

Isaiah 45:18

Sunday 6/25/2006

The Bible impacts everything in your life. Your marriage will only be as strong as your relationship with the Word of God. Your kids will only be as good as your relationship with the Word of God. The Word of God impacts every aspect of your life. The Bible impacts everything that you do. You learn how to break it down to the point where it starts to make sense to you. That is what we have been focusing on. We have been doing it now for over a year.

We started out by going through every book of the Bible. One week we took a book. Then we started going back through it. We started a program where, as a church, we have about 60 to 70 people that are coming through about a book a month, and we are working through all of that. I am helping them put it all together. On Sunday, we have been talking about the key concepts of how to unlock the Scriptures. We have come through a number of them.

Last week, I started another one of the great concepts of the Bible that you have to understand: God has a plan. God is an ordered and a structured God. We talked about it last week, and I told you how that in the Bible you will find intertwined together three distinct plans. Those three plans are key for you understanding where you are at in your relationship with God and what God is doing. You see, God has a job for you to do. Unfortunately, most of God's people in the time and day and age that we live in never figure out that plan. The devil is fast and is always on the attack to try to get us focused on everything else but what God's plan is as a Christian.

I told you last week, in the book of Ephesians, that a great verse there talks about that in the ages to come, when you get out into eternity.

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.

Most of God's people never think past planet Earth and this life. A lot of reasons for that is because their life becomes so complicated; they have so many problems, so many issues that they have to deal with, that they really cannot get past where they are at with what they are going through. The devil works at that; he compounds that. The devil will take whatever problems you have, and let us face it, we have problems because we do not always do what the Word of God says we are supposed to do. The devil takes that, and he compounds that, and through all of that, he keeps us from ever really getting where God wants us to go and doing what God wants us to do.

Last week, we talked about the fact that God has a plan for outer space. We call it the universe. I showed you that little slide presentation, and I showed you where science is at with it and laid it all out.

I. God's Plan for the Universe (Recap)

In the next couple of weeks, as soon as Jan gets back, some of you have been bugging me for a long time. We are going to set a Friday night, and we are going to go up to Jan's. Jan has a farm up by the airport with very good dark skies. We are going to set up a huge telescope, and we are going to put in a video camera that will make that telescope about 20 times more sensitive than it is. Now, you can see, and this probably does not mean anything to most of you, but our stars are categorized by magnitude, how bright they are. If you have pretty good eyesight within the city limits, you can probably see maybe fifth, sixth, or seventh magnitude with your eye. The 200-inch Mount Palomar telescope out in California, when you look through that telescope, you can see stars that are 22 magnitudes. You take the average scope that I have, put this camera in the back, and you can see 18th magnitude with it. Now, there is a big difference between 18 and 22, but there is a big difference between 6 and 18.

We have it set up on a computer that you will just dial in. It is programmed for 70,000 to 80,000 galaxies. You just tell the computer what you want to see, and then you watch it. We are going to put it on a big TV screen, and you just dial it in and you watch it. We will cross the sky, and you will see all the stars moving out, and then it will slow down a little bit. It will get a little slower and start going slower, and all of a sudden, coming into the television screen, there will be this gigantic galaxy. We are going to, I am going to take you up that night. I am going to show you in a better way how to understand all of that. Last week was kind of an introduction, but you came away last week understanding that God has a plan for outer space. He did not make all that out there and just say, "Well, I did not have nothing else to do." He has a plan.

God is an ordered God, and God is a structured God. We were talking about that last week. If you are a visitor here this morning, you are kind of caught in the middle here because you missed the first one. You are here for the second one. So, let me make your life a little easier for you. If you are a visitor here this morning, you can go back there after church, and Rose and Scott will make sure that if a visitor wants last week's CD, we give them last week's CD and give them today's CD also. We will give you that so you can kind of get caught up where we are at. See, that is what we are all about: learning the Bible here.

We talked about that God has a plan for the universe. God's second plan is that God has a plan for Earth. We are going to talk about that today. Then God has a plan for your life and my life. I told you how they were all three connected together, even though they are separate. We have outer space, or what we know as the universe, and in that, we have planet Earth. The Earth is in the universe, and you and I live on planet Earth. So, they are all connected, but yet they are all separate. Most of God's people, as I said, never think about these things. They never really take the Scriptures and figure out what God is trying to do and God's overall plan. You are going to understand it a little better today. You are going to understand things just a little bit better today, and I hope that God gives me the ability to break it down for you.

We talked about God being an ordered God, a structured God with a plan. We examined from Scriptures God's plan for the universe. Remember, I took you back to Isaiah 9:6-7. That great passage says when Christ comes back and He establishes His millennial government, that kingdom.

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.

The Bible says in Isaiah 9, "of the increase of that government, there will be no end." It is going to go on and on and on. God has a plan.

II. God's Plan for Earth: Its Purpose

Today, we are going to look at God's plan for the Earth. Again, we are going to get a little deep, and I will do my best to break it down for you. I will do my best to explain it all. It is one of these things where if you are not real familiar with the Bible, you are probably better off just to sit back and listen and try to look all this up. If you want to get the tapes, you can go home and go through it, or if you want to come over when I get back, I will be glad to sit down and walk you through it. Come over to my home, and I will be glad to help you put it together. But this is going to be for some of you midline guys and some of you gals that are moving along here in the Bible. It is going to be a little stretching of your spiritual senses today. It is good; you will be able to put some things together.

