

### I. The Importance of Balanced Bible Study

Today we are going to roll back into our doctrinal series. As you should be well aware of by now, I have been trying to give you a really good balance in what we do on Sunday morning. I found in my own life, as I was growing up in the Word of God and learning the Bible, that you never want to do the same thing all the time in the Bible. I know that we think the Bible is a supernatural book, and it certainly is. I know that we think the Bible is God's infallible, absolute book, and it certainly is. One of the things sometimes I think we forget is the fact that we are still human.

I have learned, there is a great verse in the book of Proverbs, I cannot pull it right here off the top of my head, but the beginning of it says:

*Proverbs 27:7*

*The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.*

Now, this sounds terrible coming from a preacher, it sounds even worse coming from me, but you can study the Bible too much. I know you can hardly grasp that. Let me say this, none of you are in danger of that at this point in your life. I guess I needed to promise that. You can get so much of the Bible in you, I think the phrase is, you become so heavenly minded you become no earthly good. It is a thing where you have to have balance in your life.

If you take somebody that studies doctrine all of their lives and all they go after is the deep things of their life, they are going to know a lot about the Bible as far as all of the great prophetic stuff, but their daily life is probably going to be a shambles because they do not ever get any practical application. If you take a guy or a gal that studies the practical all the time and never gets into the doctrine, they are going to have a lot of great practical stuff about the Bible, but their doctrine is not going to be very well and they are susceptible of getting caught up in some kind of bad teaching.

I have a great example. Joe and Kyle told me this morning that they found Arthur Pink's books all on the internet. Arthur W. Pink is a great Bible expositor. He lived around the turn of the century. I remember still to this day as a young Christian cutting my teeth on his book, Gleaning in Genesis, Gleaning in Exodus, and his book on Gleaning in Joshua. I will never forget, I found some of the greatest sermons that I still preach today, and certainly I have notes in my Bible that he taught me. I have never read anybody who takes the stories in the Bible and breaks them down into a practical level that is just incredible, better than Arthur W. Pink.

But the problem is that when you get it, he wrote some great books and then he wrote a book called *The Sovereignty of God*. Every book he wrote after *The Sovereignty of God* is worthless. Do you know why it is worthless? Because Arthur W. Pink became a Calvinist. Remember we talked about Calvinism a couple of weeks ago? So you have to be careful with Pink's books. Anything up to *The Sovereignty of God* is good, anything after *The Sovereignty of God* is terrible.

Do you know why a man like Pink got messed up in Calvinism? Because he never spent any time studying doctrine. He has some of the greatest practical stuff you will ever get. But you will not find one shred of the second coming of Christ, the tribulation period, the judgment of the nations, or you will not find one doctrinal shred in anything that he writes. Practical? Oh, if you want devotional stuff for your life, applying it to your life every day, nothing is better. Doctrinal? Nothing is there.

I say all that to say this: as you grow spiritually and I help you get to the place in your life that you grow spiritually, you need to understand that it has to be a balance. I cannot just give you the practical stuff all the time. I have got to balance it out with the doctrinal stuff. You will notice on Sunday morning I will go for maybe a couple of series in the doctrinal, then I will switch back over and clean your clocks in the practical. It balances you out. That is what you have to do.

We just finished a great series, not because I preached it, but because it is taught in the Bible. We just finished a great series on the practical: "The Seven Things That Changed the Day You Got Saved." Those things now ought to be absolutely ingrained in your mind, ingrained in your concepts. You now know the seven things that changed about you instantaneously the day you trusted Christ as your personal Savior. They all have to do with the inward of your life and the outward then of the practical of how you apply it to your life.

## II. The Primacy of Doctrine

Today we are going to change that format. Now that we have finished that, we are going down deep. We are going to go down deep and we are going to see another major piece of your Bible, and this is going to help you put some things together. I have said it many, many times and I will say it again today, and probably say it every chance I get, how important it is for you to learn doctrine.

Doctrine is nothing more than what your Bible is really all about. Doctrine is what God really intended when He wrote the Bible. Doctrine is the big picture of what God is doing from Genesis to Revelation. The practical will be how you and I fit into that and what our little job may be that God has called us to do. But the doctrinal will be all of the concepts from Genesis to Revelation and what God is doing.

That is why in 2 Timothy 3:16, I say it to you again, the greatest verse in the Bible on doctrine says:

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The Bible says that when you get those four concepts together, starting with doctrine and then bringing on down through, the Bible says that those things make you perfect as far as the work of God is concerned. He says that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for

doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect. Now, not sinlessly perfect, perfect in the aspect of ready to do God's work. Then he goes on and he says, "thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

I love the words there, "thoroughly furnished," "thoroughly furnished." If you know anything about the doctrine, and this is a great lesson on doctrine, this is why it is so important. This is why it is so important to stick with the King James Bible. If you had any other Bible in the world today and you read that passage in 2 Timothy 3:16, it would not say "thoroughly furnished." Do you know what it would say? It would say "thoroughly equipped." That is what they do. Because the guy that translated it thinks that there is no difference between the Bibles and there is nothing special about the way God wrote the King James Bible.

But I want you to notice how that "thoroughly furnished" protects the great doctrine of the Bible. Because your perfection, remember I told you last week, you have two concepts in the Bible, inward and outward. God's will, God's plan was you have to be inward something for God before you have to be outward something for God. Remember all of that? That is why it uses the word "thoroughly." Because when you get perfected by doctrine, it starts from going inside you, through you, and then out of you. "Thoroughly" is completely the wrong word. You just switch one little "O" and you have a different word.

Then the word "furnished" versus the word "equipped." The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19 that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God. Do you know what that Bible says your body is likened to? A temple. You go back to the book of Exodus, you study back there in Exodus 15, 16, 17, and up through 20, you find the temple. Do you know what that temple had in it? That temple is a picture of your body. Do you know what that temple had in it? It had furnishings. It had a table. It had a candlestick. It had bread. It had a censer. It had a sacrificial altar and it had a holy of holies. It was a room, a building that had furnishings in it, and those furnishings represent your relationship with God.

Do you see how the Bible always protects its doctrine? To put the word "thoroughly equipped" is absolutely ludicrous when it comes to the Word of God. It is "thoroughly" inside you "furnished" unto all good works. It is the furnishings that I am working on. When you got saved, seven things happened to you the day you got saved, you became a new creature in Christ Jesus. When you became a new creature in Christ Jesus, you now become God's temple.

