

I. Introduction to Bible Study Method

Remember last week we started our second rule on how to put your Bible together. As we are coming through, we have somewhere between 70 and 80 of our adults in our church that are actively going through the Bible book by book. You are in little Bible teams. We have taken almost a year, over a year, and we came through every book of the Bible, and we made it out as far as all of its teachings and what it represents, kind of in a capsule form. There is no way in one Sunday you could do every book of the Bible and do it justice. But we gave you enough that formed a base foundation of truth.

Now we are going back through individually as small groups working through each book of the Bible. I met last night with what I consider the youngest group and asked all the new people that maybe have just really not been in the Bible as long as some of the other ones. I was impressed with them last night. Every one of them has done an incredible job in beginning to structure their Bible. I told you from day one when we started that church that if you do not learn the Bible, if you do not learn how to use the Bible, if you do not learn what the Bible can do for you and how to apply it to your life, you are never going to prosper as a child of God. And so we have been doing that and been talking about that.

A couple of weeks ago we started the basic rules of how to put the Bible together. The Bible is the most unique book the world has ever seen. Because it is God's Word and because of its uniqueness, it has a tendency to be dependent upon itself. God is the author of the Bible, and He used the liberty of an author by allowing Himself to put together a Bible that you and I could understand and grasp its great truth by the Bible itself. You have heard me say this many, many times, and I have talked about many of these rules that I used in my own life for the last 35 years of putting the Word of God together, but I have never really taken the time to break them down. Now is the time we have to do that.

I told you that your Bible is really three books in one. Every book in the Bible, every chapter in the Bible, every verse in the Bible will break down and have a historical application. We know that that means that it is accurate as far as history is concerned. We talked about that last week. We talked about and showed you how the Bible has a doctrinal application which always goes toward the theme of the Bible, which is the second coming of Christ. Then the Bible has a practical application. That is something that you and I, from every book of the Bible, every story in the Bible, every chapter in the Bible, and every verse in the Bible can find a light for our own edification as we make our pilgrimage through life and try to build our own relationship with God.

We have talked about how that it is really three books in one.

- 1.) It is a history book.
- 2.) It is a book on prophecy.
- 3.) It is a book on how to have a walk with God and a relationship with God.

I showed you how that the Bible was really a picture book, that the New Testament principles that you find in the New Testament are illustrated for you and for me in the stories of the Old Testament. When you want to find a New Testament principle for your own life that you want to apply to your life and you want to see how that principle works in effect, then you can go back to the Old Testament and you can find a story back there that through the life of real men and women, that illustration will be laid out and that is the key to really putting your Bible together.

I told you that the Bible, from a history standpoint, is a book that is showing us not what man is doing down through history, but what God is doing down through history. That is so vital because everybody today approaches the Bible from a humanistic standpoint. They believe that the Bible is just like any other book. They believe that the Bible has lost its ability to be a supernatural book. Nobody believes that anymore. Nobody believes that the Bible is really God's Word handed down to man. Because of that, we have lost the great concept that the Bible is a book of history, not about what a man is doing, but what God is doing. So we take the position now that the Bible is just like any other history book, that it just tells man's struggle as man goes down through history searching for God, and of course, nothing could be farther from the truth.

II. The Bible's Unique Nature and Accessibility

I have found over the years, and I know this is true in my own life when I started studying the Bible, and I see it in your life because I have a policy that I will spend an hour a week with anybody in our church that wants to learn the Bible, and many of you take advantage of that. I have seen in every case, to a certain degree, this same problem. It is a fundamental problem when people come to the Bible. That is, they try to read the Bible without understanding what they are supposed to be looking for. That is a hard thing.

The Bible appears to be a very complex book. I do not know if you know it or not, but there are 31,175 verses in your Bible. There are 1,189 chapters, 66 books. Within those books, the breakdown and the stories and the events and the people, at a glance, it would overwhelm you. The devil has taken that and kind of beat us up before we ever get started by overwhelming us by the fact that the Bible must be then a really hard book to grasp. You are told by most preachers that it takes years and years and years and years for you to learn the Bible. You are told that you have got to study ancient languages to really critique the Word of God and get all the truth out of it. Of course, that is not true.

The Bible is the book that God wrote to man, that God made it the most simplest, easiest book to lay out. You have got to come to it by the way the author designed it to be laid out. You have heard me use the example many, many times and I say it again. There are two ways to St. Louis. You can get on I-70 and you can head east and you will be there in a couple hours, or you can get on I-70 and go west. You can go all the way through Colorado, all the way to the west coast and then get on a ship and go all the way through Taipan and all the way through China, all the way through all those places and then you will come back to the east coast and you can come back that way. You can get there two ways. One is going to get you there in a couple hours. The other one is going to get you there in a couple of months.

The Bible is the same way. You can go the easy way. That is the way God designed it. Or you can go man's way and that is what the devil has done. Out of the box, the devil has intimidated us by thinking the Bible is some book that you have got to have some super intelligence or some high level of education for you to figure out. Of course, the Bible is the only book in the world that your intelligence has nothing to do with it. Your attitude has nothing to do with it. The Bible is the only book in the world that your attitude of heart about it has everything to do with learning it. Once you understand that great concept and you approach the Bible from that standpoint, you are going to learn the Bible.

III. The Bible as God's Preserved Word

Before we actually get into this thing today, I want to give you some valuable information about your Bible. If you are a visitor here this morning or someone is checking us out, maybe this will help you a little better understand where we are coming from. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is found in 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

I believe that verse to be absolutely true. I know that you have heard me say that verse many, many times and we have used it many, many times, but I do not think we have ever broken the verse down for its value. I want you just to stop and savor that verse for just a moment and look at it. It says, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men."

