet the teacher, and she rattled on, you know, and all these things. I will never forget that night when we went there, my mom and dad were worried. I was worried there was going to be a war because the Cuban Missile Crisis was, oh, it was hot, man, and it just looked like that we were going to

go to war. Now I used it to my advantage because I said, "My mom does not worry, I got two F's and three D's because we are all going to be dead in the morning," and you know, so I tried to work it out any way I could, but I was scared.

You know what I used to do in school? We used to have, and you still see them, some of you young people do not know this, but you can still see them up, some of those civil defense signs, those yellow ones, and they have capacity. You know what those are for? Because back in the 50s and the early 60s, they were sure afraid that we were going to be nuked. They had a list of targets they used to put in the paper. I lived in Canton, Ohio. Canton, Ohio, was the steel capital of the world. Hey, you do not want to know what is wrong with me. You are not exactly normal the way I do things because I grew up under the absolute terror that Canton, Ohio, was number two on the hit list. Every time I go, my dad worked in a steel mill. Hey, I live six blocks from the biggest steel mills in Canton, man. If that was ground zero, this little guy was toast.

I remember we did not have anything, you know, and I remember in the Lifemagazine, and everybody did it, when we went to school, you had drills. You got under the table. You get under your desk like that is going to help. Yeah, that is good. That is going to really help me get under my desk. That will work. They drilled a lot of time. They had water and food stored down in the basement of churches, public buildings. You know why? Because they thought we were going to get clobbered. I remember reading in Lifemagazine, it said, "You know what? You ought to build a bomb shelter." There were people in my neighborhood, in our city, building bomb shelters. They told you that if you built this particular bomb shelter out in your backyard and got all the things they said, it cost like ten thousand dollars. Back in the fifties, ten thousand dollars was a hundred thousand dollars. They said you would have a 98 percent chance of surviving a nuclear attack, and there were people putting them in. There were people converting their coal cellars into bomb shelters. Then they said if you did not, they could not do that, if you do this, and it cost about three thousand dollars, that you would have a 70 to 60 percent chance. He said if you did not have any money at all, go to the northwest corner of your basement. Oh, my fondest memories sitting down the northwest corner that I was not even sure what was northwest. I read that when I was six. I did not get a compass until I was twelve. I scared. You are laughing, and I am making fun of it, but as a little guy growing up, that terrified me. Terrified me. I was scared to death, man. I was scared to death. I mean, I was glad I would not have to go to school the next day, but I was scared to death, you know.

I will tell you, I grow up now, I look back at that, that was never the threat. Let me tell you something, this world is not going to end by a nuclear disaster. This world is not going to end by a great flood or a tornado or some killer asteroid or some killer comet. This world is going to end because the Man who made it, who established it under a principle of guidelines, whether you believe it or not, who has put it in course and is right on schedule, whether you and I believe it or not, is coming back to establish two kingdoms.

See, somebody said one time, "Well, why does God have to come back with all the hoopla right here? Why does He not just come back here like He did here?" I had a guy say one time, "Well, we just do not believe in that pre-millennial approach. We think that Christ is going to come back in a peaceful way." I said, "You mean like He did the First Coming of Christ?" "Yeah, He is

going to show back up, and all the world will accept Him." People do not think much, you know. You know what I learned? You can lead a Christian to water, but you cannot make him think. You can lead him to water, but I cannot make you think. I cannot. You have got to think on your own.

You know what happened if Christ came back the second time like He did the first time? Let us put it in perspective. Well, first of all, Charismatics could not accept Him because He never spoke in tongues. That is not going to work. Catholics could not accept Him; He would not give Mary her due. He would not look twice at the Pope. Hey, most fundamental Baptists could not accept Him because they could not even identify with Him. They are all walking around like some pomp and circumstance, you know, and He is just a lowly guy just like us. Jehovah Witnesses could not ever accept Him; He was not part of the 144,000. Moravians could not accept Him; He is not coming to Independence; He is coming to Jerusalem. What a slap in the face. Could you see the Mormons? "Oh, we could not accept Him. Why? He landed in the wrong place. Why? I just do not understand it. We do not accept Him. We could not accept Him at all. He went to Jerusalem while we spent millions and millions of dollars while we built this big tower out here. It has got that big searchlight on top of it. It blinks off and on all night so He can find the landing zone." I mean, I do not, I mean, I do not. Hey, let me tell you something, if your God needs a big tower or a red light to find a landing zone, you better get yourself another God.

