

I. Introduction to Romans 9-11: Israel's Prophetic Role

We will return to Romans 9. I told you last week that we were going to start the third section of Romans, which is the prophetic section. I kind of gave you a little background overview last week of where we had come from through Romans and where we are going to go with it. I gave you those four sections and really the way that the Bible breaks itself down in the Book of Romans. It takes a very complicated book and breaks it down into very easy understanding.

I told you that, and you want to remember this, that these three chapters, chapter 9, chapter 10, and chapter 11, go back to God's dealing with the nation of Israel. I showed you last week, if you remember, how that whole thing was built around that verse that talked about the fact that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. We are to understand as the church what God is doing with the nation of Israel because it is one of the key important doctrines of the Bible.

I told you how that what he does here in chapter 9, 10, and 11:

- In chapter 9, he begins to show you and me, the church, why Israel got into the mess they got into. We are going to talk about that today.
- Then in chapter 10, he shows you how that because they got into a mess, God temporarily puts the Jew on the back burner, so to speak, and then turns the attention to the church. In chapter 10, we find the great verses and the great chapter on Gentiles getting saved. I think I told you this, that when I win somebody to Christ or when we teach you to win somebody to Christ, we take Romans chapter 10, and there are all the verses that you need, and it is a great verse.
- Then we go into chapter 11. Chapter 11 now deals with the aspect where he shows you that in chapter 9, they got messed up. In chapter 10, God goes to the Gentiles, but in chapter 11, and I suspect probably concerning the nation of Israel and you and me as the church, Romans chapter 11 is probably the greatest chapter in all the Bible because it deals with God restoring the nation of Israel and the restoration of the nation of Israel.

So that is where we are going to begin to approach chapter 9 today. You remember I told you the concept about the easy way to remember it. When you think of your whole Bible, and this is what we are going to learn along with other things when we start next Saturday, you are going to find that your whole Bible is basically built around two identities.

1. One will be the nation of Israel. Remember last week we showed you how God looks at Israel like His wife. I gave you all those verses back in the Old Testament.
2. The second identity is the church, and we know that the church is Christ's bride.

So if you want to really begin to break down your Bible in its basic form, you are going to realize that there are two identities that are very important to follow through the Bible. The first one is the nation of Israel, and they are to God as His wife. The second one is the church, and the

church is the bride to Christ. Those two identities, once looking at that chart back there that we use on Thursday nights, when we get into eternity, that is really what all eternity is about. God has His people, and Christ His Son has His people. And together throughout eternity, we fulfill God's program, which is talked about in the Book of Isaiah and many other places.

II. Paul's Burden for Israel

Now chapter 9 starts out with the greatest Christian that ever lived, that would be the Apostle Paul, giving us his personal biblical perspective on the nation of Israel. I want to read chapter 9, verses 1 through 5, and this is where we are going to be at today as we come down through here.

Romans 9:1-5

*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,
That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.*

For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Now we begin to see in this opening statement a number of things. The first thing, and we are not going to get into this today, we are going to talk about this probably next week, but the first thing we see here is Paul's burden for his own people. What will happen in your life, and like I said, we are going to focus on this next week, but what is going to happen in your life as you begin to grow and you learn about what God has for you, and you go through those spiritual levels of growth, God is going to develop within your heart, within your soul, a burden. That burden is going to be the thing that carries you through and keeps your focus and drives you. It is going to be the thing that God uses to build character in your life because you are focused on what God wants you to do.

You will see that even though these three chapters, what we are going to see today, they lay out the doctrinal position of the church as far as our understanding God dealing with Israel, the parallels, the spiritual parallels between the nation of Israel and you and me as the church, they are incredible. I do not think that there is any other single thing in the Bible that has taught me more about my own relationship with Christ, my weaknesses, my failures, my success, the good days and the bad days, my relationship with God. I do not think there is another single thing in the Bible that taught me more about who I am, why I struggle, and how to deal with my relationship with Christ more than the parallels between God dealing with Israel and me and my relationship with Christ.

I know that there are two different groups historically, and I know in a doctrinal sense, in eternity, God is going to primarily have His nation and Christ is going to primarily have His

bride, and that whole thing is going to work together like a hand in glove scenario where God accomplishes everything that He wants. But right now, one of the greatest lessons that you can ever learn while we are still on earth is to realize the parallels between God dealing with His people as a nation and their relationship back to Him and the relationship that you and I try to have with Christ, and they are really incredible. You will see that today as we come through.

III. The Importance of Learning from History

I have always been captivated by history. Memorial Day, we did our little military type theme thing, and I showed you how to read a military uniform by what is on it and showed you how that, in the Bible, before they went in to get their inheritance, God laid out the great battles. I told you that you ought to get some combat ribbons on your spiritual uniform before you meet Christ. You need to get into this fight, you need to get into this battle, you need to understand the difference between the church triumphant and the church militant.

But I have always been captivated by history. I think that you could take every other television program off the air and just fill it with History Channel programs, and I would be happy. I mean, I have always had a desire to know about history. I can get lost in it for hours. I mean, I really can. Most people do not even know, they are so busy. You realize that Missouri is one of the richest places of heritage and history that you could ever hope to go to in places that most people never think about, never know.

When I started looking around my own area, down in Osawatomie, about a mile from where your mom lives, there is, and I cannot think of the guy's name, but it was the cabin where John Brown stayed, or as he was traveling through, and it was some relationship to him. You can actually go to Osawatomie, and there in the park, they have moved that cabin from where it was and put it in the park and built a little enclosure around it. There is a history lesson. You know who John Brown was, do not you? He is the guy that was the abolitionist in the middle of the Civil War. They wound up hanging him or shooting him or something because of the fact that he killed people because they did not agree back then. It was right before the Civil War.

One of, and I cannot remember all the details, but it was either this guy's wife was related to John Brown or John Brown related to the guy. But this guy was a pastor. He had a church; that church is still in Osawatomie. When I worked down through that area, on my lunch hour, many times I was up in the Osawatomie area, I would eat lunch over there, and I would go through that little log cabin. It is incredible. I would go down, and his church is, nobody is in it now, but I could look in the windows and see it. Right next to it is a cemetery. I walked through the cemetery with all of the people that you read in the cabin literature and in the church are buried in that cemetery. Absolutely incredible.

You guys are from Paola. I worked in Paola for years and years and years. The main street in Paola that skirts around the city is Baptist, and Baptist runs west to east and dead ends at Hospital Drive down there by the hospital. I worked down there for four or five years, and every year they have those historical days in Paola, Kansas. I would go up there on my lunch hour and walk around and talk to the guys. You know why they call it Baptist? Because back in the 1800s,

in the middle 1800s, there was a Baptist mission down there for the American Indians. When I got down there, I walked up through there, and I actually found the foundational structure for it and found some horseshoes. It was incredible. I love history. I could spend all my time in history.

Kearney, Missouri, where John and Pam live. Jesse James' birthplace is in Kearney, Missouri. He is buried up there. It is incredible to walk through those things and to see that. You go up to Lexington, where they had the Battle of Lexington, there is a cannonball still stuck in the courthouse where they fired on the city. You can go to Anderson House up there. You can still see the wood stained with blood where they turned it into a hospital in the Civil War. Incredible stuff.

I told Beth, I had a little trivia for you. Beth, you probably do not know this, but you know exactly where your RV place is, or right in that area. I am sure back then your property was probably part of it. You realize in World War II that that was a POW camp for German soldiers caught in Germany and brought over to here? It is incredible.

