

Revelation 16-19

Sunday 5/13/2007

Today we are going to look at the last account of the Tribulation Period, and that really comes to the last and final account of the Second Coming of Christ. As you know, if you have been coming on a weekly basis or maybe you have been listening to the material, we have been coming through a series in the Bible that deals with how the Bible is laid out through a numerical structure of sevens. We have come through a host of them, and we have quite a few more to go.

We took a little break from the individual studies, and I wanted to show you how the hardest book in the Bible, as far as man is concerned—and I guess if you would ask any theologian or any preacher what is the hardest book in the New Testament, he would probably tell you the Book of Revelation—is really the easiest book in the Bible or the New Testament. When you follow the pattern of just breaking it down by the number of sevens, we have come through a number of things in Revelation itself.

I. The Four Accounts of the Tribulation Period

Now we started the four accounts, Revelation 5 through 19. If you remember, we started the four accounts that God gives you of the Tribulation Period and the Second Coming of Christ. This is where we really have gotten into the sevens. We have talked about the seven-sealed book, the seven vials; we are coming through all of that stuff. The reason why there is so much material here is the reason why God broke this last account down into four sections.

So far, we have come through Revelation 5, 6, and 7. We looked at the seven-sealed book, we have looked at the Four Horsemen, the 144,000 are sealed to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in the Tribulation Period. I showed you about the souls under the altar and how they are praying for the Second Coming of Christ, and then I tied that all the way back to the Book of Psalms for you.

Then we came through the second one a couple of weeks ago, and that was Revelation 8, 9, 10, and 11. That is under the concept of the Seven Trumpets. During that, we saw the opening of the bottomless pit, we saw the beast coming out, we learned about the mid-Tribulation appearance of Christ to the nation of Israel, tied that into Paul's salvation, and showed you how that all worked. In that particular account, it focuses on the ministry of Moses and Elijah. We looked at how Moses and Elijah were the two greatest prophets in the Old Testament for the nation of Israel, and God brings them back after this mid-Tribulation appearance, and they lead the nation of Israel and the 144,000 right up to the Second Coming of Christ.

Then last week, we went through Revelation 12, 13, and 14. We saw the greatest account of the coming Man of Sin, really the greatest account in the New Testament. We know now that Revelation 12, 13, and 14 really focus on the coming Antichrist. It focuses on the Man of Sin who is going to show up to deceive the world as the false Christ. I told you when we studied it that Revelation 12 and 13 are the greatest two chapters in the New Testament that really lay out the Antichrist, and the two greatest chapters in the Old Testament would be Job 40 and Job 41.

Then we focused last week on Revelation 14, and we saw some great details, some great material on the last part of the Tribulation Period and running us up into the Second Coming of Christ.

II. The Fourth Account: Revelation 15-19 (The Seven Vials and Babylon)

Now today we are going to come through the fourth and final account. This one is really the one that ties it all together. We are going to look at the last account of the Tribulation Period, and really it is a defining account in your Bible on the Second Coming. It is going to be Revelation 16, 17, 18, and 19. The greatest account of the Second Coming of Christ in your Bible anywhere is found in Revelation 19. That is the last account in your Bible of the Second Coming. That is the one that really ties not only the rest of Revelation together, but it ties back all the hundreds of Old Testament passages together, which many of you should have, simply because you have been coming on Thursday night for so long now, and we have been dealing with that from time to time when people ask questions.

This account deals with one of the great mysteries in all the Bible, and it deals with Babylon Mystery Religion. This is what these chapters really focus on. We have seen a number of things coming through, and you ought to be able to separate them out now and see why He had to do it in four accounts, because there is just so much information. When we come down to Revelation 16, 17, 18, and 19, we are going to focus on the last seven plagues put out by the seven vials. In that last seven plagues, we are going to find the destruction of Babylon Mystery Religion. We are also going to find the keys to identify it.

If there is any place in your Bible where it gets real spooky, as far as Bible teachers trying to hold some kind of mystery over you, it is when they come to Revelation 16, 17, and 18, the Babylon Mystery Religion. I like to make it something more. You are going to get a number of things today. The main thing I want you to get out of this is really not so much about Babylon Mystery Religion. The real thing I want you to get out of here is the process by which I give you this information. I am going to show you some great examples today that are examples for you and for me as New Testament Christians. I am going to show you how a young man, much the age of most of the young men and young ladies that are in here, how a young man figured all this stuff out, and the key to it that really unlocks the Bible. It is the same way that he did it, the same way that you and I do it. When I teach you on Sunday morning, when I teach you on Thursday night, when we get together one-on-one with the Bible, this is the exact same process I try to instill into your hearts and lives as far as learning these things that are used in the Bible to unlock the Bible.

Now in this account, as I said, we are going to deal with the seven vials. This great mystery is one of the seven mysteries given to the church. You are going to find that in 1 Corinthians 4:1, that Paul told the church at Corinth, or the leaders of that church, that they were to be stewards of the mysteries of God.

III. The Seven Mysteries of God

That is a great little verse in your Bible because when you begin to lay out the Bible, and we studied the seven mysteries before, you can get them on tape or CD over there. When we studied the seven mysteries before, I showed you how important they were. The reason why, in my own opinion this morning, there is so much bad teaching within the church, the reason why there are so many pastors who do not know the Word of God, and then there are many more Christians who do not know the Word of God, is because the church has failed in one great endeavor. That great thing that the church has failed in is exactly what Paul was talking about in 1 Corinthians 4:1. They have failed to be stewards of the mysteries of God.

When it comes to the church, you are going to find in the New Testament that there are seven mysteries given to the church. Because if you study them, lay them out, and learn them, you are 100% guaranteed never to get fouled up with bad doctrine or bad teaching. If I could get you in your most basic common form to learn these seven mysteries, get them down so you could explain them in the Bible, I promise you, you would never be fooled again with somebody teaching you bad doctrine. The reason why these things are so vital and why the church was told to be stewards of them is because this is the fundamental concept that keeps God's people, once you know it, from ever getting messed up in bad doctrine in the Bible or hearing somebody teach something that is not true. You have a point of reference to go back to know what truth is.

Consequently, because of that, you will never hear the seven mysteries being taught today. I would dare say that most preachers in this city, if not in this country, if you would go to what you in your own heart and mind believe is one of the great preachers in this country, maybe you hear him on radio, you hear him there, you hear him there, you have been to his church, if you would sit down with him and ask him to explain to you the seven mysteries, I promise you, in almost every case without exception, he could not do it. It is because these things are not taught anymore, and yet the greatest Christian that ever lived, and certainly the Apostle of the Church, so we might think that he knows something about what the church needs, said in 1 Corinthians 4:1 that the leaders of the church and the pastors of the church and the men and women within the church were to be stewards of the mysteries of God.