Do you know what my job is? My job is to help you furnish that temple. My job is not to equip you. My job is to furnish you. If I furnish you, that is inward. You will be equipped. That is outward. That is the problem today. Pastors, why do we equip people before they furnish people? I want to show you what the showbread table and the showbread represent in your life. I want to show you what the brazen laver represents. I want to show you what the seven-pronged candlestick represents in your life. I want to show you what the altar of incense represents in your life. Those are the furnishings that equip you and perfect you that when you do what God wants you to do, you are ready for the ministry. That is how it works.

### III. God's Systematic Theology vs. Man's

So far in our doctrinal study, we have come through a number of things. We have been moving back and forth because balance is the key. Today we are going to go deep. We are going down where the whales live. We have talked about the seven laws, and I laid all those out for you. We talked about the seven great awakenings of the Holy Spirit of God moving across the United States. We talked about the seven counterfeits that the devil brought up to counter those seven great awakenings. We talked about the seven mysteries in the Bible. We talked about the seven baptisms in the Bible. I showed you that the reason why God has put it in a series of sevens is because this is God's systematic theology.

There are all kinds of systematic theology. If you would go to Bible college someplace or a seminary, they would take you through a seminary theology course that would be probably based on a guy by the name of Shafer. Shafer wrote a series of books, and every kid in the world that went to Bible college wanted to get a copy of Shafer's systematic theology. I had a copy of Shafer's systematic theology, and I can tell you this, the best thing it was good for, if you put three of the books together, it would stop a .22 bullet, four of them would stop a .38, and five or six of them would stop a .45. That is all the good they are because Shafer's systematic theology has nothing to do with God's systematic theology. It is man versus God, and you want to get what God has got. Shafer's systematic theology equipped you. God's systematic theology furnishes you, and that is what you want.

I began to show you how that when you take these seven series, the seven laws, the seven mysteries, all the different aspects, you start to see the doctrines begin to crisscross. You will get all the doctrines going this way through one study, and then you will find them coming back again from another angle this way, and then you will find them coming back in another study this way from another angle. What you have when you are done is what I call the safety net of good Bible doctrine that keeps you from falling and catches you so you do not fall in the bad teaching and the bad doctrine.

If every pastor in America would begin to teach the systematic theology of God versus systematic theology of man, there would not be any heresy in the church. There would not be any church Christians that are confused on anything. Somebody would have an understanding of where they are at. That is the difference between the old Christianity and what we have got today. Back at the turn of the century, this stuff was Bible 101. Today you teach it and they look at you like you are three or four hours. Do you know why? Because they have lost the concept of God's systematic theology, and they have supplanted it with Shafer's systematic folly and 100,000 others that are out there.

#### IV. The Seven Judgments: An Introduction

Today I want to begin and bring you into a study of the seven judgments. I want to show you how this thing works, and I am going to show you how they are found in the Word of God. I am going to show you how you pull them together in your life to help you better understand the Word of God and better understand where you are at in your own personal relationship with God.

Let us pray. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Lord, we love you today, and I thank you for all that you have done for us, for what you have given us. We pray now, Father, that you will open up our hearts for truth today, that you will bless us in everything that is said and done, that you will have the honor and glory, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name. For His sake we ask it. Amen.

I do not know who all of you are here today or what you believe. You are going to run into people, and many of you do because we talk about it all week long, that you talk about God and you talk about it, and they come from all different various forms and walks. You know that. But I want to tell you, there is one thing that most people have in common. I do not care if you are a Buddhist, I do not care if you are a Taoist, I do not care what you are in. If you are somebody who believes in religion in some way, shape or form, or at some point you are going to run into some of these people, everybody has one thing in common. Every religion on the face of this planet today believes in one way or the other, in one form or another, of one last judgment.

Everybody thinks and knows, and they may all be a little different, they may all vary a little bit, but I never met any man who professed to believe in whatever religion he believed in that did not have to come down at the end of the day and know that someday, someplace, somehow, somewhere, it all had to wind up. We have to stand, somebody had to stand before whoever. Now the conservative people, what we call Christians, they think of God. Somebody else talks about the higher being, higher power. If you are a Brahman, it is the Brahman, the universe. If you are a Hindu, if you are a Muslim, it is Allah, it is whatever. But everybody comes to one conclusion, whether they are wrong or they are right, everybody gets the concept that someday you are going to have to be judged and give an account for whatever you did.

That is just one of those standard things. People have all kinds of ideas. The normal thing is that this, and I have heard this all my life, I heard guys say, "When you die and you get up to God, do you know what He is going to do? He is going to have a big set of scales up there. He is going to put all your good works in this side and all your bad works in this side. If your good works outweigh your bad works, then you go to heaven. If your bad works outweigh your good works, then you go to hell." I guess if you balance out in the middle someplace, you go to purgatory or limbo or Topeka, Kansas. I do not know. But a great judgment is a picture of all kinds, and people have all kinds of ideas.

I told you last week about my little helmet story, and about my, and I have enjoyed over the years. Every time I would find in the Kansas City area where they would have a reunion of guys that were World War II, I would go down and I would just talk with them. I would just sit down and ask them questions. I would find out around my area, wherever I was going, where the Medal of Honor winners lived. I met some incredible Medal of Honor winners from World War II. I met a guy up in Illinois one time by the name of Bobby Dunlap. Bobby Dunlap was one of the most courageous men. I remember, I will never forget, I walked into his house and he invited me over. A friend of mine knew him and got me an invitation to go over. I will never forget going in. I was all excited all day long. I loved talking to these guys.

I walked into his house and I could not believe it. There on the wall was a picture of him as a young Marine Corps captain. He won it on Iwo Jima, a young Marine Corps captain. There was Harry Truman putting the Congressional Medal on around his neck. I looked right next to it, and there was his rifle hanging on the wall. The exact same rifle, it was a Johnson semi-automatic rifle. There it was hanging up on the wall. Then right next to it was his old cartridge belt with his canteen. I thought, "Wow." Then right next to it was a framed Congressional Medal of Honor.

