

Romans 10:17-21

Sunday 9/27/2009

We are going to look at our next set of biblical principles that really fit into everything that goes along with this chapter. We have been dealing in Romans chapter 10 with how the gospel has transitioned from the nation of Israel to the Gentile. That is really what Romans chapter 10 is all about. It focuses on the aspect that we are done now with the nation of Israel. We saw all the reasons why for that, and now we are moving into the time of the gospel, moving into the Gentile nations, and certainly the establishment of what we know today as the New Testament local church, which is commonly called the Church Age.

I want to look at verses 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 today. We are going to talk about these, and then we will come back. Here is what it says:

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:18

But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 10:19

But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Romans 10:20

But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

Romans 10:21

But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus today. We pray, Father, that you will clear our hearts and our minds and let us focus on the task that lies before us today. Help us, Lord, to show these dear folks from the Word of God what is really in your Word, and all of these things for training to the Gentiles. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

I. Faith Comes by Hearing and God's Universal Witness

Today, I want to particularly draw your attention to Romans 10:17-18. It says in those two verses:

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:18

But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse 17 says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Then in verse 18, it asks the question, "Have they not heard?" And then it answers that question. What it does here is it lifts a verse out of the Old Testament, out of Psalm chapter 19. In Psalm chapter 19, and you will want to turn there, we are going to go there in just a moment, here is what it says: "Yes verily, their sound went to all the earth and their words unto the end of the world." This is a direct quotation from Psalm chapter 19, verses 1 through 6, in reference to God dealing with the Gentiles.

I want to read Psalm 19. This is where we are going to be here in the book of Job in a little bit. Let me read Psalm 19:1-6:

Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalms 19:2

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Psalms 19:3

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Psalms 19:4

Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psalms 19:5

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

Psalms 19:6

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

I want to talk to you about one of the most incredible concepts that you are ever going to get out of the Bible. It certainly ties into Romans chapter 10, what we are dealing with today. There are three things that declare God's glory. When you look at all that God is doing and all that God did, He established three things. You might know it would be three from our study on the order of things in the universe.

There are three things that declare God's glory:

1. Christ Himself. Christ was the visible appearance of the invisible God. When Christ showed up, He basically showed up for one main purpose: to declare God's glory. That is what He did. When He walked this earth and when He was here after He was born, He did one thing, and that was declare the glory of God. That is all what He was about.
2. The Word of God. When Christ went back to heaven, there had to be something else that took Christ's place. God needed something else to declare His glory, and that is why we have what we call in our hand today a Bible, or the Word of God. The Bible is the book that declares God's glory. It is the book that you and I have that we can read and find out about Christ, find out about God, all that He is, all that He does. The primary focus of the Bible is to declare God's glory. That is why the theme of the Bible is not your salvation. The theme of the Bible, if you know your Bible at all, is the Second Coming of Christ, the Day of the Lord. The theme of the Bible focuses toward God being exalted by His Son sitting down on the throne in Jerusalem and being crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
3. The Heavens. This is found in Psalm 19:1, where it says, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

When God created the heavens, people get excited or confused about this. When you think of the word heaven, there is another word in your Bible that is used interchangeably with the word heaven, and you need to get this word down: it is the word "firmament." This is part of the confusion when you get into Genesis chapter 1, where it talks about "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and then it comes down there and talks about heaven and it talks about firmaments, and He uses them interchangeably.

A firmament or a heaven is an expansive space. We know from the Bible, and you learn this, that if you go over to 2 Corinthians 12, you are going to find that the Bible says that when Paul was caught up, he was caught up to the third heaven. This gets people nervous if they do not know their Bible because now they begin to think, "Well, there is a first heaven, second heaven, and a third heaven." There are only three heavens. The problem is when you get the mindset of heaven being angels with harps and smoky grass ground and clouds and beautiful things, then it kind of gets confusing. The word heaven is used interchangeably with the word firmament.

Very basically, where God's throne is, where Paul was caught up to, that is the third heaven. If you would go back to Psalms 148, you would find all three heavens laid out for you. The second heaven, as we know it, would be what we would call outer space. That is a firmament. A firmament is an expanse of space. So we call it space. We call it outer space because we are on Earth and it is out there, so it is outer space or an outer firmament. But a firmament is also another word for that is the word heaven. Then there is the first heaven, and the first heaven is our atmosphere. That is where the birds fly and the planes fly. That is our atmosphere.

So basically, when Paul was caught up to the third heaven, he was caught up through the first heaven, went through the second heaven, and was up there at the third heaven where the throne of God is. The Bible says that "the heavens," plural, "declare the glory of God." Not "the heaven," but "the heavens," because there are three of them.

The next thing I want you to see, and this is where Paul makes a reference to, is in Psalm 19:3-4. He says:

Psalms 19:3

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Psalms 19:4

Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Whatever these heavens are declaring, it is a universal language. It goes out to all the Earth. It is not limited by a language barrier. It is not limited by borders of nations. Everybody understands this declaration of the glory of God as the heavens declare it.

The next thing I want you to see, and this ties it in very importantly too, is Psalm 19:5-6:

Psalms 19:5

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

Psalms 19:6

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Verses 5 and 6 make the sun as a bridegroom. This is where we begin to see that one of the things that the heavens declare is a picture of the sun as Christ as our bridegroom. He says, "Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoices as a strong man to run a race." That is a picture of Christ. So what he is telling us there is that the sun and all of the things that are going on here is a picture ultimately of Christ coming, and that is the picture in Christ Himself.

Notice Psalm 19:6, "His going forth is from the end of heaven and his circuit." Notice how it is male, "his, his, his chamber." It is a personality, and of course, it is Christ. He said in verse 5 that it is a bridegroom coming out of his chamber rejoicing as a strong man to run a race. In verse 6, he says, "His going forth is from the end of heaven and his circuit under the ends of earth." Here is the key: "and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." That is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God.

What you have there in a very capsule form is a verse that tells you that the heavens declare the glory of God, and then he makes the heavens and this declaration as a bridegroom going on a journey. That journey in the heavens, as you would know it, would be from east to west. That is where the sun moves. That is the direction of the Holy Spirit of God in the Bible. What you have here is this thing going, and I think this phrase is really neat: "to the end of the world." That is exactly what he is saying, that the Holy Spirit of God is going to light man and give man the light of God to the end of the world. All of this is a great picture of that.

II. God's Revelation to Gentiles Before the Church

Do you ever wonder what was going on in America, in South America, in Australia, in Africa, and in Canada while the events were unfolding in Christ's day in 33 A.D.? Did everybody on the planet know? They did not have newspapers, telegraphs, or computers that you could get on and send messages around the world with lightning speed. They did not have any of that. When all the events were unfolding over in Jerusalem about Christ, and He was preaching to the nation of Israel and came to them as their Messiah, what was going on in North America? What was going on in South America? What was going on in Canada or Australia? What was going on in the rest of the world? Were they just out of luck?

The last 2,000 years before Christ ever showed up, or going all the way back to the events when they started, how did God deal with those nations? Those are Gentile nations. How did God get the message out to them about Himself and about God and all that God was going to do? What was God's plan for revealing His glory to the Gentiles before the church, before there were any missionaries, all that we have today? The Bible says in John 1:9 that He was "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." How did God do that? How do you explain that? That is a question that anybody that has any kind of serious thought or mindset about God in any kind of eternal sense, that question has to cross your mind at one point.

We talk about the American Indians. I think the American Indians are one of the greatly overshadowed, greatest studies that you are going to find in history. When we talk about the American Indians in America, 90% if not more of what you read about that has all been tainted now. That has been tainted into a race issue. That America, the white man, exploited the Indians, butchered the Indians, and killed the Indians. I agree we did. What America did to the American Indians who were here first was an atrocity. I do not make any apologies for it at all. We wanted their land, so we went in and took their land. Because we had horses and guns and Gatling guns and cannons and they had bows and arrows, we won. Just that simple. Then we relegated them to reservations where they had to starve to death, and the white man was over them, and the white man took their food and made money off it and sold it to somebody else and let them starve to death. I would be mad too. I am totally on their side.