I will talk about it every chance I can. I will bring it up in Thursday night Bible study. I will always keep it before you that there are seven mysteries in that Bible to the church, and you need to know what they are because therein lies the absolute guarantee that you will never be confused when it comes to the Bible. Then there are 12 mysteries given to the nation of Israel, and you need to know those. Those mysteries basically help you divide out your Bible, and those 12 mysteries are key along with the seven for you understanding your Bible. In fact, I am going to go so far as to say this: you give me a man or a woman who can sit down in front of me with an open Bible without any notes other than what they have got in their Bibles, and you walk me through and show me and lay out for me the seven mysteries of the church, and then bring me through and explain to me the 12 mysteries of the nation of Israel, I will show you somebody who knows their Bible. I will not have to go any farther with you. I will not have to delve in anything else about what you know about the Bible. You cannot know those mysteries and not know the Bible. By the same token, do not kid yourself, if you do not know what they are, you cannot know the Bible. The Bible is built on that foundation, and that is why it is so crucial in all

that you do because this mystery here that we have is one of those seven, and it is listed for you in Revelation 17 and 18, and we will get to it here in just a moment.

Now there is a lot of information today, and I know that we got through all the other ones in one week, but this is so vital, and it is going to kind of pull all the material together that we are going to take two weeks to get through this one. I want you to turn now to Revelation 15, and I want to begin right here, Revelation 15. Here is what we have:

Revelation 15:1-3

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Now Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We ask you today to give us the wisdom and insight into the things that we need to see today. We love you. A lot of material here today, a lot of material that needs to be tied into what we already have been studying. I thank you for the men and women in this church, Lord, that have been faithful in taking this material, dissecting it and digesting it, Lord, and allowing the Word of God to do in their lives, Lord, what you intended for it to do. We love you now, and we will thank you and praise you for all that you give us today. Teach us, open up your Word and open up our hearts in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, you start to read Revelation 15, you again begin to see a scene that has been repeated many, many times through our last couple of weeks. They are out there when you study it, and many of these now, since you have been coming through it, you can match them up. I told you that the Book of Revelation, from Revelation 5 to 19, is the last three and a half years of the Tribulation Period. In that time, all this material, these are called parentheses chapters, all this material is being dumped on planet Earth at the same time. Your job in your Bible is best you can, and we have talked about how we do not know the whole time overlap period here between them, but your job is to be able to go through and match these up with the other three places. By now you ought to be able to see that.

Here we are again, like I said, we have got a scene that has been repeated almost in every account of our study, and it makes it pretty much some of it easy to match up. We see here that this scene takes place up in heaven. There have been a number of times that it started out up in heaven. We notice the four beasts; those are the same four beasts that are the cherubim found in Revelation 4 and Revelation 5. So you make that connection. They are going to sing here the song of Moses. We now know from last week, Revelation 14:3, the song of Moses is the new song that they sing because of the victory God is going to give them over the Antichrist at the Second Coming of Christ. I gave you a number of Old Testament references to go along with

that. We also see here that obviously we are dealing with again the souls under the altar, which we saw in Revelation 6. This stuff now is easy to begin to be able to match up. Again, this takes place at the throne of God. What we are seeing here is the time period, we do not know exactly the time period, but right before the Second Coming of Christ, the preparation of the last seven plagues, which are contained in seven vials that are going to be poured out on planet Earth, getting ready to be poured out.

Then in Revelation 16, we have the pouring out of those vials. I want to go through, and you want to mark these in your Bible. We are not going to spend a lot of time with them today because we want to get to the meat of our message this morning, but we have got to go through these chapters.

- 1.) The first vial is found in Revelation 16:2. When that vial is poured out, grievous sores come upon men. You can match all these up with back where we have come through in the last couple of weeks.
- 2.) In Revelation 16:3, we have the second vial, and now the sea is turned to blood. We saw that before back in our past accounts.
- 3.) In Revelation 16:4, we have the third vial. Here, not only the sea gets turned to blood, but the rivers and the fountains turn to blood. That is going to be an exciting time for the residents of Kansas City, which is known as the City of Fountains. That will give a whole new meaning to going to the Plaza on Saturday night. That big old fountain down there in the middle where all the hippies hang out and all the protesters hang out, you know, he just put some colored lights behind it. The red blood coming out of it is going to look really nice. What you have in Revelation 16:5-7, he is saying this, and this is the biblical principle: he is saying blood for blood. He said, "You have killed the blood of My saints. You have killed the blood of My people. You have taken the nation of Israel, the Antichrist has, and the men that are following them, and you have shed their blood and you have killed them." Okay. Blood for blood, Revelation 16:5-7. So they kill God's people and shed their blood. God gives them blood back, and all the waters and the sea turn to blood, and the rivers and the fountains turn to blood.
- 4.) Revelation 16:8-9, the fourth vial. Finally, finally, finally, global warming sets in. Now the fourth vial down through here, the sun gets exceedingly hot. In fact, if you want a companion passage to this, you want to go to Isaiah 30:26. It tells you in Isaiah 30, and this is a match up to this, that the sun gets seven times hotter, seven times hotter. Al Gore finally gets his global warming. He has made his move, he has been telling it is coming, here it comes. Now in the Tribulation Period, the sun gets seven times hotter, and the Bible says that the sun scorches men.
- 5.) We already know from the fifth vial, which matches up back in Revelation 16:10-11, goes back to what we studied, darkness settles over this earth. Darkness with intense heat, with intense pain. See? Now there, we already know from the Bible, we are not going to spend a lot of time with this, but just so you make the connection. We already know from the Bible, when a man or woman finally dies and goes to hell, the Bible says they are in a place of outer darkness. The Bible says they are in a place where it is intense heat, and there is intense agony. Now what you have here on earth in the last three and a half years of the Tribulation

Period is literally God bringing hell to this earth. You have got all the elements if you have studied it. Hell has already opened up, and the creatures have come out. We have got intense heat. We have got intense agony and pain. We have got men down here that are gnawing on their tongues in Revelation 16:10-11 for the agony, just like a person in hell. We have got outer darkness. The sun does not shine. We have got all the plagues falling. Now this is where the expression comes that you hear many, many times that somebody will say, "Well, I think your hell is on earth." That is true. You will hear people say it all the time, "Well, I think your hell is on earth." No, not yet. But there is coming a time in the Tribulation Period where literally, before you go to hell for the final judgment, hell is going to come to this planet. It is going to open up. The creatures are going to come out. There is going to be outer darkness. The sun is going to get seven times hotter, and you are going to get a little foretaste of glory divine of the place called the Lake of Fire.