The first thing you have got to see here is that Paul, when he wrote this, he believed that the Word of God that he had was not of man. He believes that the Word of God that he had was not of men, but of God. Is there anybody here that wants to be silly enough to suggest that when Paul made that statement to the church of Thessalonica that Paul had the original manuscripts of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy? No, certainly he did not. But what Paul had, he recognized and understood that it was not of man, it was of God. The first thing I want to tell you is the thing that sets your Bible apart from every other book on planet earth is the fact that you have a book that came to man from God. We could go all kinds of places in the Bible and we could run verses with that, but that is not our point today. The first thing I want you to know is that Paul's own statement about the Word of God, and he did not have the originals, but what he had, he recognized as coming from God to man.

Then the second thing that he said was that it "was in truth the word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe." I am just going to tell you this. I already alluded to this in telling you that your education and your aptitude have nothing to do with the Bible. The key to the Bible working in you is you believing it for what it is. The key to the Bible working in you is not your education. It blows my mind. Every church I have been associated with or known of in the last 35 years of my life, when they look for a pastor, the first thing they want to know is how

much education he has got. They want to know where he has been to school. You know why? Because they have bought into the idea that education will make you godly. And the smarter you are, obviously the closer you can get to God, when actually it is just the reverse that is true. What you have here is you have a book that your IQ has nothing to do with it, but the key of it effectually working in you is what you believe about it.

Proverbs 30:5 says this:

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

I believe that. I believe that every word of God is pure. I believe that when God wrote a Bible to man that God gave—and you are going to see how this thing plays out this morning and probably see it like you have never seen it any place in your life, not because I am doing it, but because it is based on what the Scriptures say, not what I believe. What I believe about it is immaterial. We want to go with what the Bible says about it. I believe that. I believe that every word of God is pure.

I will tell you when Solomon wrote that in 1000 BC, I will tell you something else. He was not talking about the original manuscripts. You are going to tell me that in 1000 BC when Solomon wrote that, when he wrote Proverbs, that he had the original copy of Genesis and Exodus? No, he did not. He certainly did not. But Solomon knew, being the wisest man in the world, what wisdom has seemed to fail us today. And that is that every word of God is pure. Every word of God is pure.

When you take that approach and you look at it that way, then my stand on it is very simple. We talk a lot about inspiration. I hear it all the time. I have heard it all my life. So God inspired the Bible. And the Bible was given by inspiration. Let me just say this to you. I believe that, no question about it. But I also believe this. I believe that if God was God enough to inspire it, then He better be God enough to preserve it. If He was not God enough to preserve it, then I doubt very seriously if He was God enough to inspire it in the first place.

That is how simple it is for me. I do not make life complicated. I do not make the Bible complicated. There is one thing you are getting out of our groups when we meet together. It is me showing you how easy the Bible is to grasp. Now you may have a tough time with the concepts because it is all new to you, but I am telling you, it is simple for me. If He was God enough to inspire it in the first place, then He was God enough to preserve it. If He was not God enough to preserve it, then I doubt if He was God enough to inspire it. I mean, I do not know why people have a tough time with that.

When you look at Christ, did Christ not come through a woman? Certainly He did. When you go to Luke chapter 3, is not Christ's human line, the line of Christ, the messianic line, goes all the way back to Adam? Is there not a human line that is connected with Christ even though He was not fathered by man, but He came through a human line? Yes, He did. Certainly He did. The Bible says that He was tempted on all points like we are. He had parents. He was hungry. He got tired. He was tempted. He had brothers and sisters. But the bottom line is He was still sinless.

Let me ask you a question. If God could bring His Son through a human line with human people and keep Him sinless and perfect and keep Him preserved in that point, why could He not do the same thing with His Word? The answer to that, He can and He did. He did.

What I am going to give you right now is probably worth about \$100,000 in gold bullion. This is one of the most incredible things you will ever grasp about the Bible. At least I hope you can grasp it. When I talk about, we have a tough time today in Christianity thinking that a translation of the Bible can be inspired or be perfect. We just have a tough time with that. We believe that God originally inspired it, but God just did not have the power or the oomph to keep it preserved. So when you go to Bible college today, or 99% of the churches in this town or any other town, they will tell you that what you have is a reliable translation or an unreliable translation, but nonetheless what you have there is what man has written and translated and it is not perfect and there are mistakes in it. Therefore you have to rely on scholarship, higher education, to help you figure that out because you are just too stupid to see it yourself. That is basically in a nutshell what they tell you.

I will tell you something. You take the word "translate," you take the word "translated," and you take the word "translation." You only find that four times in the Bible. I have told you before, and we are going to look at it here in just a minute, that the Bible defines things differently than we do. The Bible is its own dictionary, and you are going to find that if you want a good Bible dictionary that really works well for you, you are going to find that what you need to get is a dictionary put out in 1828 by a guy by the name of Noah Webster. Noah Webster was one of our founding fathers. He wrote a bunch of curriculum for the public school system when our country was just founded. He was a saved man. He came out with one of the greatest English dictionaries that the world has never, ever seen. That English dictionary is based on the Bible. He will give you actual verses in his dictionary that talks about the definitions of the words. But even he does not get it always right.

How many times I have heard a pastor get up and I always shudder when I hear a pastor start his message this way, and it is when I usually start to check my grocery list and think on things when I have got to do the rest of the day. How many times I have heard a pastor get up and he takes the Webster's definition of something, and he will say, "Webster defines faith as," "Webster defines being saved as," "Webster's dictionary defines being whatever," and then he goes and builds his message on that. Now sometimes you can get away with that, but I have got to tell you the truth. Sometimes the Bible defines things different than Webster does. The Bible is its own dictionary, and you have to learn that.

You take the word "translate," "translation," and "translated." We all think that means going from one language to another. That is our definition of it. I have got to tell you, Noah Webster got this one right. Do you know how the Bible defines "translation," "translate," and "translated"? It is not from one language to another, it is from one place to another. That is how the Bible defines it. The Bible defines translated like Enoch. Enoch was translated from one place to the other. Back in the Old Testament, the kingdom got translated from one place to the other. In the Bible, the word "translate," "translation," and "translated" means not from one language to another, it means from one place to the other.