Now, take your Bible and turn over to Isaiah 45. Come down around verse 18. While you are turning there, I will pray and ask the Lord to bless us today. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We ask You, Lord, to give us wisdom and insight into what we look at today. We love You. We thank You, Father, for all the things that You give us and what You do for us. We pray now, Father, that You will take the rest of this time. Use it for Your honor and glory. Thank You for each one here today. May their hearts be challenged with the Word of God to learn and to study and to show themselves approved. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, Isaiah 45:18 says this:

Isaiah 45:18

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

That is a definitive verse in the Bible telling you why God made planet Earth. We know in Genesis 1 the Bible says:

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

We know that. We know that the Bible says that in Genesis 1:28 that God had a plan for Adam. The Bible says He created man and woman. He put them down in the garden, and He told them to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the Earth.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

You see, that is God's plan. Did you ever stop and think for any moment of time what would have happened if Adam and Eve would not have sinned? I mean, they are down there, and they are told to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the Earth. We talked about this last week a little bit. Did you ever stop to consider what would have happened if in a thousand years there is no death, there are no wars, there is no sickness, there is painless childbirth, and everybody is just populating planet Earth? What would God have done when Earth got filled up? You see, and of course, we know now what God's original plan was. We talked about it last week, and we saw how Isaiah 9, Revelation 22, and we saw the overall plan of God as God's plan for the universe.

Now, we come down to look at the reason God created the planet Earth. Here is a great passage, and you know, in Genesis 1 and 2, you have all the details of God creating Earth and all the things that are in it. But when you look at this, you are going to find that God had a purpose for planet Earth. The Bible says He did not create it in vain. The purpose for it was to be inhabited.

Now, I do not know if you know this or not, but I touched on this last week. Turn over to Hebrews 1. We are going to do a little Bible flipping here for a few minutes to get some verses down. Now, this is a great verse, and it is a verse that most of God's people never really see and never really understand. So, it will kind of put it in perspective here for you. But Hebrews 1:1-2 says this. Now, watch it very carefully.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Do you see the word "worlds" there? It is plural. He made more than one world. It is plural. As we speak this morning, science now, because of the great technology advances that we have, for years and years and years, science had really a lot of misconceptions about outer space, about our own galaxy, because we were limited in what we could see. Because we were limited in what we could see, because all we had was earthbound telescopes, we really did not get a good perspective of things. So, they were making a lot of their conjectures based on what they could see. When they broke through the barrier and they got the first telescope up in outer space, the Hubble telescope, it really revolutionized astronomy. It did something that the earthbound telescopes could never do.

I do not know if you know it or not, but when you look through an earthbound telescope, depending on what direction you are looking at, you are looking through a lot of dirt. Dirt degrades the image, and it also limits what you can see. If you look at something from here to here in the horizon, you are looking through about 200 miles of crud, and the images will be very shaky. You will not be able to live in it. You get up higher and overhead, you are looking at about 10 to 20 miles of stuff. But when you are looking through a telescope, you want to get as high in the sky as you can so you are looking through less dirt. Worst case scenario is, when you are on planet Earth, you are always going to be limited to some degree. You say, "Well, you just get a bigger telescope." A bigger telescope just magnifies the problem more. A bigger telescope, if it has bad seeing, a bigger telescope just magnifies the bad seeing. So, the key was to get off planet Earth.

When they put the Hubble telescope into orbit, wow, it changed everything. The Hubble allowed them to look back and really, for the first time, began to understand that the universe was a lot bigger than we thought it was. They began, and I showed you the Hubble Deep Field picture last week that had over 20,000 galaxies on it. We talked about galaxies and how big they are. We put it all in perspective for you. Well, in the process of this, they now know today, as of today, and I get updated on this every month through a series of articles that I subscribe to, they now know that there are at least 300 more worlds out there, much bigger than planet Earth, that are revolving around stars that they cannot see the planet, but they know they are there. They are called exoplanets. Exo, they are outside our solar system.

Here is how they figure it out. This is how they know it is true. Now, we have all heard about eclipses, and we have all seen eclipses at one time or the other in some form or the other. You know what happens when the Earth moves in front of the sun? The sun goes dark. On planet, or the moon, when it goes through, when the moon goes in front of it, it goes dark on Earth. That is because the light is being blocked. Well, what they started doing is studying these stars, and stars out there are just like our suns. They categorize these stars in categories, and they put them in, they find stars that are like our sun, about the same size and shape. What they do is they study them, and what happens, they may be shining like that fourth magnitude, second magnitude, whatever the brightness, and all of a sudden, that magnitude dips from second magnitude all the way down to one magnitude. Now, you know why it does that? Because something just eclipsed in front of it.

So, they know now that there are at least 300, they find them like 10, 20. There is somebody somewhere in this world that sits down in a little phone booth computer and just does this. But they have now found over 300 of them that you cannot see them, but they know they are there. Science is having to redefine what they thought the universe was. They thought the universe was a lot smaller, and now they are realizing that it is a lot bigger. You know what a strange thing is? You know what they are naming these planets? Believe it or not, these are unsaved scientists who do not believe in God, do not believe in the Bible, do not believe in anything to do with anything spiritual, and yet the last two that came out, one was called Lucifer, and the other one, they named it Methuselah. What about that? I am telling you, I get these things, and it just goes to show me that no matter what an unsaved man says or he does, or a woman, you are bound by

that Bible, and you have to go by it whether you believe it or not. It is incredible. Every month I get these publications, and they are now understanding that they are catching up with the Bible. He said in Hebrews 1:2 that He created the worlds. Now science is what, 2,000 years behind the Bible? They are finding out there are a lot of different worlds out there.

The standard teaching is that that is where alien life comes from. Of course, there is no alien life. There are no creatures out in outer space that are advanced. We talked about that last week. There is demonic activity, and there are Satan's angels which counterfeit those things. We talked about that many times before, but there is no advanced civilization. The things out there are not something that has evolved and now is. It is there for what is coming. When Revelation 22 shuts down, we get on to eternity, part of God's plan. In that plan is planet Earth.

I do not know if you know it or not, but God chose planet Earth. You realize that in our own solar system, there are nine planets total. If you did not know that the Earth was unique, you would know basically by the way that it is. You know what the first planet is? The first planet is Mercury. Mercury is a very small body, and it orbits around the sun very close, 36 million miles from the sun. The side of the sun that faces Mercury is hot enough to melt lead. Mercury, because there is an inner orbit, always has the same side facing the sun. It has been called the coldest and the hottest planet. On one side that faces the sun, it is hot enough to melt lead. On the second side, the backside, it is cold enough to freeze oxygen. It is a very inhospitable place.