- 6.) Then we have the sixth vial, Revelation 16:12-16. This is where the River Euphrates dries up to make way for the kings of the east, getting ready for the preparation of the Battle of Armageddon. We asked a question along this line a couple of weeks ago on Thursday Night Bible study. Then we have, you want to make this mark in your Bible, three unclean spirits like frogs. We know the frogs where they tie back to that will go back to the Book of Exodus when Pharaoh and Moses and Pharaoh are contending to let the children of Israel go, he brings down all the frogs. So there is your Old Testament connection. Yet at the same time, you will find that these three unclean spirits, we already know from our study a couple of weeks ago, this is the false trinity that we talked about with the beast, the image, and the false prophet. There are the three unclean spirits that match up to that, Revelation 12, Revelation 13.
- 7.) Then Revelation 16:17-21 is the seventh vial. This is where, and we have talked about this before, the thunder and lightning. We now know that is God's voice, Psalm 29, the earthquake, great hailstones, that will go back to the Book of Joshua in a number of places. Go back to the Book of Exodus. Then in Revelation 16:19, it says this: "And great Babylon came to remembrance."

Now at this point, we begin to see the focus change toward the destruction of Babylon, the great Mystery Religion, the Mother of Harlots. You should be able now with what I have given you so far to go back and take your previous notes and match all this stuff up. You want to get it in your Bible so that when you see it, maybe at some point you will be teaching somebody discipleship, which I am sure most of you, many of you are already doing. Somebody is going to ask you a question about maybe something I said, or maybe they are just going to have a question about the Book of Revelation. You get this material in your Bible so you pretty much know where you are at. You do not have to know it all down to every detail. I do not know it down to every detail, but you need to have it in your Bible so that as you turn there, you have an understanding of what you are talking about. You might not have all the details. That is okay. You have an understandable concept of what you are dealing with and are able to show them and help them put it all together in their Bible.

IV. The Mystery of Babylon the Great (Revelation 17)

Right now, from this point on, we begin to look at the great Babylon mystery and begin to unravel this mystery. This is the last account, and this becomes the focal point now of our study this morning. We have taken a little time and looked at the preceding chapters in Revelation 15 and 16, but now in Revelation 17, 18, and 19, it really comes into focus. I want to read for you Revelation 17. I am going to read the whole chapter. You can follow along or just listen, but it will help give us a good mindset of where we are at and where we have got to go today and what we want to recover as we put it all together.

Revelation 17:1-18

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication:

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Now let me just stop there for a moment. You want to mark that in your Bible. Lots of times in your Bible when you find a large body of water or it talks about a great body of water, many times in that passage, and you want to watch the context, it will be talking about people. People in your Bible are likened to large bodies of water. I remember, I think it is in Ecclesiastes 11:1, it says, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

Now I have had honest to goodness, I had people ask me over the years when it says "cast thy bread upon the water," they must have went to a park someplace and saw little kids and old folks throwing bread out on the pond and ducks coming to get it, you know. I had a guy ask me years ago, "Is that a verse that talks about feeding ducks in the Bible?" No, not exactly, not exactly. But I will tell you this: you take the Word of God, which is likened to bread, throw it out in the water, which is likened to people, and you will find which ducks are hungry and which ducks are not. Because the Bible says that great bodies of water are likened to people. Ecclesiastes 11:1, based on that verse, when it says "cast thy bread upon the water," it is a picture of you and I putting out the Word of God wherever we go.

The Bible says in the Book of Isaiah that the Word of God does not return void. That God always accomplishes what He originally purposes with that Bible. That is why whenever I preach, I operate under that principle. That is why I am taking the time to give it to you now, it is a great principle. Whenever you go, whatever you do, wherever God gives you an opportunity to put the Word of God out, always take it. Do not worry about if nobody gets saved because that is not the issue. The issue is the Bible promised you that when you cast your bread upon the water, put it out to people, that God will take that word and do something with it. That is the promise. That it will never return void. So every time I preach, every time I put out the Word of God, whether it is Sunday morning, now there may be no visible decisions today. I mean nobody may run down the aisle and want to get saved. Maybe nobody will come staggering down the aisle and want to dedicate their life to God. Maybe that will not happen. Maybe the only decision this morning will be you all get up and decide to go eat. That is okay. I never let circumstances where people either responded to the message or did not respond to the message affect me in my preaching. I know preachers that if they preach and somebody does not get saved, they have the worst day of their life. I have known preachers that everything they do, it is about that, if they think they have failed, if when they preach, people do not come to Christ.

Now do not misunderstand me, I want to see people get saved too. But I am telling you, you are not going to preach every message you preach and have people get saved. You do not ever want to let it discourage you. Sometimes Noah preached for 120 years in Genesis 5 and 6, never saw one convert, not one person in 120 years listened to his preaching, came down and said, "Man, I do not know what you are preaching about. I have no idea what rain is, but I am scared. I want to

get saved." Nobody. It did not stop him. It did not deter him. It should never stop and deter you wherever you go because of that principle and that promise. That verse in Revelation says right there that when you look at it, it says that the waters which thou sawest where the whore sitteth are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. So when it says "cast thy bread upon the water, thou shalt find it after many days," you are looking at a proclamation for you and for me to put the Word of God out, get that bread on the multitude of the people, and God will get the results done in His own time. That is the promise. If you are a preacher and you do not have that promise, you will not be a very good preacher. Those are things that give you understanding in what you do in ministry and understanding in what you do in dealing with people. It keeps you from getting off the track like so many of them do.

Revelation 17:16-18

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Now, what we have here is a description of the religion and the governmental organization by which the Antichrist is going to rule the world during the Tribulation Period. Really, the mystery is solved simply by the title. The title is, and I told you to mark it, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." When you examine the title and take that title not only here but running through your Bible, everything begins to unfold itself. The mystery has already been unfolded. He told you already that this woman is a city. So it is not some allegorical apparition of something. It is not some metaphorical concept that is not in reality. The woman now is a city, a city. It is an actual, literal city on this earth that sits over all of the world and its population as far as its decrees. Once you begin to look at that, and we are going to do that in great detail next week, not so much this week. I want to show you how you figure this thing out today, and then we will put it all together next week.

This Mystery Babylon is one of the seven mysteries. You are going to find that when you come through the Word of God, you are going to find that this mystery is one of the seven that was given to the church. Sitting here this morning, you ought to know this if you have been saved five years or more.