I sat down with him and I said, "Mr. Dunlap?" I had already read up on Bobby Dunlap because I knew where he was going. I had several volumes on the winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor that told everything that they did. I already knew. But I sat down and they all did the same thing. I said, "Mr. Dunlap, could you tell me how did you win the..." And he said, "Oh, it was really nothing. I do not know why they gave it to me." I knew why he got it. I knew how he got it. Do you know how he got it? He was wounded six times on Iwo Jima. He was out there 400 yards from his own troops, 300 yards away. He played dead for two days while he was on the phone calling in artillery strikes on the Japanese position for two days, wounded six times. Finally when they beat him back, there were two Banzai charges that came over him, and he played dead and they walked right over him, did not even know he was still alive, and he picked up that phone in the back and called more artillery on them. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I remember talking to those guys. I remember a while back I met the surviving crew of the Memphis Belle. Most of you do not even know who the Memphis Belle is. It is a B-17 that was made public. In fact, they made a movie about it. I met the survivors one time, a group of survivors of the USS Indianapolis. That is one that was carrying the atom bomb over Tinian, dropped the bomb off, was a secret mission, came back, got torpedoed. 2,100 men went into the sea. 400 came out. Do you know who got the rest? The sharks. The mission was so secret that they were not even missed for four days. They spent like eight or nine days. You ought to hear those old boys tell the stories of staying up, kicking, keeping their sharks away. And the screams in the night as the sharks would come up and get one of their buddies. Incredible stuff.

I used to sit down with those guys. I remember one time, it was down at the old airport. They had a reunion. This had been many years ago. They had a reunion of the Marine Corps Battalion that fought on Guadalcanal. I was there. I remember telling this guy and talking to these guys, and they were telling me their stories. I remember I looked over there and there was a banner. I will never forget it. Do you know what that banner said? War is a terrible thing. I guess if there is anything that gets you as close to what hell must be, it is probably war on this earth. But I will tell you something. This guy said to me, "Do you see that banner up there?" And I said, "Yeah."

I began to talk to him about the Lord because I always got to that point sooner or later. You cannot be a guy living in the ocean for eight days with sharks rolling a dice on who they are going to eat and not think about God. I saw Jaws one time, never have been in the ocean since, and still pray before I go to bed that a shark will not get me. You get me down by the ocean, you will never get me in the water. I may go up, put my foot into it, but you are not getting me in. You say, "We just come up to here." Ninety percent of shark attacks are in water up to your knees. I am not going.

I would talk to those guys. I began to talk to that old Marine from Guadalcanal. Do you know what he said? Put into a banner back there. Do you know what the banner said? It said: "And when I get to heaven, to Saint Peter, I will tell. Another Marine reporting, sir, I spent my time in hell." He looked at me when I began to witness to him and he said, "I never have to worry about going to hell." He said, "When I was in World War II, that was my hell." He says, "I want you to know, I do not care whatever I have done the rest of my life. People never have to worry about going to hell because I served my time in hell on that Guadalcanal Island, in the Solomon Islands."

People have some weird ideas. I grant you, war is probably as close as you get to dying and going to hell, but it is not hell. I told you last week about Audie Murphy. When Audie Murphy came back from all that mess over there, he wrote a book called *To Hell and Back*. They made a movie about it, *To Hell and Back*. Well, I have news for you, Mr. Murphy. You do not go to hell and come back. But that is how they view it. They think their judgment was in that war.

I have to say something to you. War is God's judgment on sin in this life right now because of the curse. Hell is God's judgment on sin in the life hereafter. That is how it works. But they do not get it. That old boy said, "Oh no, I spent my time in hell." They think, "Oh, I have been there." We have this idea that when you do good works, God equates that. I heard when 9/11 took place, it was a terrible thing. But we get the idea that if you die trying to help somebody else, all the firemen and all the policemen that rushed into those buildings, with the good intentions to try to get people out because they were doing good deeds, I heard one priest say that when that building collapsed and killed all those poor people in there, all those police and all those firemen, I heard a guy say that they are assured of going to heaven because the Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Now that is the mindset.

We get into war and we think that God is on our side while the other guy thinks God is on his side. I heard President Bush talk about the fact that in the war on terrorism, God is on our side. Do you know what the Muslims are saying? They think Allah is on their side. I heard President Roosevelt. I heard General Patton. I heard those guys in World War II. They talked about God being on their side. With the Battle of Bastogne in World War II, the 101st Airborne was trapped in Bastogne. I have been in Bastogne. I was there for one of their anniversaries. I talked to those guys. They were down there in Bastogne, and they were encircled by the 6th SS Panzer Division, and they were trapped and they were being murdered. Do you know what General Patton did? The weather was terrible. He was trying to get his troops. They could not get any air cover, and they were, do you know what he did? He called in a chaplain. Told that chaplain and said, "I need a prayer. I need a weather prayer." He says, "God is on our side. You write me a prayer in an hour, and if you are in with God as good as I am, you will get good weather." That chaplain brought back the prayer. Guess what? Next day, clear skies. He gave the guy a medal.

They thought in World War II because we are a democracy. We stand up for the little guy. We must be the good guys, therefore God is on our side. Do you know what the Germans in World War II thought? They thought God was on their side. Have you ever seen a Wehrmacht infantry soldier on his belt buckle? Do you know what it says? It says, "God is with us." They believed God was on their side. We believe God is on our side. We have all kinds of weird ideas about it.

We think that when we get that great judgment that if you did good things, you are okay. If you did bad things, you are in trouble. We think of people who give to noble causes. We think people who give lots of money to needy causes.

It would be, you would get yourself killed in this town if you ever got up publicly and made the statement of Ewing Kauffman dying and going to hell. Now, I do not know if he did or he did not. But Ewing Kauffman is one of the greatest men that this city has ever had. He has done so much for so many people, and people look at that goodness that he does and equates that with godliness. If you would get up and say, "Well, Ewing Kauffman could have went to," they would have lynched you in this town. Now I do not know if he went to heaven or he went to hell. That is not for me. I do not know anything about the guy. But I do know this: if he went to heaven, if he got in heaven, he did not get there by giving a lot of good things to people. I know that for a fact. Now whether he wound up there or not, I do not know. But I am telling you, we have to look at people with noble causes.

Even the Crusades in the 10th, 11th, 12th century, the Roman Catholic Church said, "You go out and fight those Muslims. Anybody that dies will go to heaven just like that." Do you know what the Muslims were saying? They were saying, "You go out and fight those Catholics over there, and if you die, Allah will give you 20 young virgins." Muslims got the better deal as far as I am concerned. They thought God was on their side. The Crusaders thought he was on their side. Good causes do not get it done.