The next one is Venus. Venus is about 67 million miles from the sun. Years and years and years ago, Venus, because it is shrouded in clouds, they thought that that was the best chance for life to be on. But now that they have sent rockets there and they have landed some probes on it, they now know that Venus's average temperature is about 600 degrees. It is a very, very hostile place. The clouds that they saw are made up of sulfuric acid. In fact, on Venus, it actually rains sulfuric acid. It is a terrible place. It is very, very, it is not, you know, scratch that off for your vacation later. You do not want to go there. The next one, obviously, is Earth. We will put that aside for a minute, and we will come back.

The next one then is Mars. Mars, you know, Mars is the key planet. When we go out to get back to that a second, Mars is the key planet because Mars was always the one that everybody thought life would come from. You know, Orson Welles and the War of the Worlds, and we talk about Mars and little green men from Mars. You know the book, "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," you know how that thing goes. It is a thing where, you know, when they looked back at Mars back in the late 1800s and early 1900s, they actually thought they saw canals being built on Mars. I do not know if you know that or not. An Italian astronomer, a guy named Schiaparelli, he began to study it, and he began to draw it. For years and years and years, everybody thought Mars was going to be the planet where life was going to be found. They thought that, you know, Mars has polar caps, it has seasons, it has dust storms, and it has times when it is like the winter, everything is gray, and in the summer, everything gets green. So, they thought that was vegetation. They thought, sure, that they would find life on Mars. So, when they sent the first rockets to Mars, they were very disappointed. Mars is as hostile as any other planet. Mars, during the peak of its day, gets about 67 degrees like us, but at nighttime, it drops to 240 degrees below zero. There is no life on it. And the oxygen. If you landed on Mars, took your space helmet off,

your eyes would bulge out and bug up, your face would not, you would explode. The pressure is too great.

Then we move on to mighty Jupiter. Jupiter is a big old gas planet; no life there. Then we move on to Saturn. When we go out to Jan's, I will be able to show you, I think up right now is Jupiter and Saturn, and you can see some incredible detail. But Jupiter and Saturn are gigantic gas balls. There is no life there. Then we go out to Uranus, and that is way out there. It is frigid out there, absolutely freezing out there. I mean, it is like 300 degrees below zero. Their sun is so far away. Then you go to Neptune. Then you finally go to Pluto. When you look at those nine planets, you know what the striking thing is? All those nine planets, or eight of those nine planets, were named by man. They are named by man. You know what names they are given? They are given to gods' names. Mercury is the god of running. Venus is the god of love. Venus in blue. Remember that song in the 50s? Remember that, don't you? Yeah, see? Then she got her arms cut off in an accident, and she sells pencils now. Got her name on it. Venus. Anyway, Mars is the god of war. Jupiter was Thor. That is the gigantic god of the Atlas. Saturn. That is one of the gods. All the names are to God. You know what, out of the nine, eight are named by man, one named by God. Genesis 1 says God called it Earth. Man has never changed the name of Earth. They may not believe the Bible. Why did they make every other planet their own name after the gods? But when it came to Earth, they left the name that God gave it. I will tell you why, because there is a reason for Earth. God formed it, not in vain, to be inhabited. Whether man likes that or not, there is nothing he can do about it.

So, when you go through your periodic charts on a planet, you will see Mercury, Greek God, Venus, God, Mars, God. Right down the line, God. When it comes to Earth, you have the name God gave it in Genesis 1. Why? It is God's planet. God has a plan for Earth, so He did not let man mess up the name. It is just that simple. When you begin to see how this thing works, you understand God has a plan. God has a plan.

III. The Stage for Redemption

The key to planet Earth is you understand that it is the place that God chose to play out the plan of redemption of man. This is part of God's plan. I am going to show you this in a very unique way here, probably like you have never seen it before. I am going to take you through the Bible. I am not just going to give you my opinion. I am going to show you what the Bible says, and we are going to put it in the plan for you.

By now, from Isaiah 9:7, you know what the original plan of God was. The original plan of God was to have a universe of sinless beings that worshipped Him and fellowshiped with Him, that He could fellowship with. That is God's original plan. Now, I am going to show you something here. I need you, John. We need you. Take this over here. Come here, guys. You take one, and you take the other. Step back up here a little bit. Pull that out. Now, some of you have this. I got this chart about 25 years ago. It was written. It was done back in the 1950s. The guy that did it got it off another guy that did it in the 1800s. He got it off a guy that did it in the 1700s. You know what that chart is? That chart is every event in your Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I have given this to most of you. If we ever have a church building, we are going to have... I am

not done yet, guys. Stay up there. Do not follow me. I do not like people close to me. We are going to paint this this high, and it will go all the way around our church. If we ever have a church building, we are going to have somebody come in and paint that out in color. Then we are going to use it to teach all the rest of our life. That is just how I learned the Bible right here. It has got every event. Starts with Genesis 1 and writes up to Revelation 22, and every event, everything. I mean, this has got every event in history in the Bible on it. If you want to get a timeline of the Bible, you lay it out. It gives you a running commentary. It shows you every date coming down through history. It lays out the day system that we talked about, the watch system we talked about, brings you into the tribulation, brings you into the millennium, and brings you into eternity right here when Revelation 22. This thing was done in 1950. A guy got it off a guy who did it in 1800, who got it off a guy who did it in 1700. I mean, I read for you the little paragraph right here, and this was done in 1700. Just so you do not think I am just off the wall, which I am, but not on this. Let me read it for you.