You take me to a Borders bookstore on a rainy day, or the sun can be out. You know where you will find me? You will find me in this section getting those books and looking at them where it says "Kansas City, Then and Now." I am telling you, you give me a book that shows me a picture of downtown Kansas City the way it was in 1800 and then show me the same picture today, I am gone. My mind just goes back to actually see something that has changed so much, but yet it is the exact same place.

Union Station to me. Most people do not know this. You realize that every major city in this country had a Union Station? Because back then train travel was the only way to get anywhere. They did not have airplanes. The Union Stations were common in every major city. Maybe they were not as grand as they were in Kansas City or Chicago or some of the major cities, but everybody had one. I could spend a day down at the train station down there just walking through that place and just look at the wall. When they first opened it, they had a whole section of things that they found. They found a piece on the ceiling where two workers had signed their name and a date when they put their work in. It is incredible. I walked down those long corridors, and I know that those corridors were walked by hundreds of thousands of men and women.

You know what I personally think? On a kind of a spiritual plane or a kind of a practical plane, I believe that those great Union Stations represent the souls of the very cities that they are in. I walked down those halls, and if you are by yourself, you can hear your footsteps echoing off the walls, and I look at those benches and those long halls that used to lean out to those trains, and I wonder how many boys in World War I sat in those train stations. I wonder how many boys in World War II that were going off to war, boys 17, 18, or 19. I wonder how many husbands kissed their wives goodbye and kissed their little kid before they went off to Europe or went off to the Pacific. I wonder as they sat there waiting for that train what their thoughts were of going into a conflict, going into harm's way, and I know that many of them that sat right down there in that building never came home again. I think of things like that. I think of the heartbreak that must be represented in that place. People who had all kinds of issues as mankind for what? Over 150 years traveled in and out of that place? That is where the soul of any city lies. That is where the

immigrants came in. That is where the people that were looking for a fresh start or a new start, it is places like that.

There are all kinds of places. By the airport, right there, right down from the TWA Center there where they had that convention center, you realize along that road, it is right off of Admiral Boulevard there, you realize that there is a bar up there? That bar was one of the favorite hangouts of Bonnie and Clyde. You go to Excelsior Springs, how many have ever been to The Elms? Back in the 20s and the 30s, The Elms was the place because of the spa. You know what they call the one room there in Excelsior Springs in a place that is up there? It is called the Al Capone room. You know why? Because Al Capone and his boys used to come over there in the 20s and the 30s, and that was their hangout. I mean, it is incredible what has happened. I mean, you are walking someplace there, and I think that people always, I think at the Union Station, back in the 20s when Frank Nash, remember the story of Frank Nash, was gunned down by the mob right in front of the station? Incredible. The same doors, the same bricks, the same pillars. If they could just open up and tell the story of what they saw, incredible.

I used to get a magazine called After the Battle. I have them all. I have not gotten any for four or five years. I do not even know if they are still putting it out, but it was called After the Battle, and what these guys did, and they were incredible researchers. They went to Europe and Japan and all places, and they actually researched battles of World War II, and they found the exact places where they had a picture, and then they would give you the exact comparison as it stood today and told you the story. Incredible. I have watched those places where in France or in Belgium, there is a corner coming around the road, and there is a little store there and a little house over here, and there is a bunch of little cars coming around, and they show you that same picture with the same store and the same house except there are panzers going down around that corner. Incredible.

I spent a lot of time in Europe over my life, and one of my favorite places to go was Holland. Holland has some of the most historic stuff that you ever, when I go to Holland, Amsterdam in particular, I always feel like I am walking back in history. You actually walk down the streets and along the canal. Those canals have been there from the 1600s. You look at the houses, the old European style, and you will see across the top of them, 1550, 1603, 1701. Those are the dates they were made. There is a place right down from Central Station, that is what they call their train station, called Dam Square. It is called Dam Square because the North Sea came up alongside of that, and what they did hundreds and hundreds of years ago, they filled all that in, and that used to be where the dam was, and then they filled it in and made a square out of it back in the 1600s, 1700s, and there at Dam Square. Yet, when you go into the art museums, you will find that the paintings like Rembrandt and the great painters of the 1700s and the 1800s that did their paintings, you will see that right in that, the picture is Dam Square, and you will see along the back, the little shops that were there in 1600 and 1700, they are still there today.

I went down there one night late with my After the Battle that it was about when the Germans took over Holland, and when the Germans took over Holland, the Adolf Hitler Division called the Leibstandarte, they took over Amsterdam. There is a picture in there of all the SS troops lined up on Dam Square with all of their tanks and everything, and I stood right in that spot, same

bricks, same buildings, you can look in the background, same shops, nothing has changed. You will walk down to one of the corners or down around there, one of the streets, you will find what they call the Anne Frank House. How many ever read *The Diary of Anne Frank*? Anne Frank was a Jewish girl, and you know that during World War II, the Nazis rounded up all of the Jews, and they started systematically taking them out of the cities. They did it in Poland in the Warsaw area, they also did it in Amsterdam, they did it in every city in Europe for the final solution to rid Europe of the Jews.

There was a little girl by the name of Anne Frank, she was only 12 years old, and Anne Frank was a Jew, and back then Jews were required to wear the star to identify them as Jews. What they did was that because they were Jews and they knew that the Nazis were going to round them up, they put a little place up there, and they built a false wall, and they hid up there for like six or seven months while the Germans were, and could not go out, could not come down, had to stay up there, could come down at night. There was a workers' place down there. They had to be quiet, they could not talk, they could not walk because somebody would hear them walking and say, "Well, there is nothing up there," and turn them into the Gestapo. They got away with that for six months before they finally got turned in, and the SS and the Gestapo arrested them all, and little Anne Frank, 12 years old, she died in Auschwitz concentration camp. You go there today, it is a memorial, a little Holocaust, called the Anne Frank House. You can actually walk up those narrow stairs and walk behind that false bookcase, walk up in the little room. I stood up there and I thought to myself, "I wonder what thoughts this room holds. I wonder what fears this room holds for somebody like that, being afraid to step out, could not leave your house out of the penalty of being sent into a concentration camp."

You get on a train at Central Station in Holland and go down just a few, about a half-hour trip down to Haarlem, not the one in New York, the one in Holland. You walk down, there is another house. You know what it is called? It is called the Ten Boom House. Anybody know who Corrie Ten Boom is? Corrie Ten Boom was a young gal during World War II in her early teens. Her father was a watchmaker. They had a little shop right there on the corner as you come down from the train station. That little shop is where they were Christians. They believed what the Bible said about the Jews being God's chosen people. You know what they did? They put in a special place called the hiding place. That is what her first book was. They put in a special place where the Jews would come through. They had a little signal in the window that told the Jews that were looking for a place to hide that it was okay to come in by the way it was placed in the window. You go there today, and you can take a trip up through the thing and see all the places of it.

You know how they got betrayed? There was a baker right across the street that saw strange people coming in. He was connected with the Germans. He turned them in. They had somebody that was fake, dressed as a Gestapo agent, come in and got in. Then they were arrested. You go there today. Not only can you go through that house and see all the Corrie Ten Boom stuff, can you go upstairs and find everything? The pastry shop is right across the street. It is still a pastry shop today. I walked down that alley. My wife knows. I got them at home. I walked down that alley one time, and I was just lost in it, just lost in it. I was so caught up in the history of it. I am standing there in the back in the alley where they were betrayed, where I wonder how many Jews

must have stood waiting for that, looking for that refuge. As I stood there and I am looking around, I am looking at the back thing, just thinking. My eyes caught right down in the corner of the building. There was a brick that was kind of tilted. I did not know what it was when I walked over. The moment I got to it, I saw that it was not really part of the regular bricks. When I am down there, and I clear the brush away a little bit, and I pull that thing out, and inside that little cubby hole was three keys. I have those keys today in my home. I thought to myself, "What a piece of history."