My point is this: if you understood the American Indian in his culture, if you understood how the Bible says that He is "the true Light, which lighteth every man," and "the heavens declare the glory of God," you would find that God has a way through the third thing that reveals His glory, and that is the creation that He made. I know that in their time, they revered someone called the Great White Father. That is about as close to the description in Matthew 17 and Revelation 1-2 that you can get to God. They worshipped the Great Spirit. We think because they were pagans and because they were heathen that their Great Spirit was some kind of different than the Great Spirit that we worship. Not necessarily so.

I do know this: when an Indian went out and shot a deer or shot a buffalo or whatever it was, the first thing he did is he took his weapons that he went with and went over that and knelt down, and he thanked the Great White Father and the Great Spirit for bringing those animals to him to

feed him and his family and his tribe. That is more than most of God's people do when you sit down and eat your lunch this afternoon, and they are heathen.

When the pilgrims got here in the 1600s, and the time they moved westward, they found Indians who wanted to know about the Great White Father's Son who had come down and died for them and for their sins. Where did they get that from? There was a tribe from Washington state that traveled all the way down when they heard the white man had come because they heard the white man had the book that they were looking for that told them about His Son and how they could be saved. How did that happen?

I will tell you how it happened: Romans 1:19-20. You do not have to turn to it, but jot it down and look at it later. It is one of the greatest single verses in the Bible, or two verses in the Bible, that open up the keys to what we are going to be looking at. It says this:

Romans 1:19

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

I am telling you, what I am going to do today is give you a basic introduction to something. There is no way that I am going to be able to do all that justice. What I am going to talk to you about this morning was really my beginning in the ministry. I got right with God back in 1972. All of my life before that point, I was into astronomy. I loved astronomy. I think I got my first telescope when I was nine years old and progressed up to there. At that point in my life, I was pretty dumb and stupid, and I believed in evolution. I read every book I could get on astronomy and all of the things that I could get. By the time I was 15 years old, I had a very good understanding. I could find a constellation. I knew where everything was. I could tell where the planets were, the ones you can see. It was pretty intense for me and pretty much was my life at that early point.

In 1972, I was attending Kent State University. I only went there for a couple of semesters. I remember meeting up with a couple of guys who I had known from when I did go to church, and I had not been in church for many, many years. They had grown up, and I was grown up, and we sat down there talking. They invited me over to the cafeteria. They basically showed me and proved to me that night, I do not have time to get into it, but they basically proved to me, and this is why I do not say, "Well, you accept the Bible by faith." No, I do not. I do not accept the Bible by faith. I accept the Bible on a basis that it has been proven to me beyond any scientific doubt that the Bible is exactly what God claimed it to be. I have no doubt in my mind, not based on any blind faith that God wrote a book someplace and dropped it down by a parachute. No, I believe the Bible is the Word of God. When I talk about the Bible, I am talking about a King James 1611 Authorized Version. I believe the Bible is the Word of God based on scientific fact and scientific evidence that I could prove to you beyond any scientific doubt that the Bible is exactly the book

that God said it would be. For a man to see the evidence that they showed me and then to take the position that the Bible is not an absolutely supernatural book means that you have been smoking something too long and your brain cells have died, or you are just a good old-fashioned sinner that hates God, the Bible, and everything about God. Probably the latter.

This is where I got started in the ministry. Once I got right with God and once I saw, it was very basic. I went to my pastor and I said, "Look, I want to do whatever I can do." He said, "Well, we have a youth camp throughout the summer that we run, and maybe you could come out and help out there." I said, "That would be really great." I said, "Hey, I have a telescope. How about if I bring my telescope up and we can show the kids things in the heavens through the telescope?" He thought that was the greatest thing in the world. But you see, I was still a new guy, and I did not know anything. I knew how to run a telescope. I did not know anything about the Bible. So he paired me with another young man, his name was Chuck Schuster. He paired me with another young man who had been saved quite a while, grew up in the church, who really understood the Bible, and he also had a great understanding and appreciation for the things in astronomy. God knitted our hearts together. For the next four years, we formed ourselves into an evangelism team.

We did a program called "The Gospel and the Stars." We traveled all through Ohio, sometimes went into Pennsylvania, New York, up into Michigan. We traveled a whole circuit. That is where I really learned to preach. That is where I really learned and fine-tuned all my understanding about the Bible and preaching and teaching. Chuck would get up and he would do the slide presentation, and then I would get up and I would preach a message on "The Gospel and the Stars."

You are going to see today, and I am going to try to remember to point all these out, because here is what I want to do: I want to resurrect that program, and I want to come to the point where we build three or four evangelism teams. We get some young men and some young ladies with the ability to teach. We form them into, they put together one of these different programs, and I am going to try to list them as we go through. I will help you. You can find your own resource material and put it all together. Do your own work on it. I have some books back there on the visitors' thing that I thought would be very good if you want to get some basic books on astronomy. They are not very expensive. You can go to any bookstore, get them, or order them. I think that would help you because you are going to have to learn some of the technical jargon that goes along with it, and you will see how I do that. I will help you too. I will work with you once we get the teams formed.

I would like to do something. One of the things I want to do is, we will do this when the moon and Jupiter are up right now, and Jupiter just knocks your eyeballs out. We already have a telescope. A guy, I told you a couple of weeks ago, bought the TV set. I have everything else from the old days that I have had, so we just had to dig it out and blow the dust off of it, and it is all up and ready to go. Zach and I programmed a computer and a telescope the other night and got that all up ready to fly. What I want to do in a couple of weeks when it comes back up, and right now would be a great time because the moon is starting to come into its phases, but we are not quite ready yet, is I would like to set up right here in the parking lot. Have the slide screen set

up, have somebody ready to go to do a slide presentation, put that telescope on the moon, and then turn that 50-inch television out to the street, have some signs out there, "Free Star Party, Come In," and so on.

I used to do that, and I will tell you what, people, I used to have a little desk set up with a hand controller, and I would say, "Your child could run the telescope if he wants, and he could survey the moon." You set it on a fast thing, and that kid can push the buttons, and it will just move up and move down. He can explore the moon, and he sets a little control desk and all those things, and it gives you an opportunity. Then to have some of you there, not to come down heavy-handed on them about the gospel, not to say, "Now look at the picture of the sun, see that is hot up there. You want to burn in hell like that?" That is not what we are looking for. That will come a little later. But just talk to them. Tell them who we are, tell them what we do, and there will be plenty of opportunities. We had more opportunities than we could do, and very frankly, some of you will do a better job than I did with it. I will work the telescopes, and I have some people who are going to help me learn that side of it and work all of that, and we will put that together.

We are going to try to do that. It was something that you could host a block party in your own home, in your own neighborhood. We will put out flyers, go out canvassing, say, "Free Star Party at so-and-so's house, six o'clock, seven o'clock tonight." The good thing about the year we are going into is it gets dark now quicker. Pretty soon, it will be dark by six o'clock. In the summertime, it does not get dark enough to do it until ten o'clock, ten thirty. But we do not have that problem now. It is dark in another couple of weeks. It will be changed the time again. It will be dark by six o'clock, and we will be good to go.

There are all kinds of opportunities. It does two things:

4. It helps you get yourself tuned into working with people, winning people to Christ, doing a slide presentation.
5. I would say that within your groups, you could find four or five people who have the ability and work together, and it is just a great, great teaching tool to help people get it all put together, and I think it will really work.