The second thing I want you to see is this, that is connected with Babylon. That is very interesting. Your first encounter with Babylon in your Bible is all the way back to Genesis 10. You are going to find in the early chapters of Genesis, you are going to find it beginning to develop, and you are going to find that lo and behold in Genesis 10:10, you are going to find the first Gentile kingdom. Then when you come to the Book of Revelation, the last Gentile kingdom is Babylon, and it is represented by ten kings with ten crowns. You are going to find that the connection between the Babylon in Genesis 10:10 and the Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18, represented by ten toes and ten kings, are the same.

The mystery, ladies and gentlemen, the mystery that we are going to solve for you this morning is how did it get from Genesis 10 to Revelation 17 and 18? Here is the mystery: if the Antichrist kingdom and the Antichrist was in power in Genesis 10 and he stays in power up through the Bible and up through history, how in the world did we miss that? We get the idea that in Revelation 17, and every writer on Revelation tells us, we get the idea that in the Tribulation Period the Antichrist just pops up. Well, he just pops up, but he has been popping up all down through history. He has been firmly entrenched long before he shows up. In fact, he got firmly entrenched in Genesis 10. We will talk about that as we get a little farther into this.

Now the next thing I want you to see is it is called, she is called the Mother of Harlots. That is very important. Harlots in the Bible are always pictures of false religions. You want to go to Proverbs 5 and Proverbs 7, Proverbs 2 also toward the end of the chapter. Harlots in your Bible, other than being harlots in a physical sense, harlots in your Bible are always pictures of false teachings, false religions. They are always likened to harlots because they seduce men and women. They seduce them and then they get them to enter into a spiritual fornication which winds up destroying them. You can read all about it in Proverbs 5 and Proverbs 7. It is all through there.

But what we see about this is that this Babylon is the mother of them. Now I did not plan this, but this is my Mother's Day message. I had a real struggle this week. I struggled with just teaching a very nice Mother's Day message and telling you how sweet you are. But then I tell you every week how sweet you are, do I not? There is not a week goes by that your moms are in here that we do not recognize some way or the other. I thought about it. I thought to myself, "Joe, when your wife sees you sitting next to this blonde and hears about you, you are going to be in real trouble." I am just telling you right now. Mother's Day or not?

So I had a dilemma. So I thought to myself, "You know what? What I will do on Mother's Day, I will lay out Babylon Mystery Religion, the Mother of Harlots." I will show you how it fits, and that will be my Mother's Day message. So that is what I am going to do today. I want to show you that this Babylon, the reason why she is called the Mother of Harlots, is because in Genesis 10:10, the first false religion that becomes a worldwide religion by a type of the Antichrist, his name is Nimrod, is Babylon, called Babel. Babel means confusion. In Genesis 10:10, it is the first Gentile kingdom under a type of the Antichrist that takes over the world. The last Gentile kingdom in your Bible is by the Antichrist, represented by the ten toes of Daniel and the ten kings. The key is that all between those two points, every false religion on the world, I do not care where you go. If you want to be a Buddhist, you want to be a Hindu, you want to be whatever you want to be, you are going to find what you believe ingrained and engrained in Genesis 10 because all false religions start there and end here. Everything in between, no matter what it looks like, no matter how different it looks, no matter how different it may sound, no matter how different they may dress, false teachings, false churches come from one false teaching and one false church found in Babylon in Genesis 10, which is the Mother of Harlots. Every other false religion, i.e., harlots, comes from that mother. Happy Mother's Day. That is what we are going to trace this morning. I want to show you how that thing works. I want to show you how to have the ability to explain it. I can see right now, we may not get through this

one this morning, but we will have to maybe make this, I do not know, I do not know what I am doing this morning, I am just overwhelmed with Mother's Day.

V. Daniel: A Model for Understanding Scripture

Now let me show you how you do this. If you are here this morning and you are just marking time to get out of here, not off for a few minutes, it is okay. If you are here this morning and you are somebody that wants to learn how to use your Bible. If you are somebody here this morning that wants to learn how to have the ability, because if you are always, I do not know if you caught it or not, but when we read what we read this morning, John, we know is the type of the church, the angel told John, "I will show you the mystery of the woman." Now John is the type of the church, we already know that, you and me. In other words, God wants to show you and me the mystery of this woman. This is not some allegorical, metaphorical concept. This is not, this is not, you notice I used those words twice so far, I heard those on the Discovery Channel last night and I am going to use them a lot. I have no idea what they mean, but I hope they fit. But then you probably do not know what they mean either, so I use them a lot.

If you want to learn how to rightly divide your Bible, go with me where I am going. Listen to what I am going to tell you. You may not grasp it all today, get the CD, ask me about it Thursday, come over and bug me to death, and I will show you how to do it. But I am going to tell you, he told you if you are a Christian, he would reveal to you who this woman was. I am going to show you how you use the Bible. My model for this is the Book of Daniel. Now we are going to go to Daniel here in a minute, so you can turn back there if you want. I think that is, you know, well, wait a minute, we are going to look at something else here in a minute, but then we are going to finally go to Daniel. But my model is Daniel.

Now here is the issue. I do not know if you ever look. Everybody thinks the Book of Daniel is a great book for prophecy. Oh, and it is. The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation go hand in hand. In fact, the Book of Daniel unlocks the Book of Revelation, and many things in the Revelation are understood when you really understand the Book of Daniel. There is no question about that. Daniel is one of the key books that has to go along that opens up everything in the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation Period is not called Daniel's 70th week for nothing. It is in there, absolutely in there.

But I want to tell you this. The Book of Daniel is without a doubt one of the most practical books in all the Bible. I do not know, not only do I learn an incredible amount of information about the coming end times out of Daniel, I understand how I as a New Testament Christian can find things out in the Word of God as I study Daniel's life. You realize that Daniel 1 is probably, if somebody would say to me, "If you wanted one chapter in the Bible that is a complete chapter that shows you in one chapter what you ought to be doing all your Christian life, where would you go?" I would go to Daniel 1. If a parent came to me and said, "Give me one chapter, give me one chapter that really shows me what I need to do to make sure my children are what God wants them to be, where would you go?" I would go to Daniel 1. Daniel 1 is the absolute key, not only to beginning to understand the Book of Daniel to see how Daniel did it, it is the key to show you

and I as a New Testament Christian exactly how we ought to be approaching the Word of God to get the great truths out of the Bible.

It also will show you right now, it will teach you, most of you have little kids down in that nursery. I know here in a little while at some point, trying to find time to do it, we are going to come through our child training classes, and we are going to come through some of those things. But I want to tell you this, if I could just get you to understand Daniel 1, not just in relationship to your own time in the Word of God, but in relationship to your children, I do not know of another place in the Bible that lays out in great detail what your kid is going to be up against in a very short time. How do you counter that and make sure that when they are faced with what they are faced with, you do not have to worry as a parent that they are not going to stand on what they need to stand.