I climbed up to the church. Every hour that bell rings. I have been in Holland when I have heard that bell ring. Folks, that bell has rung for 400 years. I climbed up as far as I could get out of that church steeple, and I looked out across that city of Haarlem and Amsterdam. I looked at that thing, and I thought to myself, "Wow, what this church steeple has seen come and go in the last 400 or 500 years." History is incredible. Absolutely incredible.

I have been in Corregidor, where I walked down to those long tunnels where MacArthur was. Those tunnels today, they go on for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of feet underneath the mountain of Corregidor. It is where your soldiers, boys, and my soldier boys, faced the Japanese onslaught when Corregidor surrendered. That was a hospital during the war. It was the safest place to be. You will walk down those corridors today, and you see all these offshoots of where it goes down through here. I stood in there in the dark, and I thought to myself, "You know what? 60,000 boys on Corregidor had to surrender." Wow, I bet the last couple of days in that place of what they thought about, thinking they are never going to go home again, wondering about what was going to happen to them, how ferocious the Japanese were, how under their code of Shinto, they never took any survivors or they treated prisoners terribly. I stood there and I wondered what it must have been like to feel there that night. History is an incredible thing. I love Amsterdam because it is such a rich history of the Dutch Baptists. You would not understand how important Amsterdam was to you having your King James Bible this morning. It is incredible. Absolutely incredible.

When it comes to history, the history of the Jews and the nation of Israel has always been one of the most incredible things that I have ever studied and invested my life in history. It is one of the two landmarks, and I have told you this before, it is one of the two landmarks in the book of Proverbs. One being the nation of Israel and the other one being the church that really keeps us on focus. Over the years, my understanding and my sense of history has been shaped by those two landmarks.

I will never forget the time I first discovered the book of Ecclesiastes, and I read and I saw how Ecclesiastes in chapter 1 and 2 shows you the repetitive cycle of history. The rest of the Bible, all it really does. When you understand the book of Ecclesiastes and you realize that the book of Ecclesiastes basically shows you that history repeats itself, that all of history goes through a cycle, it goes through a process of just working its way through, then you realize that all of the rest of the Bible, all of our history and you and my personal life, it is nothing more than us realizing that the reason why we make the mistakes we make in life is because we do not learn the mistakes of history. Like somebody said one time, "The only thing man never learns from

history is the fact man never learns anything from history." It is incredible. You want to learn and see the future? Study the past.

Job 8:8-10

For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:

(For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)

Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?

You know what he is saying? He is saying we learn from history. History is the cycle which, because it is repetitive, the book of Ecclesiastes, the theme is there is nothing new under the sun. Why? Because it has already been here at one time before. Incredible.

A while back I did, and I think the greatest example of what I just told you about repetitive history is found in something I found about 15, 16 years ago when I was researching. I did a study, in fact, some of you have it. We need to try to get it, John. I do not know if John is not here. We need to try to get John Buschietti's in the nursery. We need to try to find, but I did a number of years ago, a complete study on the assassination of JFK. Some of you remember that. You have got that? He does? We need to try to put that on CD. John Buschietti could probably do that. It was one of the single greatest things that I ever researched in my life. As I was researching it, I was coming to the point where I was looking at, and I am trying to find, Jimmy, there are a couple of kids. I was looking for some things and trying to find, as I was researching the whole concept, I found this. This is the greatest single thing that I have ever found that illustrates exactly what I am trying to tell you today. If you want a copy of this when I am done, if I get some lady that can type it up, to clean up my notes and make copies of it, I will give it to you. But this is what I found in my research on JFK. It was a research project based on repetitive history. It is incredible.

The comparison between the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the assassination of John F. Kennedy is one of the easiest things to illustrate what I am talking about.

- First of all, follow me now. Watch this. Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. John F. Kennedy was elected in 1960.
- Both Lincoln and Kennedy were slain on a Friday and in the presence of their wives.
- John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Lincoln, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of J.F. Kennedy, was born in 1939.
- John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald were both Southerners who favored unpopular ideas.
- Both Oswald and Booth were murdered before they could be brought to trial.
- Watch this. John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in a theater and ran to a warehouse. Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to a theater.
- Abraham Lincoln's secretary, who was named Kennedy, urged him not to go to the theater where he was killed. John F. Kennedy's secretary, named Lincoln, also told him not to go to Dallas.

- The slain presidents were succeeded by men who were both named Johnson and were both Southerners. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, and Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.
- Both Johnsons served in the United States Senate before becoming vice president, and both Johnsons, after serving out the remainder of Lincoln's term and the other serving out the term of Kennedy's term, were not reelected.
- And the last thing, both were working for the same religious system that in both cases wanted to remove the presidents of the United States.

Now that is one of the most phenomenal things you are ever going to find that is so clear that history repeats itself. Incredible. I have always been captivated by that.

IV. Israel's Eight Privileges and Their Failure

Now let us look at Romans chapter 9 because what we have here in these three chapters is a history of Israel. We have got to make the connection between the parallels historically of what Israel went through and then put them in our lives. Let me ask you a question. If I could give you a guarantee today, if I could give you a guarantee today that if I gave you this and you did it, that you could never lose your relationship with Christ and wind up with a judgment seat of Christ with everything that God wanted for you. If I could give you a guarantee today that I could guarantee that in your life, I wonder if you would take it.

Well, I am going to tell you something. I am going to show you some things today based on what the greatest Christian that ever lived said about the nation of Israel and their relationship to God and the parallel spiritually between you and my relationship with Christ. I want to show you how that we learn from history. I want to show you how that you and I learn from the mistakes that Israel made. Because what Paul is getting ready to say here that we are going to look at today is he gives them eight things. He gives them eight things that they had that they should have never missed the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eight things that he lays out down through here that if they would have had them, they would have never missed the coming of Christ. You want to mark these in your Bible because it is the theme of chapter 9 now is where Israel got off track. If you want to find out how you get off track, learn from history.

Now, he says in verse 4, you want to look at it in your Bible. Here is what he says:

Romans 9:4-5

Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the one, the adoption, to the glory, three and the covenants, four and the giving of the law, five and the service of God, six and the promises; Whose are the fathers and are concerning the flesh. Christ came. Here is number eight. Who is our all who are all God blessed forever and ever.

Those are the eight things that he lists to us about the nation of Israel from a historical perspective. If Israel would have stayed with these eight things and not forgotten these eight things, they would have never missed Christ at His coming. Now, what we are going to do here in just a second, we are going to pray and then we are going to start coming through and look at these and making the parallels.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Lord, truly, the only thing we ever learn from history is we never learn the lessons of history. Our country is in the shape that it is in because it fails. It refuses to learn the lessons that in the mistakes of people down through history. We as God's people fail in our walk with God because we refuse to learn the lessons that God has for us through history. Lord, let us examine these today with a humble heart, with a searching heart. Lord, as we look at next Saturday, I take the young men and young ladies and the moms and dads in this church who want to learn the Bible, help them understand that I can teach them all of the things that we are going to talk about. I can put it all into a context for them. But the greatest teacher is history itself. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for the sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, I want you to look at verse 4. We are going to talk about these and then we will come back and we will make some parallels. I want you to see how these parallels take shape.

