

Ephesians 2:4-7; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalms 90:9-12 Sunday 6/18/2006

Then we talked about how the key to dividing it up and getting the right context was the individual words. Remember that? By now, we went through probably over 50 of them, and I showed you how you always define the context, and you always rightly divide your Bible by the very basic individual words that God has given you. We talked about and gave you all of those words.

Then we focused on the fact that the Bible has three applications:

1. It has a historical application.
2. It has a doctrinal application, or it deals with the future.
3. It has an inspirational application, which deals with our everyday life and building our Christian character and our walk with God.

In that study, we saw how God uses three things to show you the Bible:

4. He uses contrast, things that are different.
5. He uses association, the things that are the same.
6. Last week, we saw that God uses repetition. He keeps going over and over and over and over again, laying out the key things that we need to see and understand.

And from these, we saw some other rules that are very important. We saw that the Bible was written to three groups of people. I told you that part of getting a context and part of understanding how to divide it is to know which portion of the Bible is written to whom. The Bible is addressed to Jews, it is addressed to Gentiles, and then, of course, it is addressed to saved people, which we know and call the church.

We saw the great consistency of the Bible. Once the Bible really lays something down, that consistency follows all the way through. I showed you in Romans chapter 1 the great passage there on similitude, how the visible things that God created really show us the invisible things or the spiritual things that we cannot see and understand by the things that God made. We went through that.

We talked about the law of first mention, how the first time you find something in the Bible, it is very instructive, and you always want to mark it and look for it from there. And then we talked about the law of history repeating itself, and we used great examples of showing you how all that works. With all of those things working for you, basically, that is how you learn the Bible. If we would just stop right here and we would go to work on those things, and you would let me help you, and we would just focus on those things right there, you would learn more about the Bible, and the Bible would open itself up to you in a greater way than you just spending the rest of your life trying to read it and figure it out.

The Bible is not a hard book, but you have to get it by the way the author who wrote it designed for it to be gotten. You have to get into that book, and you have to let the Holy Spirit of God

open up your understanding. He takes the Bible that He wrote, the Holy Spirit of God that is in you, and then He illuminates those words and shows you, and that is exactly how He does it. That is how you learn the Bible.

I. The Importance of Spiritual Growth and Bible Study

Now, today, we are going to move up a couple of levels. Today, we are going to move into another section. I have given you, we have had a lot of fun with this. We have talked about things that were very easy to see. Now, today, we are going to have to put on our thinking caps. Today, we are going to stretch your spiritual muscles a little bit. You have all been working out with about 50 pounds on the dumbbells, barbells, whatever. Now, we are going to slap another 100 pounds on and pull those spiritual muscles a little more. We are going to go up to another level now. We are going to go from here. We are going to move up.

The good thing about taking this study, the way we do the Bible around here, is it gives me a chance to define a lot of things that you hear me say on Thursday night or even on Sunday morning. I look at Thursday night as such a vital tool for really dissecting things and putting things together that maybe you do not fully understand. As you can see, every Thursday night, people are asking questions. A lot of it is based on what we are talking about or what they are studying because of what we are talking about. So, the great thing about this is it gives us an ability on Sunday morning to define a lot of these things so you better understand them.

I will tell you what, the greatest deal in the world for anybody wanting to learn the Bible is always having somebody, an access to somebody, to help you with the Word of God. I know you people that are discipling people. I told you this when you started discipling. I told you that your discipleship would move much more into more than discipleship. Because once you start teaching discipleship, they have got other questions, and they ask those questions. I have had people tell me, I said, "How is discipleship going last night with so and so?" And he said, "Well, we never even got to the lesson. We were too busy. He had other questions we wanted to talk about." That is the way it is supposed to go. That is how you learn.

I love more than anything else talking about the Bible. I know that sometimes people think that they bother me when they talk about the Bible. I can never be bothered talking about things of God, never. I remember last Saturday night when we played softball, we were over when I went to Funhouse Pizza. I am sitting over there, the place is packed. All our people show up there, and everybody is ordering their food. I was eating, was not really eating a lot that night. I was eating light, only had eight tacos instead of my normal 12. But I was sitting over there waiting for my food. I think it was you when you came over and asked me a question about the Bible. You came over, and she came over, and she asked me a question, explain something about the Bible. Then I was down there, and we are talking about, she goes back and eats her food, and mine still had not come yet. Then Travis came over, and he sits down, and he starts asking me all kinds of questions about the Bible. I explained something for him.

I thought to myself, "Man, you know what? That is the greatest thing in this world." The greatest thing in this world is having access to be able to ask questions about the Bible and not have

somebody say, "Well, I am eating right now. Could we do this later?" Or, "You know what? We have a Sunday morning on Thursday night for this. This is softball. We are over here at the pizza place." No, no, it just goes to reinforce and show you that the number one thing around here is the Bible. I do not care what we are doing. Now, if I am up to bat, do not ask me anything if you are catching because I know what you are doing, you are just trying to distract me so I will not hit it over the fence. I know where this is going. So, I might not answer your question just then. But hey, that is what it is about. The greatest thing I love about our church is that when you guys are out someplace, most of you are talking about things in the Bible, things that you have learned, or somebody you are working with, or somebody that got saved, or what God is doing. That is the mark of a healthy church. It is the way it has to be. We talk about the Word of God on Sunday morning and Thursday night, Monday, you know, but we talk about it Monday through Friday. It is a thing where that is the way it has to be. That is how you learn. The price of learning is repetition.

If you do not understand something about the Bible, that is my job. If you are discipling somebody or working with somebody working with you, you want to ask them. That is fine. We have a number of men and women who know the Bible as well as I do. You can answer just about any question that you have. We have got a whole crop of them coming up that are going to be there very quickly. So, that is the beauty of it.

II. Prayer and Pondering God's Purpose

Now, today, having said all of that, we are going to talk about another major piece of your Bible. This is going to be a little challenge for some of you today. I will be my normal self of trying to break it down as best as I can. But this is the real key in understanding how you fit into all that we are talking about. I want to go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to bless it before we go any farther. Let us just take it to the Lord.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You for all that You do for us. We thank You, Father, for Your mercy toward us, Your grace. We thank You, Lord, that even in the midst of great trial and great tribulation, when it seems like the world around us is collapsing, we have that inner peace that we know that as long as we do what the Word of God says, everything is going to be okay. It may not work out as far as our own expectations or what we would like, but we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. We come to You this morning, Lord, asking You to help us. Prick up our hearts, Lord. Give us a new, fresh vision today of what God wants us to do and what He wants us to be. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Do you ever ask yourself this question? Do you ever ask yourself why God saved you and did not save the person next to you in life? Not necessarily the person here. But do you ever look at yourself and see yourself and say, "Now, why did God do what He did for me, but He did not do it for this person over here?" I think that is one of the greatest questions that we all struggle with in life when you really stop and ponder life.