Now I have waited purposely, I have waited purposely to hold off this child thing, and this is not my message this morning, but it is just another point that we are not going to get finished this morning. But it is Mother's Day, that is okay. Now I have waited purposely, and I have watched before I did this child training thing, and I watched purposely because I wanted to just gather some intel. I am telling you, there are a number of you who are making some very serious mistakes with your children. It is not my place to come and sit down with you and tell you, but I am telling you, I watch what you do. I am very involved in your families with your kids, and I am very involved when they were doing the thing down there, I was down in the nursery doing my recon. I do it every Sunday. I go down there and I see what is going on, and I watch you, I watch you how you deal with your kids, I watch you how you discipline your kids, I watch you how you work with your kids, and I am telling you, bless your hearts, some of you are making some real serious errors with your children. I can give you the material of how to straighten it out. You are the one that has to straighten it out. Now whether you can or whether you cannot yet remains to be seen. But we will go through all that, but I have said all that to say this. If I could just get the top of your head screwed off and get everything in Daniel 1 about not only your own relationship with God, which is obviously where it starts, but get you thinking Daniel 1 in light of your child. If I could just get you to focus on Daniel 1 with your child in mind, you overnight would have a different attitude and a different process by which you deal with your children.

I am telling you, it scares me to a degree, but it does not scare me to another degree because I know that in time we will work them throughout, and we will give you the material, and I will help you one-on-one. We have got to do that. The part of the problem is finding not only a time but a place. We are working on that. But I am telling you, Daniel 1. Did you ever look at Daniel 1? You realize that Daniel 1 at the end of that chapter, one little verse stuck in there that if you are not paying attention and having some ideas about the Bible, you are lost, man. You missed the whole point. You know what he says? The last verse in Daniel 1, he says, he is talking about the life of Daniel all down through here. In the last part of that verse, he says, and Daniel, this is a paraphrase, "and Daniel continued until the end of the reign of Darius." You know how long that is? That is 70 years. Now that does not seem much to the average person when they read the Bible, does it? It probably still does not ring in your mind why it is important that he put down the end of that chapter that Daniel, this story of Daniel was going to go on for 70 years.

I will tell you why. Because in Psalm 90:10, you and I were told that your lifespan and my lifespan is "threescore years and ten." 70 years. What you have in Daniel 1 is what you need for your threescore and ten lifespan to survive on planet Earth against what is out there. If you grasp that, you will grasp that it is what you need to instill in your child that you guarantee that you absolutely, when they are faced with what they are going to be faced with, that you have built the right things in their life. I will tell you the connection. The reason why so many of God's people will not build the right things in their own children's life is because they have not built them in their own lives. Daniel 1 is absolutely astronomical when it comes to understanding one, not only how we outlay the Scriptures, but how that it shows you and me as a New Testament believer what we are up against. The time span is the same as God says the average of life is going to be. There is a lot to learn from Daniel 1.

Now Daniel, if you have not picked it up already, Daniel is an interpreter of dreams. Daniel can unravel mysteries. Daniel in the Old Testament is exactly what you and I ought to be today. You know what I am doing today? I do not put myself anywhere near where Daniel was, but I will dare to be a Daniel. But you know what Daniel does? Daniel unlocks the mysteries that nobody else can get to, just like you and I ought to be able to open up that Bible and unlock the mysteries that nobody else can get to. He is a picture of what your life and my life should be when it comes to the Word of God.

I want to tell you, the key that made him so successful, and you know the story. The key that made him so successful was not his IQ. It had nothing to do with his intelligence. It had nothing to do with where he went to school. It had nothing to do with any of those things. It had to do with his diet. It had to do very simply and basically with what he ate. Because in Daniel 1, here is what happens. Nebuchadnezzar the king has taken the children of Israel captive. I do not know what you know about history, but you will know that when Nebuchadnezzar comes down, he comes down three times to destroy Jerusalem. The first time he comes down, he takes some of the people captive, leaves the city alone. Second time he comes down, he takes more people out. During that time, the people try to lead a revolt against him. So they wall up the city, and they know he is coming back a third time, and they wall up the city to try to keep him out. So Nebuchadnezzar comes down, and he laid siege to the city.

Now in the Old Testament, when they laid siege to a city, this is what they did. Cities back then had walls around them. Those walls kept people from coming in. You had to go through a gate. Well, it not only kept people from coming in, but used properly, it kept people from coming out. What Nebuchadnezzar did, which was a very popular infantry tactic during the time, he just took about 200,000 troops and ringed that city. Cut off the road, blocked the gate. Nothing went in. Nobody came out. So the very defenses that they had set up to keep him out, he used as his defensive to take that city. Now I do not have time to get into this this morning, but I just gave you one of the greatest lessons in pastoring a church that I could ever give you. But we will have to leave it at that for now. But I will say it one more time. The very wall that they had built up to keep him out, he turned around and used to get in.

So he laid siege. For two and a half years, no food came in, nobody came out. The water system was shut down. They ate up the stocks and supplies of food. They had absolutely nothing to eat.

This is your passage, Liz, that you asked about the other Thursday night, honey. Remember back there in Ezekiel, was it, or one of those places? It was shown to that great famine. That is what happened. They were starving to death. Only after two and a half years, they gave up. He breaks down the wall, destroys Jerusalem, burns the temple, and takes everybody that is left in his third deportation to Babylon. This is where Daniel goes. Daniel goes in the third deportation. Daniel was in that city. He saw the desolation. He saw what was going on. Finally, he is taken captive as they take them off to Babylon.

Daniel was one of the three Hebrew children that get down there along with the other captains that the king said, "Hey, let us take these three guys and let us give them a daily portion of the king's meat and take them and nourish them. Then we are going to have them stand before the king." Daniel said, "Look, we do not want to eat your junk. We have our own diet. We do not want to partake of what the king wants to give us. We want to have our own diet. We are eating vegetables. We are eating pulse. We are eating broccoli. We are eating spinach. We are eating all the healthy stuff. You are feeding them Big Mac Whoppers. You are feeding them, you know, we do not want to eat that stuff." What you have here is a picture as this: the devil wants to prepare every day a daily proportion of what he wants you to eat. God in that Bible also has a daily portion that He wants you to eat every day. You know what Daniel did? Daniel did exactly what you and I ought to do. Daniel said, "No. I do not want your slop from Babylon. I do not want the meat that has been offered to idols. I do not want all that stuff that is dedicated to the pagan gods. I will tell you what, king. You give me and my boys 10 days and let us eat the stuff that we are eating, the pulse, the vegetables that we are eating, our diet, our Jewish diet. You let us eat that and you feed your best people your trash. At the end of 10 days, let us have a little contest." King said, "Okay."