God's original purpose was to populate an infinite universe with people made in His image, subject to Him as Almighty sovereign. This first trial ends in Genesis 1:2 with a rebellion of these spiritual beings and a recreation and a recommissioning for man made lower than the angels to begin the work anew. This trial ends in Genesis 3:1-13. The subsequent revelation of God or plan of God is devoted to an accurate record of God Himself becoming man to redeem a fallen creation and to absolutely ensure that God will finish to perfection His original plan.

Now, that was in 1700, which got put over into 1800, which got put over in the 1950s that I show you today in 2006. God's original plan was to have a universe full of people that would worship and fellowship with Him. God, because of the sin coming in, put a little parentheses in eternity called time. During that period of time, God formed planet Earth to be inhabited. That planet Earth would be the playing field for the redemption of man. You know what all life on planet Earth is all about. I am telling you.

Here is what the devil does. The devil tries to get you focused on everything else in this world. The devil tries to get your focus on everything off God. That is why we have science. That is why we have the arts. That is why we have all of the things that we have. None of those things are wrong in themselves. Where they become wrong is when they begin to take the place of God. Planet Earth is about one thing. If you do not get anything else out of this today, get this. Let us put it this way: this wall here is eternity past, endless going that way. This wall over here is eternity future, endless going that way. From that wall to that wall is life on planet Earth, from Genesis to Revelation, 7,000 years. During that time, God walks through the Old Testament, up through the New Testament, up through the tribulation period, up through the second coming of Christ into the millennium, and back into eternity.

God has one question for man: I have stopped eternity because I do not want to be alone in eternity. I am a God who likes fellowship and worship, and I want to invite you to come spend eternity with Me. We will have the greatest time in the world. This is the time, by the way, that Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates wrote about. This was the great utopia. What man has been trying to get to for 6,000 years. This is what the United Nations wants to bring in. This is what the ecumenical movement and the council wants to bring in. They want to bring, everybody wants to

bring peace on Earth, goodwill toward men. They keep trying to bring in the peace by man's means, and it is not going to come that way. There will be no peace on planet Earth till the Prince of Peace comes back. All this life is, ladies and gentlemen, and let me scrape off the veneer for you. All this life is on planet Earth from Genesis to Revelation, and you are caught up in it, 2006, and the last part of it. All this place is, is about God giving man a choice to go with Him. It is all about God took planet Earth and He quarantined planet Earth.

IV. The Quarantined Earth and God's Sovereignty

Now, I want to show you some verses, very important verses, and I want to lay it out for you. You know the story. In Genesis 1:1, the Bible says God created the heaven and the earth. That is sometime in a distant past. We know back then that Lucifer was not the devil. He was an anointed cherub, and he had some kind of special task that God gave him to do. We know from Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 and other numerous places that the devil was not satisfied with that. He led a revolt against God, and that threw the universe into chaos. When that universe went into chaos, everything we saw from Genesis 1, everything went into darkness, and everything went into chaos. This battle is found for you between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. You know it as the gap.

When this battle took place, it changed something. Take your Bible and turn over to Job 9. While you are turning there, let me just tell you this. The book of Job is the greatest scientific book in the Bible. The book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. You think that Genesis would be the most scientific book in the Bible, but it is not. The book of Genesis is not the oldest book in the Bible. Moses wrote Genesis, and he writes it well after Job has written it. Job probably lives around Abraham's time. Job, without a doubt, is the first book written in your Bible. Job was one of the wisest men, the smartest men that ever lived, outside of maybe Solomon. So, the book of Job is going to hold for us everything and all the secrets about the universe. I do not have time to get into it today, but wow, I am telling you what, it is an incredible book.

Look at Job 9. I want to begin reading at verse 1. Now, Job 9 is talking about the battle that took place between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. For those of you that are already into Genesis, here is an add-on verse you can go back to put back there with the gap. Now, watch this.

Job 9:1-6

Then Job answered and said, I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?

If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.

Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.

You know what Job is saying? He is saying, "Who can stand up to God?" You could not answer one question out of a thousand that God asked you. "If he will contend with him, he cannot

answer him one in a thousand. He is wise in heart and mighty in strength, who hath hardened himself against him and prospered?" That is a good verse. Now, I am going to tell you something. You need to take that verse right there and put that in the front of your Bible. Because there are going to be times in your life and my life when you think that you are going to dump God. There are going to be times in your life when you think, or maybe you have got a friend right now that is out of fellowship with God. I suggest you do not witness to him anymore. But I do suggest you take this verse and put it on a 3x5 card and just give it to him. Every Christian ought to have this in the front of their Bible, in the forefront of their mind. You know what that verse, one of the greatest verses in the Bible, it simply says this: "Who hath hardened himself against him," God, "and hath prospered?" The answer is nobody.

It is God's plan. It is God's plan. God is driving a big yellow bus around this world. That bus says, "Heaven Bound." That is a big yellow bus. It drives around every city. It drives around every country. It drives around every neighborhood. In that bus is a big loudspeaker, and somebody up there is yelling, "Get on the bus! Get on the bus! Get on the bus!" If you look closely, God is driving the bus. Nobody is stopping the bus. If you think you are going to stand in front of that bus and stop it, you are going to get run over. Nobody hardens himself against God and prospers. I do not know what to tell you. You may think you can. You may think you have. You may think you will. You may think you are an exception to the rule. Nobody hardens himself against that book and God and prospers.

Now, that is a great verse. That is not the verse I want, but I just saw it there. I thought I would talk a little while and talk to you about it. "Which removeth the mountains, and they know not. Which overturneth them in his anger." Here it comes. Verse 6, mark it. Here we go. "Which shaketh the earth out of her place." See that thing? That verse told you there the Earth just got knocked out of its place at some point in history. How about that? Take that to your science professor. That Bible says right there in that verse that God shook the Earth out of its place.

I am going to show you another one. Isaiah 13:13. There is another verse showing you the Earth knocked out of its place.