So you see, when you start to look at judgment in the Bible, it can get real complicated real quick, or at least it appears to. The truth of the matter is, there is not one judgment in your Bible. There are seven judgments in your Bible. When you understand how these seven judgments lay themselves out, you begin to put it together and grasp it that you begin to understand what God is doing, and that is how your Bible comes together. I told you earlier, we are going to go deep today. I will explain it as good as I can. I will break it down for you like I had to break it down. There is nobody in here any dumber than I am. Most of you are smarter than I am. Most of you have the ability to grasp things better than me.

What I love about some of you when we study out with the Bible one-on-one, some of you are just as dumb as I am. I feel real comfortable with you because you do not get any better than I do. When I break it down in very basic, simple terms, I see the lights come on. That is what somebody had to do for me. When it came to the Bible, I had to—and God had given me the ability for myself that when I study something hard in the Bible that may be deep, I have to break it down in baby little pieces and then put it together. But once I see it, I have got it. So I am going to do that as best I can today. All I can say is this: if you cannot get it this morning, call me, come on over, sit down. I will help you work it out and give you an added bonus for people coming over next week.

By the way, I will not have any appointments in the evening this week because we have something going every night. But the following week, if you want to come over, I will help you put it down. We have an added bonus going for this month that you get to see the new puppy we got. Three dogs was not enough. Had to get another one.

That is the difference between what the Bible calls the meat of the Word of God and the milk of the Word of God. When you get saved, you are like a baby. I saw you get up right now and you went out, you got a bottle, did you not? Why that? Because she is hungry. She wants to eat. Now, when you guys get down here, you are going to go get a bite to eat afterwards. Are you going to go home and eat? Are you going to have a bottle too? No. You are going to get a hamburger, you are going to eat something with some substance to it, right? You know why? Because you are an adult. Are you going to buy the baby a hamburger at McDonald's? No. That baby has to have the milk. Do you know why? Give the baby the hamburger, the cheeseburger, they cannot eat it, they will choke on it.

Now there will come a time when they will be able to start eating solid food. That is when you get to a little beanie weenies. I love the beanie weenies. Then you grow up, and then you will take them out and you will get a hamburger or chicken McNuggets or chicken fingers or whatever it is, and you will start, you will take the time and you will cut that thing up and they will eat a hamburger but they will eat it in little pieces. That is all I do on Sunday morning. You have young Christians just got saved, got to give them milk. But you do not want your baby to stay a baby all your life, do you? When he is 21 years old, you want to be lugging him around with diapers on? No, you do not want that. I know some Christians here are still that way. No, you want to grow up and be an adult. That is what I want for you.

So as you grow, you get a little bit of milk, then you eat your solid stuff. Yes, there are beanie weenies in the Bible. Then you get to the point, and that is what Peter says when he says over there, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." But there comes a time when you have to get into the meat. The book of Hebrews 5:14 defines meat. Meat in the Bible is Bible doctrine. He says:

*Hebrews 5:14*

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Do you know what I am doing for you? In every case, and everybody is in a different format of spiritual growth. Every time I preach, I try to take and give you everything that everybody gets, and I try to break even the deep stuff down that even if you are a new Christian here that has just been grappling in the Word of God for a short couple of weeks or a month, that you can walk out of here saying, "Oh, I got that, I understand that now." That is my goal. For me to get up and just rattle off a bunch of facts, figures and try to impress everybody with my knowledge of the Bible, which is not very impressive, it would not do you any good. We all have to leave here understanding something this morning. Some of you go out with a little bit more, but that is okay. You have to start somewhere, and as you exercise your senses, that is why we are doing the Bible coming through book by book the way we are doing it. It is exercising those senses. That is why some of you right now who have grown over the last two or three years are ready to go into another phase where I can take you and teach you on a higher level how you apply. I have got to keep exercising your senses to discern both good and evil. You cannot stay with milk. Most churches today are nothing but a bunch of babies who cannot get past the milk, they cannot get

past anything. They just have to stay. You have to grow out of the milk and get into the meat of the Bible.

## V. The Household of God: Seven People Groups

This is, like I said, I am going to break this thing down for you, but you are going to come away here grasping more than you can. The first thing we have got to grasp here is I have got to teach you another segment before I get to the seven judgments. I want to talk to you for a moment about the household of God, commonly called the family of God. This is a great concept. You are going to find in Ephesians 2:19, and we already studied this verse when we came through one of the seven things, it talked about the fact that we as Christians are fellow citizens and then it says this:

*Ephesians 2:19*

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

What does that mean? What is the household of God? Ephesians 3:15 says:

*Ephesians 3:15*

*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.*

When you start to come through the Bible, you start to find that in God's mind there is a family of God called a household of God. Now this sounds complicated. It is very, very easy to understand. Remember I have told you this on Thursday night. I have told you this on Sunday morning. I have told you that when you study the Bible, when I studied the Bible, I never studied the Bible from a Christian standpoint. I always studied the Bible from God's standpoint. Do you know why? Because as a Christian, my place in the Bible is just a very small place. There is a whole other segment of the Word of God that I am not involved in that has people in it. When I look at my little segment and then view all the other segments, what I see, I am going to get messed up. No, I look at my segment, but I look at every segment from God's standpoint. In other words, I look at the whole Bible from what God is doing.

Do you know what God is doing? God is enacting His plan. From Genesis to Revelation, we know from our past studies that that span runs 7,000 years. We also know that in the Bible we have another word that I have defined for you before. We will talk about it again for just a second. It is the word dispensation. Now, that is a big \$50 word. Let me give it to you at the Blue Light Special for \$1.99. Dispensation just means a period of time. But you see, that does not sound as impressive. If I was going to be a college professor and I was going to suck you in and I want to get all your money and you wanted to learn the Bible, I would use words like dispensation. You would want to know what they mean so bad, you would pay me whatever I ask. If I got up and said, "Well, I am going to talk to you about different time periods in the Bible," I could not get \$20 out of you. That is an impression. I am not into an impression here. Dispensation is a period of time.

Your Bible is broken down into periods of time or dispensations. Depending on how you count them, and guys count them differently, you can have as little as nine or as many as 11. That is not the point right now. In that time period, you are going to find that that time period runs from Genesis to Revelation. In that time period, you are going to find that God deals with seven different people groups who live in different dispensations, periods of time. They start with Adam, they end with the Millennial reign of Christ. Seven people groups. Those seven people groups make up the household of God, the family of God. You and I are one of that seven.

I am going to break it down for you even better this morning. I am going to give them to you. I am going to show you the dispensations, the period of time, and I am going to give you the seven people groups that make up your Bible.