So at the end of 10 days, and this is where in your Bible that vegetables are a type of the Word of God, by the way, just to throw that in there. It makes your seven-course meal throughout the Bible we talked about before. You have got to have your vegetables. Bible is likened to water. Bible is likened to bread. Bible is likened to vegetables. Bible is likened to meat. Bible is likened to apples. You have got a full course meal. If you just look at the seven things the Word of God is likened to, and then on top of that, it is likened to a sword so you can defend yourself. It is likened to a hammer so you can build something. You have got everything you need in the Bible. Daniel knew that. At the end of 10 days, he brings in the very best that Babylon has. He brings in the Hebrews. The Bible says that the Hebrew children were 10 times better. Ten times better. Ten times quicker. Ten times smarter. Ten times more in touch with reality than the best that Babylon had to offer. That is what the Word of God and a steady diet of the Word of God will do for you in your life. That is the difference between watching what you watch, reading what you read, and not that you do not have to do some of it, but I mean instead of the Word of God where you just make the main course diet this book and the end result.

I will tell you something. You give me any two Christians. One can be the smartest man in the world, and the other one can be as dumb as a stump. You give me any two Christians. You put them in the same place. The difference between what they know about God and what they do not know about God will be where they have eaten. You give me the smart guy, and he reads

everything in the world. You give me the dumb guy, and he reads everything with God. At the end of the day, he will be 10 times better. You are what you eat physically and spiritually. At the end of the day, they were 10 times better. Ten times better. You still have now understanding in all visions and dreams. This is Psalm 119:97, it comes down through there where he talks about the Word of God, and he says, "Thou hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for thy commandments are ever with me." It is your diet. You want to have the ability to understand things that people do not. You want to be able to go to the Word of God. It is what you eat. It is what you know. It is what you digest. That is Daniel. Oh, it is just incredible. He is just incredible.

VI. The Principle of Division: Light Versus Darkness

Now, in laying out that mystery, this is where we have got to start. We have got to be able to use the wisdom and understanding and the discretion that we find in Daniel 1, and we have got to be able to go back and walk it through. Now the starting of this, as I said, is all the way back to the Book of Genesis. Now I know I said to Genesis 10, but we are going to go one better than that. We are going to go all the way back to Genesis 1, because this is where it starts. You have got to see this in its entirety. You have got to see this in its entirety.

Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

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

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

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

We know that passage, and it simply says this: God divided the light from the darkness. Now that is a great verse. Most people read that, and because they have the wrong diet, because they have no understanding, they have no discernment, they just think that that is the first day and night in the Bible. That would be quite a trick, because the sun is not even created for three more days. That does not seem to bother a lot of people. They see light and darkness, so immediately in a human sense, they know it is light during the day and dark at night, so that must mean that is the first night and day in the Bible. Of course, that has nothing to do with what it means. The sun is not even created yet. There is no night and day in a physical sense until you get to the three days later. No, no, no. What you have here is a great principle. What you have here is something that most of God's people never learn. The world certainly has not learned it. What you have here is where it all begins. What you have here is light and darkness represent God and the devil. What you have here is the greatest principle I know of in the Bible about getting along on planet Earth, or should I say, not getting along on planet Earth. It is the concept that God divided the light from the darkness. The great concept is God must divide before He can put together. You do not get us back. You are not going anywhere.

You know what is wrong with the world? You know why we are at a step as Christians with the world, or we should be? I will tell you why, because the basic fundamental idea that we ought to operate by and do operate by is the fact that God is not a getter together. He is a divider asunder. God divides. We get the idea. When Jesus came, He came to save the world. Jesus Himself told you in Matthew that He did not come to put together. He came to put a mother and a son at variance, a father. He came to divide. God never puts anything together until He divides it. Never does. Never does. From here, He divides the light from the darkness. Then He begins a process to put things together. Abraham was never the man that God needed him to be until God first separated him from Lot. Jacob was never the man that God wanted to be until God first separated him from Esau. In your own salvation, the day you got saved, the Bible says in Colossians 2:11-12 that He separated the soul from the flesh. You will never be in your life to God what God wants you to be until you separate yourself from this world. You never will. You never will. You never will.

You know what? We are about getting ready to study the Book of Joshua. This principle is in everything in the Bible. We are about ready to start studying the Book of Joshua. You know when Joshua crosses over the land, the Book of Joshua is an accounting of the battles that takes place. You know what happens in Joshua 5 on down when they actually go in the land? They go in and they go in east to west, and they divide the land north and south. That way the nations cannot align themselves together to attack them in mass. When the phrase comes from, they divide, then they conquer. That is a standard infantry tactic at Fort Benning, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Bragg, wherever you go, that you divide your adversary, they cannot get together, and then you can move out and attack them on both fronts if you have the men to do it with. So when they went in to take Jericho or take the land and fight the battles, they followed the basic fundamental principle taught in Genesis 1, light versus darkness, they divided before they could put it together. The problem with you and me, we live in a world that wants to get everybody together. We serve our God and preach a Bible that wants to divide everything out. The homosexuals and the lesbians, they want to be accepted like everybody else. The Bible wants to divide them out. Everything in this world is built on the concept that you have got to divide it first before you can ever get it together. That is just the way it is. That is a basic principle that is taught all the way back. God is a divider.

It is the issue all down through history. I mean, you could go and spend \$50,000 going to a college course and get an education in world history, European history, American history, and at the end when you are done and you spend all your money, you know what you would have? You would have the same concept we have got right now. All of human history is about two things, light versus darkness. It is about God having a plan, the devil having a plan to stop God's plan. It is all it is. It is all it is. It starts in Genesis 1:4.

VII. The Two Seeds and Their Historical Progression

Now you have got to understand this. When you get to Genesis 3:15, we are building up to Genesis 10. We just saw Genesis 1:4, light versus darkness. Then it gets personalized in Genesis

3:15. You know what he says in Genesis 3:15? Ah, what a great verse. God speaking. God speaking to the devil.

Genesis 3:15

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

Now, in the text there, the woman is Israel. Not Eve. Oh, historically it is. "I will put enmity between thee, the devil, the serpent, and the woman." Now here it comes. "Between thy seed and her seed." Now folks, you were told right there in Genesis 3, this thing started with light versus darkness. By the time you get to Genesis 3, it has personified and been personalized into a seed, God's seed versus the devil's seed. The rush of history is nothing more than two seeds vying for the authority of planet Earth. God's seed and the devil's seed.