You know what would happen? They would do the same thing with Him with the Second Coming of Christ they did at the First Coming of Christ. They would kill Him in twenty-four hours. So you know what? He is not coming back the second time like He did the first time. First time He came, He was a lowly prophet from Galilee. First time He came, He was Jesus, lover of my soul. He is not coming back that way the second time. Second time He is coming back, He is coming back as an army general, and the army is in heaven, that fought out, and that is you and I. I am telling you, this whole Rapture is going to take place right here, and when it does, the Kingdom of God goes out, and when the Kingdom of God goes out, God turns His attention back to the nation of Israel, and He sends the nation of Israel down here, and He sends a man to preach the Kingdom of Heaven, the everlasting kingdom. All through that, and then one day when He has had enough, when the world is when it is course, when man stepped on God's Son and violated every principle of that precious book and made every excuse for it in the world, one of these days when God's time runs out and the time is no more, God says, "That is it. My plan is right on track." Brother, when He comes back, there is nobody going to stand in His way. Nobody. Nobody.

When He comes back, brother, you can think whatever you want to think. You can believe whatever you want to think. You can tell yourself every lie in the world. You can believe everything. You can read everything the world has. You can laugh at this book. Look at this book and say, "I do not need it. I do not believe it. I look at all the other educated things out there, all the..." It does not make any difference. When He says, "Time out," time is out. It does not make any difference. Somebody says, it used to be a little song somebody used to sing another time, it says, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it for me." "God said it, I believe it, oh, it settles it for me." Hey, wrong song. God said it, that settles it. It does not make any difference whether you

believe it or not. Not on your mind. For all that book is truth. God gave it to you and I as truth, and you have got to accept it as true. That plan is laid out back there and all your Bible around two things: Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

You have got to find out where they are both here. You have got to find out when one leaves and the other one stays and which one it is. You have got to find out when there is none. You have got to find out when they both come back again, and then you have got to find out when the other one leaves and the other one stays, and then you have got to find out where they are gone again. Then you have got to find out finally when the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords comes back and establishes His literal visible throne on Jerusalem, the Kingdom of Heaven, and He rules righteously with the rod of our Kingdom of God. There is your Bible. It is just that simple.

If you are ever going to learn the Bible, if you are ever going to put the Scripture together, maybe you do not want to. Maybe you have no intention of doing it. But if you want to, if you ever want to come to the place that you learn that book and learn world events and how it fits into your life, you have got to come to the point where you understand that your whole Bible is built around two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. One is a literal visible kingdom that comes with a literal nation with a literal piece of ground in a literal city on a literal planet in a literal universe, and it is called the Kingdom of Heaven. The other one is a spiritual kingdom, has nothing to do with being literal.

Where they fought back in the Old Testament under the Kingdom of Heaven with swords, spears, shields, all those in the war. The Bible says in Ephesians 6 that the weapons of our warfare are spiritual and not carnal. Why? Different kingdom. Different kingdom. Back in the Old Testament, if you were a homosexual, you may not like it or not, I do not care whether you like it or not, you got killed. You did not have a chance to say, "Well, I am just an alternative lifestyle." No, you got killed. It was not a thing where they were, there was a machine. The fact that you do not know that, that is your problem, not mine. Now, am I out for going out killing homosexuals? Absolutely not. I am in the New Testament. I do not think things like that. But I do know that in the Old Testament, they killed them.