What I am going to do today is take some time and work you through some of this. There is no way I can do it all. But I want to tie it into Romans 10:17-18, where it talks about the people, "How did they hear?" I want to show you one of the greatest absolute Bible studies teachings you will ever come across in the Bible, and that is the Gospel of the Stars, the base for you guys to build your teams from, and some incredible material that you probably have never seen.

The mark of the Laodicean church today is basically shadow Christianity. Most Christians do not even know their Bible, let alone developing yourself beyond the Bible, putting in an understanding of history and science or whatever it is. Most Christians, very frankly, and this is certainly not a criticism but just where we are at today, most Christians, when you start to talk to them about astronomy, they will answer back, "Oh yeah, I studied astrology." They do not even know the difference between astrology and astronomy.

Truth of the matter is, astronomers and astrologers do not get along very well. Astronomy obviously is the study of the cosmos, the heavens, the planets, the galaxies, the sun, the moon. Astrology is making a horoscope up and following your life by the stars. One of the reasons why astronomers do not like astrologers is because astrologers are 100% bogus. They will talk about the Age of Aquarius, and they will say, "We are in the Age of Aquarius," or "I forget what age we are in right now," and we get thinking, "We are in this age." Astronomers know that that is not where we are at. We are not in that constellation as the Earth moves around the sun and cuts into the constellation, and that is really what sets it up. If you go out, they can figure out the Earth is in the constellation Sagittarius because the constellations are around, so they will say, "Well, we are in the Age of Sagittarius, we are in the Age of Gemini," depending on where the Earth is. Most of the time, we are someplace else that they do not know that we are there, and it does not work very well. But anyway, putting forth the effort to learn the material to get it down.

III. The Ordinances of Heaven in Job

Our base text for today, and we are going to start out here, as I said, and I can only whet your appetite, will be the book of Job. I do want you to turn to Job chapter 38. This is going to be where we are going to base from now. While you are turning there, let me just tell you, the book of Job is the oldest book in your Bible. People get confused because they think that Genesis is the first book in your Bible, therefore Genesis might be the oldest book, and of course, that is not true. Moses wrote Genesis almost 2,400 years after the events took place. Job is your oldest book in the Bible, probably written down around Abraham's time someplace. Well over a thousand years before Moses wrote his book.

If you want the most scientific book in the Bible and you want to cut your teeth on it, it will be Job. It will be Job that will tell you that the winds follow circuits. We call it the jet stream, and meteorologists did not figure that out until about 1900. They had no idea there was a jet stream anywhere at all before probably 1940, 1950, 1960. But Job knew about the jet stream. You look at a pretty snowfall, and the snowfall comes down, and you look at a little snowflake that falls on your dark black jacket, and you see all the little intricate things of it. People say there are not two snowflakes alike. You know where they get that? Job said that.

You go out and commit a crime this afternoon or last night or tomorrow, and the police come over, and they start to do an investigation, and they are going to dust for fingerprints. They lift the print, they run their print through a computer, they made a match, you are busted. They did not know fingerprints even existed until about 1920. A guy by the name of Putman developed that concept. How did Job know in 1918 B.C. that God sealed up the hand, that every man's fingerprints were different? Job is a scientific book.

You get out there and you start studying oceanography and study that stuff. They found, they could not explain this, it was about 1930 they found fresh water down in the sea. Fresh water right in the middle of salt water. But yet Job knew about that. It was Einstein that cleared the theory that light was always moving. Yet Job made it very clear that light was moving in the book of Job, always moving and never standing still. Call it light speed. It is Job that understood the concept of the spectroscope. It was Job that talked about the telephone and the telegraph long

before Samuel Morse and Alexander Graham Bell ever put it together. Job, without a doubt, is the oldest and most scientific book in the Bible. So when we want to talk about the heaven declaring the glory of God, we are going to have to start in Job.

What I am about to show you today personally to me is probably the single most amazing thing I have ever found in the Bible. I will be the first to tell you I do not understand it all. I probably do not understand much of it. But with what I do glimpse out of it and what I do see, my, my, my. It is things like this that make me love God, love the Word of God, and want to spend the rest of my life going through it.

Job says in Job 38:30-33:

Job 38:30

The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

Job 38:31

Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

Job 38:32

Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

Job 38:33

Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

Each verse has two components to it, and the first component matches the second component in each verse. As far as I am concerned, in material like this, it is the key to everything. It is absolutely incredible. Notice he says, "The waters are hid with a stone," that is the first part, "and the face of the deep is frozen," that is the second part. Now those two have to go together some way, and there is a key to put them together.

What we are really into in Job 38:31, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades," that is a constellation, "or loose the bands of Orion." That is a constellation. "Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?" Mazzaroth is another word for the twelve signs of the Zodiac. "Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?" There is a counterpart to every one of these.

Now here is what we want, Job 38:33: "Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?" An ordinance in the Bible is a command that is put into a statute or a structure and then a law. Psalm 33:6 says:

Psalms 33:6

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

God commanded the heavens into existence and then formed them into a statute of a law called an ordinance. We know from the Bible that the number eight in the Bible is a number of new

beginnings. When you start coming down through here, you are going to find eight key things in the heavens that make up the ordinances. As far as I am concerned, everything in the Bible about Christ coming, the beginning, the end, and everything in between is wound up in these eight. We will never dig it all out. When he talks about the Gospel of the Stars, that is an understatement.

Notice Job 38:33, "Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven, canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?" You know what you have? That dominion on the Earth is Christ coming, the ordinance of heaven. There is something connected with those eight ordinances in heaven that has something to do with the setting up of God's dominion on this Earth. That is what you have.

When we look up in the heavens tonight, and if you were to go out and look at the heavens or study them, you would find seven different things:

6. The sun.
7. The moon.
8. Planets, nine of them. Though they say that Pluto is no longer a planet, most people still count it as a planet.
9. Galaxies.
10. Nebulas. We are going to explain all these in a moment.
11. Constellations. Constellations are groupings of stars that paint a picture. There are 88 constellations that we have and understand. In that 88, we have 12 that are around the sun that we revolve around, and we see those constellations around us, which is called the Zodiac. We get a panoramic view of all, well, not all 88 from the Northern Hemisphere, but you see some down south that you cannot see up here. But basically, there are 88 constellations.
12. Stars. I read one place a long time ago that with a naked eye, you could go out into a farm country someplace and basically see about 5,000 stars. You get a telescope of just moderate aperture, and you could probably quadruple that.

So we have seven things. Within these seven, and in your Bible, eight things are given special mention as to the ordinances of heaven, and they are the key. Four of them are in Job chapter 38. Remember that Romans 1:19-20 says that the key to everything that God does is by what He made. So we want to keep that in mind.

Let us look at these eight things, and we do not have time to go through all of them, but I am going to give you the key ones. This is some incredible stuff.

- The Pleiades: Found in Job 38:32 and Job 9:9. The Pleiades are called the Seven Sisters. They are made up of seven stars you can see with your naked eye. When you look at them through a telescope, there are probably 200-300 stars in there, but with your naked eye, you can see seven stars. In our study of the Gospel of the Stars, the Pleiades and the seven stars are going to line up to the seven churches, I guarantee you.
- Orion: Found in Job 9:9 and Job 38:32. Orion is a winter constellation, very easy to see, a big constellation. Orion is called the Mighty Hunter, and Orion will represent for us Nimrod, the mighty hunter in Genesis chapter 10. He will be Nimrod in our study.