Now in the Old Testament, this seed is literal. When we get to Genesis 10, just seven short chapters from Genesis 3, we find now the formulation of the devil's seed literally in the nation of Babylon. Now we have it. Now we know that that nation basically is the nations that are against God's people. Down through the history of the Bible, they become the Canaanites, the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Jebusites, the Hittites. All of those groups that you read about, the Philistines. All of those groups that you read about in your Old Testament that God is having a nation of Israel wipe them out or they are contending with a nation of Israel are of that seed.

You get to Genesis 11 and 12, just two chapters after Genesis 10. You know what God does? God calls out His seed. He picks a man by the name of Abraham. He says, "Abraham, I am going to change your name. Your name is Abram, which means high father. I am going to change your name to Abraham, which means father of many nations because I am going to bring a seed out of you that is going to bring the promised seed that all the world is going to get blessed in." Now your Bible is real simple from there, ladies and gentlemen. While Abraham is busy trying to get God's seed online and move out to do what God wants him to do, the devil's seed is trying to get him messed up so he does not do it.

So what is the first thing that happens? God says to Abraham, "Abraham, I am going to give you a seed. That seed is going to be a man named Isaac. Isaac is going to be the line of Christ that is going to bring the real promised seed to the whole world. But you are going to have to wait a little bit before you get it." What did Abraham do? He went home. It was Mother's Day. He said, "Sarai, what would you like for Mother's Day?" She says, "I would like to have a baby." "Well Sarai, we have tried having babies, you know, and God said that we are going to have a baby, but we just cannot have a baby now. You know God in the Old Testament opens and shuts wombs, sweetheart. Right now He shut, why do not we just go down to the Camelotian Steak Shack down here and have a nice Mother's Day?" She says, "No, I want a baby." "Well honey, it is Mother's Day. I want a baby." "Oh honey, I do not know how to do that. God said, it is not time." He says, she said, "All right, take Hagar. You take Hagar, you have my baby through Hagar, and I will be happy." Boy, did that prophecy turn out wrong. You know who Hagar was? She is the other line. She is the other seed. She is of the Satan's seed. She is of the Canaanites. She is of the Ishmaelite. She is of Egypt. She is the wrong line.

Those two lines, that is light versus darkness. You cannot get light and darkness together. You know that light and darkness cannot ever get together? It cannot. You know what that means? That means in the Old Testament, those two seeds could never get together. You know what he told them back in the Old Testament? He said to the Jewish people, "You do not marry that seed. The Canaanites, the Hittites, the Jebusites, do not bring them in. Do not marry them." You know every time they did, they got messes. They got in trouble. They got all kinds of problems. You cannot get light and darkness together. But by the same token, just like Jimmy cannot make it light and dark at the same time in here, it has got to either be light or kind of light or kind of dark, but it cannot be one or the other extreme. You ought not to be messing with the world of darkness as a child of light. What do you not understand about that? I have never understood saved people of the light and marry an unsaved people of the darkness. And thinking it is okay. Thinking it will work it out. Thinking that, "Well, it will be okay." No, no, no. That is exactly, I promise you, what Abraham thought. I promise you. Abraham thought, "Honey, it is Mother's Day. What am I going to do? Okay. If you are going to be happy, if I father a child through Hagar, your handmaid, even though she is the wrong seed, I know it will make you happy, so we will be happy." You never violate the clear preaching principles of the Word of God and find happiness. Never. It was light versus darkness, and you could not get the two together. He tried on Mother's Day to make his mama happy. You know what? He not only did not make her happy because it causes all kinds of family problems, but Israel got one of its worst enemies for the next 6,000 years. Hated them. All because of Mother's Day. So think about that as you wolf down your lunch.

I will go one farther. Let us go back to the garden. If you would have kept your hands in your pockets instead of picking them grapes, we would not be here now. And on the audacity to bring it to the husband. Just kidding. That is the first for me. I had never seen a man sign his death warrant in front of public people before.

That is a great principle. It is in the Old Testament, the seed is literal. In the New Testament, the seed is spiritual. In the Old Testament, the devil operated through nations, and so did God. In the New Testament, the devil and God do not work through nations. It works through churches. In the Old Testament, there was one capital nation that God put His name on. If you wanted to find God, everybody had to go to that nation. It was the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Today, there is no Christian city. There is no Christian nation. You see, the seed is not a literal seed of men and women. It is a spiritual seed that comes from the Word of God, which is the incorruptible seed.

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

You know, in the Old Testament, the devil had his corrupt literal seed, and God had His incorrupt seed. The incorrupt seed was always corrupted by the corruptible seed. It was literal. When we got to the New Testament, the devil knew that he could not do it through nations anymore, so he had to do it through churches and Bibles. The Bible says your Bible is the incorruptible seed of

God. I guarantee you, as I stand here this morning, just like back in the Old Testament, there was a corruptible and incorruptible seed. Literally, there is a corruptible and incorruptible seed spiritually. You can take it to the bank. You may not like it. It may make you mad. You know what? I do not know what to tell you. Sometimes the truth does hurt. This sets the stage for the next 6,000 years of man's existence on planet Earth. Remember now, the Old Testament is about nations. God's nation and the devil's nation. Literally, the New Testament is about churches, Bibles, and a seed spiritually. So all down through the rest of the Old Testament now, and then all down through history, you have God versus the devil. You have God's seed versus the devil's seed, physically here, spiritually here. You have light versus darkness, right versus wrong, Kingdom of God versus the devil's kingdom, and God's city versus the devil's city. When you get to Revelation 17, 18, and 19, right where we are at with Babylon Mystery Religion, part of that mystery is, how in the world did that thing survive from Genesis 10 to Revelation 17? That is the mystery. That is the mystery.

There are two warnings in your Bible. One is in Proverbs 22, and one is in Proverbs 23. Those two warnings are for you and I, or anybody who is paying attention to the Word of God, are never to remove the landmarks that God has placed in history. Two landmarks God has placed in history. The first landmark will be the nation of Israel. You want to find God in the Old Testament? Find the nation of Israel. He will never be far from them. Before they are in existence, find the men that He is using to get them into existence. That would be Isaac. That would be Abraham. That would be Jacob. That would be Noah. That would be Shem. He will never be far from the people or His nation. You want to find Him in the Old Testament? The nation of Israel is the landmark. You want to find God in the New Testament? Find the true church. Find the body of believers that believe the Bible is the Word of God and have the absolute, incorruptible seed. In the Old Testament, you want to find the right nation? Find the one that has the seed of David. In the New Testament, you want to find the right church? Find the one that has the seed of David? Psalm 119, 176 verses tells you all about that seed. That is simple. See, why do we make it so complicated? You ought to be a Daniel. As a Daniel, you ought to have the ability to open up and to lay out and to get into here and to understand this mystery. It is just the way it is.