Do you know what you have got with that? That is true, and the Bible is the source of truth, as Paul said it was, "as it is in truth, the Word of God, not the Word of man," that when Jesus Christ came to this earth, Jesus Christ was the translation of God. He came from the written Word, John 1, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," and got translated to the human man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Translation is from one place to the other. Jesus Christ is the literal translation of God. He was translated from the eternal Word of God, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," to the Son of God. That translation was perfect.

When the church age starts and Christ goes back to heaven, do you know what happened? He translated the sinless Son of God back into the eternal Word of God and gave the church the absolute perfect Word of God, and that is the second translation in your Bible. Translation is always dealing with one place to another, not one language to another, though it can be, but that is a second or third definition of the translation. The Bible takes the position that "translated" and "translation" is from one place to the other. When Christ came the first time, He was the translation of God Almighty. He went from heaven to earth, from the eternal Word of God to the human man Christ. When the church age started and Christ goes back to heaven, He was retranslated from the man back to the Word and God gave the church what Paul is talking about, "for when you receive the Word of God, you receive that not as the Word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe." That is what you have got. That is what you have got. If God was God enough to inspire it, then God was God enough to preserve it.

IV. Understanding the Bible Through Keywords

Based on that and the Word of God being pure, the Bible becomes the strangest book the world has ever seen. Absolutely incredible. It becomes the strangest book the world has ever seen. Like Christ, it came from God through man to man, preserved by God in an absolute pure book and then was given to the church. That is why the Bible claims over there in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we have the mind of Christ, talking about the Word of God.

Do you ever notice the emphasis that the Bible puts on words? I have got to tell you, and I am getting ready to tell you this, that when it comes to breaking down your Bible, the words are key. The words are key to understanding the historical, the doctrinal, and the inspirational application. Jesus said one time over there in John 14, He said, "If a man loved me, he will keep my words." See? Not the original manuscripts. The words. He said in John 6, "The words I speak unto you are truth." He said in John 8 that "he that is of God heareth God's words." That is what he said.

Because it is God's Word and every word of God is pure, then God, as I said earlier, uses His right as the author to define that book and lay out that book any way He chooses. He chooses it by doing words. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to talk about the key words that the moment you see them in your Bible. I was talking to the group last night and I told them that if you want to really learn the Bible, what you do is you start to mark those key phrases in your Bible. You go through and mark those key words so when you turn to a page, on Thursday night when somebody asks me a question about the Bible, I mean I know you think I am smart enough that I just remember all of the Bible, but I really do not. I am just human like you. I am probably

dumber than most of you in here. But I am smarter than you in one way. I am not sure it is smarter because of intelligence, maybe it is just smarter because I am a little bit older. The older you get, you work smarter, not harder, or you are supposed to.

When it came to the Word of God, I learned how to cheat. Now I know as a Christian you are not supposed to cheat, but this is Christian cheating. Do you know what I did? I recognized that there were key words in that Bible that every time I turned the page, it would yell out at me what the context was. When you ask me a question on Thursday night about the Bible, I am going to tell you, I do not have time to think about your question. I do not have time to ponder what you just asked me. I have to, when we turn to it, I have to have the answer and I found a way to do that. If I mark in my Bible all the key words, which I have, with all the key references, which I have, and all the breakdowns, doctrinally, historically, inspirationally, which I have, when I turn to any place in the Bible, that thing just yells and screams at me what the context is.

I used the illustration last night that you are driving by, you and your husband or your boyfriend or girlfriend, you are driving through a great crowd of people, like sitting in the bleachers. And you are looking for your mom and your dad, and you are walking around looking for them, saying, "We need to sit with them. Where are they at?" And there is a sea of people out there. And you are just looking up in the bleachers and you are just looking at that thing saying, "Where is mom and dad? Where are they at?" And then suddenly you see two people with big pink and orange signs. Your dad has got pink pants and a yellow shirt. Your mother has got a shark coat, shark tooth pair of pants on with a purple top. And they have got a big old sign that is purple and yellow with big red letters that says, "Here we are." Now, they are going to stand out in that crowd.

Now take that same concept and think of all them people like all the verses and the words in the Bible. And you are trying to find something, a context, not your parents, a context, a historical application, a doctrinal application. Do you know what you do? You mark the places that stand up and say, "Here I am. Here is the context." And every time you turn to that book, that chapter, that page in your Bible, it leaps out at you that you do not have to even think about what the context is. There is so much that you have to think about when it comes to the Bible, you just need to make these things, as I said last week, automatic. They need to be things that just jump out at you as you study and read your Bible. So when you turn to a page, bang, there is that purple and orange sign saying, "This is the context," keywords, keywords.

When it comes to your Bible, God uses keywords four ways. We are going to study the first one today. We are going to come through each one next week.

- 1.) The first way He does it is by contrast. He will take words and He will contrast those words. He will show, He will make them opposites.
- 2.) The second way is by association. He will show you the words that are similar.
- 3.) The third way is by repetition. God will tell you the same thing four or five times in the same chapter to get your attention.

- 4.) The last way is by similitudes. Similitudes are things that are similar. We call them types and God will put a similitude in the Bible and we will explain all these as we go through them.

The Bible in its most simple form shows you how it breaks itself down and one of the ways that God does it is by the contrasting of words.

V. The First Contrast: Light vs. Darkness

Take your Bible and turn over to Genesis 1. I am going to begin to walk you through this here. Genesis 1. You do not go through four verses in your Bible before you learn that God is going to teach you the Bible by contrast. We are going to take a little study here and in this little study you are going to get a lot of valuable information out of the book of Genesis so all you people that have already been through it with me in Genesis can now go back and add this to it. And those that have not been, you will have this material and be able to put it in.

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

The first contrast in your Bible shows up before you get four verses. Do you know what that contrast is? That contrast is light from darkness. The first thing God shows you before you go four verses is that your Bible is going to be understood by the contrast of words, light versus darkness. He takes from that place all the way through the rest of your Bible and shows you things about His Word by the contrasting of words. It is the most incredible thing you have ever seen in your life.