- Mazzaroth: Found in Job 38:32. We already talked about that, that is the 12 signs of the Zodiac.
- Arcturus: Found in Job 38:32. Arcturus is the brightest star. In fact, it is the fourth brightest star that we can see in the Northern Hemisphere, and it is the brightest star in the constellation Boötes, which Boötes is the herdsman. I sometimes call him the guardian of the north, and the reference in the Bible is to Arcturus and his sons. That will be a reference to Christ.
- Jupiter: The planet Jupiter, mentioned in Acts 19:35. We are going to talk about Jupiter here in a little bit. We will look at some pictures of it. Jupiter is the only planet mentioned in the Bible, and it is mentioned in Acts 19:35 in connection with an image falling down to this planet from Jupiter. Most people have a real tough time with that because they will say, "Well, those people that were back then, they did not know a lot about astronomy," which is not true. "So they saw things they did not understand, so they wrote these things down, and we get them and read them 2,000 years later, and it says an image fell down from Jupiter. It really did, and that is just the way they interpreted." The only problem with that is that they did not write the Bible, God wrote the Bible. God never had the problem in interpretation. You can take this to the bank and cash it this afternoon: when He told you an image fell down from Jupiter, you can bet an image fell down from Jupiter. There is a reason why it fell down from Jupiter, and there is a reason why Jupiter is the only planet mentioned in your Bible. We will talk about it a little bit later.
- The Chambers of the South: Found in Job 9:9. That will be the Clouds of Magellan. If you would go down south, you would see these two big bright spots up in the sky. Magellan called them the Clouds of Magellan because he was the first one that sailed back in the 1500s or 1400s down in the Southern Hemisphere, and he found them, discovered them, so they named them after him.
- The Sun: Malachi 4:2, which is always going to be a type of Christ.
- The Moon: Job 25:5, and the moon is always going to be a type of the church.

These are your eight ordinances of heaven. These are the eight things that are mentioned in the Bible by name. Every one of them is very significant in playing a role in understanding how God does what He does in the Gospel of the Stars.

Let us talk about Job 38:32, Mazzaroth, the twelve signs of the Zodiac. You are going to see now that many of you new Christians that get into the Bible basic classes, how this is going to help you now put all this stuff together. This is a study in itself. One of the slide programs you can do, and we would have to come up with some specific slides, I used to have some but they are long worn out, that actually showed the constellations, and you could actually go through and really lay them out and show how they were Bible characters.

For instance, you have Virgo, the virgin, that is a no-brainer. The Northern Cross, which is known as Cygnus. You are going to find that Leo the Lion is a type of Christ, Revelation 5:5. Hercules, sons of God, Genesis 6. If you know your Bible, you know that in Psalm 75 and in Psalm 48 that heaven is north. You want a direction to heaven, heaven is north. The Bible is very clear on that. You are going to find that he talks about in Psalm 48 the sides of the north. You are

going to find all of those things, and yet when you start to study the north, we know that the devil is an imitator of Christ, do we not? Surely he is. So we now know that he imitates Christ in everything that we see. So there is no great surprise that there are two norths. There is what they call true north, and there is what they call magnetic north. One of them is not the right north. You will not beat the Bible when it comes all down to those things.

We know that the greatest prophecy in the Bible, and the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman, is found in Genesis 3:15. So up in the heavens, you have a constellation of a man by the name of Ophiuchus. Ophiuchus is a man, he is a type of Christ. He is wrestling with Serpens, that is a serpent constellation. In that constellation, Ophiuchus has got his foot on the serpent's head, and that serpent's tail comes around stinging him on the foot. Genesis 3:15, that is where it is at.

As I said, heaven is north. If you look right above the North Star, you will find a constellation called Corona Borealis. Corona, crown; Borealis, north. Borealis means north, and of course, we talk about the Aurora Borealis, the lights of the north. Corona, crown; Borealis, north, the Northern Crown. If you look up into the heavens, you will see that little constellation is shaped like that with stars, and it is shaped like a crown. It is right over the north. You are going to find out that wrapped around the north and wrapped around that crown with his mouth going right to it is called Draco the Dragon. Draco the Dragon comes around as a serpent, Isaiah chapter 27, he is called the crooked serpent in the sea. He wraps right around the north, and his mouth is ready to devour that crown. Well, that is the theme of your Bible. So when he gets into the constellations, they are quite incredible.

I personally, from our time in the Bible, we know that God's plan in Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 7, we study this very on our chart over there, and we know how it all goes. We know that the 12 tribes of Israel, if you know your Bible, you know that in Acts 17 and Deuteronomy 32, we are told that all the nations on this Earth were set up to the bounds that God established them according to the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel. If you look at a map, if you do any study on a globe, you will find that there are 12 natural boundaries on planet Earth. So 12 natural boundaries will come into effect in the Millennium when God divides the Earth up, and around this Earth, you will find 12 signs of the Zodiac, each one of them a tribe to one of the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel. When Isaiah 9:6-7 moves out from here into the galactic scale that we have talked about many, many times, it will start with those 12 constellations that have to do with the 12 tribes of Israel. It is all built around the nation of Israel.

You have Revelation 21:12. New Jerusalem has 12 foundations, 12 gates, 12 angels representing the 12 tribes, 12 pearls. It has a tree of life that bears 12 manners of fruit once each month, and there are 12 months of the year. Everything is set up based on that. Also, here is where you have it, the constellations tell us the times and the seasons. That is what he is talking about there when he says, "Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?" That is really what he is talking about. Can you make the constellations, can you make the seasons come before their time? Of course, the answer to that is no.

We also know that if the constellations are part of the times and the seasons, and they wrap them, the Bible, the story and everything in it, Paul told them over there in 1 Thessalonians of the times and the seasons, "brethren, you have no need that I write unto you," in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. It is all in the heavens. When the Bible said the heavens declare the glory of God, you have everything up there that is in here. We just do not see it. That is because we are too busy doing everything else in life, but that is the bottom line.

IV. The Gospel in the Stars: Celestial Objects

Now, what we are going to do now is I want to bring us through our slides. This is an artist's conception of our solar system. Remember I told you that the sun was a type of Jesus Christ? Well, there is the sun right there in the middle. If you look around it, there is Earth right there, and then the inner planets right in here. Our solar system is divided into two sections: the inner planets and the outer planets. The inner planets end with Mars, which will be right there, the red planet. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto make up the outer planets. But I want you to notice one thing: they all revolve around the sun. The sun is the center of our solar system. The sun is a type of Christ, and in that, the sun should be the center of your life and everything that you do. Just as the planets in the solar system revolve around the sun, everything in your life ought to revolve around the Son.

In Malachi 4:2, it talks about that "the Sun of righteousness," a reference to Christ, "shall arise with healing in his wings." The reference there is to the Second Coming of Christ, and Jesus Christ is called the Sun of Righteousness. But when you look at that passage, it is not spelled S-O-N as we would think it to be spelled. It is spelled S-U-N because he is clearly tying you back to Romans chapter 1 and the Gospel and the Stars.

Our sun, you go out and look at it today, our sun is very bright, you can hardly look at it. But our sun is just an average star. There are stars out there that are so much bigger than our sun that you could put a million of our suns in it. Our sun has a diameter of 865,000 miles. It is an incredible distance, and yet there are some stars out there or suns out there that you could put a million, two million of our suns in the middle of them. That is how big they are. Our sun is just an average star.

Our sun is set exactly right. Most people think that it gets colder in the winter because we get farther from the sun in our orbit, and then it gets hotter in the summer because we get closer to the sun. Most people think that. That is not true. In fact, we are closer as a planet to the sun in the wintertime than we are in the summertime. What changes is the angle of the Earth and its angle, not the distance from it.

Here is a picture of a sun, and I have filters that you can actually see the sun just like this. Those dark spots on the sun are called sunspots. They are basically made up of material that is cooler than the surrounding area around them. They tell us that the core temperature or the surface temperature of the sun is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The core temperature is about 27 million degrees. Those sunspots that you see right there and in other places, they say they are about 6,000 degrees, therefore cooler, therefore they show up in a darker way.