1. Your first group would be people that lived before the law. That would be from Adam up to Moses. That is your first group.
2. Your second group would be the people that are under the law. That would be from Moses, he gets the law on Mount Sinai, up to John the Baptist, right up to the first coming of Christ. That is your second group.
3. Your third group would represent the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry. He shows up.
4. The fourth group would be you and me, the church. We run from the death of Christ up to the rapture of the church. That is the next group. We are going to be raptured out any day now.
5. Then you find that the next group comes in, and that would be the Jews that go through the tribulation period. You are going to find that the tribulation period runs seven years, and during that time the Jews turn to an evangelism mode, and they bring in Gentiles during that period of time, and they make up your next group, the tribulation Gentiles.
6. Then you are going to find that Christ comes back at the second coming of Christ. We enter into a time period called the Millennial reign of Christ.
7. In that time period we find our seventh group, and those will be the people that are born in the millennium.

Then at the end of the millennium we start eternity, we move out into eternity, and now it is not just Christ and the church. It is the whole household of God. It is the family of God. God moves out into eternity, and everybody has their function. God's people know so little about this because all their lives, the preachers that have been teaching them, first of all, know nothing about it. This stuff was standard teaching in 1900 AD. It was basic, but they were probably teaching it to the eight and nine year olds in Sunday school. But you see, it is lost today because one, we have forgotten to furnish God's people, now we just equip them. That is the problem. We do not do it thoroughly, and we certainly do not do it throughly. We have lost the concept of Bible doctrine, therefore all we know about the Bible is some of the basic things about the Word of God.

Do you know how I got ordained? I had two men that taught me the Bible. On my ordination day, or the day before, one of them took me out for lunch, which I thought was going to be a nice little lunch encounter with my father in the Lord. It turned out to be much more than that. He wanted to know if I knew the Bible or not. Now he knew I did, but he wanted to know for sure that I did. Do you know what he did? He took me out for the next four hours. He asked me 10 to 12 questions about the Bible. I could not use my Bible at all. I had to tell him these things from

memory because he was of the old school: if you do not live there, you do not know anything about it. He did not want me just to read my notes and give him a parrot. He wanted to see if it was in here. I still have those 10 to 12 questions in the front of my Bible. If you want to know if you know the Bible or not, and you are feeling froggy, any time you want to leap over to 8413, I will help you through it, and I promise you. No Bible, and the first one I missed, I was done with the rest. Because these questions come out the Bible from every different angle. They were very in depth. There were not little silly little answers that you just give somebody. They come out the Bible from every angle. When you got done and walked away, you knew that guy knew the Bible. He did not just know things about the Bible. He knew the Bible. I scraped through it. Four and a half hours later, we were ready for supper. But I am telling you, that is what it takes for you to learn the Bible. That does not happen today. You try that today, half your church would leave the church. They missed the first two, and they think you did not like them anymore. If you ever tried to say, "Well, you should have known that," they would get mad. That is where we are at today. We do not have the same kind of character. Now, we do here. But in Christianity around it, we just do not have it.

These seven people groups are what your Bible is built around. God is dealing with them in different periods of time called dispensations. The seven judgments, this is why you have to know this. The seven judgments are built around these seven people groups. Let me even make it easier for you. Simply put, you have heard me say this many, many times. You have heard me say that the Bible in its most simplistic form from Genesis to Revelation is nothing more than God giving man, no matter when he lived, the choice and the chance to be with Him in eternity. You have heard me say that many, many times, that God put a parenthesis in eternity, eternity past, eternity future, in the middle of that for 7,000 years, Genesis to Revelation is time, and every man and woman that lives gets to choose if they go to point B in eternity, or they die and go to hell. Now that is a very oversimplification, but it is true.

Let me take it up a level for you. Here is the real issue. Turn over to Matthew 22. Here is the real issue. What I told you before is true, but it is an oversimplification. Let me show you what you really have. Matthew 22. Start right at the beginning of the chapter. This parable here is a complete overview of your Bible, and it makes the point that I am trying to get to you right now. Here is what it says. I am going to read it and then we will come back and we are going to make reference to it.

*Matthew 22:1-10*

*And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,*

*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*

*And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*

*Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*

*But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*

*And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.*

*But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

*Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*

*Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.*

*So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

That is what your Bible is really about. The theme of your Bible is a kingdom. When God casts back and establishes that kingdom, He gives that kingdom to His Son. But His Son has to have a queen, a wife, and that wife is going to be the church. Everything in your Bible from Genesis to Revelation is about, "Do you want to go to a wedding? Do you want to go to the great wedding of the King?"

Back to Matthew 22:3: "And he sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come." That is the Old Testament, Adam to Moses. Matthew 22:4-7 will be Moses to Christ. Then Matthew 22:8-10 will be the tribulation period. The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we can go through Shafer's theology, any theology, we can talk about all the great dispensations. You can number them up, number them back. You can get all the great details. You can spend the rest of your life trying to figure it out. The Bible is just as simple. God is establishing a kingdom. He came down in the book of Genesis to do that. When He gets to that kingdom, there is going to be a wedding. His Son is going to marry a bride.

From Genesis to Revelation, it is simply this: "Do you want to go to the wedding?" Whatever dispensation period of time you live in, whatever one of the seven members of the family of God, you are going to be an attendee at that wedding. The wedding of His Son to you and I, the church, is going to be attended by all the other people groups. You find it in Psalms 45. You find it in Psalms 6. You find it throughout the Bible, a wedding with all the attendants there. The whole Bible is built around that concept that there is going to be a wedding. God sent His servants, Old Testament, right up to the time, sent His servants to the Old Testament before the law, during the law, and then the tribulation saying, "Do you guys want to go to a wedding?"

You will find the Bible says in Revelation 19 that when Christ raptures us out and at the second coming of Christ, the bride has made herself ready. There is going to be a marriage. When Christ comes back, we have the marriage supper of the Lamb in the millennium. Do you know why? There is going to be a wedding in the air in the sweet, sweet, by and by. Remember that song? Because you had to be there. There is going to be a wedding. That wedding is going to be Christ and His bride, and the whole Bible is getting the household. You know how a wedding is. You have all been to weddings. Everybody from Podunk County comes, especially when there is free food. You have aunts and uncles that fly in from all around the world. You have people that you have not seen in 30 years and hope you do not see for another 30, show up at the wedding. Everybody comes in the family and the friends. Why should that wedding be any different?