Lest we fall into the trap of both theologians, we know that verse 4 here in verse 5 where it says God called the light day, the average person thinks that this is the first night time in the Bible. But that cannot be because if you stay in the context, this is the first day of creation. He does not even create the sun and the moon until the fourth day, three days later. So this is not sunlight and night time. This is not day and night as you and I know day and night. No, no, no. This light versus the darkness that gets divided here becomes the thing from which the whole Bible is built upon through the rest of your Bible. It is the greatest key in all of the Bible that shows you about how God is going to use the contrasting of words.

You notice that in verse 5 Day is capitalized and Night is capitalized. That is because they are the personification of something. What you have here divided in verse 4 is light versus darkness

which is going to be the theme for the rest of your Bible. The light represents Christ, the darkness represents the devil. You are going to find all the way through that thing. All the way through that, that is what it is showing you. The whole issue of man's history, the whole history of the Bible and everything you and I are going to face for the next six thousand years is defined for you before you read three verses that the main issue of life is going to be light versus darkness, good versus evil, God versus the devil, heaven versus hell. Simple as that. You see how easy that becomes?

VI. The Second Contrast: Two Seeds

I want to show you something else. Stay in Genesis and come to Genesis 3. In Genesis 3 you have the first prophecy in the Bible. This is your first prophecy in the Word of God. This prophecy is about the prophecy of the first and the second coming of Christ. One of the greatest prophecies in all of the Bible. And it says this:

Genesis 3:14-15

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

There is the prophecy and the first and second coming of Christ in the end of that verse. But you know what you have got there? Not only do you have light and darkness, but the second contrasting of words, you have two seeds. What I am going to do with light and darkness, and I am going to do with the two seeds, is I am going to take 31,175 verses out of your Bible, and I am going to make it the most easy, basic thing to break down your Bible you have ever seen in your life, because that is what the Bible does. This is an example. I have not gone to the Greek one time yet, I have not gone to the Hebrew yet. All I have used is one book, which I personally believe is the Word of God, and every word in it is pure. That is all I have done. That is all I will continue to do. That is all this church is about. It is about believing that God wrote a book that you and I, in the latter days, can consider it perfectly, as the Bible says in the Old Testament.

Here is what we have got. We have got the seed of the serpent, that is going to represent the darkness, and that is going to represent the night. That is going to represent the devil. Proverbs 2:13 talks about that men who love unrighteousness and men who are sinful men, men are associated with the devil, they walk in the way of the Lord. Ways of darkness, not the devil's ways. That would be the seed of the serpent. The seed of the woman will be represented by light. That was the day over there in Genesis, and that represents Christ. Christ said in John 1 that He was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. So the whole issue of your Bible starts out and begins to break itself down by the contrasting of two basic words, light and darkness, and then we have two seeds, God's seed and the devil's seed. The rest of your Bible and everything in man's history falls down on one seed or the other.

If you approach the Bible with that kind of concept in mind and you take those contrasting of those words and you read the Bible, study the Bible, and you try to figure out the Bible, everything within that great basic truth, you will learn more Bible and understand how to separate out your Bible as far as the doctrinal, inspirational, and the historical application. It becomes the easiest thing in the world. Once you just learn some few basic fundamental words that always define themselves. Today we are going to look at the contrasting words. Next week we are going to look at the words of association. After that we are going to look at the words of repetitive. Then we are going to look at the similitudes. Within that scope of those four things you are going to get everything you need to go to any place in your Bible, and if you mark it down and do it as we go through the books of the Bible.

Do you know what I did last night in Genesis? You came over to my house and we sat down and I walked you through chapter by chapter by chapter with every story, every event, and broke it down doctrinally, inspirationally, and historically. Now we are going to do every book of the Bible just that way because my goal, if we are ever going to do anything for God in these last days, if we are going to raise up men and women who are going to be God's men and women, it is the fullest thing and most foolish thing in the world to think that we are going to do that without you knowing the Bible. We have got to learn the Bible. I told you that we are up against the clock. We do not have a lot of time left. For us to do everything that we need to do the way God wants to do it, we have got to get in the book. We have got to learn how to use the Word of God. I am not just interested in you learning a lot of things about the Bible. I want you to learn the Bible.

VII. Contrasting Nations and Religions (Old Testament)

Let us break it down even better for you. Let us just take the concept of the Old Testament. I do not know if you know this or not, but in the Old Testament, one of the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament is this: In the Old Testament, God deals with nations. The Old Testament is about nations. We started early, early on in all of our layout of all those things, and I told you about the Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Heaven. I told you how that the Kingdom of Heaven is the literal, visible Kingdom, and the Kingdom of God is the spiritual Kingdom. I told you how that the Kingdom of Heaven is the Kingdom that is found in the Old Testament, and it is a literal, visible Kingdom because the Kingdom in the Old Testament is about nations. That is very important.

The devil will try to run the world in the Old Testament through nations. You will find these nations defined for you in Daniel 2 and then again in Daniel 7. You will really find them defined for you if you just follow the whole reading of the Bible. You will find the first Gentile Kingdom in Genesis 10:10 is Babylon. That is where it starts. You do not go 10 chapters with development of men and the two seeds and the two lines before you find two kingdoms. You have God's kingdom and you have the devil's kingdom represented by Babylon.

As you come down through the Old Testament, as I said, the Old Testament is built around nations, and we are going to deal with nations. So we see from these two seeds that come from light versus darkness coming through the Old Testament, two nations emerge, two of them. One

of them is God's nation, the other one is the devil's nation. God's nation is the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel is God's chosen people. I do not have time to get into all of that today, but you should already know that. Every other nation on planet earth throughout the Old Testament is a Gentile nation. So you know what their purpose is? Their purpose is to stop God's nation. That is all it is. There is not one good Gentile nation that is righteous with God, that is right with God in the Old Testament unless they came and became part of the nation of Israel.

Basically your Old Testament follows the same line, light versus darkness, God's seed and the devil's seed. From those two seeds come two nations. One of them is God's nation and all the other nations, and there may be 30 or 40 of them, will be the devil's nation. You know why? Because they are all the same. They all believe the same thing. They all have the same purpose. I mean you may have Egyptians, you may have Babylonians, you may have Hittites, you may have Canaanites, you may have Jebusites, you may have Edomites, you may have 2,500 nations out there that are Gentile nations, but they all have a single purpose and therefore they are all under the same seed, and that is stop God's nation. Simple as that. Not hard at all.