Isaiah 13:13

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Now, let me show you another one. Isaiah 66:1. Here is how it got. This is what you call comparing Scripture with Scripture to getting the answer. When you saw Job 9 back there, when you come down there and you kick the Earth out of its place, you come down to verse 6 and 7. It talked about commanding the sun not to rise and sealing up the stars. That is darkness upon the face of the deep back in Genesis 1. Now, look at Isaiah 66:1.

Isaiah 66:1

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

"Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne." That is where God sits. "And the earth is my footstool." Then during Isaiah 66, when he is talking about this, after all this happened, now we understand what the second heaven is. God's throne is up here. God fills the expanse of outer space. He is all through everywhere. Where is His foot? On Earth. Where is the Earth? It is at the bottom now. You see, there was a time in the original creation that that Earth was at the top. But when that revolt took place with Lucifer, the Earth got shook and knocked out of its place, and now it is at the bottom. You know why? God quarantined it. You know why God quarantined it? Because He did not want man's sin to contaminate outer space. So, He put it down at the bottom where man cannot see anything, and man down here professing himself to be wise becomes fools. They walk around like they know something, and they walk around with little PhDs, and they walk around with little BAs and MAs and all that other stuff. They think they really have some smarts and some brains to figure all this thing out. This Bible cost me a dollar. I think you can buy these Bibles back there for what? Four dollars? You know what? For four dollars, you can get the whole plan of God's plan for the universe. For four bucks. Four more bucks. I have to tell you, I like those burgers you sell at Hardee's for four for a buck, but you know what? It cannot beat this. It cannot beat this.

V. Heaven's Direction and True North

I do not know. Just talk about outer space for a minute. You know which way heaven is? If you had to go to heaven today, when you go, do you know how you are going? You see, most people think heaven is just a place, a figment in your mind, some spiritual place. Heaven is a real place. In a real place, you have to go a real direction to get there. Now, you know what direction heaven is? It is north. It is north. It is north.

Take your Bibles back to Job. You might know with Job. Take your Bible and turn to Job 26. Great verse. Job 26. Here is what he says. Start in verse 7.

Job 26:7-9

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it.

Watch it. Watch it. Watch it. "He hath compassed the waters with bounds, how long, Lord, until the day and night come to an end," eternity. See that thing? He just told you that He stretches out the north. There is something about north in your Bible.

Psalms 75:6-7, talking about the rapture of the church, it says:

Psalms 75:6-7

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

You see what he did? He put himself in a place of north. There is a day coming, and you and I are going to get promoted. That promotion does not come from the east. It does not come from the west. It does not come from the south. It comes from God, and He is north. He is north. He stretches out the north.

Look at Psalm 48. I will show it to you even clearer.

Psalms 48:1-2

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in verse 1 in the city of our God in the mountain of His holy." Now we are talking about heaven. See? Now, "city of our God," that is heaven. Now we are in heaven. Psalm 48:1, "great is the Lord." Amen. "And greatly to be praised. Praise the Lord in the city of our God." That is heaven. "In the mountain of His holiness." That is Hebrews 8, 9, 10, 11. "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north. The city of the great King." There it is. There it is. You want to go to heaven? You head north. You head north.

You know that you know how you find your way on planet Earth off the north. You do know there are two norths, though, don't you? There is true north and magnetic north. Magnetic north is not exactly true north. It is close, but it is no cigar. You see, the Bible says there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. It is close, but no cigar. True north. Two of them. Just like the devil imitates Christ. Two norths.

I do not know if you know this or not. 6,000 years ago, that puts us right back to Genesis 1:1. You know, Polaris is the North Star right now. It was not the North Star back then. You know that? No, it was not. You ask any scientist, you ask any astronomer, he will tell you that about 6,000 years ago, something happened to Earth's orbit that changed the position of the stars. I wonder what that was. Remember, I told you in Genesis 1, before it all went down, that Lucifer was the anointed cherub that was over all God's creation. Well, if we go out into the sky right now tonight, and I would show you the constellations, and we will do that when we go to Jan's. I will show you the North Star. I am going to show you a constellation that circles the north. You know what it is called? It is called Draco the Dragon. Draco the Dragon is found in Isaiah 27:1.

Isaiah 27:1

In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Draco the Dragon is talked about there when it talks about the crooked serpent. That is the devil. You know what the constellation Draco the Dragon was called? It is called the crooked serpent. 6,000 years ago, the pole star Polaris was not the pole star. You know what the star was? It was

Alpha Draconis, the brightest star in Draco the Dragon. When he fell, and the Earth got knocked out of its place, Alpha Draconis is no longer the pole star, the North Star, because he is no longer over God's creation. It changes, and the pole star is. We know what is Polaris today. Changed 6,000 years ago, right on line with your Bible. You know what? There are two norths. One is magnetic. You know that every compass on this Earth points to the wrong north. Now, it is good enough down here, but every compass on this Earth points to magnetic north. If you want to find true north, you have to get it off the stars. You know who made the stars? That is true north. Two norths. A lot of people in this world go to the wrong one. It looks good, but it is just off enough to keep you off course. You have to find true north. That is why He says He was the true light, the light of the name of the coming of the world. That is why He said, "I am true" all the way through there. He is true north. Two norths. The whole system falls around that concept.

Back there, you are going to find that sometime back there, when this thing all fell down, the Earth was someplace else. It got knocked out of its position. Now God has quarantined it, and He has isolated it at the bottom of the second heaven. Now we see God beginning His plan.

VI. Man's Futile Attempts to Escape God's Plan

Man has an unceasing desire to get back into outer space. Man has always dreamed. When the sons of God came down in Genesis 6, they were enthralled with the people because they had come down to them like the gods from outer space. In Genesis 11, you do not have to go to NASA and the National Space Administration to try and somebody building things to get to heaven. Back in Genesis 11, they built the Tower of Babel. You know what the Tower of Babel's purpose was? It tells you right in there if you read it. They said, "We are building this tower whose top may reach unto heaven." See? They thought they could build a literal tower. We would get them up there. Man has always tried to get up there. That is why God put it down so far.