Every wedding that you ever went to is based on that wedding that is coming. Every, the Bible is a love story. It is about a bride and a bridegroom that fall in love. Somebody said the Bible is just a fairy tale. No, you are wrong. The Bible is truth. But every fairy tale comes from the Bible. You go down to Disney World, come over to our house, forget Disney World. We have everything in our house that Disney World has. We went there last year, we bought everything they had. You want to see Snow White come to my house? We have the whole blown costume. Those little kids put that thing on and they walk around there, and they watch those videos all the time. Do you know what Snow White is? It is a love story. Do you know what it is a love story about? It is about a woman, Eve, who got a poison apple, died, and then waited for her prince to come, and the prince kissed her, and she came back to life, and they lived happily ever after. That is us. I do not know who your seven dwarfs are. I guess those are your in-laws. Everything you ever went to in your life, anything you ever saw in your life, they are all the same. They all come off of that great theme.

Because there is a wedding coming, and that wedding is taught in Psalms 45, Matthew 25, Psalms 26, Revelation 14, Revelation 19, the whole book of Esther is about it. The theme of the Bible is a kingdom, and when God the Father sets up that kingdom for His Son, His Son has to have a bride, you and me, so all down through Genesis to Revelation, it points toward that kingdom and the wedding, and furnishing that wedding with the family, the whole household of God. That is all it is. The Bible is not hard. The Bible is a wedding.

When you come down there, the woman comes down the aisle, she comes to the husband. Tradition says she is supposed not to see the husband for that day because it is a picture of her, the church, and Christ, and a church age, so the first glance he gets is when she comes down the aisle to him, and the first glance Christ gets to the church when she raptures up. She wears white because she is supposed to symbolize purity. You are going to find that there are best men and there are bridesmaids and then there are the friends of the family. Just like the wedding here. Go back to your wedding picture this afternoon. You want to understand the Bible? Go back to your wedding pictures, lay them out on the kitchen table. That is the Bible. You have a bride, you have a groom, and you have the guy that married you. That was me in most cases. I am the king. You have the bride and you have the, I guess that makes me God. You have the bride, I have to start out a little bit longer. You have the bride, you have the groom, you have the friend of the bridegroom, you have the bridesmaids, you have all the people out there, and then after the marriage, you all go eat. That is the Bible. Is that hard? The Bible is about a wedding.

## VI. Judgment One: Christ's Death on the Cross

These seven judgments we are going to study are built around those seven people groups that make up the wedding party and the wedding. Let us look at judgment number one. This is a very important one, very easy one. We are only going to go through one a week. So that will lay the foundation. I have tried to lay it out as best I can. You have to have it pretty good now. But this one is very important. The first judgment you are going to find is the judgment of Christ's death on the cross of Calvary. Let us talk about that for a moment.

Christ's death on the cross is God's judgment of God pouring out His wrath and judging His Son as a guilty sinner for you and for me. I do not know if you know it in the mind, but there are two cups in your Bible. One cup is as dealt with is found over there in Matthew 20. That is physical death. The other cup in the Bible would be the cup of God's wrath. That will be Matthew 26:39, Revelation 14:10. In the tribulation period, when God pours out His wrath on this world, the Bible talks about it being a cup poured out. When Christ was in the garden and He was praying in the agony of the garden, when He said these words, "Father, if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me," that was Christ asking God if there was any other way to take that cup of God's wrath for God to do it. There was no other way. What a great study that is between the God-man and the human man. We do not have time to get into that this morning. Physical death is likened to a cup. God's wrath is likened to a cup. Christ experienced both of them.

What Christ did when He died on the cross, the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21:

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

On that great day when God put His Son on the cross, what He did is God poured out the wrath that He had for you and for me on His Son on the cross. From that point on, all the way back, you see this judgment affects directly three groups. It directs you and me. It directed the Old Testament saints under the law and the Old Testament saints before the law. What Christ did when He died on the cross, He judged every man and every woman that ever walked on planet earth as a guilty sinner.

This is what Isaiah 53 talks about.

*Isaiah 53:1-10*

*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*

*For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*

*And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*

What you have right there, my friend, is that when God's judgment fell on His Son. The Bible says back there in John 3:14 in the Old Testament, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." What you got when God judged His Son on the cross, He judged every man, every woman, whoever lived as a guilty, hellbound sinner, unless they make a choice to trust Christ as their own personal Savior. If you are sitting here this morning under the sound of my voice and you are not saved, it is not a matter if you are going to go to hell or not. It is not a matter of when you get there and you figure the whole thing out. It is not a matter if you are going, it is just when you are going.

There are seven members of the household of God. This judgment affects three of those members. It affects the Old Testament saints before the law. It affects the Old Testament saints during the law, Moses to John the Baptist, and it affects you and I as a New Testament Christian. Today I want to talk about how it affected the Old Testament saints, Adam to Moses and Moses to Christ. Next week, I will show you how it fits to you.

## VII. Salvation in the Old Testament

I am going to give you another teaching today that is not taught today. Every time I say something like this, it always comes back to bite me. But at this age of the game, I have been bitten so many times I do not care. But salvation in the Old Testament was not the same as salvation in the New Testament. I do not know if you know that or not. That is 100,000% contrary to what you are taught in every church in this city today. Salvation in the Old Testament is not the same as salvation in the New Testament.

I had a preacher one time challenge me on that from a whole bunch of people. He says, "How in the world can you say that salvation in the Old Testament is not exactly the same as it is in the New Testament?" And I said, "That is easy. When they died, they did not go to the same place." Do you see how easy it is? When they died, they did not go to the same place. Do you know why they did not go to the same place? Because they did not get saved the same way. Basic Bible 101. When you begin to understand that, then you begin to see what we have here.

Now, I am not saying that salvation is not by grace. Salvation is always by grace. If you did not have grace, you could not get saved whether you are in the Old Testament or in the New Testament. Grace is the ability to get whatever God has for you. You take out grace, you could not get anything from God. Somebody says, "He is teaching that you do not get saved by faith in the Old Testament." No, no, no. Faith is always in operation. If you do not have grace and faith,

whether you are in the Old Testament or the New Testament, you cannot get anywhere with God. You have got to exercise faith in the grace that God has shown you. You cannot take grace and faith out of the Bible anywhere. I am just saying what they believed on was not the same. That is where they do not get it. They cannot get it because they do not have a Bible anymore.