The sun is nothing more than a hydrogen alpha picture of the sun. This puts it into a different light, and you can see the flares coming off the side. I also have a telescope that you are actually able to watch the flares come off the side. What the sun basically is, if you do not already know, it is about 100 billion, maybe 100 trillion hydrogen nuclear bombs going off every millisecond. It is a gigantic fusion reactor, and it is nothing more than hydrogen expelling itself to a great expanse over and over again. It is absolutely, without a doubt, a gigantic nuclear fission bomb. That is why there is so much radiation that comes from the sun. It is called solar radiation.

We do not get affected by the solar radiation because of what we have around us that is called the ozone layer, which you women are destroying at a rapid rate with your hairspray. But the bottom line is that keeps out those harmful rays. There is another type of rays out in outer space called cosmic rays, and they are just as deadly, but nobody knows where the cosmic rays come from unless you have a King James 1611 Authorized. Three types of rays come from the sun: X-rays, they are invisible; light rays, you can see them; heat rays, you cannot see them but you can feel them. God is three persons. God the Father, that would be X-rays, He is invisible, you cannot see Him. But we did see God in the person of Jesus Christ, that is light rays. And then we have the Holy Spirit of God, which is heat rays, you feel them but you cannot see them. It all fits into it that way. This is a program that you can do just on the sun. Your program needs to be about 20, 30 minutes. You do not want to blast them out for an hour and a half like I am going to do to you today.

The greatest example of the sun is when God fixed the atmosphere, He fixed it just right. When the sun sets and the sun rises in the morning, the first thing you see and the last thing you see is the blood of Jesus Christ. God's Son cleansed us from all sin. God fixed the atmosphere. So when that sun set, it set in a blood-red atmosphere. He fixed the morning atmosphere. So when it raises in the morning or comes up in the morning, it is blood-red. The last thing He wanted man to see and the first thing He wanted him to see in the morning is that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleansed us from all sin. That is the sun, and it is an incredible study. He is called the Day Star in 1 Peter 1:19. The Day Star is the sun. That is our star. Remember I told you the sun is just a star. That is our star that is out during the day. He is called over there in Revelation 2:28, the Morning Star, because it is the star that comes up in the morning.

Some of you know this, some of you do not. One of the reasons why I would not touch an NIV with anything in the whole wide world, and if you have one here today, that is between you and God. I am not criticizing you, but one of the reasons why I would never touch it is the fact that it is corrupted itself over 60,000 places in another country. In the King James Bible. But the other places is. In Isaiah 14:12, you have the greatest passage in the Bible, the fall of Lucifer becoming Satan. Satan is called in Isaiah 14:12, "son of the morning." You know what the NIV translators did? They took out "son of the morning" and they put in "morning star." They took the Morning Star reference out of 1 Peter to Jesus Christ and stuck it to the devil in Isaiah 14.

Now let us go on to the next one, and that will be the moon. The great thing about the moon, and the moon is talked about in Job 25:2-5, is the fact that it says there:

Job 25:2

Dominion and fear are with him, he maketh peace in his high places.

Job 25:3

Is there any number of his armies? and upon whom doth not his light arise?

Job 25:4

How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

Job 25:5

Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.

The moon does not shine by itself. The moon reflects the light from the sun. In that, the moon is a type of the Christian because you and I do not have any light of our own. The light that we have, we have to reflect from the light of the sun, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is how that thing works.

The moon is about 3,600 miles in diameter. It is about 250,000 miles from planet Earth. It is the first place that we went to when we stepped out in outer space. There is a lot of talk about going back, whether we do or not, I do not know, but we will never get past the moon. There is no way that we will ever get to any of the planets. Now they are coming up with an idea of sending people to these planets with only a one-way ticket. They will find goofy people that will do it. They will find goofy people that are so hot up on this scientific stuff, they think the greatest adventure in the world is to go and die on another planet. The reason why they know they will never do a return trip is because of the cosmic radiation. It will take you a year to, depending on how far it is, it will take you over a year to get to Mars, a year back, and then what? You are going to stand there 20 minutes and then head back? No, you would have to be there a year. There is no ozone layer around Mars like there is around Earth. There is no protection that you can have in a spaceship going from there to here for a year. Cosmic radiation would kill you long before you ever got back. So they are looking at now just a one-way ticket.

Before we went to the moon, they always thought the moon was, it had life on it. Orson Welles did a thing like the first man on the moon, and had all these little creatures down inside of it. They thought maybe they lived underneath the planet. But I knew long before they ever went to the moon that there was no life on it because once I figured out that the moon was a type of Christ, then I read in Colossians that we are dead and our life is hidden with Christ, then I knew they would never find any life on the moon. Of course, they did not.

This is a beautiful picture. You see this a lot if you are paying attention. This is called Earthshine. The moon here is just the crescent. This is what you would see out. But the light from that is coming back to Earth, reflecting back, and you are seeing the other part of the moon reflected back from the Earth as light. That is one of the most beautiful things that you ever see in your life anywhere.

The moon is a type of Christian. Many times, when you are out at night, the moon is almost so bright, especially when it gets full. I always thought the phases of the moon and their time to the

days of the month. I always thought the phases of the moon pictured the different kinds of Christians. Some Christians, they shine bright like the full moon. When the moon is really full and it is really bright, it casts a shadow on this Earth. It is almost like it is daytime out there. There are a lot of Christians like that. There are a lot of Christians that their light just shines. Then as it progressively goes down to the point where there is no light at all, we call it New Moon. That is just the way a lot of God's people are.

At the same time, there are times that I have seen the moon out there, and it has been so bright, and yet 20 minutes later, the clouds of this world will come in, and they will block out the light from the moon. The moon is out at night, and you and I will be the light of the night. The moon is a picture of your and my testimony in a dark world, and the only light we have, we have to reflect from the sun that the world can see. Many times, what happens? The clouds of this world come in, and it blocks out the light, and our testimony is gone.

That picture up there is a picture of an eclipse. Science tells us that an eclipse is a scientific phenomenon that when the Earth comes in between the sun and the moon, it blocks out the light, and that is a scientific phenomenon called an eclipse. But that is another "know our Bible," know that that is a picture of an out-of-fellowship child of God. Anytime the world comes in between you and the sun, your light is going out, and that is exactly what you have, and it is an incredible picture.

Now we are going to move on through the planets here quickly. The first planet we are going to look at here is Mercury. Mercury is a great little planet to study. It is not very big. It is only about 3,000 miles in diameter. The biggest problem with Mercury is it is only 36 million miles from the sun, and it is hot. In fact, it bears a distinction of being the hottest and coldest planet. On the hot side, it faces the sun. It is about 800 degrees Fahrenheit, enough to melt lead. On the other side, it is away from the sun. It is minus 300 degrees. It is the coldest planet anywhere. The reason for that is because its rotation of 88 days is the same period it takes for it to go around the sun, so it always sees the same side. This was taken here by one of our Mariner probes, Mariner 10, in 1975. It is basically a mosaic; you can see the stripe down there as they went by, and then they put it together. It just looks like our moon. In fact, a lot of people think it is the moon.

Mercury, all of the planets except one, are named after the gods. This goes back to Genesis chapter 6 and all the way up through Babylon and some of those places with the Greeks and the Romans. But Mercury was the Greek god, or he was the messenger of the gods. He was supposed to be fast. He gave next-day delivery. He was right there. So he is called, and this planet is so close to the sun, its rotation is so fast that Mercury is hard to see. I have only seen it three or four times in my life because you have got to get on a flat deal where it never gets very high in the sky. There is not much to see anyhow. It just looks like a little blue dot. But it is named after the Greek god Mercury, which also has another name of Hermes, which was the god of speed, or the god of the messenger of the gods. No atmosphere, no moons, and just very cold on one side, very hot on the other side.