Now, I know that most of us, not you guys, but most of God's people do not ponder life. You see, they are too busy doing everything they have got to do. That is what the devil does. The devil wants to keep you so busy doing his thing that you do not have time to stop, think about God's things. Yesterday, I preached down at Joplin, and I preached in the pulpit up there. I preached for six and a half hours. They gave me a half hour, 45-minute break between sessions. But it was not a break because everybody was coming up and asking me questions about the Bible. So, I talked for a total of about eight hours yesterday. I was just beat. I mean, I came home last night, and I was just tired, really tired. When somebody asked me before we left down there, one of the people at Joplin, they said, "Boy, these days wear you out, don't they?" And I said, "Well, yeah, and I am really tired." But I said, "You know what? The good thing in all this, I do not care how tired I am. You know what the good side of that is? I remember the day before I got saved that I used to get up in the morning, and I was so tired from running for the devil all night and doing his things." It is a good tired being up, being tired for the right things. I never get tired of getting tired of the right things. Somebody said, "When do you sleep?" I will get enough sleep when I am dead. I mean, you just never get tired doing the right things.

There is something about once you know where you come from and how you used to stay up all night, run around all night, party all night, get up in the morning, and pray at the porcelain altar there, or you are upchucking your guts and everything in life. Yet, come to the point where we go out, we were saved, we get out there, and we do something for God, and it wears us out. To me, it is a good tired. I never complain about it because I remember those years. Remember last week, I remember the years when I used to run with the devil and do all his things and wake up tired and then go out for some more. So, it is a good tired. It is one of those things where if you, as you grow in the Lord, those are things you are going to understand because you recognize what God has done for you. It brings you back to the question, "Why you? Why me?" I mean, what did God see in me that He did not see in somebody else? How come God gave me the Bible, and you have got somebody else over here that has been saved as long as I have, and he has not moved off dead center since he got saved?

Some of you young guys and some of you gals in here have been saved for two years, maybe three years. Our anniversary is coming up here next week or the week after, and we have been in business for three years as a church for the Lord. I have seen some of you guys and gals in three years gain more spiritual insight and wisdom and understanding about the things of God than some of God's people that I have been around for 25 years. Now, why is that? Why do you get it, and they do not get it? What is the difference?

You ever stop and think about your life before you got saved? You ever stop to think about why you are still alive and while somebody else is not? I had a friend of mine that he is an elderly gentleman now, and he is in the ministry, and he has been a pastor for a number of years. One time we were talking. This guy came through World War II. He came through some really tough battles. We got talking late one night after we were in a revival together. We were talking late one night just about these kinds of things right here. I will never forget. He talks about the fact that he said, "You know, Bob," he says, "it is a weird thing." He says, "You know," he says, "I ponder that thing many times late at night." He says, "Sometimes I, I think," he said, "Let me tell you a

story." He said, "We were back in the Battle of the Bulge." He says, "We were down there, and we were in the, we were, we were in the heads grove. We were, we were like, our squad had nine guys in it, and we were stretched out along this line." He says, "We were getting ready to move out on this line." He said, "My, my sergeant," and he said, "I was the last guy on the line." He said, "My sergeant motioned down for me to come up." He picked me up, and he sent me up about 50, 50 yards. He said to cover the advance and stay in the position and cover the advance. He said, "So those guys moved out of that thing." He said, "They did not get 10 feet before a German mortar round hit right on the end of that thing, and the last three guys on that squad got killed." He said, "Now, you know what?" He says, "I wondered about that many, many times in my life, why God took me off the end of that line and brought me up to the front, and those three guys got killed, and I did not."

You ever think about things like that? If you put your life in that kind of perspective, I bet you could come up with some scenarios where somebody close to you died, and you did not. I remember when I was in the army, right before we got out, I got out. I remember we were making a 1200-foot practice jump of a C-130. There were 25 guys in that plane, and we would go out the back door. The head guy up there was not even in our group. He was a captain. He was jumping with us that day because he missed because of weather his jump to qualify on his day. He was four guys in front of me. When he went out that door, he went out that door first. I do not know what happened to this day. I do not think anybody knows what happened. But that static line did not open the way that it should. It wrapped up there, and he, he, he, that chute just spiraled around it. For some reason, that guy never got to his reserve chute. I watched that army captain ranger go 1200 feet into the ground face first. Now, I want to tell you something else. He was three in front of me. Let me tell you, the guy behind him had a tough time going out that door, that plane. I had a tough time. I thought about that thing. You know how you get your chute, you walk into the rigger's chute place, and you walk down there. They do not, you do not pack your own. They pack them for you. You just pick one off that rack and put it on. I thought to myself many, many times, "How come he got that chute, and I did not? How come his rolled? How come, how come his Roman candle, and mine did not? How come that old boy went 1200 feet face first into the ground at 400 miles an hour, and my chute opened? What is the difference?" I will tell you, when you start to think about those things, at some point, you ponder why you? I mean, you ever stop and ask yourself why God saved you at all? You ever go back and look at the events in your life of why God put you in Kansas City and the events that led us together? I am going to tell you, the hand of God and what God does is hard to understand.

III. God's Three Plans

I will tell you this, the key to all this, you want to know where the key is at, it is in the life of Abraham, especially around Genesis chapter 18. The key to all what I am talking to you about is in the life of Abraham. No question about that. But I am going to tell you, sometimes the hand of God is hard to understand on this side of eternity. But I am going to tell you, the key in helping you understand it is what I want to talk about today. We are going to move up to the next level. That is that God has three plans in that Bible. God has three plans in the Word of God. There lies the key why you are not somebody else. There lies the key why you are alive today and maybe

one of your friends is not. There lies the reason of the hand of God sparing you because of something that God wants to do in your life that maybe somebody else wants to do. Today, I want to talk about the three plans that God has in the Bible, and they run from Genesis to Revelation.

Now, before I get into that, there are some things I want to talk to you about God. I want to say to you about God because you need to understand this. God is a very ordered God. God has a structure. God never is a God of chaos. Now, it appears sometimes that it is chaotic in the Bible. It really does. As young Christians, if you start reading the Bible and you have not really been around the Word of God for a while, it is easy to see how you start seeing God and the devil in the Bible, and it is kind of easy to think that the devil gets one up on God. Now, let me say something to you. The devil never gets one up on God. Never does. God is an ordered, structured God. God is an ordered, structured God. He is very principled. God never violates His own principles. His principles are there because He operates by His own principles.

Most of God's people have problems with principles. Most of God's people have problems with authority. Most of God's people have problems with self-discipline. Most of God's people have problems with all the areas that if they would just get principled like God does and start to put structure in their life instead of chaos. To me, being Christ-like and being God-like is simply that: learning the principles of God, understanding the Bible, the Word of God, and letting the principles put an order and a structure in your life that was not there before you got saved. Many times, it is not there after you get saved. But the devil never gets one up on God. God always has a structure. God has a plan. He has three plans. But God has a plan throughout the Bible.