What I am telling you, you go back to Genesis 15, you have God taking Abraham out there on a starry night. Oh, wait till we get up to James. I will show you what Abraham was looking at. He is out there and he is looking at those things. God says to Abraham, "Abraham, look at all those stars." Abraham said, "Wow." With your naked eye, you can see 5,000 stars if you are out in the country. Probably back then that was doubled, simply because you did not have all the ozone layer that ate up and the pollution and all that stuff. He probably was looking at a starry night that just knocked him out. I am sure God enhanced it a little bit. They are standing out there and God is standing next to Abraham. They are looking up at those things and God is saying, "Boy, Lord, you sure did a great thing. Look at those things. Whoa, look at that. Look at that shooting star." He said, "Yeah, yeah." And he looked at that thing. He said, "Pretty marvelous, is not it?" He said, "Oh God, Lord, you are truly God. That is the greatest thing I ever seen in my life. I have never seen this guy so clear." And He said, "Abraham, look up there. Do you see all those stars?" He said, "Yes, sir. I do." He said, "Abraham, someday I am going to make your seed, your literal visible seed, your children as many of those stars." Abraham said, "Wow, Lord, that would be wonderful." He said, "I am going to do it." He said, "I believe it." He said, "Abraham, you really believe that? I mean, you are 99 years old. I mean, you are 80 some years old here. Your wife says, I mean, how do you really believe what I just told you?" He looked at God and he says, "God, I do not care what you say. I believe what you say." Do you know what God said? He said, "Abraham, do you know what I am going to do? Because you just believe what I told you about My seed, I am going to give you My righteousness."

At that point, he was just as righteous as you are right now, but he did not get it the same way. You did not see God out there saying, "Well, there is going to come a day when we are going to die on a cross and look toward the cross, look." No, He said, "Look at the stars." And Abraham believed God, the Bible says, and it was counted to him for righteousness. That is how they got in. That is how he got in. When they died, and they all did, they could not go to heaven. They could not go to heaven. Do you know why they could not go to heaven? Because the blood had not been shed yet. That is why under the law, God gave them a temporary concept called the Levitical priesthood.

Do you know what they did back then? They killed sheep. They killed cows. They killed goats. They killed pigeons. They killed animals. They went into that, that thing, and God set up a temporary system. He had a high priest, and they brought that sacrifice. The sacrifice brought that thing in. It was an innocent lamb. Have you ever noticed it was not any horses used? Not any dogs? It is all stuff that gives the semblance of innocence. A lamb. What can be more innocent? How many times has a mother looked at her little daughter running across the floor and said, "Oh, that is my little lamb." Did you ever hear him say, "Oh, that is my little jackass"? Oh, you wait until they are 18 or 19 before you say that. 20, 21. And after you get married, she dropped the jack. You want life on planet earth? I will give it to you. You are going to see the

spoon I dish it out with. "Oh, you are my little lamb." Yes, a lamb is a little kid, but it is the innocence.

You talk about birds. Nothing more innocent than a little pigeon or a little dove. Have you ever watched doves? Doves mate up. I watch them out of my fence. They are out there snuggling with each other. One gets lost. She is out there. I do not do doves as well. I do turkeys. They are out there, and they are nudging up to each other. There is nothing more. When you want to symbolize peace, is it a crow? An eagle? Oh, it is a dove. It is a dove. "On the wings of a snow white dove, He sent His pure." So we say, it is a dove. Always connoted to that. Do you know why? It was innocent.

So back in the Old Testament, they took that innocent animal and they killed it. They sprinkled the blood on it. God says, "For right now, you are still sinners, but you believe Me, I cannot pay for your sin, but I will cover your sin with something innocent dying." It was temporary. Do you know, at the first word down at John the Baptist's mouth, when he saw Christ coming, do you know what he said? He said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." He made the connection. He saw the sacrifice to come that was going to pay for it. That is what you have here.

When these people died, they could not go to heaven because their sins were not paid for, they were covered. They were covered temporarily, but they could not go into the presence of God because they are still sinners and the sin was not paid for. So God created a special place for them to go when He died. It is called Abraham's bosom in the Bible. Sometimes it is called paradise. Now I am going to get into ground here that I am not sure of because there are a lot of things going on here, but I am going to give you a generalization of it. Paradise and Abraham's bosom may be two different places. One may be for the Gentiles before the law, one may be for them during the law. I do not know, but that is beside the point. He created a temporary place.

Do you know where Abraham's bosom was? It is the center of the earth, Psalms 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." The saints that are in the earth. When a man died in the Old Testament, a woman died in the Old Testament, and they had God's righteousness through the temporary covering of the blood, they went down in the middle of the earth in Abraham's bosom. Down there was paradise on one side and the place of the burning fire called hell on the other side. Read Luke 16. It tells you all the details of it.

## VIII. Christ's Descent and the Release of Captivity

When Christ died on the cross, He judged every man a sinner, but there were some people who had died in their righteousness with God, the Old Testament saints, and they are down in Abraham's bosom. These were the people from Adam to Moses, and Moses to Christ. Even though they were dead in their physical bodies, they had done what God required of them. They had shed the innocent blood, not to pay for their sins, but to cover their sins. So God put them in a little holding pattern down there called Abraham's bosom until His true Lamb showed up.

The Bible says in Romans 10:4 that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Christ was the end of the law. He finished what the law could not do. Because the law was temporary, the people from Moses, or from Adam to Moses and Moses to John the Baptist were in a temporary state. God was not going to let them go to hell because they believed what He said, but He could not take them to heaven because the blood had not been paid to pay for their sins. So He required a temporary system to cover their sins. When they died, He put them in Abraham's bosom. Now when He died on the cross, some things happened. We are going to talk about what happened to them this week. We are going to talk what happened to you and me next week. Something happened.

Now I want to give you some key passages that begin to lay this out. We are not going to get into this in a lot of depth, but I want you just to follow the line of reasoning here. I want you to write these down. Do not look them up now. I will read them. You can go back.

- Ephesians 4:8-10
- 1 Peter 4:5-6
- 1 Peter 3:18-20

These three verses are the greatest three verses in the Bible that show you what happened when Christ died and how it affected those two parts of the family of God that are down in Abraham's bosom in a certain way. Here is how it works. It says in the first one there in Ephesians 4:

*Ephesians 4:8-10*

*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

*(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*

*He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

There is Abraham's bosom. There it is. Do you see how easy it is? Verse 10. "He that descended, Christ, is the same also that ascended, Christ, going up far above the heavens that He might fulfill, that He might fill all things." All right? First one out of the way.

*1 Peter 4:5-6*

*Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

*For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

There is somebody showing you that God is preaching the gospel to somebody that is dead already. Let us go on to the next one.