Our next planet is Venus. Venus, without a doubt, is the most mysterious planet because it is caught and shrouded in clouds. For years and years and years in the 1800s, they superimposed

that there was life in a vegetation garden under the clouds. They theorized that because it was always covered in clouds, that it was actually very lush, a very tropical place where probably a civilization thrived, which prompted some science fiction movies about it. One of them was "Love Women from Venus," which was a very good one. But there again, you can see it is completely, nothing you can see on it. For years and years and years, it was thought that if any place might have had life because we could not see it, it was that.

Well, we sent some probes, as did the Russians. A little bit later on, we found out that Venus, which has about a diameter of about 7,500 miles, it is about 67 million miles from the sun. It is probably relative to our planet. So everybody thought that that would be where it would be. When they landed the probes on it, and then later on, they had a way of cutting through the cloud with a radio telescope, this is what they really saw. That is really Venus. Venus is probably one of the most harsh, wicked places that you could ever land. It is in a constant rainstorm of sulfuric acid. You would last down there; its temperature on the surface is about 900 degrees Fahrenheit. It is just a bad place to be. Of course, Venus was named after the God of love, and Venus. That is where we get our word from the Romans, venereal disease, Venus, venereal. She was the God of love with the Greeks and the Romans. So that is always interesting.

Our next one is our own home planet, Earth. I took this picture myself when I was up in the UFO about four or five years back, checking things out. I thought I did a pretty good shot there. I have got to tell you, all of these planets are named after the gods except one. I have always thought this was strange. All of the planets are named after the gods except one. The name that bears this planet is the name that God gave it in Genesis chapter 1, and nobody ever changed it. They felt free to change all the other planets when they discovered them and named them after their gods in Genesis chapter 6, hoping they would come back. But Earth was left with the name that God gave it, and it is called Earth to this day. Earth has a diameter of 7,900 miles. We have a relative comfort distance of 93 million miles, has one moon, and it is the only planet that has life on it. The real question is not, "Is there life on it?" but "Is there intelligent life on it?" That is what we are trying to discern now.

The next one is Mars. Mars is called the Red Planet. The reason for that is because when they first looked at it, you see the R right there. So they said, "Let us call it Red Planet." No, it is red because when you look at it in the sky, it is red. Obviously, Mars was the god of war, red for blood. It has a diameter of 4,200 miles. Its distance from the sun is 142 million miles. Here is a case where this is where our main emphasis now is on exploration. We have sent all those little rovers to Mars, and Mars is, here is a great picture of Mars.

Back in the 1800s, there was an Italian astronomer by the name of Schiaparelli. Mars was his deal. Schiaparelli came up with all of these drawings that showed canal-like features on Mars. Some of the drawings are absolutely incredible. You can see these green areas here, or these dark areas, and these little fingers coming out on here, all there and over here. For years and years and years, we thought that they were vegetation. You see the thing up at the top? That is the polar cap, just like we have. There is a southern polar cap, just like we have. You see that blue haze around there? That is an atmosphere just like we have got. For years and years and years, they saw this. In the wintertime, this thing all shrinks up, and it gets pretty barren. So obviously, they

were thinking, "Hey, wintertime here, everything gets brown and dies too. In the springtime, it all comes back out again." So they thought, and Schiaparelli actually had went to the point, and it was accepted almost universally, that he had come to the point where he had drawn these little fingers here and taken them out and connected them. They thought that there was a civilization on Mars that was digging those canals that were on the water from the polar caps into the desert areas for irrigation. That was the standard thing. It was a big flap over it. The only problem was none of the other astronomers that were looking at Mars with the same kind of telescope that he had could see those lines. It was something that he saw. It got debunked after a while. Of course, when we finally landed on Mars, we realized that that was not true.

This is a picture of one of the rovers on the very surface of Mars. You can see it is barren. Those dark areas that they thought were vegetation are just dirt, dust, darker spots. It is a thing where Mars is a dead planet. All the planets are dead planets. They may spend \$100 billion of your tax dollars trying to find life on it, but there is no life there. The only life on this solar system or this universe is on planet Earth. That is how that is going to be.

My favorite thing on Mars, and boy, this has always been my favorite feature on Mars. This is called Olympus Mons. Olympus Mons, that is a gigantic volcano. That volcano base right there is the size of the state of Nebraska. That volcano goes up 18 miles into the air. That is a gigantic volcano called Olympus Mons that is on Mars. Mars comes into opposition. The last time it came in was about 2001, 2002. I actually photographed it and got some spectacular photographs of it. I have tried to do this, and I have never could do it. I think it is because of where I live. It is not as clear and steady as some places. But I have seen many, many pictures of guys who took a picture of Mars that right down in the barren area, there would be a little white speck. That white speck is the clouds that are hanging over Mount Olympus. It is so high that it forms its own clouds over the top of it, and an Earth-based telescope taking pictures of it can actually pick it up. I have never been able to pick it up. I have even seen some pictures that you could actually see the outlying of it because it is so big. It is the size of the state of, like I said, of Nebraska. It is incredible how big it is.

Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. Mars, they are connected with death and war too. The temperature on Mars ranges from a balmy day like we would have here in Kansas City, 81 degrees during the day, which you could go out without a space suit on and have no problem with it. But then at night, it goes to 274 degrees below zero. That would change things a little bit. The other problem with it is Mars has a very thin atmosphere. If you ever saw "Total Recall," you would go out, your eyeballs bug out, and you would fall up, and your head blows off.

Now we move out into the outer planets. Jupiter is the planet that probably is more, and this is one of the ones mentioned in the Bible, in Acts chapter 19. Jupiter begins the outer planets, and Jupiter is a gas giant. In other words, there is no solid part to Jupiter. Every other planet we have seen on the inward side were rock core bedrock. Jupiter, Saturn, and the planets moving out are all gas giants. Almost like the spiritual from the physical. Jupiter is an incredible, credible, credible planet. It is called, Jupiter was the king, to the Romans, Jupiter was their king god. In German, he was Thor. He was Zeus to the Greeks. But he is king of the planet. It is the biggest

planet. 88,850 miles around. It lies at a distance of 483,483 million miles from the sun. It is incredible. It is the largest planet.

If you just have a modest telescope, you can see features. The most prominent features are that cloud belt right there, and that cloud belt. If you have got a small telescope, just a two or three-inch telescope, you put about 100 power on it, you will be able to see a yellow ball, and you will see that band, and you will see that band. A little bigger telescope, and you will actually see the Great Red Spot. When I pop that camera into the telescope and put that on the big screen, it just looks everything almost on there, what you can see in color. That Great Red Spot there, that is 30,000 miles across. That Great Red Spot is a storm that has been forming on there for the last 300 years. It has been raging. The surface of Jupiter has got to be one of the most unbelievable things that you could ever want to be around. It is absolutely horrendous. I cannot even describe it. Jupiter is connected with Satan in the Bible. It is connected with an image that fell down. It is connected in so many ways to the Antichrist and all the things that go along with it. Jupiter has a total of 17 moons. Here are four of the brightest moons, and you can actually see these in a pair of binoculars if you hold them steady enough.

This is the comparison. There is Earth right there to the size of Jupiter, to the size of the outer planets. There is Saturn, and there is Uranus, and then there is Neptune, and there is Earth. So you can see the size compared to the two. This is why these are called the gas giants.

Obviously, the next one is Saturn. Saturn is the ring planet. Saturn is about 70,000 miles in diameter, and it lies from a distance from the sun of 887 million miles. Here on Earth, it is minus 300 degrees, and it has 18 moons. The largest moon would be Titan, which actually has an atmosphere. Saturn is, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful objects you will ever look at. You put that camera in and put this on a TV screen, and it is not that big, but I would say that it is about the size of a tennis ball, maybe a softball. It is quite incredible. Those are the divisions in the rings. You can see them. They used to think that the rings were 100 miles thick, and then as they got a little more advanced, they said, "Well, they are 10 miles thick." Somebody said, "Well, now they are about a mile thick," and now they have come to believe that those rings are only a couple of inches thick. Of course, they are made up of debris from some busted up, broken up planet that got them. There is another picture of it. Notice the moons here. There is one there, one there, one there, and one there. Notice the little shadow there. That is one of the moons eclipsing it, and the shadow can go across. You can see that on Jupiter.