But watch how this thing builds. We see then from these two nations, which come from these two seeds, which have their start from light from darkness, the contrast of two religious systems emerge. We see that from this we find Judaism, which is the true Old Testament way to God based by the nation of Israel, and then we find the formulation of Satan's religion based on his kingdom, based on his seed, based on darkness, which is Baal worship. Baal worship is the worship of Satan through the sun. Human sacrifice is connected with it, cannibalism is part of its worship, and you are going to find that basically from the book of Judges up to the book of 2 Chronicles 36, you are going to find that that becomes the thorn in Israel's side.

You will want a good study on Baal worship in the Old Testament, Judges 17 and Judges 18, two of the greatest chapters that will define it out for you and show you what it is really all about. There are some other great places, but start there. But when you are studying your Bible and you are going from Joshua to the end of 2 Chronicles 36, it is all about the devil and his seed with his religion trying to impact Israel and get his religion into their religion to stop the plan of God and stop God's kingdom. That is all it is. The whole Old Testament is built around just studying the contrast of two words. And those words change, but there are always just two words. When it started with light versus darkness, then it goes to two nations, then it goes to two seeds, then it goes to two nations, then it goes to two religions. And it is just that simple.

I told you that the theme of the Bible is a kingdom. I already stated this, but what you find through this period of time is that God tries to establish His kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, and then the devil tries to establish His kingdom, the kingdom of Babylon, which is connected with Baal worship. It all breaks down just by taking words. So when you find the word Babylon in the Bible, you will want to mark it. When you find the word Baal worship in the Bible, you will want to mark it.

VIII. Contrasting Men: Wise vs. Foolish

You are going to find that these two seeds, which come from the two different kinds of light, which come from the two nations, which come from the two religions, you are going to find that they produce two kinds of men. Here are your second two words you want to contrast: a wise man and a foolish man. How many times have you read through the book of Psalms and it talks about a wise man versus a foolish man? You go to Matthew 25 and it says there were ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. We go over there to the Gospel, or that gets in Luke, and it talks about two kinds of men. One built his house upon a rock, the other one built his house upon a sand. The one that built it on a rock was a wise man, the one that built it upon the sand was a foolish man. That is what gets produced by these two seeds with these two lines, with these two religions. You have a wise man and a foolish man, and you are going to find them throughout the Bible.

Historically, many times they are the actual people. When you read a book historically, take you read the story of Solomon. Do you know who you have got? A wise man and a foolish man. The wise man is Solomon and the foolish man is Rehoboam, his son. You study David, same thing. The wise man is David, the foolish son is Absalom. You find the same thing, Cain and Abel. The wise man was Abel, the foolish man was Cain. It breaks down just that way. It is just a simple concept of contrast. Once you understand that the Bible, the first way it begins to teach you something is by contrasting light versus darkness, right versus wrong. Everything breaks down just that way.

You are going to find that in every proverb. Proverbs 1:5 says, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." Psalms 14:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." See that contrast? Now historically, many times it is the contrast of the people. Jacob and Esau, Abraham and Lot, see, they are all contrast. One shows you a wise man, one shows you a foolish man.

When you get into the doctrinal aspect of that, you are going to find that the wise and the foolish man show you two types of people within the nation of Israel. The wise man or the man that follow God in the Word of God, the foolish man, or the ones who go after Baal and Baal worship. You want two? Hezekiah would be a wise man. Ahab would be a foolish man. The Bible is filled with them. You are going to find that the wise man lead the nation to God, the foolish man lead the nation to the devil. And it is just that simple. So doctrinally, when you find the wise man or a foolish man, you know it is prophetically talking about the nation of Israel as a nation. Some of them did what was right in the Old Testament, some of them did not. And you can find that story throughout the whole Old Testament wherever you go. You just want to keep that in the back of your mind.

Then we have got inspirationally. Inspirationally, it is a picture of you and me. Everything in that Bible, I do not care if it is in the Old Testament or the New Testament, everything in that Bible, I told you, the stories of the Old Testament illustrate the principles of the New Testament. So when Paul tells you to be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers because what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, with light versus darkness, when he breaks down those contrasts, he is giving you a New Testament principle that you can go back anywhere in the Old

Testament and find that a wise man heeded to that and a foolish man did not heed to it. And then look at the results of their life.

Everything in that Bible, every man, every woman in that Bible, and every story in that Bible will fit down one of those three ways in a contrast. You are going to have the guy who does what is right. You are going to have the guy who does not do what is right. You are going to have everything laid out for you so that when you read a New Testament principle for you and you want to get the real concept of it, just go back and find the story of where it shows you the contrast between a foolish man and a wise man. The Bible says that you and I have the Word of God, therefore we are to be wise. The Word of God makes you wise. The Word of God shows you the truth of God and thereby you become wise. The Bible says you get discernment. The Bible says you get the ability to perceive things. Where a foolish man does not do that. Foolish man does not do that.

Proverbs 14:15 says, "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." You see the difference? One is a simple man, he is a fool, he just believes whatever he hears. Somebody else checks it out, book, chapter, and verse. That one verse right there just splits Christianity right down the middle. Right down the middle. I get so sick and tired of God's people who claim they believe this, and when you throw a Bible in front of them they could not open it up and show you why they believe what they believe. They believe it because somebody told them. Is there not anybody left in Christianity who knows what they believe and why they believe it?