You look back there, and you see that God starts, God puts a plan in effect like Adam and Eve. God put Adam and Eve down in the garden. He told them to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. What happened? The devil came in, destroyed mankind, and put the whole world into chaos. Now, does not that look like the devil got one up on God? He did not. The fall of Adam and Eve was just as much part of God's plan as if they would not have fallen. You see the same thing with Noah. You see the same thing in every aspect of the Word of God where God starts something, the devil comes in and tears it up. Then, if you are not careful, you get the idea that up in heaven, an angel ran in and said, "Oh, Father, You are not going to believe this. You put Adam and Eve down the garden, the devil just screwed it up." God said, "Oh, no, what am I going to do now?" No, that is what we do. You know why? Because we live in chaos. God always has the options.

Now, let me tell you something about the devil. The devil has great wisdom and great knowledge. There is no question about that. He operates out of two areas. He knows the Word of God probably better than anybody else on planet earth. Because he knows the Word of God, he knows human nature. So, he knows how to push our buttons to get us to do whatever he wants us to do. When you understand that, you have to come to the conclusion as you study it through, the devil does not know everything. Because the devil does not know everything, that is where God always has His options. So, anytime when the devil thinks he is doing something to hurt God, because it is in God's plan, you know what he is doing? He is doing something to help God. But we do not see it that way because we are not in the Bible the way we should. Let us face it, it is

hard to see what God is doing when you are looking through your own chaotic lifestyle of what you are struggling with in your own life. That is exactly how it works.

Now, the Bible contains three plans. The Bible is built around these three plans. I told you the Bible is not a book that records what God is doing, but rather, or by what man is doing, but rather it is a book that records what God is doing. What God is doing, He is doing in three plans. This is going to be kind of deep today, but I am going to take my time. I know I gave you applesauce the last couple of weeks, and kind of put it in your mouth and help you chew it and all that stuff. But now today, we are going to get a little meat today. This is part of the process. This is going to help you grow a little bit.

But God has three plans:

7. The first plan God has is that God has a plan for the universe. That is the one we are going to focus on today, but I want to give you all these.
8. The second plan is God has a plan for planet earth.
9. The third plan in your Bible is God has a plan for your life.

Now, these three plans are like the Trinity. You might know there are three, but these three plans are like the Trinity. All these plans, each one of them is a separate plan, but yet they are all connected together as one. You are going to find that the universe, planet earth, and you and I are all separate identities. But in the plan, the earth is in the universe, and you and I live on planet earth. So, they are all connected.

Now, I do not know what kind of ice cream you like. My favorite ice cream is Neapolitan. You like it, don't you? When I get to heaven, I have three questions I want to ask God:

10. How do you get the little red things in olives?
11. How do you get the cream in Twinkies?
12. How do you get the ice cream, chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry in nice neat sections in the pack?

I pass that in life. I am not really concerned about much. Everything else takes care of itself. Now, I do not like, I like chocolate, but I do not like vanilla by itself. I like chocolate. I do not like strawberry by itself. If you would ask me when I go, we go to an ice cream place, I will get three scoops, sometimes six scoops, but it is two of each scoop. I will get a chocolate. I will get a strawberry, and I will get a vanilla. Now, I like Neapolitan ice cream. I learned it from the Bible because Neapolitan is the only ice cream a Christian should eat because it is just the Trinity ice cream. My spirituality goes deep. You have got three flavors in one box. But the bottom line is this. It does not, you just, you once you get it in the bowl, you have to mix it up. The real good thing about Neapolitan ice cream is not getting it. I will tell you something else. Never go to an ice cream place that when you get a banana split, they try to fake you out by putting three scoops of vanilla and then covering it up with all that syrupy stuff. A real bonafide Christian biblical banana split will have chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry. Anything else is an NIV or RSV.

Now, God's ice cream is Neapolitan. Because the best way to eat Neapolitan is to recognize that there are three distinct flavors. But when you eat it, you mix it all together. So, it all comes and

all tastes and it all blends together. That is the way God is. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is three identities. The way you have a relationship with God is the same way you eat your Neapolitan ice cream. You mix them all together. The best of all three flavors blend together just like the best of all three. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit blend together. Even though they are separate, you blend them together. That is why I eat Neapolitan ice cream. Now I know you will too. I will never say anything, but if we go out to eat ice cream at some place and you just have vanilla or chocolate and do not eat Neapolitan, I will not say a thing, but I will know you are not right with God.

God has three plans. It is just like the ice cream. God has a plan for the universe. What we are going to talk about today. God has a plan for planet earth, and God has a plan for your life. All three of them are separate. All three of them are different. But the key is blending it all together and understanding how they all fit. Because you and I live on planet earth. Planet earth is in the universe. Even though the three separate things, it is all mixed together. The only way you can enjoy a life with God, like I enjoy my Neapolitan ice cream, is to get all three of those things working for you the way it is supposed to. As simple as that. As simple as that.

IV. God's Plan for the Universe

Now today, we are going to talk about God's plan for the universe. Very frankly, most of God's people never get here. You ask the average Christian or the average pastor about eternity or ask him about God's three plans, and he has absolutely no clue. You will get some standard answer, "Well, you know, brother, you should not think about those things because we are down here on earth right now. And you know, those things are out there for eternity. And you are not to be worried about those things right now." Now, that is a cop out. What he is trying to say, and I will re-translate that for you, is what he is saying is, "I do not have a clue because I am a stupid Baptist preacher who does not study his Bible. So, I do not know, but I am going to give you a snow job so you think that I will, that I can protect who I am." Let me tell you something. The reason why God put those things in there is for you to know. If it is in there, I want to know it. It is as simple as that. I want to know it if it is in there, and God has three plans. These three plans are absolutely, absolutely essential for you to get it together. But you have got to get them like the ice cream, and you have got to, you have got to get them all mixed together to see what you have got.

Most people, you know, the reason I know the body of Christ and most churches are so shot and worthless today is because they never think past what is going on in this life. They never think past what is going on in this life. I know I have got to live down here, but brother, if there is not something better out there to get me through what I have got to live in down here, then I am going to check out what I am doing.

Now take your Bibles and turn over to Ephesians. Ephesians chapter 2, this is the great passage. You know in the book of Ephesians, the book of Ephesians is about the church. It is a great spiritual book. It is a book that really lays out all of the spiritual things that the church is all about. This is where we find that the church is likened to really the identity of marriage in an earthly sense is an earthly thing that is built on a spiritual thing. Husbands love your wives, even

as Christ loved the church, and a wife see that she reverences her husband as unto the Lord. But in the book of Ephesians chapter 2, verse 4, this is where we want to start. Now, he is talking about why He saves you here. He is talking about, this is a little bit of a clue, but he is talking about the day God saved you.

Here is what he says in verse 4:

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Now, that is a great couple of verses. It says that God saved you, and God has put you on the same level with Jesus Christ, that you are seated together in heavenly places. Now, look at the next part of that verse, verse 7. Here it comes.