Now, right now, we have a little space program. You know, back in the 70s now, they sent out a space probe. I think it was called Pioneer 1. Pioneer 1 was launched in 1969, 1968. Pioneer 1 was going to travel through our solar system. It did some scientific stuff. But it was going to move on out into outer space. I remember reading an article, and it said, "45,000 centuries from now, it will enter the constellation, the Pleiades," or whatever it was. 45,000 centuries. Now, you know what? When they sent that probe out there, you know what they did? They knew they wanted it to be some kind of a time capsule. You know what they did? It is still traveling out there. It is still moving out there. Oh, you wait until we go to Jan's. I will show you some things moving up there. I will show you some things that put the hair on the back of your neck. I mean, you can laugh at me and think I am not so alive. You stand there and watch it on the TV screen. It is another whole story. I will show you some things. This thing is still moving out there.

You know what they did? They put in there a little bronze plaque. That little bronze plaque was in there so they thought that when millions of centuries from now, when alien life would bump into it, you know, and they would find it, they would see the plaque. It had a picture of a man and a woman and a child holding hands, in all of the body shapes, symbolizing that we are humanoid. It had a position mathematically, because math is the universal language. That is why two and

two is six on Mars. But anyway, they put a formula on it that showed Earth's position from the sun. In other words, it was kind of like a hello, here we are. Then they put in one of our New York Times newspapers. They put in some of our culture music. That time it was the Beatles. Put in some of our money. Now, what alien on his right mind? I mean, he would get that thing. He would look at this and that. He would put that, put the music on. He would come back to the other scientist on the alien planet and say, "There is no intelligent life on that planet." Can't you see all the aliens going on? It was a hard day's night walking down the thing. Oh man. They put some Elvis Presley stuff in it, but the aliens cannot wear blue suede shoes because they have nine toes, so that will not work. But that is what they did. That thing is traveling out there. It is going and going and going, because man thinks someday somebody is going to find it. Hey, when the rapture takes place, I am going to bypass that thing, kick it as I go by, brother, and I am on my way. See? I am telling you. But man has this insatiable desire to get back out in outer space. Why? Because he wants to get up there, and God says, "You are not going to get Earth." That is why our space program will never go anywhere. Oh, we got to the moon. Oh yeah, we got to the moon. Big deal. Yeah. And what they found on the moon? Beer cans and cigarette butts. Big deal. I mean, you know, I mean the moon. Wow. Big deal.

You know what? But when they send those rockets up, notice they are all called Atlas. They are all called Jupiter, Saturn V. When a case space capital, their Apollo, their Gemini, their Mercury, their type, all named after the gods. See? They are all trying to get back where the Tower of Babel made a tower. Our rocket tower is down at Cape Kennedy or Cape Canaveral. That is where they send it up. I mean, you know what? It just drives me nuts. People get upset when you go to church someplace. I have to tell you, you cannot get up. You guys are a little mundane for me. You have to get into a little bit more. I have been into some churches, man, where they run the bases. They scare you to death. I mean, somebody says something that turns them on. They are laughing the place, man. I mean, they really, they really enjoy what they have. But you know why you guys do not get freer? I will tell you why you do not get freer. Because you are afraid people are going to think you are nuts. See? You kind of hold it back a little bit. I do not hold anything back. I preach the way I am. Absolutely insane. I mean, I just let it all out. You do not like it. I do not know what to tell you. I mean, the bottom line is when I go to heaven, you go to hell, it will not make any difference anyhow. So, what is the point? But I am going to enjoy it. I am going to know I am enjoying it because you are sitting back there, and you are miserable. I just want you to know you get saved. You do not have to be miserable anymore. But you sit back there. Some of you people, and you get intimidated. And yet, if you go down to the Chiefs stadium, when they worship down there on Sundays. I mean, that place is sound. Everybody gets up and gets excited. You see, I do not have a problem with it. I like the Chiefs, and I like watching them. I watch them every time I go. I am saying they get excited about what gets them excited. I get excited about mine. You know what you say? I do not want somebody to think I am a fanatic. You know what the word "fan" comes from? From the word "fanatic." Spell it sometime. Cannot use the Royals because nobody goes to those games anymore. Somebody the other day, my neighbor had called. My neighbor is out there. He says, "Oh, man, you see buddy around my house to my car the other night?" I said, "No, I didn't." He says, "Man, you know what? He says I had six choice seats to the Royals. Somebody gave me, and I left them on a seat

of my car when I went into the house, and somebody broke in my car last night, threw two more in." Anyway.

But you ever go to a NASCAR race? They go nuts. Go crazy. Okay. But you see, if you go nuts and go crazy, that is the way it is. You ever see down at one of the launching down there? I mean, they are all sitting down there throwing little church pews, and they are all watching a little council, little things. That rocket goes up, and they are sitting there. I watch them. I watch them down there. "Go, baby! Go, baby! Yeah, yeah, yeah!" He is screaming. That is what their interest is. You say, see, it is all right for them to do it. But you think you are a fanatic if you get excited about all they look at you like you are something wrong with you get excited about God. Hey, I am telling you, I am telling you when the birth of the space age came, trips to the moon, missions to Mars. You know, in the next 30, 40 years, they are going to try to get a mission to Mars. You know what? There is one problem they have that they will never get a mission to Mars. That is the fact that the radiation out in outer space, they do not know what to do with it. If you took off your spacesuit out in space, you would fry, and you would freeze to death at the same time. The radiation is so intense, and they do not, they call it, they do not know where it comes from for sure. But there is an intense radiation that nothing shields it. That is why they have to wear these spacesuits. It is okay if you are going to the moon for three or four days, but you get out in outer space where the radiation deepens and goes. Let me tell you something. That is the beautiful thing about Earth. All these other planets are bombarded with cosmic radiation that would fry you in a second.