I had a guy one time tell me that, argue with me. He argued with me that the sons of God in Genesis 6 were not fallen angels. He had been taught in Bible school that they were the godly line of Seth. And he believed that. He was arguing with me and calling me a heretic because I believed that the sons of God were the fallen angels that came down and cohabited with men and produced a race of giants. He had been taught in his Bible school by his professors of theology that it was the godly line of Seth and he actually believed that. When I threw down a Bible and told him to trace for me, the godly line of Seth, you would have thought I had just asked him to jump off a 12-story building. You never saw anybody babble, babble around in all of your life, trying to find the godly line of Seth. You could not find the godly line of Seth if you stayed all up night with a laser beam and a flashlight. It is not in there. There is no godly line of Seth. He had been told that. He bought it hook, line, and sinker and he had no idea why he believed what he believed. If that did not mess him up, it really messed him up because what he was telling me that it was godly people marrying ungodly people and then he really had a problem when all those godly people that were around never got on the ark.

That Bible is like a monkey wrench that will fit any nut in this world. I do not care what you believe. I could care less what you believe. The question is, do you know why you believe what you believe or are you just as foolish as that young man? How dare any child of God take something that any man says without checking it out, going into the book. That is why I make it real easy for you to check me out. I just stick with one book. You do not have to get on the internet and get all my sermon notes. I get out of one book. I give you every verse I am going to. You can go and come to the same conclusion that I come to. There is no hidden agenda here. We

just believe as the Bible says, as Paul says, "for when you receive the word of God, you receive that as it is in truth, the word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe." And I believe that every word of God is pure. If I did not believe I had a book that I had to hold my hand that I could read that had every word of God pure in it, I would go sell cars. I would go get a real job. I would not get up in front of people on Sunday morning, tell them they had a book when they could not find that book to read if their life depended on it. I would not do it. I am a crook, but I am not that big a crook. So when you look at this, you find that the whole thing is built around a foolish man and a wise man.

IX. Contrasting Churches and Christs (New Testament)

That is the Old Testament. I told you the Old Testament is built around two nations. Those two nations come from those two seeds. And what the devil does, he controls the world through nations. God tries to bring salvation through the world through His nation. The devil tries to stop that by getting all the other nations and stopping the plan of God. So in the Old Testament, God is going to deal with people through nations. You need to know that.

Now, the New Testament. From the crucifixion on, the devil knew that he could no longer do it through nations because we are going from the kingdom of heaven, which is literal and visible, to the kingdom of God, which is spiritual. He knew now that he could not continue to run the world through nations. Do you know what he does in the New Testament? He runs the world through religion. That is all. Where in the Old Testament, it is a contrast between two nations, which come from the two seeds, which have two different religions, which come back from the two light and darkness. In the New Testament, we have two churches. We have two churches in the New Testament, and the devil tries to establish his church and his kingdom and tries to stop the establishment of God's church and his kingdom. That is as simple as that.

You want to find God in the Old Testament, then you find His nation. You want to find God in the New Testament, then you find His church. I am not talking about a Baptist church. You want to find God in the Old Testament, then you go back to Proverbs 22 and 23, and you will find there are two landmarks. One landmark in history is the nation of Israel. That is how you find God. You want to do an Old Testament survey? You have got to start with a landmark. I never heard a college curriculum course in my life where the professor got up and said, "We are going to do an Old Testament survey," and never mentioned the nation of Israel. How in the world can you do a survey without a starting point and a landmark to start your survey?

If you went to Anderson Survey Company out here on 350 Highway, or you went to some survey outfit and said, "I want you to come out and survey my yard," do you know the first thing he is going to do? The first thing he is going to do is go up in your yard someplace, and I do not know if you know this or not, but in your yard someplace, you have a marker plot. That is not where some dead relative is buried, but that is where your line of your property is. Do you know what that guy does? He goes and finds that thing, and then he surveys from that landmark, and he will tell you exactly where your property is because it is based on that landmark. Do you know how you study out the Old Testament? Find the landmarks. Duh! You will find the landmark, and you

work from there. No landmark? Who knows where you are going to wind up? We are going to wind up where 99 point God people are today. Lost! Lost!

You do not have to be smart to figure that out. You just have to believe what you read. He said in Proverbs, there are two landmarks. One landmark is for the church, one landmark is for the nation of Israel. You are going to find that the Old Testament is based on one landmark, the New Testament is based on another. You want to find God in the Old Testament? Find His nation. Find God in the New Testament? Find His church.

I will tell you something else. I do not think I have ever met a child of God in my life, just your average garden variety Christian. And I have asked many of them. When I go preach places or I talk to people sometimes and we start to talk about things, I will ask them this question: From the Bible, what is the definition of a New Testament local church? Most of them do not know. Most of them think it is a Baptist church. Do you realize that I have asked people, "Where do you go? Where do you find the first New Testament local church?" They do not know. They do not know. They think it is the church in Jerusalem. Because that is the first one that shows up. They have not got a clue. They do not have an idea where the New Testament church started, how it is defined in the New Testament, and yet they are all part of what?

Do you know what Christians remind me of? They remind me of that commercial that you are seeing on TV now. It is about banking investment where the guy is online looking for a wife and there she is and she just left a couple of things about himself and he says, "Will you marry me?" That is the way God's people pick churches. That is exactly what they think. They look at something they like. They look at what tickles their fancy and then they say, "Let us join." No question about what does it teach? What does it believe? Nobody goes in looking at what understanding armed with the definition of what a New Testament local church is so they have something to base on what they are talking about. They just look in and if it is a nice building, if a preacher looks pleasant, if the people are nice, if they have got lots of programs and service, they think, "Wow, God, you led me here." That is not the criteria you find a church. The criteria is in the book of Acts. You find a New Testament Bible-believing local church because in the church age, that is where Christ is. See that is simple. Not hard. Not hard at all.

The contrast between the two seeds in the New Testament produced two churches. In the Old Testament, we saw the nations. In the New Testament, we have the church. The light versus darkness, the two seeds in the New Testament, it switches from nation and now the devil and Christ put out two churches. You have God's church and you have the devil's church.

Now I have got to say this. I do not believe there is only one church because I believe that there are lots of people in other churches that are saved. So when I am talking about the church, I am not talking about a building. I am not talking about a denomination. The Bible never talks about churches in buildings or denominations. That is something we do not have a clue on today because our only concept of churches is building a denomination. We do not come from the Bible. In the Bible, a church is not a particular denomination. There were not Baptists in the first century. There were not brethren. There were not Pentecostals. There were not Methodists. There were not Lutherans. There were only Christians. You say, "Boy, it was real simple back then."