Now this would be Uranus here. Uranus is about 31,764 miles in diameter. Saturn was the god of agriculture. Jupiter was the king of the planets, and of course, Uranus here is the sky god. This is the first of the planets that was discovered in modern times. It was discovered in 1781 by a guy by the name of William Herschel, and he discovered the planet. The temperature there is minus 323 degrees, and it has 21 known moons. You can look at this through my telescope, my big telescope. This is very impressive, but yet it just looks like a blue circle. No features on it you can see. That one on here is an X-ray or a hydrogen alpha picture to try to do something with it, but that is basically what it looks like right there.

This is Neptune, and of course, Neptune is the god of the deep, Roman god of the deep. The Greeks called him Poseidon, and it is King Neptune, the king of the sea. The diameter of Neptune is about 30,700 miles, distance from the sun, 2,794,000,000 miles. Again, well below zero, Neptune has eight moons. This is four pairs and photos of Neptune showing you the difference. Those white spots on it again are storms in its upper atmosphere. Then we come to, well, that is the moon, Triton right there, that is one of its moons. That was taken by one of the flybys when they did out there, when they went out to the end of the solar system.

Now this is Pluto. We do not have any good pictures of Pluto because Pluto is so small. Pluto lies at a distance from the sun of 3,675,000,000 miles, and yet it is no bigger than about 1,400 miles in diameter, so it just looks like a pinpoint. There is not a ground-based telescope that will even show any disk. This was taken by the Hubble, and it has one moon, Charon, and of course, that is what it is called, that is right here, and there is Pluto, and there is its moon. Pluto obviously, rightly named, was the Roman god of the underworld, because it is so far out. If you were on Pluto looking back at the sun, the sun would look probably just like the brightest star you could see out on a night tonight. It is so far out there. It barely gets anything from the sun at all as far as heat, and that is why it is so cold.

V. The Gospel in the Stars: Deep Sky Objects and Constellations

We are going to move from the planets here, and we are going to get into some of the deep sky objects, or galaxies. This is an artist's rendition of what our universe probably looks like. It has a core central, and then it spirals out this way. The arrow there in the square would be approximately where our solar system is in this great galaxy. This galaxy probably is 200 million light-years from one end to the other. A light-year, most people do not know, but a light-year is the time it takes light to travel in one year. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. Not a minute, a second. Light-years were developed to deal with the vast distances once you got past our planet. Because when you start talking about galaxies and nebulas and all the things that we are looking at, you are talking about vast distances that the mile will no longer work. Now we have gotten to the point where light-years do not work anymore. So now they come up with parsecs, and they come up with other terminology. But we are going to stick with a light-year. A light-year is the distance it takes for light to travel at 186,000 miles a second. Meaning this: if that is 200 million light-years from there to there, if you had gotten a rocket ship right there and traveled at the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second, it would take you two million years traveling that fast per second to get to the other side of it. That is how big it is. We are right here.

How many have seen the Milky Way when you have been down south someplace camping out or fishing? The Milky Way is basically, you see where we are at right there? See that spiral arm of the galaxy there? That spiral arm of the galaxy here? That is what we see as our Milky Way. We are over to this side of the galaxy, the center is over here, and what we see as the Milky Way is the spiral arm of that galaxy that we are in coming up through it. That is called the Milky Way.

Now this is basically called the M31. There is a numbering system to these. Back in the 1700s, there was an Italian astronomer named Messier. Messier was a comet hunter. He did not have very good telescopes back then, and what he was doing is he was searching the sky for comets. He would see all these blurry little objects that he thought were comets, but once he realized that they were not comets, so he would not run into them again, he started to catalog them. So he cataloged them with his initial of his last name, M, and then 1, 2, 3, 4. There are 110 of them, by the way. This was M31. This is the last one, or the 31st one he found. If you can see it again, it is a spiral galaxy. There is the center. See that center looks like it is solid, but in reality, you see all those dark, curly things there? Those are unresolved stars. They say in our solar system, in our solar system, they tell us that we have 10 octillion number of stars. An octillion has 27 zeros after it. That is how many stars they say are in our universe. This is supposed to be a sister universe to us. In other words, they say our galaxy looks like this galaxy. If you look down here, there is another galaxy. It is just farther out. That is another galaxy right there. You can find that in this galaxy right here is probably as many stars that are in ours. The largest number man has ever got to when he said, is a centillion. A centillion has 303 zeros after it. You can see that these galaxies are quite, you can see this one with a naked eye if you know where to look and you are out in a dark part of the sky.

This is called the Pinwheel Nebula. It is in the constellation Triangulum. Again, it is nothing more than stars moving out in a fan-like fashion. All that in there is unresolved stars. This is called the Whirlpool Nebula in Ursa Major. Again, you can see the galaxy here with a little bridge running to another galaxy right there. These galaxies are mixed up with innumerable millions and millions and millions and billions and trillions and octillions and all kinds of stars.

Then we have this is M101. Here is an interesting thing. You see that little arrow there. That little arrow is pointing to that star right there. What is happening here, and this is where it was found, this is where this star is what they call supernovae. It is destroying itself. What happens is that a star for whatever reason begins to expend all of its hydrogen and all of its energy. What happens is it begins to collapse on itself. As it does, it gets about a hundred times bigger and gets really bright. It shows this way for about maybe three or four weeks, and then it gets fainter and fainter, and then it disappears, and that star is dead. There are guys who just study and look for these things to find supernovas. That is one of us found in a galaxy M81. This is called M101. This is another pinwheel. You can see the spiral arms of it here. It is also in Ursa Major.

This is called, now once we get so many of these galaxies, they had to come up with another numbering system. This is called NGC 4565. NGC is a term for New General Catalog. It is what they use. They found millions of these, millions of these. Of course, this galaxy here lies at a distance of about 200 million light-years from planet Earth. You can see up in a corner another distant galaxy. When they came up with the Hubble, they revolutionized and had to rethink the whole universe. They thought that the galaxies like this were just random through our universe. But once they started photographing with the Hubble, they found that our whole, what they call the universe, we call it the second heaven, the firmament, is actually, absolutely filled with these galaxies.

One photograph of the Hubble, and I would give it in the world to have a slide of it, but I do not have one. I have never been able to find one. One slide taken with a Hubble telescope out in outer space where they pointed it at a point in the sky. You could go out in your home tonight and take the head of a pin and hold it at arm's length and cover that portion of the sky. One photograph that they took, and what they did was they left the exposure open for like eight hours and just let the photons build up on the deal. When they finally developed that photograph, they found one of the most amazing things they have ever found. They found on one picture that they had taken of a part of the sky that you could hold at arm's length with a head of a pin and cover it, over 150,000 galaxies on that picture. It is the most incredible picture I have ever seen in my life. Of course, they are coming to realize that the whole second heaven is filled with these galaxies, each one of these galaxies holding billions of octillion stars.

They already know, they have already found, with our limited ability, we have already found 275 planets outside our solar system in these galaxies. They cannot see them, but they find them by the gravitation. It is kind of tough to explain. But they have already found, and they are finding probably 10 a week. In the last news I got was a year ago, they had 275 of them. Those things are filled with planets. Of course, there is no life on them. They are not filled with planets because of evolution. They are filled with planets because of what God is going to do someday.

Do you remember when God took Abraham out and God told Abraham about the plan that He had for him? The Bible says over there in Galatians that God preached the gospel to Abraham. How did He preach the gospel to Abraham? He did not have no Bible. When He would go to Abraham in Genesis 12 and Genesis 15, He showed him the stars. He preached the gospel to Abraham through the stars. That is exactly what He did.