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

You know what that verse is telling you? That verse is telling you God has got something for you out in eternity. Now, do not you want to know what that is? I mean, do not you get curious about that? Are you going to let somebody blow you off and tell you when God just told you that in the ages to come, He is going to show His riches and His grace to you in some manifested way that you are going to be part of that plan? Do not you want to know that? I do.

You know, I talked about, yesterday I talked about these people down there, and I was coming through all the stuff in the Middle East like I did for you a couple of years ago at our first or our second New Year's Eve Bible study. I told him, I said, "God has got a plan for the nation of Israel. And God has got a plan for the church." They are two separate plans, but they are in the plan that God has got on planet earth. I said, "The nation of Israel never fulfilled that plan. They got into sin, they got away from God, and God punched their ticket, canceled the plan." The church will never accomplish the plan because so many of God's people get their tickets punched, and they do not do what the Word of God says, and the plan gets canceled. But you can see from Ephesians chapter 2 that there is more to life on planet earth after God saves you than just struggling through the stuff we have got to struggle through.

Let me tell you something. If there was not something out there that made life on planet earth a hundred thousand times better, and that is what my Bible says. If you are struggling tomorrow morning or you are struggling throughout the week or whatever the case, let me give you a great verse in Romans chapter 8, verse 18.

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Now, He has got something out there for you that is a hundred million times better than what you have got down here. Yet, every time God's people will make this old earth everything and never even take a step to find out what God's plan is out there in the universe. I do not know what God's people think today. I call them Prozac Christians. Their minds are so numb and dead to the things of God because of the world. They just cannot function.

Now take your Bible and turn to Revelation chapter 22. I want to show you something else. God has a plan. God has a plan for the universe. God has a plan for earth. God has a plan for earth. And God has a plan for your life. Now Revelation chapter 22 is the last chapter in your Bible, and 18, 19, 20, and 21 are the last verses in your Bible.

Let us start verse 18.

Revelation 22:18-21

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Now right below that, what does your Bible say? The what? I cannot hear you. The what? The end. One more time with bigger. The end. The end. The end. You know, that is not true. That is not true. At least I hope it is not true. You realize that we have just come through 6,000 years in the Bible of man's history of blood, sweat, and tears, all kinds of heartache, all kinds of problems. We just got through life now when we got to the place where, I mean, we went through 6,000 years of man. We went through the church age for 2,000 years. We went through your life and my life. Every struggle I have, every struggle you have, every up and down, everything down the line, and the devil kicking me six ways from Sunday and my struggle with my flesh versus my spiritual nature and all the things that I went through. Finally, when Jesus comes back, Revelation chapter 19. Finally, when Revelation chapter 20 says He is on the throne in Jerusalem and all the world now. Finally, when Revelation chapter 21 says the new heavens and the new earth are coming down, all things are passed away. Here they come. Finally, in Revelation chapter 22, when it is all ready to go, He cuts me off and says the end. So, what kind of God is that? I mean, I have struggled. I have had all kinds of things I have had to deal with. So have you. We went through all this life, life is a veil of tears. Now finally, we just get to the place where the good stuff starts, where the chocolate and the vanilla and the strawberry are really

mixed together good. And God says the end. See you next week, same channel, same time, same place. That is not the end. It is the beginning.

You see, there does not have to be a Revelation chapter 23. There does not have to be a Revelation chapter 24. You know why? Because by the time you get to Revelation chapter 22, you should be well now in tune that the Bible is a complete circle. The Bible ends, it starts in a garden in a perfect estate with everything just right. And it ends in a garden in a perfect estate with everything just right. The whole Bible is a circular thing that brings you from Genesis right back to Revelation. You know what Jesus said in Revelation 22? He says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." He is both of them. You go back there in the book of Ezekiel, and you lay it out back there, back to Ezekiel chapter 36, down around verse 35, one of those places in there. You know what he says? He says when we get out into eternity, when we get into Revelation chapter 22, he says that just like the Garden of Eden, like it was in Genesis chapter 2. You know why? Because God brings you all the way around back. What you have got from Genesis to Revelation is God's plan on this earth. We are going to talk about that next week. But that thing is connected to what God is going to do in outer space out there in eternity. So, I am telling you, I am telling you, I am telling you, you want to know where this thing goes? It goes right back to Genesis chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. It goes right back to a man and a woman in a perfect garden, in a perfect estate with perfect fellowship with God, except this time there will be no sin to mess it up.

You ever stop and ask yourself this question? I ponder this a lot. You ever stop and think what happened when God put Adam and Eve down in the garden? When God put Adam and Eve down in the garden, you know what He told them to do? He told them to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. You know what that means? Have a lot of kids. You know what that means? It means there is no pain in childbirth. It means you are living to be 6, 7, 800, 900 years old. It means you can have as many kids as you want. Why, in a woman's lifetime, she probably could have 6, 700 kids. What a thought, lady, huh? Terry, you are back there, or are you on the way to the hospital now with that last statement? I mean, we had two, and we quit. Of course, we read in a book that every third kid in the world was born with Chinese, though we did not want any more. My wife read that someplace. But I mean, can you imagine, oh, here she comes. I just said, in the Bible and Genesis, a woman could have 5, 600 kids. You would like that, wouldn't you? Could you imagine that?

Let me ask you a question. Adam and Eve are down here, and a thousand years pass. They have, I do not know how many kids, their kids have, I do not know how many kids. There is no record of any disease. There are no wars. Nobody is dying. What would have happened after a thousand years? I will tell you what would have happened. This Earth would have been overpopulated so much that they would have been sitting on each other's head out past the orbit of the Moon. You see, we get so limited in our minds of we do not think past that. We do not think, Adam and Eve in the garden, the Adobe Fruit Farm plant, the Earth. But what would have happened if Adam and Eve had not sinned? What would have happened if there had been no wars, no diseases, nobody ever died, and you just kept on having kids? What would have happened? Sometime the Earth was going to be full, was not it? You think at that point, that angel that always keeps

running into the throne room and telling God about the disaster would have come panting in there and saying, "Lord, the Earth is full. What are we going to do?" God would have said, "Oh, man, I did not cover that one. I do not know. I will get back to you. Let me think that through." Is that how God works? No, that is how I work. That is how I work. That is how you work. Lack of planning always necessitates an emergency on my part. That is how I work. I did not plan it right, so now it has happened. It is an emergency. God never gets that way. He is ordered. He is structured.

Revelation chapter 23 is found back in Genesis. While you are there, just turn back to Isaiah chapter 9, and I will show you. I will show you. God has a plan. Then we are going to talk about it. Then we are going to get into the good stuff. Get ready, boys, to turn the lights off. I know you are just slobbering with anticipation.

Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6. Now watch this. Here it comes. Here it comes.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

He says, "For unto us a child is born." That is Jesus Christ. "Unto us a son is given." That is the first coming. He came as a child. He came as a son. Now watch the next part of that verse after the punctuation mark. "And the government shall be upon his shoulders." That is the second coming. That government was not upon His shoulders at the first coming. They crucified Him. But you know enough about your Bible now that we are talking about the first coming and the first part of the verse. Now we are in the second coming, and the government shall be upon His shoulders. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Oh, here it comes. Verse 6.