You know, the Earth is at the exact angle. You know why it gets cold in the winter and hot in the summer? People think we get closer to the sun in the summer and farther away in the winter. No, not that at all. It is the angle. It is not the distance. It is the angle. The angle changes. You realize that if the Earth's angle was just off a half a degree, we would all freeze to death. If the Earth's angle was just off a half a degree the other way, we would all fry to death. God fixed that thing right. You know why you do not have to worry about the cosmic rays coming down? Because God filled in our atmosphere that He filtered it out. You know why? God had a plan for it. He did not create it in vain. The other ones He created in vain. This one He created to be inhabited. He made it just right. Temperature, oxygen, everything is perfect. Everything is just the way. If anybody would show you that there is not something special about this one, then the other ones? Well, you are crazy. You are not going to give me evolution while they are set. If you ever look at the other planets, they are all different stages of evolution. None of them closed off. Yet science will tell you, they all evolved about the same time that we did. How come here and not there? How come in planet Earth they say, "Here we are." When you go to Mars, they scratch their head and say, "Well, Mars was once this, and it died." But then they will tell you in the same breath, "But they all evolved about the same time." Whoa! Whoa! No, there is only one answer. Isaiah 45. That is the only answer. You can do whatever you want to do with it. But the bottom line is God fixed planet Earth and quarantined it for the redemption of man before eternity starts up. He is driving the bus, saying, "You want to go or you want to stay home?" And home is not very good. But that is where it is at.

You see, when I lay out this plan, when I lay out this plan of populating outer space, when I tell you that God has got a plan, Isaiah 9:7, that He is going to populate outer space. This thing right now, and there are a lot of details we are not talking about today, but the plan is very clear. When I lay that out, there are people who say, "Well, he is a kook. Well, he is a heretic. Well, he is this and he is that." But when NASA says, "We are going to colonize the universe," when NASA sends up the rocket in a probe, so someday we can populate outer space. Because NASA is telling you right now, "We better find something else to do because in 20 million years, the sun, as you know it, is going to supernova, and it is all going to be crispy fried chicken." The Earth is going to be a cinder. Everybody on planet Earth knows that someday, if it keeps going where it is going, Earth is going to be overpopulated. You ladies are killing the ozone layer with your hairspray. Pretty soon, Earth is going to be just like all the other planets. It will not be raining sulfuric acid. It will be Chanel No. 5. But it will be eating everything up. So, they know they have to find some kind of alternative. I have heard them say it. If man as civilization as we know it is going to survive. You see, when they lay it out, it is a scientific deal. When I lay it out, you think I am nuts. You are on the wrong bus.

VII. The Purpose of Earth: Redemption and Choice

God has a plan. God has a plan. He has a plan for the universe, and He has a plan for Earth. God's plan for the Earth is to work out the redemption plan. The devil's main thrust in his life is to get your mind off of that plan. My job in life is to tell you in very simplistic terms, God has a plan. It is put on hold right now while God is enacting the plan on Earth. He wants you to be saved. He wants to redeem man. He wants to save you because He wants you to choose to spend an eternity. But He is going whether you go or not. That is why in Matthew 25:40, when you read that great passage on hell, the Bible says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:40

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

God never prepared hell for you and for me. You will never find one place in that Bible where God ever sends a man or a woman to hell. God does not want you there. He never intended you to be there. He did not make it for you in the first place. He made it for the devil and his angels. But just like God wants fellowship in His eternity, the devil wants fellowship in his. See how easy it is? You have a choice. Decide going to heaven, decide going to hell. It is a choice. There is an eternity. God is going to spend it doing His thing, and the devil is going to spend it doing his. God wants people like me, people like you, to tell everybody about God's plan. The devil wants to use every glittering thing in this world. He wants to use everything to get your mind off of the truth of God, the truth of God's plan, to think that life on planet Earth is really evolving. That it is really something great. That it is really going somewhere. That man is getting better. We are living longer. We are going to kill more people as we do it. We are doing all these great strides, all these great scientific... And at the end of the day, you still die and go to hell. What is the point? What is the point?

The point is that is what the devil's thrust is. He wants to get young men and young ladies to look at their careers more than they think of what God wants them to do. He wants to get people in their senior citizen years to think about everything else except God. He wants to get middle-aged people to get focused on a career and everything else, making all kinds of money, having all kinds of stuff, and just blinding them with the fact that there is an eternity coming, and this old Earth is going to be a cinder. It is going to be over. God has got a plan, and He loves you and He loves me enough to come down and, as the Bible said, to die for a man that you and I could go with Him.

You see, nobody wants somebody to love them because they are forced to. You do not want to meet the most gorgeous gal you ever saw in your life, and she has nothing to do with you. So, you know what? You find this magic pill that if you give her a pill every week, she will fall in love with you. Kind of like "Love Potion Number Nine." Remember that song? Being her old 50s song, we know them all. Sometimes you get a few beers in her, she really starts singing them out. Just kidding. She gave up drinking at least a week ago. She is drunk, but she is not drunk enough. She is drunk enough on spirit, are not you, honey? You did not stop drinking when you got saved, you just changed bottles. That is right. So, you would not want that. You know, you have to give her a pill every week, or she falls out of love with you. Nobody wants that. You want somebody to love you because they have chosen to love you. You do not want to force, you want people to take, you want somebody to love you for who you are. Now, I know people pretend different things, and we all have our little pretend boats, but the bottom line is, God wants you to love Him because you choose to. God will take you the way you are. He does not expect you to get good before you get saved. He expects you to get saved and then get good. He will take you the way you are.