In the Old Testament, you had a rebellious son, did not want to go to church. You had a rebellious son, did not want, did not have church, did not want to obey God, did not want to do what is right. Here is what happened. Dad took, said, "Son, now you need to do what is right." Son says, "I do not want to do what is right." "Son, we need to go down here and worship God, bring the sacrifice." "Dad, that is old fashioned, I am not going." "Son, you need to go. God says you need to go." "Well, I am not going, Dad." "Son, I am going to ask you one more time." "No." "Son, come." "I am not coming." "All right, you call the elders down." The elders were the leaders of the nation of Israel. They come into your house. They said, "What is the matter?" He says, "I have a boy here. I am trying to go down and give the sacrifice. He will not do it. He is rebellious." One of the old guys would look up and said, "Son, do you not know what rebellion is in the Bible? It is the sin of witchcraft. Do you not know that God said we cannot put up with rebellion because rebellion in a family will destroy a nation, and God has got plans for this nation because we are in a literal visible kingdom?" The little boy said, "Well, I do not care what you old fogeys think, I am not going down there." He says, "Son, I have some news. I have some

good news, the bad news. Take him out there, dig a hole, put him down that hole." They stoned him to death.

Now, do you do that today? No. What do you do today? Oh, you give them everything they want. Why? Different kingdom. Back then it was different. God had a literal nation, so He dealt with literal things literally. Today it is a spiritual kingdom. You cannot do those things. You deal with it in the New Testament because you are in a spiritual kingdom, and there are ways to deal with it. It is different, and most of God's people do not know that. They do not have a clue. I am telling you, if you are ever going to figure out the Bible, it is going to start with you seeing those two kingdoms.

Before we go any farther in this, before we go any farther in this laying these things out with all the new people we have got and all the people that have come in, instead of just hip-hopping around with it and talking about it here and there, I wanted to take the time for you to understand how that thing lays out as simply and as easily. Please forgive my crude thing up here, but our multimedia did not get here today, and yes, I will paint upstairs. I want you to understand, it is just that simple. It does not require artistic ability. It requires just common sense and believing what the Word of God says and looking at all history in light of that.

Now all I said brings you to this. You have got an issue now. See, no matter what you are saying about me in your own mind, the Holy Spirit of God is down in your heart right now, and He is telling you that you are not lining up to this thing. If the Rapture would take place right now, some of you sitting here this morning know you would not go. You do not have the assurance in your heart. You see, I am looking for it. There is not one problem in this world, one problem I have, that the Rapture would not solve today. I have nothing here that I care about except us, my family, and we are all going. Other than that, nothing here I care about. I am a pilgrim in a strange land. I have a job to do, and I know that my home is laid up somewhere beyond the blue. This is temporary. I do not have my roots down so deep that I cannot move wherever God wants me to go.

Some of you people have got yourself so in debt and so strung out on everything that you could not, if God called you to go across the state or across the country to do something for God, you could not do it if your life depended on it. You have sold yourself to this world. Some of you are trying to get out of it. Some of you never get out of it. It is a thing where, you know what, you just do not see this thing and understand it for what it is. This thing here, we are not in the Kingdom of Heaven. This thing here does not matter to me. That is why we do not have a steeple. That is why we do not have stained glass windows. That is why we do not have a, we do not even have a building. It is spiritual. No, I am not saying someday I will not have a building, but I will not have a steeple. It will not be one of those things where you see, "Here is the church, there is the steeple, open the door, and there are all the people." It will just be the people. No steeple. Okay. No stained glass windows. No fountain out front. No fountain out back. Drinking fountain pockets of flush. That is as far as we go. They are not even going to be the automatic kind. You are going to have to pull the switch, and they will be the American Standard Version when we find them. Somebody said, "You use the American Standard Version?" Yes, they are in

the restroom right down here. Help yourself. You know that is what they call toilets, very American Standard.

Hey, let me tell you something, guys, we are living in the greatest time in the history of the world, man. We are right on the verge of Him coming. We are right on the edge, and you just got a major piece of your puzzle. Now let me just say this to you. I know I had to go through this somewhat that way. If I would teach this to you on a regular basis and go through the whole thing, it would take me 40 hours. I did it in an hour and 10, 12 minutes. But you know what? Here is my deal: if you really want to know this, if you really want to get this, hey, come and see me. I will take you through it. I will walk you through it. I will show you how it works. I will break it down for you. Come in with your questions. You do not have to be a member of this church. I do not care. I want to disperse truth. I want you to know what is going on wherever you go in life. But some of you this morning, you know, if you come right now, you would not make the trip. Every head bowed and every eye closed. I will tell you something, the longer you wait to make the decision for Christ, the harder it becomes.