Now here is what I have taught you. We are living right now down here. We are down here like little rats in a maze trying to get through life. One of these days Christ is going to come rapture us out. Then He is going to come back, and He is going to deal with the nation of Israel and the tribulation. Then He is going to come back to the second coming. Then He is going to come in, and He is going to establish His thousand-year reign. Revelation chapter 20, which we know as the millennial reign of Christ, which we know as the government of peace, which we know as the thousand-year reign. All right. That thing is on this earth for a thousand years.

Look at verse 7. "Of the increase of his government." You know what that government is? That is the millennium. That is the thousand years that take place in Revelation chapter 20. Watch this. "Of the increase of that government." Meaning that government is going to get bigger. Yeah. A thousand-year reign is going to get bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger. You know what is going to happen there? At some point, they are going to have the same problem that Adam and

Eve was going to have back in the garden. "What are you going to do, Lord? When the earth is filled up, and the earth is full. What are you going to do with that? What are you going to do with that?" "An increase of his government and peace. There shall be no end or the throne of David and upon his kingdom to order and to establish it with judgment, with justice from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of the host will perform this." He says that government is going to increase forever and ever and ever and ever.

God has a plan for the universe. The fact that you do not know what that plan is, is your problem and not God's. I mean, you know what He did to Abraham? He took Abraham out there in Genesis chapter 15, and He took Abraham out there way long before Isaiah wrote what he wrote. He took Abraham out there, and Abraham was the father of the Jews. Abraham had not had any children yet. But Abraham was going to become the father of the nation of Israel from which this government is going to expand and expand and expand and expand. You know what He did? He took him out, and He took him out, and He showed him the stars. You know what He said to Abraham? "Abraham, someday your seed is going to be like the stars of heaven." Now, why did He tell Abraham that someday his seed was going to be like the stars? You know how many stars there are? We can see about 5,000 with a naked eye. Of course, you get out in outer space, and it is limitless. I am going to show you some of those things in just a minute. But God has a plan for the universe, and it is not limited to planet earth. Planet earth, we are going to talk about it next week, has its own plan. But God has a bigger picture, and when He was telling Abraham, "Someday your seed is going to be like the stars of heaven," He was making a reference to what I just read you, that the increase of His government is going to go on forever and ever and ever and ever. What happens when the earth gets full? What happens?

V. Defining the Universe and its Components

Now let us talk about God's plan for the universe. I want to define something. I wanted to define the word universe first of all. This has many times been misapplied. Now the first thing I want to talk about is outer space. Most of you can identify that because that is where most of you live. So, let me talk to you about outer space. Now we think that outer space is the universe. That is not technically true. That is not true. From the Bible's standpoint, outer space will be that vast expanse of space called a firmament in the book of Genesis chapter 1. Those that have been through Genesis now, you know what I am talking about. It is also called the second heaven. You know from your Bible that there are three heavens. Paul was caught up to the third heaven where God is. Then you have a second heaven, which is outer space. Then the first heaven is our atmosphere. No big deal. I always like going to churches and getting up there and talking about where I talk about there are three heavens. Which one are you going to? You have got to see the panic on their face. Of course, there are not three heavens. You are not going to. We think of heaven as a place with the big puffy clouds and the white smoke coming up off the thing. You know, and you get a rip white robe and a harp and a little halo. You know, a pair of wings, you just look around and play things. That is not the Bible's definition of heaven.

The Bible's definition of heaven:

13. There is the third heaven. That is the spiritual plane where God is. Second Corinthians chapter 12.
14. There is the outer space, which is the second heaven. Genesis chapter 1.
15. Then there is the first heaven, which is our atmosphere. Genesis chapter 1.

So, you have got to understand that outer space as we know it is not the universe. We use that term sometime, but that can get confusing and misleading. Technically speaking, outer space is a firmament, and outer space is endless. I mean, it is endless. I mean, it just is. It just goes on for eternity, and there are all kinds of things in the Bible that talk about that, and I can show you the dimensions out of an Exodus chapter 25. I can show you the structure of Hebrews 8 and 9. I can show you the shape of John chapter 19, and I can give you all that, but we cannot get into that today, but it is, it is ordered by God as part of the day.

Now we have also got something called planets. Now we know of nine in our solar system. We are going to talk about that next week when we get into God's plan for the earth. What we have got in our, in our little corner of the outer space, we have got a little thing called a solar system. That solar system is a, is built around the sun, and it has got nine planets. Nine of them.

Then when you look out in outer space, you see stars. That is the next thing we want to talk about. Now let me explain this. Stars are nothing more than, you look out there today, and if it is a nice clear sky, you see the sun. The sun is an average-sized star. When you look out there and you see the stars at night, all you are seeing is other suns that are so far away that it looks like little pinpoints of light. Some of them are very much bigger than our sun. Some are smaller. Our sun is very average. There are some, there are some suns or stars out there. You could, you put a hundred million of our sun, and our sun has a diameter 886,000 miles. You could take our sun and put a million of them in the big ones. They are called red giants. Catchy phrase, is not it? The big ones are called giant. But anyway, so you have stars. That is what God did with Abraham in Genesis chapter 15. He was making a reference to that someday your seed is going to be like the stars because Isaiah 9, that is where the second heaven is, and that is where it is all headed. That is why it does not have to be a Revelation chapter 23 because it goes back to Genesis and Isaiah 9 and shows you what it is going to be like. Real simple, real simple.

Now when you get out there in outer space, you have vast complexes, and one of those vast complexes are called nebulas. Now nebulas for the most part, I am going to show you some in a moment. Nebulas for the most part are gigantic gas clouds. Many, many, many, many, many hundreds of millions of miles, light years across. Anybody know what a light year is? Sure, it is one third of a regular year. Let us fill it. No, that is beer. I am sorry. It is like beer light year. I meant light year. Do not take that wrong. A light year is the time it takes for light to travel. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. 186,000 miles, not an hour, not a minute, a second. Now when you look at these nebulas out here, some of them are millions of light years across. All the nebulas that I am going to show you here are within our own galaxy. But the nebulas that you are going to look at, they are all red because they all are made up of hydrogen gas, and they are very huge complexes of gas and stars.

Then the next thing we want to talk about is the key here, and that is galaxies. Now when we come to the word galaxy, there is where we use the word universe. We are in a galaxy. When you look out past our own galaxy, past the nebulas, you see all kinds of other galaxies. Galaxies are made up of trillions and trillions and trillions and trillions and trillions and trillions of individual suns just like our sun. We are so far away from them when they look on, they take on the appearance of being clouds. They are not clouds, there are so many of them in there that they are so diffuse because you cannot focus on the individual, and it just looks like they are big old gasses clouds. They are really, really, really individual stars.