Some people say, "Well, I just cannot get saved because my past is terrible." God does not care about your past. He cares about your presence and your future. He knew how terrible your past was. That is why He came down and died. You know, God made a way to forgive you all your sins. I preached one time, and a little lady came up to me, and she said, "Father Alexander," she says, and this lady was something else, you know? You know how some people, she would always come up and have the people sign her Bibles that preach. You know how people do that? You sign my Bible, and you put your name in with your favorite verse. Well, this lady, she said, she came up to me and said, "Would you sign my Bible?" And I said, "Sure." She gave me a pencil. And I said, I put my pen. She said, "I use my pencil." And I said, "Okay." I said, she says, "I always have them sign a pencil. That way if you screw up, I erase your name." I loved her, man. I just loved her. She came up to me and she said, "Now, you preached something tonight." She says, "I do not credit read with." I said, "What is that?" She says, she says, "You said God, when you got saved, God saved you for all the sins, even the ones you have not committed yet." I said, "That is right." She says, "How could God save me for my sins I have not even committed yet?" I said, "Well, honey, when He died on the cross, He saved you for all your sins. You were not even born yet." See, people get weird ideas. He forgives you. He does not care what you have done.

His plan on planet Earth right now, my job, I have two jobs. I wear two hats, and everybody out there does. My job is to tell everybody I can that the big yellow bus is pulling up out front. Get on the bus. Get on the one that says God. See, and the other thing is, hey, look, you need to understand that once you are saved, God has something He wants you to do. We are going to get into that next week. The third part of the plan is how you fit into this. We saw the universe and how it lays out. We saw now the Earth, where it is at, and that it is the redemption plan of God for man. He is isolated. He is quarantined it. He has already told you that God has masked out. We saw it in Isaiah and Job. He has masked out His glory. Why, if God would strip away that masking, the whole universe would light up. But God has hidden it because the Earth is quarantined right now that God is not going to let man get out of outer space. He is not going to let him bring his sin out. He put him so far out of touch that man just now with a great Hubble telescope can only see the just the nth degree of eternity and begin to try to put it together. I do not need a telescope. I have a Bible that lays it out totally and completely. I am telling you, He has got a plan for the universe. He has got a plan for this Earth. That is what every man has been looking for. A place. God has got a place that right now there is so much hurt. There is so much, there is death. There is saying goodbye to your loved ones. There is sin. There are broken homes. There are cancer wards. There are heart attacks. There are strokes. There is war. There are all kinds of drugs and politics and ungodliness going on all over the place. God is going to put an end to it. It is going to be a perfect place where all you do is fellowship with God in a perfect environment.

You know, heaven means different things to different people. But I have to tell you, heaven to me. See, when you get saved and you learn to love God, and we never learn to love God the way we should. But when you get saved and God gets a hold of your heart, you come to the point that I have told you this many, many times. The more you get into that book, and that is why the price of learning is repetition. That is why we keep going over it. That is why I was talking to John, Shelly's husband here this morning for church. We were talking about him and John Christensen were talking about how that they have gotten a deeper understanding and a relationship and a word of God because of some of the things we do. I told him, I said, "You know what? The only way you learn the Bible, the only way you learn the Bible is to have a challenge in the Word of God. That you have to keep stepping up." That is where pastors fail today. That is where churches fail today. Nobody is challenging their people. You know why? Because the pastors are not challenged. They are in it for a living. Most pastors do the pastorate because that is the way they make their living. I do not do it because I make a living. I do it because it is my life. That is what my life is. My life is to tell you that there is a big yellow bus out there and to show you, you need to get on it because we are going to a place where God has the most. I do not have time this morning to tell you how beautiful and it is and it is a perfect place. For me, for me, for me. It is a place where my fellowship with God will never be interrupted again. I get so sick of myself sometimes. I get so sick of being distracted by the stupid little things of life. I get so sick of trying to have a relationship with God when the things of this world just keep pulling at you. I am telling you, man, you are going to be in a place where your fellowship with God will never be interrupted again.

I am going to tell you something else. You will be in a place where whatever you say, whatever you think, whatever you do, will just be pleasing, just the way He wants it to. I mean, you get any better than that for a Christian because my desire is to please Him. My desire is to put my life aside and to understand that there is a plan. God had a plan for the universe. God has a plan for the Earth. On that Earth, next week, God has a plan for you and me. The devil's job is to get me to miss it. The devil's job is to get somebody to die and go to hell because you think that his life is where it is at. If you get saved, then the devil's job is to get you, a child of God, not to know these plans. Think that going to church and being a Christian is just like some little rat in a little maze with a little piece of cheese at the end that you smell your way through the obstacles till you find it. No, my friend, God is an ordered God. He is a structured God, and God has a plan. In that plan is an overall three-part process. God made that universe. He made it vast. Then He stopped it. From eternity past to eternity future, He put a little parentheses called time. In that little parentheses, He put Earth. He formed it to be inhabited, not in vain. But on that little planet, God was going to interact and lay out to man the redemption that God wanted to restore that fallen image. Because before God can move up into eternity, the sin question has to be answered. God answered it all the way back in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John when He came down and died. When He died on that cross, He fixed for time and eternity that no unsaved woman or no unsaved man would ever step out into eternity with God. He fixed it. A righteous, perfect man dying for a sinner like me. When He died on the cross, He fixed it only one way. Narrow is the way, and straight is the gate. One way. Many pass to destruction, but one way. There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. One way. That one way is through the Lord Jesus Christ, and God all through history. Forget about English history. Forget about Russian history. Forget about American history. Forget about the French Revolution. Forget about the Taiwanese uprising. Forget about all of that stuff. Look at it just like this. God came to Earth, and throughout history, through men and through women, He said to other men and women, "Hey, look, I have a plan, and I want you to go. Do not get caught up in life down here. Do not think that this is what life really is. Do not get so bought into this little period of time that you are going to live that you miss what eternity has got. Do not get so focused on what you have and what you want to do that you forget what I have got and what I am doing." That is the answer. That is the answer.

Last week, we saw God's plan for the universe. Now today, you got the second installment. You understand God's plan for Earth, the plan of redemption. Next week, I am going to show you how in the Old Testament and New Testament God takes men. You will know next week better to equip yourself with the Word of God and what your part of the plan is. Every head bowed and every eye closed. Now, maybe you are here today, and this is the plan.