No, it is real simple now if you just use the book to determine which is which. It is not any harder now than it was then. You just have to go back to the source material to find the right church. A church is not a church because it calls itself a church. A church is a church because it is based on what it believes about what the New Testament local church defined in the book of Acts believed. See? You do not know that. You are rolling the dice. Do not go to the boats, man. You will lose all your money with that kind of gambling.

When you come through here, you will find that there are two seeds that produce two types of church. One will follow. Do you realize that there are two Christs in the Bible? Most God's people get real nervous when you say this. Do you know where the word Christ comes from? It comes from the word anointed. Anointed means Christos, Christ. And there are two anointed ones in the Bible. That is why the Bible gives very careful to tell you in the book of Revelation and other places that the Christ that they followed was the Lord's Christ. Do you know why? Because there are two Christs in that Bible. The devil is a Christ. He is the Lord's anointed, Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14. He is a Christ. He is Christos. He is the anointed one. And Christ is the anointed one of God through the right seed. And the devil is the anointed one through the wrong seed. They are both anointed. They are both called Christ. That is why the Bible is very careful when it talks about the Lord Jesus Christ in Romans 11, Luke 2, Acts 4. You will find that in the book of Revelation it talks about the Lord's Christ. You are going to find that that is why the devil is called the antichrist. He is a Christ. As a Christ, he has a church. Just as all of the nations, there may have been 30 or 40 or 50 of them, was all listed as one nation, Satan's nation, all the churches today that are outside the definition of a New Testament local church are all his churches. They are all the same. They just look different. They all basically, when you break them down, they all believe the same basic thing. They all come from the same basic source. It is just God's people never take the time.

Now I am not making a play for Baptists. Please understand. This is the Baptist church. But I do not believe for a second that the Baptist is the only one who is going to go to heaven, right? I heard a story one time where a guy died and went to heaven. He was a Baptist. He got up to heaven and they were kind of walking around and showing him every place. He walks in here and there is a big, big room of people. He walks in here and there is a big room of people and they are all playing bingo. He says, "Who are these people?" And he says, "All these are all the Catholics." He says, "Pretty good." Walks down to the next big room, whole bunch of people over there eating chicken dinners. He says, "Who is this group?" He says, "These are all the Methodists." He says, walks into this other big room, big old pool of people up there, filled with people, quiet as a tomb. He walks in and says, "You have got to be quiet going in here." And he says, "Why? Who are these people?" He says, "These are the Baptists. They think they are the only ones up here." That is not true.

The true church is not a Baptist church. No, this church is the Baptist church because the Bible teaches where the Baptists come and they are in a long line. But do not you believe for a second, I know a Baptist church down in Florida, you walk into the foyer, they have got a statue of Jesus Christ, a statue of Buddha, and a statue of Confucius. So do not tell me about Baptists. I have been around Baptists 40 years. I know them. I have been inside and out. I know everything about

them. I know the way they think. I know what they do. I know the way they operate. I know everything about them. I am telling you, when you want to find the true church, you find the church, whether it is Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, or whatever, you find a church based on what you know the New Testament teaches a New Testament church should be. That is how you find it. You do not go by the denomination of the name. You get tripped up.

I had a call. When was it? I do not know, a couple of weeks ago. I get called up, it was not you, Dean. It was another guy. That guy called me on the phone and I love the questions people have. You ask really good questions. I had another guy that asked really good questions. Oh, I know what it was. It was your wedding. Your wedding. Yeah. Do not you ever want to get married? No. Okay. Your wedding. I talked to the guy that was going to let us use the church over there. He says, he is a Nazarene, really nice guy. He says, "What kind of church are you?" I said, "We are a Baptist church." And he kind of paused for a minute and he says, "Can I ask you, there are a lot of different Baptist churches." He says, "What kind of Baptist are you?" That is a tough question because I am not sure. He says, "Are you an independent?" And I said, "Not really." He said, "I guess if I am anything," I said, "I am dependent." I am a dependent Baptist because I know independents. They get independent of God, the Word of God, the Holy Spirit and everything else. So I said, "I guess I am a dependent Baptist. I am dependent on God, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God." He laughed. I really liked that. That is the way you have got the church. I just said, I was independent. I do not think he liked independents. And I thought to myself, you know what? All kinds of Baptists out there.

I am telling you, you want to find the true church, then you go back to the book and find out what constitutes a New Testament Bible believing local church. You are going to find one follows the Lord's Christ. The other one follows the Devil's Christ. You know as well as I do, the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 11:13-14, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." Do you know why he does that? Because he has got a church.

So you are going to find that a New Testament study of the two seeds is going to produce two lines, which is going to produce two types of Christ, which is going to produce two types of churches, which is going to produce two kinds of people, saved and lost, which is going to produce two kinds of music. Oh, yeah, I almost forgot. It is going to produce two kinds of Bibles. See that thing? Think the devil forgot that. I promise you he did not forget that. Revelation 17:5 says, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots." You are going to find that the Devil's church, just like in the Old Testament with Babylon and Baal worship, that you had 500 nations out there who believed 500 different things, but it all came back to the same source. And that was the worship of Satan.

You are going to find churches today, including Baptist churches, that believe everything in the world differently, but they all come down to the same root thing. They do not believe you get to heaven by the shed blood of Christ on Calvary's Cross. And they do not believe for five seconds that they have got a Bible that they can believe that is really the Word of God that works in you. That is the problem. That is the problem. That was Paul's fear. Paul's fear to the church at Corinth

over there in 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, that he was afraid. He said, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." That was his fear. And you know what? That is exactly what the devil did. Exactly what he did. It is so obvious, it is unbelievable. And you learn it by studying contrast of little words.