Now we are going to get into nebulas. Galaxies are made up of stars. Nebulas are made up of gases. You need to remember that because that is the difference. A nebula is not made up of individual stars. They are made up of gas material that are illuminated by stars so we can see it within them, but they are not made up like the galaxy.

- This is called the Veil Nebula.
- This is called the Crab Nebula. You can see it looks like a crab. This one was, this is in Taurus, the Bull. This one is in July 4, 1054. The Chinese observed a very bright star supernovaring. When the star faded after about six or eight weeks, this is what was left. They believed that the Crab Nebula is a remnant of a supernova. When you put this on a TV screen, you see it minus the color because it is black and white. You see it just like that. It is like alien on your face. It is so big.
- This is called the Crescent Nebula. The thing I want to draw your attention to, this is one part of the sky. Look at the numerous millions and millions and millions of stars. Everywhere you look, it will be just like that. When you got on the other side of those stars, you would find another set of stars just like that. When we are looking into here, God's second heaven, we are looking into eternity.
- This is called the Pelican Nebula. Can you see it? See his head? There is his beak coming down. There is his eye. They name them after things that they look like.

- This is my wife's favorite. It reminds me of the Dumbbell Nebula. See it look like a dumbbell or an apple core?
- This is called the Cop Nebula because it looks like a donut. Obviously, also called in the scientific terms as the Ring Nebula. I will tell you something else. We put this on the screen with that camera minus the color because here I cannot see the color. If you look through a telescope, you do not see color. These certain cameras pick up color, but I guarantee you that central star right there is an 18th magnitude star. For you to see that visually, you would have to go to Mount Palomar and look at it through a 100-inch telescope. I can take my telescope, put this camera in it, and that central star sticks out like it has got a beacon on it. You see that thing just like it is, just like that on a TV screen.
- Anybody guess what this one is called? What does it look like to you? An elephant. Yes, the United States. That is called the North American Nebula. See there is Mexico down there, Florida, Canada. There is Kansas City.
- It is just called the Trifid Nebula. It is in Sagittarius. It is called the Trifid, Tri being for Tri or three. We just split up into three points there, one, two, three.
- It is just called the California Nebula. It never looked like California to me.

One of the other things we talked about was Orion. Remember what he said? "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion?" Orion is your key constellation, mentioned two times in the Bible. I do not understand it in its entirety, but I guarantee you Orion is connected some way, some shape, some form with the Antichrist. I do not know exactly how it all works in. I know that Orion ties into the Great Pyramid over there in Egypt. I know that Orion is a type in the Bible of Nimrod, the mighty hunter, type of the Antichrist. Everything about him, everything about him in that constellation.

I do not have a constellation picture of Orion, but the bottom line is Orion is like this. It has one star here, another star here, another star down here, and another star down here. Basically a square. One, two, three, four. In the middle are three stars. One, two, three in a row. That is his belt. This nebula here is his sword. When you have got that three star there, that sword hangs down. That is his sword.

Now the Bible says, "bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades." We already know now that is the type of the church. Seven sisters, seven periods of church history. Then what is the rest of it? "Loose the bands of Orion." Let me show you what is in the band of Orion in the central star. This, my friend, if it does not put goose pimples on your back, I do not know what does. The great red dragon, Revelation chapter 13 and 12. Right in the middle. In fact, that star right there is the middle star in the band. What you have got in Job, and I do not fully understand it, but what you have got in Job is he is asking the question, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?" That would be the Holy Spirit of God that influences the church. How do you bind that? You bind that by taking it out with the rapture of the church, and once the rapture goes, what happens? The bands get loosed on Orion, and there he is. There he is. I do not understand it all. I am glad I do not. But I will tell you what.

Here is the Pleiades back here. There are the seven sisters. That is what you saw last night, William. There is one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. That is obviously not a naked eye picture,

but through the naked eye, you can see seven stars. The Bible talks about binding up their influence, shutting it down, and then loosening the bands of Orion. That will be the great red dragon. It is one of the most incredible things that you are ever going to get into.

Again, look at the stars. Look at the stars. The Gospel and the Stars. The Bible said in Psalm 19 that "there is no language or speech where their voice is not heard." Wherever you go, God's universal witness in the sky is there. It is exactly wherever those American Indians were, wherever any man was, that he did not have a Bible and he did not have Christ. What he did have was the third thing that declared the glory of God. There has never been a person in the history of this planet that has not looked up in the sky and saw what is up there and then wondered how it got there.

We know from our studies in Romans previously that God has written on the tables of man's heart the Word of God. When a man looks up into those heavens and sees those things and then asks in his heart where they came from, the Bible says that He is "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." I believe that in the American Indians and the Incas and Mayans and all of those groups, I believe that you had satanic groups that were much like unsaved people today, and I believe you had American Indians who followed God, followed the light that God gave them, and they became in communion with God in God's own way. Then, just like today, you have people who hear the gospel message and reject it and go after all the ungodly things of the world. Then you have people who hear the message and they go toward God. I personally do not think it is any different back then than it was today. That is why you find American Indians who worship the Great White Father. Somebody said, "Well, they kill people and they scalp people and they kill." Hey, you would too if somebody invaded your home. They were protecting what they had, but they revered the Great White Father, they revered the Great Spirit, and they had some kind of understanding about God and who He is.

On the other hand, you have the Mayans, you have the Aztecs, you have the people down in Central and South America who were the other side of the coin. They worshipped the sun, they built pyramids, they did human sacrifice, they went the other way. There is no doubt in my mind, and I do not profess to be able to lay it out and understand it all, but I am telling you this, human nature never changes. We think because they did not have a church, we think because they did not have a Bible or Bob Alexander standing in front of them, preaching every Sunday, or some missionary, that they could not get the gospel. God got the gospel to them through the third part of the installment that declared the glory of God. When they looked at those heavens and wondered, just like you listen to me preach and wonder, the Holy Spirit of God took it to the next level, and then it was on them to take it any farther or not. That is exactly how it worked.

VI. The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Stars

Look at those stars. You know what the Bible says, and this is another sermon that you can put into the Gospel of the Stars. The Bible says, and I think it is one of the greatest things in all the Bible, in 1 Corinthians 15:41, it says this:

1 Corinthians 15:41

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. You know what that is a reference to? The reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. There is one glory of the sun, we now know that that is Christ. There is one glory of the moon, we now know that that is a picture of the church. But then the Bible says that there are stars, and stars are a picture of individual Christians. The Bible says there is "one star differeth from another star in glory." You can see it. See the bright stars there? See the stars here? See the not-so-bright stars here? See them getting dimmer and dimmer and dimmer? Finally, they are down there so far you can barely make them out. That is what the Judgment Seat of Christ will be like. Some of God's people will shine with a brightness that will just be unbelievable. They will be a bright star for God. Others will not be so bright. Others will be so faint and so small that you will never be able to see. It is all said there is one glory, there is a glory of the physical, there is a glory of the spiritual. Just as there is "one star differeth from another star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead."

The Gospel and the Stars is a way and a unique way to take a new form of the gospel, well, not a new form of the gospel, but in a different format than most people do not understand. Show them through the heavens. Show them through a presentation, and then let the Holy Spirit of God do for them. I think it is one of the greatest things of our times simply because of this: we live in a world that will not hear the Bible anymore. We live in a world that will not come to church anymore. We are just about as hedonistic as a world as we could ever get, much more probably than the American Indians. Maybe the only thing left that people listen to is the third thing that declares God's glory, and let the Holy Spirit of God take it and see it through the heavens that He created.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you. We thank you for all you do for us and thank you, Father, for your love and your goodness and your mercy to us.