Now, the first thing he says is, "to whom pertaineth the adoption." Here is what I want you to understand. When you look at the nation of Israel and you compare that to you and me as a Christian, here is what you always got to remember. When God dealt with the nation of Israel, it was always in a physical sense. He gave them physical blessings. He gives you and I spiritual blessings. He gave them physical promises about a physical piece of ground. He gives you and me spiritual promises about a spiritual place that we need to live in our lives.

You remember when you come through in the Old Testament, you read about the battles, do not you? Battle of Jericho, Battle of Ai, all those great battles that they fought. But those were real battles. Those were real armies that met Israel on a field of battle with real swords, real shields, real everything. They hacked each other to pieces, and they fought a lateral battle. You see that actual, that opposition, the enemy, the devil had placed there as a physical army to keep Israel from getting where God wanted him to go. So what did they do? They fought.

Now, in your life and my life, we do not pass out weapons here and go out and fight other people. Why? Because the Bible says in Ephesians chapter 6 that the weapons of our warfare are spiritual and not carnal. See the difference? Where they fought a physical battle with physical implements of war. Your battle and my battle is a spiritual battle because the Bible says we wrestle not against flesh and blood. Our wrestle is against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. You see the difference? You have got to see that.

So when God adopted them, remember we just finished Romans chapter 8, and I showed you how that you and I were adopted. We are going to come back to that in a moment. But you have got to see when God adopted Israel, he did not adopt them. When you got saved, when everybody in here got saved, you got adopted as an individual into God's family as God's child. But when God adopted Israel in the Old Testament, "who pertaineth adoption," he did not adopt them as individuals. He took them as a nation. You have got to see that. You have got to understand that. That is the difference between the Old Testament kingdom of heaven and the New Testament spiritual kingdom of God. He took them as a nation.

One of the greatest concepts you are going to find, and you need to mark this in your Bible, in Exodus chapter 4, verse 22, where he talks about Israel being his son. But he is not talking about

in an individual sense. He is talking about in a corporate sense as a nation of Israel. I could spend the next 12 hours showing you how that thing works, but we cannot do that today. We will pick it all up. You see, our country has got it backward. The world has got it backward. Do you ever wonder why the world hates the Jew? Do you ever wonder why all down through history the world has hated the Jew and hates the Jew to this day? And that everybody in this world just about is turning toward the Jews and the anti-Semitic mindset that they are against the nation of Israel? I will tell you why. It is because God adopted them as a nation and no other nation. Then you know what God had the audacity to say? Once he adopted them as a nation, he told all the other nations, "If you want to get into favor with Me, you have got to go through that nation right there." He did not even apologize to the Americans, the Russians, the Germans, the Balkans, the Filipinos, the Japanese, the Chinese. He did not apologize to the Jehovah Witnesses, the Hare Krishnas. He did not apologize to the Mormons. He just said, "This is the nation. Get in or get out, but it goes through them."

It would be like this. We are all down there. We are all down there. We want the President Obama invited our church down to his place. Then we find out that he invited a bunch of other churches. So we are all in a room down there, a big old hall. There are a hundred thousand people. And Barack Obama is going to get up and talk to us. That is the President of the United States. He is going to install a new policy now that is going to be for all churches. So we are all there. A hundred thousand people, maybe two hundred thousand are all there. Everybody is sitting around waiting, and he comes up to the pulpit. He says, "Well, today," he said, "I am going to bring together all the churches, and I have got the thing where we are going to work all the differences out. And I have got a plan that I want you all, we are going to adopt, and everybody is going to be a lot simpler." Then he looks over and he sees Jenny sitting there. He says, "Now we have a young gal here. Her name is Jenny. Jenny, you do not have to stand up. No, better yet, Jenny. Come on up here with me." So Jenny, in front of what, two hundred thousand people, makes her way up, stands next to Barack Obama, the President of the United States. He says, "Now I know you all have needs, and I know you all have things that you want to accomplish, and you need things to get it done. And I know sometimes you have struggled to do that. Well, I want you to know we are now for religion. We are for God. I will tell you what, I listen to read Bible, he is in his book, and how I started the Bible, and I got it. And I am with everybody now. And I will tell you what, we are going to give everybody out there that is a Christian. We are going to give you everything you need now to simplify it. Whatever you need, whatever you want. It is all going to go through Jenny. Everybody to get whatever you want. The blessings, the goodness, it has got to go through one person."

Now, the moment that happens, you know what is going to happen? A lot of people are going to say, "Jenny is my new best friend." Somebody else is going to say, "Oh, why is it her instead of me?" Then as you try to help people, Jenny, you know what? You are going to find people who get close to you to be your friend who really do not want to be your friend. They just know that you have got the keys to the cookie jar. Then you have got those that do not like you because you have got the keys, and they are going to sandbag you and do everything they can to make you look bad and destroy you because they are jealous of the fact you have got the keys. You know what God did? He took one nation, and he told all the other nations, "Get in line behind this

nation." Then they have the audacity to say all the families of the earth and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in this one nation. You know what you have got? You have got nations who understand the Bible, who got close to Israel. That is where you and I should be. Then you had nations that did not like that because they thought they were the superior people. They thought they were going to be the ones that run it. They thought their political system. They thought their hierarchy. They thought their standard was going to be the one. And God said, "No, I am sorry. It is going to run through the Jews." God picked one nation and said to all the other nations, "Get in line behind them." You have got to read Deuteronomy chapter 32, verse 8 sometime. You have got to read Acts chapter 17, verse 26. You know what he says? He says he has put everything, everything on this planet through the nation of Israel. If you want to get it, you have got to get it that way. You would not even be saved here today. You would not even be on your way to heaven today. You would not even have what God has given you today. If it was not a man named Jesus, it came and died on the cross. But he came through the nation of Israel. They were adopted not as an individual, but as a nation.

You know the next thing he says? "To whom pertaineth the adoption and the glory." I do not know of another nation on this planet that ever saw the hand of God and experienced the glory of God in everything they did, more than the nation of Israel. You would never find another nation anywhere on this planet who had the power and the miracles of God in his hand experiencing his glory more than the nation of Israel. No wonder the world hates them. I mean in Exodus chapter 12 when they were down in bondage and Pharaoh had them all locked up down there as prisoners and was slaving them to death. What did God do? God came down and miraculously let them out of Egypt. They got a little bit farther down the road, and Pharaoh said, "I am going to show them. I am going to get them." Pharaoh's whole army went after them. They come to the Red Sea. They are looking around and saying, "Now what are we going to do?" Moses says, "Just trust God. God will get us through." And then on the other side of him, I said, "Yeah, what are we going to do?" God said, "Watch this." You know what he did? He split the Red Sea. You know how big the Red Sea is? No, I know what the scholars say. You know why they say what they say? I will tell you what they say. They say there was no – the scholarship always wants to take the miracles out of God in the Bible. So the Bible said it was the Red Sea, which is a miraculous, glorious thing. And many – most of the religious scholars say, "Well, it was not really the Red Sea. That is a scribal error. It was called the Sea of Reeds, which was only about six inches of water in it." I had a guy tell me that one time. We were talking to a guy who said, "Well," he said, "the bottom line was," he says, "it really was not the Red Sea." I said, "Oh, it was not?" He said, "No, there was no miraculous miracle. It was the Sea of Reeds." And I said, "Oh, really?" He says, "Yeah, the Sea of Reeds is a known fact that only had six inches or four inches of water in it." And I said, "Wow, still a great miracle, was not it?" He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "My Bible says that all of Pharaoh's army drowned it. They drowned it in six inches of water. What a miracle." You know what? God has got a monkey wrench that will fit in the nut in this world. You think you are going to get ahead of him? He will get ahead of you.