*1 Peter 3:18-20*

*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

*By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;*

*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

There is a verse that tells you again that He went down and He preached to somebody in prison. All right, here is how it works. We will break it down for you. Stay with me here. This is real easy, not hard. I am going to give you Bob Alexander's systematic theology. Here is how it works. Christ dies, Matthew 26, 27, put into a tomb. His human spirit goes back to God, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Luke 23:46. His soul goes down to Abraham's bosom, which is in the center of the earth, Psalms 139:8, Psalms 16, Acts 2:27.

When He goes down into the center of the earth, there are three people groups down there. Two of them are part of our household of God, one of them are not. The first people group would be all the people from Adam to Moses. The second people group would be all the people from Moses to John the Baptist. The third group, which is not part of our seven, would be the angels that sinned in Genesis 6 that the Bible tells you are reserved unto chains of darkness. That is the one in the last reference that it gave you. The spirits in prison are the angels. The other two have a reference to somebody being preached to down in the center of the earth. That would be the other two people groups.

Now why did He do that? I am going to tell you what. Here is what happens. At this point He preaches two messages, maybe one message with two points. I do not know. But He gets two things across. To the lost people that are in hell with the angels, He preaches eternal destruction and damnation, "You are never getting out." He sealed their fate. I do not know what the message said. I do not know how long it was. I do not know if He preached one for them and one for all the saved people. I do not know if He preached four messages, one for each. I do not know what He did. But here was the gist of the message. When He went to the lost people in hell that were burning in hell, had been there from beginning of Genesis. With them we will include the fallen angels of Genesis 6 who left their first estate. To that group He preaches judgment. That group He preaches, "You are never getting out." That group it is absolutely sealed beyond comprehension. It is sealed, fixed, finished. You are never getting out of this place called hell.

Now this is one of these, this is where the concept, "I have some good news and some bad news," comes in. The bad news was if you are in hell or you are one of the angels in Genesis 6, you are not going anywhere. Now the good news was He preached to the side that are the ones that died in their faith in the Old Testament. Our two people groups, Adam to Moses, Moses to John the Baptist, and He says this, "Ladies and gentlemen, I am the Messiah." He preaches to them the fact that He now has defeated death and He now has paid the price and He now has not just temporarily covered their sins but their sins are paid for. That is why the Bible says that the blood of bulls and goats could never pay for sin, Hebrews 8, 9, and 10. He says, "I am the one who finished the law. It is over, it is finished. The blood has been shed."





The Old Testament saints, both groups, died, and because they exercised faith in the grace of God, God gave them the grace and gave them the covering of His grace in the Old Testament under the Old Testament Levitical priesthood and before that on their basis of their conscience between them and God. God takes them through a temporary abode called Paradise, Abraham's bosom. You have got to remember now their sins are covered temporarily but they are not paid for. When Christ dies on the cross, judgment number one, He fulfills what the law could not do and He ends the law. That is why the whole book of Hebrews is a book that shows you that everything in the Old Testament was temporary. Everything in the New Testament is permanent. Everything in the Old Testament was good but everything in the New Testament is much better, and He goes through every aspect and compares the two.

Then He goes, Matthew 12:40 says, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." For three days He goes down to Abraham's bosom when He dies on that cross. For those three days He lays out the plan. He lays out plan one to the unsaved people and to the angels that have sinned and left their first estate. He whacks them right between the eyes and He says, "You guys are not going anywhere. You are eternally damned from this point on." And He preaches to the spirits in prison and the lost people.

Then He turns to the side of the saved people, the two families that are down there, the concubines and the friend of the bridegroom, the ones up to the law and the ones after the law up to John the Baptist. And He says, "Boys, I fulfill the law. Hear that jingling? I got the keys to death and hell." Remember now, Matthew 16, hell has gates. It has gates. Gates have locks that need keys. Up to this point the devil had the keys to death and hell, Hebrews 2, know your Bible. He got defeated at Calvary, and now Christ walked over and said, "Give me them, old boy," took those keys, walked over there, stuck that key in the lock, snapped that thing, kicked that door open and said, "Okay guys, line up. We are going out." Off they went. He said, "Hold up every tenth one, come off left, head to Jerusalem, show them what it is all about." Do you know why they went down to Jerusalem? Proof of the resurrection. Proof of the resurrection. You can deny what I preach. You can deny what Christ said. You cannot deny a guy you buried yesterday and put in the ground, coming back up, walking around on Saturday night. That is a little tough to just blow that off and say he is not there or he does not eat much. It is not going to work. It was an absolute proof that Christ came out of that tomb. He goes on and three days later He takes captivity captive, and that is your first part of your first judgment, dealing with the first part of the seven members of the household of God.

Now you see why you have to get that? Now you just got a major piece to your Bible. The rest of your life we will be talking about something in reference to one of those portions of that family. It will clear up so much bad teaching. It will give you the right theology. It will give you God's systematic theology showing you exactly how the thing lays itself out. Next week we are going to see how this judgment affects you and I as a man or a woman born after the crucifixion. It changes it a little bit, and then we are going to move into the second judgment and we will see how it fits. The first three judgments are all for you and for me. So we are going to take them in order and we will pick that up next week.

I hope you learned some stuff. I told you we were going to go down deep. I hope I made it as easy for you as I can. The Bible is a great book. I am talking to you, learn the book. Do everything you can to learn the book. Let me help you any way I can to learn that book. Get it down. Get it in your heart. Learn how it breaks down. If you have a problem with it, come and see me. Let me work through it with you. I will do whatever I can do to help you with that because it is important that you know the. I broke it down today as best I know how and I hope that you got something from it because it is just that simple. I told you earlier on when it comes to me, when it comes to something complicated, I have to break it down where I can grasp it. That is what I did for you today. Took a major piece of your Bible that if we would lay those things out in a theological setting, it would take us six months. I gave you the shortcut this morning. Once you understand the concept, I can teach you the details. It is just that if you learn the concepts, it is up to you.

When we are dismissed this morning here, please go back and get your tickets from John and Jimmy back there and make arrangements, whatever you have got. I do not know who is doing the canoe thing, but I think probably Chris is, but take care of everything. Be careful this week. Please be on time tomorrow night. We have a great time. We have like 60 people going to this ball game. It is going to be a ball. It is going to be fun. If you are coming down to the canoe trip, please be careful coming down. Get down in there. We will get you checked in and get it set away, get set it going. We will have a great time. Let us go to the Lord in prayer. Father.