Inside those galaxies as we speak, as we speak, I get updated on this every month. As we speak right now, as we speak, scientists know, and I am going to tell you how they know next week. They know of 300 planets that are revolving around those stars that are planets much bigger than ours, but nevertheless, they are planets. They call them exosphere planets, outside our, our solar system, outside our sphere. Outside our sphere, and we will get into that next week. But I wanted to break those things down because our solar system, you know, when you go out at night, you cannot see it from the city, but when you go out at night, maybe you are out in the country down the Lake of the Ozarks, and when you look up at the sky, you see what we call the Milky Way. The Milky Way is one of the spiral arms of our galaxy. Our galaxy is a spiral galaxy, and it has got arms on it. I am going to show you some pictures of spiral galaxies here in a second. Those, those spiral arms come out, and somewhere in the arm is our solar system, and when we look out into the sky, we are embedded in that arm. So, therefore, the Milky Way that we see is one of those spiral arms. If we would back off millions of light years, our galaxy, our universe, they call it them island universes, would just look like a big spiral, and I will show you some here, and they are endless. I am going to show you one here in a little bit that is 800 million light years away. If you are looking at it through a telescope, and while you are looking at it, it blew up. You would still see it for 800 million years till the light of it blowing up got to where you are looking at. It is incredible. Nothing makes you appreciate God and understand God more than the understanding of how vast it is and how small we are.

VI. The Bible's Scientific Accuracy and God's Infinite Plan

Now, with that, I want to, I want to turn this on here. Scott, would you lay this, just lay this face down for me, you hold that for me. You hold that for me, do not mix them up, okay. Somebody get the lights over there. Now, here is a picture of a star region. Now, you see all those star, I mean, they are just, you could not number them, and yet that part in the sky right there is, is a very minute part of the sky. Everybody see okay, am I blocking you? I can kneel down here, help me down here when I am old. You cannot get down here. Oh, thank you. Can you lean on your knee? Oh, you are fine too. What is your name? Oh, here we go. Here we go. Any higher? Oh, you mean the slide thing? I do not think so. Excuse me, I misunderstood you there for a moment.

Now, there is a star field, it has got hundreds and hundreds of thousands of stars in it, and first thing we are going to look at is nebula. Now, this is called the great nebula. You can see this with the naked eye, but you see all of this, you see all of this gas, this material here, and you see this one over here, it is blue, it all looks like it is gas, and it is, it is hydrogen gas, and they say that

this is where stars form, and maybe it is and maybe it is not, I do not know, but anyway, they are distinctly different than galaxies because of the fact that they are all, they are all made of gas and clouds, dust clouds, only used, I think this one is like 400 million light years across, and that means if you got in a rocket ship and traveled at the speed of light, it would take you 400 million years to go from one side to the other, and our universe is filled with this, this is called the tripod, you can see the split in the middle there, and it is another nebula, and then this is called the California nebula, it could look like the, it kind of looks like the state of California, and then this one here is the, the, the Helix nebula, this one here is called, this is my wife's favorite, this is called the Dumbbell nebula, she says it reminds me of, of, reminds it, I reminded her of it, anyway, it looks like a dumbbell, you know, like a weight or an hourglass, I always thought it looked like an apple, somebody ate the middle of myself, but it did not, that is just the way it is, this is called the Pelican nebula, you see how it looks like a pelican, see its head turn around there, looks like a big bird, this is called the North American nebula for obvious reasons, oh, what is this one, folks? That is right, this is the one that you have got on your bookmark, and I took that picture because, you know, I am an astrophotographer, and I took pictures of, I am taking pictures of all this stuff, and what you have got in your bookmark is just that section right there of a horse head that I took a number of years ago.

Now, we are in the galaxy. Now, this is the galaxy, see the difference very clearly, all this, see this dusty looking stuff out here, and this solid core, you know what that is? That is nothing more than millions and trillions and trillions and trillions and trillions of stars that are so packed and so condensed that you cannot resolve them with any telescope, therefore they look like they are dust, they look like they are clouds in the bright center, and this one here is what they say our own, our own galaxy looks like, this is called it, this is the universe, a universe, this is called an island universe, and all this out there, and you notice if you look very carefully, there is another one right down here which is probably just as big as just farther back, there is another one right here, and once you start looking at that, you will see that they are just, they are filled with them. Now, here is an artist rendition of our galaxy, and it shows you the spiral arms, and there is our solar system located right there, and of course this white thing here is what I talk about would be what we call the Milky Way when you see it. Now, this is called the Pinwheel galaxy, and again, they take different shapes and different sizes, but you can see the pinwheel effect on it, kind of like spiral arms coming out, and again, it is all unresolved, and yet there is another galaxy there, there is another galaxy there, there is another one right there, there is another one right there, they are all through, there is one right there, there is one right there, they are all through all through these, just never end, never end.

Now, this is called the Whirlpool, and you can see it that it, it kind of goes around in a fashion like a whirlpool going down, that is one galaxy here, there is another galaxy there, and there is a little bridge that goes between the two, and these are vast complexes of other solar systems that are just endless. Now, this is called the, this is designated M81, it is in the Big Dipper, and you can see it has got a solid core, and then you have got the spiral arms coming off of it, and this is called another Pinwheel galaxy, and you can see the effect real good on this one. Now, this is my favorite one, and this is designated NGC of 30, 63, 40, C, something like, I do not know, but it is an edge on, you notice all of them are different, some of them are edge on, some of them are face

on, this one is edge on, and of course, you can see if you took the one that looked like the whirlpool and you set it on its end, it would look like this, and what you are seeing here is this galaxy is right on the edge, you are looking right on the edge, but notice up in the corner another faint galaxy up here, they are everywhere, they are everywhere, and there is another one right there, there is another one down there, there is, there is one over that is on the wall, I am sorry, anyway, they are all through there, okay, turn the light back on.

I wanted to give you that portion of it, and then I will resurrect that, I do not need those, yeah, I am done with those. Now, I want to show you, show you how, how this, some of this stuff works. Now, remember that picture I showed you, that last one, how that thing was edge on? Now, here are some of the pictures that I have taken, and I want you to see these. Remember that one I showed you edge on? There it is. You see, I shot that from my driveway in Raytown, and I even picked up a little galaxy up in the corner up there, so you know, my whole life is, is doing this kind of stuff because when I got into the book and I saw how this thing worked, remember that one I showed you the spiral? There is that one, see, yeah, what spirals out on the edges, these are smaller pictures, I have got some of that got blown up here that I will show you. Now, here is this one, this one is called the Sombrero galaxy, see how it is kind of edge on, puffed in the middle, all in color, I shoot all these from my drive. Now, you know, by the way, I have got over 800 pictures logged in my computer, and I have it, I do not know if you know this or not, but I have a standard deal here on your birthday, whenever your birthday is, you can come over to my house, go through my computer, pick out whatever one you want, and I will print that for you for your birthday, okay, we will put it in a little mat like that, and you can, you can have that, and you can go through and pick it out, I encourage that, but I tell you all the time, I said, "This is the one you are going to get in eternity," do not I tell you that, huh? See, the truth of the matter is, you are not getting any, I am just trying to make you feel good, but anyway, and you know, they are all, they are all, you can go through and you can pick anyone you want, and I will print it off for you, and now, here is a, here is a picture, I put this in another nebula, there is, this is called the Running Man nebula, if you look in the middle real close, it looks like a guy running, and I showed you this one on the screen up there, it was that little other blue one, but, you know, that one that is in Orion, and then remember the one looks like a whirlpool? Okay, there is that one, I shot that one, I have got hundreds of them, and you can, you can, you can come over on your birthday or a day there about on your birthday, you can sit down and go through them and find out which one you want, and I will print it out for you because as a child of God, you have got to know where these things are going.