When they were out in the wilderness, they did not have any water. God said, "Just hit a rock with your stick," and water comes out. They are out in the wilderness. They did not have any food. God says, "No problem. I am going to rain down manna from heaven." That is bread.

Somebody said, "Well, we are tired of bread." He said, "No problem. Look down," and the place was filled with quail. Now, I have got to be honest with you. Water out of a rock, little bread trickling down from heaven, and a covey of quail coming up that until you put a pencil to it. Do you realize that he did that for 40 years? That would be a conservative estimate for 2 million people. Probably for 40 years of manna. That would be 40 million tons of bread. That would be 40 million tons of bread, 40 million tons. That would be 80 million tons. Out of that rock, 2 million people, 2 million gallons of water. That is a miracle.

How about Joshua chapter 6, the Battle of Jericho. They walk around that city. There is a city fortified. He said, "How are we going to do it? We will lose half our army." God said, "I will just walk around the city for a while." Seven times around, you know what happened on the seventh time? They blew some trumpets. And the walls came down. You know what the skeptics say? Well, they say, "Yes, we found Jericho was a real place, and it does not lie in crumbles. But we do not believe the miracles of God were involved." They say, "You know what? There was about 2 million people in Israel. And you say, you know what? 2 million people walking around the city for seven days in a route step." You know what route step is, do not you? When you are in step, we all march like this in the army. Route step is everybody marches how they want. When you go across a long bridge, one of those suspension bridges in the army, you walk in route step. You know why? If you walk in lock step, the bridge will fall down because the vibrations all coming from one person at one time in the same order will weaken the structure. So you do a route step. Everybody walks at a different pace. Therefore, it breaks up the vibrations, and it does not put the stress on it. Well, that is what they say happened that Israel walked around seven times a city in route step, and the vibration from 2 million people walked around the city, brought down the walls. Yeah, okay.

You realize to this day, there are mathematicians who can figure back, and you can buy a computer program and run you. You know, you can get a computer program that will take you back, and on your computer screen, you can find the position of the stars, and you can put everything you want, and you can find it. You can actually put a map up of the way the sky looked, you know, 3,000, 4,000 years ago. They have them all the way back. You realize when these guys try to put the thing together and try to put time together in some kind of understandable format, do you understand that the mathematicians that do all this, that they have a little problem? That problem is that in history we are missing one day, and they cannot find it anywhere. We are missing 24 hours out of our history, and there is not a mathematician on this planet can tell you where it is. I will tell you where it is. There are two places in your Bible. The first place is in Joshua with the sun who stands still about a whole day. And when you figure that time out up there, you have got 10 degrees missing off of which is about 40 minutes. You know what a second place is? It is a place there with Isaiah where the sundial goes back 10 degrees. You know how much 10 degrees is on a sundial? 40 minutes. Your missing day is found in your Bible. Why? Because Israel experienced the glory like nobody else did. God ever do that for you? When you are out there, and you have got a lot of work to do, and you have got things you have got to get done, you can use another couple of hours a day. You know what we have got to do? We have got to go to daylight saving time. Now let me ask you a question. How would Israel

have that power of glory through the adoption, experience that? And then walk away. You figure that one out? I want to know. I want to know.

You know the third thing? They received the covenants. Now your Bible contains eight covenants. Let me tell you what a covenant is. A covenant is nothing more than a simple term as a contract God makes with man. Out of those eight covenants in the Bible, you will find that five of those covenants or contracts are made with the nation of Israel. So when Paul says, "You guys got the covenants," he is talking about the covenant that God gave to Abraham. The one he gave to Moses. The covenant that he made with David. The covenant that he made with Israel as a nation that he would regather them, and in Hebrews chapter 8, you find the new covenant that he is going to give them when they were reinstated or the millennial covenant. No other nation on this planet got that deal from God. Nobody. Nobody. Nobody.

The fourth thing is that they received the Word of God. We saw this in Romans chapter 3, did not we? We are talking about that Israel got the oracles of God. Our word for oral. That God gave them the Word of God by mouth through Moses in Exodus chapter 20. No nation on earth can claim that. Answer me. How can you have something so powerful? How can God, if God came down and gave and met me in the backyard or met me on the front yard or met me along the road someplace and said, "Bob, here is My Bible. I am going to give it to you, and I want you to give it to everybody else, and Bob. I am going to make sure that nobody messes with you. I am going to give it to you. You have got to get out there. Everybody else do it." Do you think I would walk away and say, "Okay, maybe tomorrow"? How do you have the power? How did Israel have the power of God that God gave them the oracles of God? And get to the place. I did not even believe it anymore. Incredible.

The next thing is the fifth thing is service for God. Verse 4. Israel was God's chosen nation. They were God's vessel. When he gave them the Word of God, the service of the nation of Israel through the priesthood, through the scribes and the Levites was to have the custodianship of the Word of God. How do you get? How do you serve God? How do you have God give you something to do? Do it for God. Get to the place where you experience God in your life and as Israel did. And then just simply one day say, "I am done now. No thanks."

The promises of God. And they got promises literally and also spiritually. Let me explain to you the concept of the promised land. When God called Abraham out of Genesis, he called him out of Ur of the Chaldees. That is where Baghdad is today, by the way. Always a picture of the world system. He called him out of Baghdad, the Ur of the Chaldees. Then he said, "I have got a land over here." We know it as the land of Palestine today. "I have got a place over here because you were My people, because you are My nation. I have got a place over here that I am going to give you for your possession, a literal piece of ground. And I am going to give it to you." Now, when he brings him out of Egypt at Exodus 12, when he brings him through Joshua, they cross over. And it is called the promised land. It is called the promised land for two reasons. First of all, it is called the promised land because it is the land that God promised to them. The second reason it is called a promised land is because God gave Moses the Word of God. And Joshua tells them on no uncertain terms in Joshua chapter 1 that if they want to stay in that land that God promised them. The only way you stay in that land is to keep the promises that God gave you in His book.

You know how hard it is to keep the promises in the Bible that God gives us? But you know what will help you? A couple of Red Sea crossings in your life. You know what will help you stay in this book to the promises? A couple of things that God does miraculously like stopping the planet Earth for you.

Service for God is incredible. I look at it. I am a studier of history. I love history. There is no greater nation to study in the history of this world than the nation of Israel rather than in the church. But I ask myself all the time, "How do you get that kind of treatment? How in the world do you get that kind of treatment from God and then just say, 'No thanks. Sorry. I have got a better deal.'"

Then the seventh one, "Whose are the fathers," that would be the Old Testament patriarchs in verse 5. I do not know how familiar you are with the book of Hebrews, but in Hebrews chapter 11, you have a chapter which we call today as God's Hall of Fame. It is really a listing of the great men and women in the Old Testament. We call them patriarchs. It is a history of the great men and women that really formed the nation of Israel at their inception, and God used to bring the nation of Israel to where God wanted him to be.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Now, when you read your Bible, you know this, that when you find the word "wherefore" or "therefore," it always means, "Because of what I just said, this is where we are going." You know, it may be chapter 11 and chapter 12, but the "wherefore," the "therefore" put the two chapters together. You should know that. When he says "wherefore," he is talking about what he just told you in chapter 11. He is talking to Israel here. He says, "Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that does so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." You know what he is saying? He is saying, "Go back and study history. Look at Moses. Look at Abraham. Look at Isaac. Look at Jacob. Look at Joseph. Look at David. Look at Elisha. Look at Elijah." They did not have perfect lives. They struggled. They had ups and downs. They had people that hated them, wanted to kill them. Many times they took on a whole nation by themselves. He says, "You know what? You need to understand that those are the men that I use to form the very nation that you are." I will tell you something else. You go to Matthew chapter 1 and look at the genealogy of the King and line of Christ and Luke chapter 3 and study the human line of Christ. You will find every one of those guys right in that line of Christ. You know why it was so important to remember the fathers? Because that was the line that Christ came from. That was the line that Christ came from. They had forgotten that. They had lost sight of that.