X. The Devil's Strategy and the Missing Sword

Do you know what the devil's plan was in the Old Testament to destroy the nation of God? He knew that he could never do it from the outside. He never could do it from the outside, so he did it from the inside. Do you know what he did? It is the most amazing stroke, and the only thing men never learn from history is men never learn anything from history. They miss it all the time. He simply gets God's people to start hanging out with His people and let His people introduce Him to their Bible, to their ways, to their music, to their teaching instead of God's ways, and the job was done.

This is why, maybe this will help you, this is why in the Old Testament that when a nation of Israel went into a nation like the Amalek and the Amalekites and some of those places, this is why when they go in over there that God tells them that they are to kill every man, every woman, every child, every animal, and kill everything that is in that town and wipe it out. A lot of liberals today, a lot of the tree huggers, they have a tough time with that. They think, "Well how could a loving God wipe everybody out?" Oh, He does it very easily. If you stick around, you are going to get a good first-hand thing over here in about four or five years that the Lord is coming. He does it because the issue is light versus darkness, heaven versus hell. You see, the same people that cannot, just cannot grasp the fact that God would do that are the same people that believe that God could not send a man to hell. And boy, have I got a surprise for you.

In the Old Testament, He did it through nations, and He got the men and women in other nations to mix with Israel and bring in their gods, bring in their religion, and bring in their teachings, and down it went. Do you know what the devil's plan for the New Testament church to destroy it is? Same plan, it is simple. Get God's church and God's people to stay in Baptist churches, stay in churches, stay in churches, just use His Bible. That is all. Just get His teachings. Just get a Bible that destroys all the key words in it. Just get a Bible that you could not trace the person of Satan through that Bible if your life depended on it. Just get a book and just get a Bible that you could not follow, light versus darkness, right versus wrong. You could not follow the two seeds through it for 15 seconds. That is all. And in that He will deceive you and He will destroy God's church, and that is exactly what He does.

There is a great story in the Bible. You want a freebie story? I will give you one. 1 Samuel 13:19. You do not have to turn to it. I will tell you this story. You need to go put this in your Bible. You do not want to miss this one. Here is what you have got. You have got Saul being king. Do you know what 1 Samuel 13:19 says? It is a simple little verse. It says this: "Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel." Smith being blacksmith. Do you know what Saul did? Now Saul was a type of your big 20th century, big time preacher, inspirationally. Saul was the leader of Israel, but he was not God's choice. He was the people's choice. God's choice is coming

down the line. David. Do you know what David and Saul, the great contrast is? Boy, there is another one. Saul's contrast. Do you know what the contrast between Saul and David is? David loved God's Word. Saul could not stand it. David believed it. Saul did not. He dumps God's Word and winds up going to the witch at Endor down here and winds up getting killed for it. He is a picture, a big time 20th century preacher that gives the appearance of being the guy in charge, gives the appearance of being a great spiritual leader, but he falls flat on his face.

Do you know what he did? I will tell you what he did. Old Saul put all the blacksmiths out of business in Israel. Do you know what the blacksmiths did? They made swords. Do you know what a sword is a type of in the Bible? Word of God, Hebrews 4:12. The greatest type of the 20th century preacher in my mind and all the Bible, in an inspirational application, took and put the blacksmiths out of work. Do you know what he did? He turned over the making of the swords to the Philistines. Do you know who the Philistines were? They were God's enemies. They hated Israel. Then when it came time that the Philistines attacked the nation of Israel, they had no swords to fight with and they got defeated. Because the leader, the spiritual leader, had such instability in his own spiritual life that he could not perceive that the Philistines were the enemies of God. He trusted them and he put all the Jewish blacksmiths out of work. And he said, "Philistines, you take care of making our swords." And the Philistines said, "We will." And the Bible says that they did not make them any swords. When they went to fight the day of battle, all they had was a shear. All they had was a mattock. All they had was a plow. But there was no spear or there was no sword found in the hand of the nation of Israel.

Do you know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of all the big 20th century, 21st century pastors getting up in the pulpit and taking the sword out of your hand and telling you you do not have an absolute infallible copy of the Scriptures and then expecting you to go out and fight the battle of the world of flesh and the devil next day and wonder why you get defeated. That is what it is. That is exactly what it is. No smith in Israel. They had no swords to fight the battle with.

Do you know what is wrong with God's people today? Do you know why? They are defeated. Do you know why that they have so many problems in their families, problems in their marriages? Do you know why they have so many personal problems and just cannot ever get over it? And sin just ravages the churches and ravages the Christian. It is because we have been left to fight this battle without a sword. In the old days, brother, you had a sharp two-edged sword, that would smite the nations and you could stand. And with that sword, you would draw blood. Today the child of God pulls out a butter knife. He said, "Do not you come close to me." No sword. No sword.

XI. Conclusion: The Power of Contrast

Here is what you have got. If you want to learn your Bible, doctrinally, inspirationally, and historically, then you are going to have to realize that God takes basic words and teaches you by contrast. You do not go four verses in your Bible that you find the first contrast, which is the main contrast, and everything else is built on that. That is light versus darkness. You do not go three chapters. Do you find that you are going to find that it is going to be two seeds, the serpent's seed and Christ's seed? You do not go ten chapters that you do not find that it is going to

be the devil's kingdom, Babylon, and it is going to be up against God's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. You come right down through your Bible and you will find that everything in the Word of God from a contrast standpoint that shows you what you have got is based on just taking simple words and defining them out and showing you by contrast the whole concept of the Bible, light versus darkness, good versus evil, heaven versus hell. It is just that simple.

When we come through and our goal over the next however long it takes us, is for this church and the adult men and women in this church to come through every book of the Bible. We are going to build on what we talk about on Sunday morning into what we are doing. When we meet together I am going to bring you through and I do it one on one. I do it on Thursday night Bible study and I do it in everything that we do where we just basically break it down book by book, chapter by chapter, story by story, in some cases verse by verse and show you what it is historically, what it is doctrinally, what it is inspirationally by contrast. Next week we are going to work on association. Today I showed you by learning the Bible by words that are different. Next week I am going to show you learning the Bible by words that are the same or associated with each other. Every head bowed and every eye closed.