Now, remember the California nebula we showed you? Now, there is my picture of the California nebula, and all these I shoot from my driveway every clear night, if I am not doing something, I am usually out there collecting photons. Oops, I am sorry. This is called the Sunflower nebula, looks like a big sunflower, also called the Kansas galaxy, I mean, galaxy, not a nebula. I showed you that edge on galaxy, here is another edge on that I took. Now, I am showing you all these to give you an understanding of how many galaxies are out there, are endless, absolutely endless. Now, here is a picture I took that has got 15 galaxies on it, you might want to come up and look at that later. This is a lot of people's birthday favorite. Oh, did I mention there are 500 a piece, so

you can have as many as you want. I like it when they get the one with 15. Here is another one I took, got all bunch of galaxies on it.

Now, I am doing, I have to show you this, when the Hubble telescope was put up in outer space, you know, it revolutionized astronomy, and they did not know how big and how vast the universe was because they do not have a Bible. So, one of the things that they did with the Hubble is that they took a, saw a, and now they have looked at this point of this part of the sky through the biggest telescopes on earth, which is like 200 inch, 300 inch, and all they saw was like four or five galaxies, but the man took, turned the Hubble on this and left the shutter for a long exposure for 100 hours, and you could take the piece of sky that they took the Hubble photograph on, and you could take a grain of sand, okay, a grain of sand, and you could hold it out at arm's length, and from planet earth, you could cover this part of the sky with a grain of sand, you could cover this point of sky, they turned out Hubble, let it open for 100 hours, and when the picture came out, they had a picture that had one part of the sky that you could cover with a grain of sand, it is called the Hubble Deep Field, it had over 30,000 galaxies, see that, every way, every size, every kind, on one piece of the sky that you could hold out a grain of sand, and they came away with that day understanding that the universe was a lot bigger, and it is absolutely filled with galaxies after galaxies after galaxies after galaxies, there is no more just the concept of, of, well, there is few galaxies here, they had to come to the conclusion that out there every place you go, and you remember now, we are so limited from where we are at to what we are looking at, this thing goes on endless and endless and endless, and if there is that many galaxies from planet earth that you could hold out with a grain of sand, they come to the conclusion that the universe is absolutely packed like a neighborhood with houses on it, with galaxies, each galaxy millions of light years in size, in density, with trillions and trillions of stars, with absolute just total complete every aspect of of solar systems going around it, and not one scientist on this planet can give you an explanation why, and you know why? It is because they do not believe the Word of God, and they do not believe what God said.

You see, the standard teaching is this, that the universe was made it by the Big Bang billions of years ago, and as it swirled and swished through time, it grew to the place where it, it got itself to the place where all these things are forming. When they look at that picture right there, you know what they say? "We are looking back in the creation of the universe," and of course, they are not looking. You see, that is the standard teaching, they think that it is evolving, and it has evolved and got to where it is at now, and they are looking up there, and they are saying this, "Well, if there is life on our planet, and life evolved here, then certainly with that many galaxies that seem to be out there, there must be intelligent life out there in the universe some place," and of course, they got it completely backwards. All that stuff was not created and evolved, all that stuff was created in Genesis chapter 1, and it is for a future event, it is not for the past, it is for what is coming. Isaiah 9:6-7, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end," and that is why you have got galaxy after galaxy after galaxy after galaxy after galaxy, and the truth of the matter is, they are not there because they came from nothing and evolved to where we are at with intelligent life along the way, they were created by God in Genesis chapter 1 for what God is going to do when He told Abraham, "Someday your seed is going to be like the stars of

heaven," and let us face it, eternity is a long time, the fact that eternity is no time, and it is going to be endless, endless, endless.

But the Bible has always been 2500 to 3000 years ahead of science. I mean, when the Roman Catholic Church and all the scientists back in the Dark Ages were saying the world was flat, and if you sailed out there, they told Columbus, "You know what, if you sail out there, you are going to go off the edge, and you are going to fall off the edge because it is the earth is flat," and you know what? Because they did not believe the Bible. Isaiah chapter 40, verse 21 said you that the earth was round all the way back in Isaiah's time. Isaiah was written in 587 BC. I mean, a thousand years before they, when they were saying it was flat, the book of Isaiah said it was round. Ecclesiastes 1:6 talks about the words of the wind going through a circuitry, we call it the, areologist calls it the circuits of the wind or circular system of the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:7 talked about the water cycle or condensation. I mean, when they, you know what they used to do in the Dark Ages, when you got sick, you know what the youth used to cut you and bleed you, and that came from the medieval teaching that if you had a sickness, it was because, and so they would cut you and they would bleed you, and then somebody, somebody, somebody got reading the Bible in the book of Leviticus and found out that the life of the flesh is in the blood, so then instead of taking blood out, they started putting blood in, it is called transfusions today, from a Bible, from a Bible, from a Bible, that is the way it works.

I mean, the FBI, they have got files on fingerprints. You are going on the Kansas City Peace Department, they have got files on fingerprints. It was not until the 1920s or the 1930s that they decided that they really got fingerprint going, but you know what? The Bible says in Job chapter 37, back there in verse 7, that it told you right off the bat that the hand of every man's fingerprints is different from every other man. The Bible tells you in Job chapter 37 that every snowflake is different. Why, you never see how many snowflakes are in a 600 or two-foot snowfall? There has got to be billions of them, and yet there are not two that are alike. See, the same one that made the snowflakes, the same the one that made God's hands. About 1900, they found that there was fresh water in the sea. Job said that in Job chapter 38. The scientists get up there and they talk about black hole stars, who were reserved black fists for, and you know what black hole stars are in Jude chapter, Jude verse 13. Einstein came up with a theory of relativity. One of the theories of relativity was that light was always moving. Job said the light was always moving all the way back in Job chapter 38. They have a thing what they call now a spectrograph that separates the light. Job talked about a spectrograph in Job chapter 38. Down around the middle 1800s, a guy by the name of Samuel Morse came up with an idea of a telegraph, sending a lightning thing down the line and turning on a message. Job 38 talked about somebody that could send lightning that could talk telegraph. The Bible has always been ahead of science, at least, at least 500 to a thousand years.