Then the eighth thing, the promise of getting their inheritance, he says, "God blessed through Christ forever and ever." You know, their inheritance, as I said, was a literal inheritance. Hebrews chapter 11 again, verses 8 and 9 are two great verses. 8, 9, and 10. Here is what it says:

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

You know what he is looking for? He is looking for Jerusalem. He is looking for that literal city which is going to be his inheritance, and Israel is an inheritance for down through the eons of eternity. And there are no eons in eternity. But he is looking for that. That is what he is looking for. It is incredible. You know what? And this is what 9, 10, and 11 is talking about. Let me tell you something. That promise was given to Abraham back in Genesis 12. Israel never got that promise fulfilled. Never has. We know they have not because they lost sight of these eight things. When they lost sight of these eight things, God, as I said earlier, put him on the back burner, turned his attention to Christ's bride, the church, and they are bringing him in. But chapter 9, 10, 11 of Romans shows you exactly what he is saying here. God called him out. God had something for them. They reneged on it. They turned their back on God. So God put him on the back burner. They never got that city. They never found that city. They never got that inheritance on this earth yet. But Romans chapter 9, 10, 11 shows me why they got screwed up. God went to the Gentiles, and then chapter 11 shows me, but they are going to get it in the future. They are going to get that city. They are going to get that inheritance. It is incredible. It is incredible.

V. The Church's Admonition from Israel's History

Now, quickly here. Let me talk to you about some incredible and parallel. Now, if you did not hear anything else I have said so far, hear this. Just as, I am going to say it real slow, just as the Jews lost sight of these eight concepts that would have led them right to Christ's first coming so that they would not have missed it. So we as God's people, in a spiritual sense, lose sight of these same eight principles in a spiritual parallel. That is the reason why some of us will miss the second coming of Christ. Now, I am not saying I am talking about saved people. Some of you sitting under the sound of my voice this morning are saved, and you are going to go to heaven. But you are going to miss the blessings and the inheritance that God got for you spiritually, just the way that you missed it physically. And it is for the same eight reasons.

Now, let us turn it around. I showed you from a historical perspective. Now, let us come back around and look at these eight things very quickly from a spiritual perspective. Remember, God's son spiritually is me. God's son Israel as a nation is Israel. How they got to keep the blessings and the power of God is the same way I get to keep them. And how they fell back in the world is how exactly I will fall back. It is just that simple. Forget these eight things. You will lose the blessings and the power of God. There was no reason, ladies and gentlemen, once you understand history, once you understand Romans, chapter 9, 10, 11, once you understand what Paul is saying in Romans, chapter 9, verses 1 through 5, there is no reason for Israel to miss what

God had for them. And on the same basis, my friend, there is no reason for you and I to miss what God has for us.

Before I get into this, turn over to 1 Corinthians, chapter 10. I want to give you a great verse that parallels into this. You want this. You want to mark this if you do not already have it in your Bible. Look at 1 Corinthians, chapter 10. Pick it up in verse 5. Now, God, Paul is talking about the nation of Israel here. Now watch this, verse 5.

1 Corinthians 10:5-11

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Now, here it comes. Here it comes. Here it comes. Learn from history. Here it comes. Learn from history. "Now, all these things happened unto them for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world come. Wherefore," what I just said, "let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." See that thing? You know what he just told you? Go back and see where they got screwed up. That is exactly where you and I will get screwed up. That is what he is showing you. That is what he is telling you. You want an insurance policy against going into apostasy and losing your love for God? You want an absolute guaranteed insurance policy that will guarantee you will never go back to the world? Get these same eight things that they had and lost in your life and my life. Just that simple.

All right, let us talk about it here for a second. You know what admonition means? The word admonition? The word admonition is a great word because it means reproof. It means preaching. You see, admonition, when he says these things for admonition, he is not just telling you about these things. He is preaching these things to you. He is using it as a rebuke that if you are doing some of these things, stop doing it because it is going to learn from history. It is going to mess you up. You know what Christianity wants today? You know what Christians want today? They want preaching, but they want no conviction. You see, you want me to preach, but you do not want me to convict you. You want to walk out of here, you know, with a nice glowing feeling about yourself. I hope my message always points out some deficiency in our world someplace. I know it does in mine. See, you only have to put up with it once. I spend Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday putting it together. It beats me up all week. No wonder I am so passionate about beating you up. But that is what Christianity wants today. It wants preaching, but it wants no conviction from the preaching. They want preaching. They want Bible, but they do not want any admonition from the Bible. Somebody said one time years ago, left the church and said, "Well, we are just going to go someplace where after church we feel better." You know what my answer was? "Well, you know what? If you will get right with God, you will feel better right now." You know what the Bible says? It says he is a lover of the honeycomb. Even the better things are sweet.

I told this story a couple of Thursday nights ago, years ago, my mentor in the Lord, Mel Subaca, we had a at the Stark County Fair. We had a booth where we would win people to Christ and do a little surveys, and all those kinds of things. I really cut my teeth. I learned it. We took a break, and we were out getting a bite to eat. I told you, Mel, he never missed a trick. In everything he saw, he saw some spiritual plane to it. I have tried to put my life that way, but I pale in comparison to him. Everything he saw when everybody else saw one thing, he saw the spiritual application to it. For instance, we are getting a hand hot dog and drinking a Coke, then out there. We are kind of walking around, and there was this guy who was on the midway. He was doing all kinds of gun guy with juggling things and all. He had a little spiritual comment about that. Somebody else was breathing fire. He had a Luke chapter 16 comment about that. So we are walking down there, and this guy had this lady on a big round board, and she was tied up to it like that. The guy was a knife thrower. The guy came back, he had all these knives on the table. He was a great knife thrower, I forget his name. But anyway, the lady was on there, and he blindfolded. Now I think they are all cheating when they, I think you have got little holes in there. But anyway, blindfolded, took those knives and completely outlined her body. I am standing there amazed because I am still young and stupid. I thought it was all real. It is all fake. I am standing there amazed. You know what Mel said? He says, "God, help me never to preach like that man throws knives." I went, "Whoa." You know what he was saying? "When I preach, do not let me just go around the outside. When I preach, I want to stick you." You see, Christianity, they want preaching. They want preaching. You just do not want any conviction that comes from preaching. No admonition. Do your kids like to be told what to do? Show me a parent. Do I have a parent here that your child loves to be told what to do? Well, what makes you think that you as a parent with your child and the difference between your heavenly parent and you? Both have got the old sin nature.