VIII. Conclusion: Dare to Be a Daniel

That is exactly the thing that I want you to understand today. It is the thing that I want you to grasp that you in your life, everything we do, and I know we do a lot, you know, I try to balance it all out. I have been to some churches that are so boring, you know, that you are just, you know, there is nothing there. Everything you do that is fun is sin. I am not saying that, you know, there are not things that are fun that are sin, but I am just saying you cannot do anything there. You cannot laugh. I mean, some of them people I preach in those churches, boy, you try to get them, they are afraid if they laugh, they crack their face, their head will fall off. I mean, it is incredible. I mean, if anybody, they are not enjoying their salvation, they are enduring their salvation. You have got to have a balance. You have got to have fun. You have got to make everything you do fun, but at the same time, you never lose sight of the bottom line focus. Sometimes, even in this church, that is the thing that we all struggle with, because in the midst of all that we do, I mean

Memorial Day weekend, it is fun. We ought to do things as a church family. We open it up to bring other people so they can see our church, to see they are not like most churches, that there is a real chance to get everything you want. The athletic program, you know, soft-balling, all the things that we do there, that people can actually see and understand the fun things that go on. Yet it is an outreach, but it is something that we do to showcase, you know, that we are Christians and we can have a great time. We do not have to drink. We do not have to do drugs. We do not have to do all of this. We can be above that and yet have everything. Even in that, sometimes, with all that we do, we lose the central point, and that central point is this: you have got to be a Daniel. You have got to be a Daniel. You have got to get to the place in your life where you use the Word of God becomes your steady diet. You get that book in there, and that book gives you the ability, as we are going to see next week, it gives you the ability to be able to discern what is going on. That when somebody comes to you, when they cannot figure the thing out, you have got the ability to figure out what ABC, NBC, CBS, Good O'Rally, and everybody else on Talk Show cannot get. You have the bottom line. You have God revealing to you because of your steady diet of His Word, exactly what the truth is in any given situation.

You have to use it. You have to use it first in your own personal life. You have to use it in your own marriage. You have to use it with your own children. Then you use it on a global scale in your own ministry. All of you, the Bible says, "No man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself." Every one of you, God has placed you. If you are saved, God has placed you in your work, in your job, in your neighborhood, in your family. I know that sometimes your family takes odds with you. I know that, but you know what? God is a divider. Truth will always divide. I mean, I do not know what to tell you. I mean, it is ridiculous that some people will get upset with something somebody says, but if you threw them a Bible, they could not hold it right side up to tell you what they do not like or what they are upset about. It is not true. They just do not like it because they did not like it. You are going to have that all the time. All my life, I have had people that say, "Well, I do not agree with that." "Well, what do you agree with?" "Well, I do not know." "Well, what in the world is that?" Please, I do not care if you do not agree with me. I do not care if you do not like me, but please, you have a better answer than, "Well, I do not know." It is just because we do not like, we have no basis for it. Many times God's people operate that way.

You need to be a light where you work. You need to be a light in your family. You need to be something that shines out. You need to be able to, in a dark world, be the light that separates that light. Now, when you walk into your office or your job or whatever, just like Jimmy back there with the lights, and I hope you do a better job than he did. The darkness goes. It is like Jimmy turning the lights on. You walk into your office, and before you get there, it is dark. They are talking, and they are telling dirty jokes, and they are doing this, and they are doing that, or talking about that, and talking about that. Suddenly when you walk in, "Whoa," the light comes on. Everybody hushes over to the corner now. Everybody says, "Do not talk that way in front of her." Like it would bother you. I have had people say things in front of me, and then they forget I was there, and then they say, "Oh, preacher, I am sorry, I did not mean to say that." I say to them, "Hey, I do not care. Got any other ones? I want to write some of these down." He has never used them in my sermons. It does not bother me once you say, I understand what darkness does. I just

appreciate you recognizing I am not part of that. You recognize that I am not part of that. I appreciate it. Thank you. Must be doing something right in my life. I appreciate it. I appreciate some of you when you walk into the work. They do give you a tough time. I hear about it. You tell me about it. I have had some of you almost lose your job because you just want to love God and love the Word of God. I have had some of you miss promotions because of it. I have had some of you that got passed up. The only bottom line, the reason they passed you up is because they did not like you because of your stand. It is okay. Please do not think that you have to get a raise in life or get a new job in life to get what God wants you to have in life. He is able to supply all of your needs. My job is not to worry about those. Your job is to make sure every room you walk in, the lights are on. You only get that from a diet like Daniel, the diet being the Word of God. Dare to be a Daniel in your own life with your own family, in your own personal walk with God, and wherever you go. Because I am telling you, if you get any kind of ministry at all in time and you start working with people, you are going to know that Daniel 1 is exactly what life is about.

The devil had a daily proportion under Nebuchadnezzar for them to eat every day. You know what? At the end of that three and a half years, he did everything that the world wants to do to you and to your children. First thing he did was change their names because he wants to get you to be somebody you are not. He wants you to get to listen to his kind of music. He had his own band, you know. He wanted to get you to start digesting what he had for you. Every day, Nebuchadnezzar called down to the kitchen and said, "What is on the menu today? Give him a double portion of this." Every day of your life, the devil calls up before you go out that door and says, "Give him a double portion of this." Right now, your little kids are down there. Those little kids down there are learning about God, learning about this, learning about that. While they are down there doing that and while you are doing what you do at home, I promise you somewhere in this spirit world, somebody is filling out the menu for them. Sooner or later, they are going to have to go eat on their own. Dare to be a Daniel.

We are going to hold up there. Happy Mother's Day. Next week, I am going to walk you through this thing. We are going to get into the seven kings, five are fallen. Now that we laid the foundation, we laid a background. We know what we are going to deal with next week. We will start coming through this thing, and we will put it together, and we will see where we go from here. Let us have a word of prayer as we are dismissed this morning.

By the way, if you are here this morning and you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior, and you do not know today right now, if you died, you would go to heaven, here is what I want you to do. After church this morning, I will stick around up here for a little bit. You come up and talk to me. If there is any doubt in your heart and your mind today that you do not know right now, if you died, you would go to heaven, you come up and talk to me. We will take up a Bible, and we will open it up, and we will show you how you can know for sure. But I am telling you, dare to be a Daniel. Dare to be the man and the woman whose steady diet becomes the things of the Word of God. That you have the discernment and the understanding to unlock the secrets which so prevail in our world. The secret of your marriage, secret of your family, secret of what is going on around you. The mystery of iniquity, all of those things. John

says, the angel said to John, "I am going to show you what they are." Next week, I am going to take you back in the Book of Revelation. I am going to show you the mystery of this woman. We will lay her out so clearly that you could not miss it unless you just wanted to. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We ask...