You see, if outer space is infinite, then the number of stars are infinite. In fact, the Bible says that God not only counts the stars, but He names the stars, and I have got to tell you this, in the Bible, angels are like of the stars, so you have got a little thing there you have got to work with, but that is kind of an interesting deal. But if outer space is infinite, and the stars are infinite, then the galaxies are infinite, and that is why I said in Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6 and 7, "Of the increase of

that government and peace there will be no end." That concept goes all the way through the Bible, and God has a definite plan for the universe. That is why He made it. That is why He has put it in a fashion that He has, and that is why man has not been able to figure the thing out, but anyone with a Bible can figure the thing out because it is not about what has been, it is about where God is going because you and I are in that plan, right? Man's rejection of the Bible has made the deep things of God a strange thing. That is what He says in Hosea chapter 8, He says, "I have written to him the great things of my law, and they were counted as a strange thing." You tell the average Christian what I am giving you this morning, maybe some of you were in the same boat, you talk to the average theologian this morning and talk about all this stuff, he would think you were nuts. You know why? Because he rejected the book a long time ago. There is no truth in it for him, and the great things that God has in there become foolishness to him. That is why you know what they are to you, you know what they are to me.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

You know what he says? God gives you things to get through life and to show you things through life, and then you take those things and you teach them to your children. The secret things that men laugh at in that book, the secret things that men snub their nose out of that book about hidden things in that Bible about eternity, about God, about the Word of God, about the all the things that that lay out man and all things about man, those concepts are hidden from man. Man laughs at him, and the Bible says when God gives them to you, they are for you and for your family, for you and for your family. I have got little Maddie, she is about four years old just this year, and we get clear nights, and she is over at our house, you know what we do? We go out there, and I show her through that telescope. She is little, see, she cannot see real good, so I just show her the moon right now, and the last time she wants to see street light, and that is good too, but it is beside the point. But I want to get because those things revealed, and I will, when she is a little older, I am going to make those parallels. I am going to say, "Honey, you see the moon, you see the sun, you see the sun is up during the day, and the moon is up through the night, you see the sun is the type of Jesus Christ, and the moon is the type of Christian." She is not ready for it yet, but in time she will be, and I am paving the way to give her the secret things that God gave to me and give them to her. That is what it is about. That is exactly what it is about.

What we have looked at today and what we are going to look at the next couple of weeks is dealing with your mental, your millennial inheritance and in your eternity with God. I am telling you something, Romans chapter 8, verse 18, I gave it to you. It says that, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time," nothing will get you through, nothing will get you through what you are going through right now or next week or last week, whatever your heartache is, whatever, whatever bad hand this old world has dealt you. It may be the loss of a loved one. It may be, it may be losing somebody in your life. It may be some catastrophe with your business. It may be something that has happened that has just got you on the skids. Let me tell you

something. It has happened in my life, it has happened in everybody's life as a child of God, and I am telling you, the thing that will get you through when nothing else will is the great satisfaction of knowing that everything right now is only temporary. My God, if I had to live my eternity living like this, it would not be worth it. What makes it worth it is understanding that God has a plan for the universe, and I am in that plan, and God has something for me to do, and we are going to see it in the weeks to come, and the devil's job is to stop me in that plan, and when I get so busted and so broken, and I cannot look up, and this whole life is such a burden and a heavy on my shoulders that is weighing me down with every step that I want to quit and I want to stop, I just remember and look at those things right there, this is temporary, this old world is not my home, I am a pilgrim in a strange land, I am a foreigner, I have no friends in this world except my God in my Bible and the men and women that God has put us together. We are together because God has a plan for you and for me, and His chosen and His sovereignty to put us together to do the plan that God wants us to do. That is why we have got to keep looking ahead, we have got to keep understanding there is going to be some tough time. Oh, he says, "For I reckon that the suffering," what you go through here, what I go through here, "let the suffering to this present time," no matter, listen to me, no matter how bad it looks, no matter how bad it hurts, it is not worthy to be compared to out there because this old world is coming to an end, but that thing out there is just the beginning. Oh, brother, that the old song says, "Some golden daybreak, shadows no more, some golden daybreak, school days are through, some golden daybreak with Jesus and you." Oh, I am telling you, my friend, that is why the Bible says in Psalm chapter 90, verse 9, it says that, "For our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told." How many times we have talked about somebody that went on saved or unsaved, talked about their life, what they did, how we knew him. That Bible says that when somebody passes away, that they are a tale that is told.

Then he says in verse 10:

Psalms 90:10

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Life, life on planet earth is not where you to put your focus. Life on planet earth is not the main event. Life on planet earth, my dear people, is a temporary journey. It is you recognizing that you are part of a great plan, and I know we just laid out one third of it this morning, but God has got a plan for the universe. There is a reason for those galaxies. He told Abraham, "Someday your stars or your seed are going to be like the stars of heaven," and there is something that in the ages to come with you and me, He wants to show His glory and the riches of His grace through us and all the eternity. I do not want to miss that, and when I get down in the dumps and I am having a tough time, brother, I just simply take that old verse in Romans 8, and I just say to myself, "Bob, I reckon that the sufferings of this present time, what you are going through, not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in that day," because when you get on the other side, not only will you see it for what it is, you see, that is another problem, we get so caught up in where we are at, and we get so overwhelmed with our struggles that we forget about the struggles that the Lord went through. The Bible says He was tempted at all points like we are, yet

without sin. I wish I had that ability. I wish I had ability to go through life and not be tempted with the things of life and not fail and not fall and not come to the point where I, I give into this old things of life. I wish, I wish, but none of us have that now, but there is coming a day when we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

That is why the Bible says, understand about life, it is temporary. It is threescore and ten, and if you get 80, it is just more sorrow and grief. Job said it when he said this life of valor tears. Why would God's people focus on the garbage of this world and think this is living when in actuality we have not begun to live? A guy asked me one time, he said, "Should I be preparing to live or should I be preparing to die?" And I said to him, "You know what, you are never going to be prepared to die till you get prepared to live." You have got to see this thing as it is. That is why, that is why he said in 9 and 10, "Our days are passed away in wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:12

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Everything I showed you today, everything I gave you about the first installment of God's three plans was for one purpose, and it is a purpose right here. We need to start numbering our days. We need to start looking at why God put us here. We need to ponder why you are not the next guy. You know why that is? Because God had a plan for you, and the reason why God could get you to do it or wanted you to do it is found in the book of Genesis and the life of Abraham. We are not going to get into it today, we will get into it down the line, but God had a plan. He wants you to be part of it, and He, the greatest privilege of this universe is for the God of the universe, the God of the cosmos, the God of heaven to reach down on this old peanut planet on the back end of the solar system and the back end of the galaxy and pick you and me and say, "Bob, I have got a job for you to do." Your job and my job is to number our days and to realize that life is temporary and do everything we can not to get caught up in it so we can accomplish the plan that God wants you to accomplish. It is that simple. God has got a plan for the universe. God has got a plan for your life. God has got a plan for this earth. Next week, we will look at the next one, then the following week, we will look at the next one, then we will put it all together. Every head bowed and every eye closed, so I am going to be finished here and just