VI. Spiritual Parallels: The Eight Principles for the Church

All right, first of all, the adoption. Just as God adopted Israel as a nation, he adopted you and I as an individual. Remember a couple of Thursday nights ago, that young man had come in, and he obviously did not believe the Bible, did not believe in God. He kind of wanted to ask some questions. Here is what he said. If you remember, if you were there that night, he said this. He said, because somebody had asked a question about a relationship with God, and I was explaining how to have one. He raised this question, and this is the only time he kind of got close to digging me. But I understood where it was coming from, so no problem. I am going to be nice to this guy. He does not understand that the big anvil was swinging over his head, and all I have

got to do was push the button, and I will crush him. But I was very kind. Here is what he said if you remember that night. He says, "How can anybody say?" If you believe in a God that is as eternal as everybody says he is, "How can anybody, how can anybody be such an egotist?" How can anybody be such an egotist that would think that if God is that way and we are who we are, who would anybody could think or she could think that God would, you could have a relationship with God.

Now, you know what? I thought about that thing all week long. I thought about that thing stayed in my head and my heart all week long. I thought about that question all through the week. Not that it shook me what I thought. I agreed with him in my mind because the thing that got me is the question was, the question that somebody asked was, "Why can I have a relationship with God?" That guy's question was, "Why would God want to have a relationship with us?" That thing drove me nuts all week. And the answer is, you know what? That is the greatest thing about God and me. He is one opposite end of the universe. I am the other. He is holy. I am rotten. He is holy. I am vile. He is holy. I am a slime ball. Why in the world would a holy God want to have a relationship with me? But you know what? He does. Bless God. That is where it is at. Somebody says, "Well, I do not understand how God could ever send a man to hell." I do not understand how God would ever want to take any of us to heaven. But he adopted us. And that is the answer. He adopted us. He took us in.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

I agree. Nothing I could deserve. Nothing you could deserve. But he did. And he wants a fellowship. Not only did he want a fellowship, he wanted to adopt me. We have got a couple that are not here today. They had to go to the airport. Jamie and Brian. Jamie and Brian are two of the sweetest kids I have ever had in my ministry. They cannot have kids. So they are foster parents. They take kids. They adopt kids. Hoping that someplace down the line, they will get the right scenario with the right kid with the right background that when they get them. Remember I introduced them that time when they had those three little guys? Well, the next Monday, the service was called up and said, "We have got to take them back." I do not know how to do it. I mean, you get they want kids so desperately, and they take those kids. I tell them, I said, "I have got more respect for you than I think everybody in the world. I could not do it." Why, you give me a puppy, and he stays in my house. My wife, when I read the paper, she takes the dog section out that has got the little lab puppies in it. Somebody brings over a lab puppy and says, "Hey, you know what? I know you lost Tinker. Here it is." I do not want a third dog. I am happy with two. I miss Tinker. But you know what? I am not going out and get another dog. But if you bring a puppy over, it is staying. I do not know what to tell you. I do not know what to tell you. A little thing wagging around with a tail, and it is in a little puppy breath, and all those things. It is staying.

I cannot imagine what it must be. They want to adopt children and get him in there, and they snuggle to you, and he started getting close to you. Then you get a phone call, and they rip them

out of your arms and said, "You have got to go back to an abusive family." Every time I see him and her, here is the dominant conversation. "Looks like we might get one next week." He told me last night, he did not care who won the ball game. He came up and he said, "Well, I want you to know the Division Family Service was called. They have got one might work out for us this time. We are going to get it." They never get discouraged. They have had kids that they have taken, and they have taken back, and taken, and taken back. If you know what, that only happened to me once. And I would say, "That is it. I am collecting baseball cards. I want to get rid of them when I have doubles." I could not do it. I could not do it. You have got to be a special kind of person with a special kind of heart and love. Not to love the people, the kids. We could all do that. But when you have your heart ripped out, when you take them back for, how do you bow? I do not know. But I know the excitement every time that glimmer in her eye, every time when they come over and they say, "Oh boy, next week might be it." I look at that, and I think to myself, "You know what? That is exactly how God must be feeling this morning about some of you that are right there to get saved." The people that you are working with, that are trying to bring in and get saved. And God is so excited because of the fact that they are right on the verge of letting him adopt them. You and I were adopted, man. It is like the kid in school. He was adopted, and every time he went to school, because he was adopted, you know how mean kids can be? All the kids would go, "Nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, that is not your mommy, that is not your daddy, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah. We have got moms and dads, you know." And you know, he came home, and the kid told his foster parents who were adopting him, you know, what this thing was, and they feel bad about him. You know, kids can be so mean. And they said, "Well, honey, what did you say?" And he said, "Oh, it is just no big deal." He said, "I told him." He said, "No, it is not that way at all." He says, "Your mom and dad had to take what they got. My mom and dad picked me out of a whole bunch of other ones." Hey, folks. Hey, guys. Want to talk about God? Want to talk about a relationship with God? Want to talk about an adoption? He picked you. How do you walk away from that? How do you really understand God adopted you, but then you say, "No thanks." I do not get it.

Then it says, "See the glory." Oh, the miracles to Israel and the miracles to us. Have you ever had a time when God intervened in your life? Have you ever had a time that God came down and did something? That was the most miraculous thing in your life. I have seen some of you come to the place that when you disciple your first person, and it is the first time in your life when you really on your own, one on one, you do something for God for somebody else. I remember the first time I preached, and somebody gave me a love offering for it. It is not that I cared about the money, but I sat down back in my hotel room, and I put that little money in a pile, and I just looked at it. It was not about the money to me, but it was about that all of my life I had worked and done things for the job that I had, and I did this, and that was the first time in my life that I did something for God, and God said, "Here. Let me pay you for what you did." I have watched some of you in circumstances where God has come down and did incredible miracles in your life.

I had a little girl years and years and years and years ago. Her name was Ruthie Powell. Ruthie Powell was one of the sweetest gals that I have ever met in my life. Ruthie Powell was about 21, 22 years old when they found the first brain tumor. They took that brain tumor out. She had to

wear a turban, cut her skull all the way open to get it out. She was the happiest little girl you ever met in your life. You want to talk about somebody that had the joy, joy, joy down in their heart. She had it. Then they found the second tumor, and she had to go through that process all over again. Then a little bit later on, about a year and a half later, they found the third and final tumor, and this was inoperable. I was in the room the night she died. Her greatest burden was the fact that her mother was not saved. She asked me to pray with her that night that from her death would result the fact that her mother would get saved. Then she asked me to preach her funeral. I will never forget it as long as I live. I was a young guy back then. This was 20 years ago. I was just a novice at this myself. I had never been faced with that kind of scenario. Everybody I had buried was over 90 or dead and saints in heaven. I had never faced with this before. I remember when I got up there, I said, "God, I do not know what I am going to do. My standard sermon on death in the spring rolls ain't going to work here." I cannot tell you. I cannot tell you another time in my life. Well, I am going to tell you a couple more times. There have been a few times where God ever came down. We sing the song, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul." That was the song that day. When I got on that pulpit, just as clear as I am looking at you today, God took over that thing, and I preached. Then it was one of those things where it was God calling in place like a football game from the bench because I did not know what I was doing. And I get down, and I just preached a whale of a sermon. Now I am saying, "What do I do?" Because you know what? You do not give sermons at funerals or give invitations at funerals. Well, I am over here, and I am stuck. Well, I am over here, and I am stuck, and I am done. And I have got everybody's head bound. And I said, "Folks, after today and what Ruthie said," I said, "I do not know how to do this. But I said, I feel there needs to be an invitation to give that." And before I got that out of my mouth, there was a lady sitting over here right about where he is. She jumps up, runs over. And I am thinking, "Well," runs over to the organ and starts playing "Just As I Am." Now, I had never met this lady before. She told me later. She said, "You know what? I am sorry, pastor. I am sorry for what?" She said, "Did I get up and get over there and do that?" She said, "When you said that, God just told me, God just told me, go play 'Just As I Am' on the organ. I am sorry, pastor. That is what he told me." And I said, "It is all right, sister. He told me a few things today, too." And yes, her mother was one of them that got saved. I cannot explain that.

The only other time it even can compare to me to that. Remember Jason's grandmother that died? Jason comes to me and he says, "You know what? My grandmother is not doing well. She is probably not going to live very long. Can we go home and talk to her?" And I said, "Absolutely." So him, me, and Christian went over there and sat down and talked with her and made sure about her salvation. It was just a short time after she died. And that family on Jason's side, most of them were unsaved. They were just kind of a wild crowd. But she was a godly grandmother, and they respected her. And boy, I will tell you what, you talk about another time in my life when God came down and opened that thing up. And we had eight people saved at that funeral. I cannot explain that.

There have been times in your life when God has done things supernaturally that you could not do yourself. I have watched some of you come to the place where when you are like Moses, when you have discipled your first person or you teach the Bible or you do something here for God. The first time in your life you do it, you look like Moses coming off a mountain. Your face

just glows. You will find yourself in scenarios where God, you are in a place where you cannot go anymore. You cannot do anymore. And God himself will come down and part those waters, man, and make a path for you and give you exactly what you want. Now, my question is this. Let me ask you a question. When that happens in life, when you realize that you are adopted, how do you turn your back and go the other way? How do you walk away from that? How do you walk away from that?

The third thing is, oh, we do not have the covenant there to Israel, but for us it is the church. And it is through that contract that God made with us that the church is everything that we get our spiritual blessings from. Somebody said, "Well, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian." No, but you have got to go to be a church to be a good Christian. Because the Bible says that husbands love your wife like what? Christ loved the church. What kind of Christian are you to forsake the very thing that Christ himself loved and gave himself for? It all comes down to understanding the concept. We do not have a covenant, but God gave us the church.

The fourth thing, the Word of God. You live in a world today that has no truth, but God has given you an absolute truth. You know, in Hebrews chapter 6, there is a great God asked the nation of Israel a great question through Paul. He is saying to them, he says, "You, Israel, who were once enlightened, who tasted of the heavenly gift, who were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, who tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come," he says, "if you fall away, my question is, if you have had all those things, how do you fall away?" How do you ever have the fact that you were enlightened with the Word of God, now you are in darkness? How do you taste the heavenly gift and say, "No thanks, give me a beer now"? How do you be a partaker of the Holy Ghost and then say, "No thanks, I have had enough"? How do you taste the good Word of God and then develop a taste for something else? How do you have the power of God in your life and then just walk away from it? How do you get to the place in your life where that Bible is everything to you, and then two years later, you are in a place where it means nothing to you? I do not understand that. But I will understand how you get there because we forsake the same eight things that Israel did. And just like they missed the first coming of Christ, some of God's people are going to miss the second coming of Christ, after their inheritance.

The fifth thing, service of God.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

God has a service that He wants you to perform. He thinks it is unreasonable once that He died for you, you to serve Him. God's people think it is unreasonable. I will tell you.

The promises of God, the sixth one.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

I talked to you earlier about Israel's promises to keep them in the promised land. Well, your promised land and my promised land is a spiritual walk with God. Theirs was a literal piece of ground that they had to obey the promises to stay in the land. You and I have to obey the promises to stay in the walk. Same thing.

Then we have our fathers too, do not we? Hebrews 12, verses 1-4 talked about a great cloud of witnesses. Just as Israel had its great fathers, the patriarchs, men whom God used to form the nation of Israel, you and I have men and women that God has used that we can look back and see and find a point of reference for truth in what God was doing. Somebody says, "Well, you go to Bob's church. He is a heretic." Really? Hardly. I teach my Bible like John of Antioch taught his. You know who he was? Of course you do not. Of course you do not. My preaching is based on Savonarola and Jan Hus. You know who he is? Of course you do not. My message philosophy is based on Count Zinzendorf and August Spangenberg. You know who he was and where they lived? Of course you do not. My true line, roots go back to Peter Waldo and John Clarke. Do you know who they are? Of course you do not. My evangelistic style and preaching is based on Mordecai Ham and Gypsy Smith. Do you know who they are? Of course you do not. My courage to stand and face the reality and preach the truth in a world that hates it. My courage comes from a guy by the name of Latimer and Ridley and Thomas Cromwell. Latimer said to Ridley, but they are being burned at the stake. The quotation from 2 Samuel chapter 10, verse 12 that I have read a thousand times to encourage myself when I wanted to quit. And you do not even know where I chatter what it means. I am not talking to you of course. I am talking to people that call me heretics. You say you have got passion for the ministry. You bet I do. Like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. You know who they are? Of course you do not. You have to be fearless like Peter Cartwright. My concept of Bible college is based on a great man by the name of William Tennent and his concept. You have got to be fearless in a pulpit like J. Frank Norris. Who one time down in Texas who disrupted the whole Southern Baptist Convention that a crowd had where he was preaching had met down the road. They had a rope, and they were going to hang him. When somebody came up and said, "Frank Norris, you better get out of town. There are 200 guys down here in front of the saloon. They have got a rope. They are going to hang you." I will tell you what most preachers would do. They would be out of town so fast you would not. They would be on 911. You know what he did? He went down to the crowd, got on the back of a pickup truck, and preached to him, and the crowd got saved. You do not even know who he is. I am a heretic. You better check out the boys I have been hanging out with. And a hundred thousand others like him. Men who put aside the weight and the sin that so easily beset them and run with patience the race that was set before him.

Now the last thing, the promises of our inheritance. Someday God is going to give Israel everything in eternity that they want and there they have. I gave it a great verse in Romans 8, 17 and 18.

Romans 8:17-18

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

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

It keeps you in perspective. You do not get focused on everything around you in the world today or your job or what you have and what you do not have because you realize that all that is temporary. That the real deal is coming. But we have got a job to do. We have got a ministry to do. I am telling you just the same eight things that Israel should have never lost sight of but did is the same eight things that you and I should never lose sight of but will. And in both cases when Israel should have never missed the coming of Christ the first time and missed their inheritance, they did. Now they have got to go through the tribulation. There is no reason for you and I to miss the second coming of Christ or to be unprepared and lose our millennial heirs, but we will.

VII. Conclusion: Hold Fast to Your Inheritance

I am going to leave you with a great admonition in 2 John chapter 1, verse 8. Revelation chapter 3, verse 11, and these I close. You have heard it. Learn from history. You want a guarantee for your own relationship with Christ. I just gave it to you. Figure out these eight things. Get them down in your life. They will never lose your focus.

2 John 1:8

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Revelation 3:11

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

This world and everything in it exists for one reason: to destroy those two aspects in your life and to take those eight things out of your world that are the very eight things you need to focus on and keep straight on because it is those eight things that will get you through what nothing else will. When I talk about missing the second coming of Christ, I am not talking about not going into rapture. I am talking about standing before him with the judgment seat of Christ and losing your millennial inheritance because you lost your focus. That things in this world were more important than things that he wants you to do. You did not learn the lessons of history. You missed the parallels. You did not see and learn from the mistakes that they made. You missed the admonition. You wanted preaching. You just did not like being convicted about it. Well, it takes both, my friend, and I am telling you they missed it because of the fact they missed those eight things. And you and I are in danger of missing those eight things, missing it too, if we do not keep those eight things in our life. Let no man take your crown and make sure in what all you do and whatever you do, whoever you marry, however many kids you have, whatever you get involved in life, make sure you get a full reward. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus.