

I. Introduction to the Minor Prophets and Bible Interpretation

We have had a great time in the book of Joel, or in the Minor Prophets, and today we are going to come into the book of Joel. The Minor Prophets, I have been told all of my life, and it is true to a certain degree, but hopefully you are finding this out as we go through, the Minor Prophets are probably the hardest books in the Bible. I will tell you why they are. It is because there is so much that is written in them that if you do not have the right approach to the Bible to begin with, you are never going to get anything out of it.

My job is to help you see the books of the Bible from behind the scenes, so to speak. For my own personal self, if you can explain something to me of how it works and the inside of it, then I can grasp what it is. That is how I learned the Bible, and I think that is probably a good way to learn the Bible. So that is why the prophets are considered the hardest books in the Bible. Much of the stuff that is in there is hard to relate to and put in places, and I am going to talk about that today. I am going to show you the key to the prophets.

Many people, when they get into these books, I tell people all the time, and I have told you, and that is why we approach the Bible the way we do. The two biggest problems Christians have when they read the Bible are real simple.

1. They do not know what they are reading. They do not understand the context or what is going on.
2. When they are reading it, they do not know what to look for.

This is why, and maybe it has happened in your life, when a person just gets saved, or maybe they have been saved for quite a while, but when they start reading the Bible, they do not know where to start. It is admirable that you start reading the Bible. I think everybody should read the Bible. My grandmother used to say, "Every Bible ought to be read."

The bottom line is, when you read it, if you do not know what you are looking for, if you are in Matthew and it is all Greek to you, so to speak, you do not know what the events mean. My approach to teaching you the Bible, and those who have been around me for 20, 30 years know it has never changed, is that I want to give you the background. I want to show you what to look for. I want to show you how to define each book of the Bible, and everything we do around here follows that kind of format. The Minor Prophets and the Prophets are the same way.

II. The Book of Joel: Christ as Hope in Judgment

I told you a while back, and this is what we are focusing on on Thursday night, that the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed in some form in every book of the Bible. When we got into the prophets, we see again, portrayed in the book of Joel, Christ is portrayed as our hope. What you see here is the great theme of the prophets, and that is in the midst of God's judgment, in the

midst of God dealing with them because of their indifference, because of their sin, because of their lack of trusting God and going after all the religions of the world, God is now about to judge them.

He is going to judge them with a Gentile nation. Israel by this time has been divided. After the death of Solomon, we see that the kingdom gets divided by Jeroboam and Rehoboam, and now it is the Northern Kingdoms and the Southern Kingdoms. For the next three or four hundred years, Israel is divided. They fight among themselves. They have wars with each other. They really hate each other. They develop their own capitals, their own kingdoms. God is so fed up with them by the time that the prophets are here, right before 606 B.C., that God is now coming down and going to judge them.

In just a short while, Sennacherib is going to come down, the king of Assyria, and he is going to take the northern tribes into captivity. Shortly after that, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, he is going to come down and he is going to take the southern tribes into captivity. For all practical purposes, the nation of Israel is going to cease to exist on planet Earth. Do you realize from that point in 606 B.C., right up to the time of 1948, Israel was without a nation? They were without any kind of country. They wandered everywhere. Even when they went back in Ezra and Nehemiah, and they were back in the land, they were not their own country. They were under whatever Gentile nation ruled the world. We went through those Gentile nations Thursday night, did we not? You should have those down in your Bible now.

But during this particular time, they are ready to go into captivity. God has had it with them. The theme of this is, even though God is going to judge them, Christ is still their hope. That is a great theme for you and for me. We see this theme all the way through here, and we have talked about it in just about every aspect, because it is the nature and the character of God that you want to really get down and understand. God may come down and judge you and me for our sins. God may deal with us because of our sins. But there is never a time that within the chastisement, for whatever it may be, that God will not make a way that you can be restored and get back to Him. That is the great character of God that we find all the way through the Old Testament, and thank God we find it today in your life and my life.

The name Joel means, "Jehovah is God." It is a pre-exile book, meaning he writes right before they go into captivity. You find the context of this book, as basically all of these Minor Prophets and the Major Prophets, is the Day of the Lord. In fact, in three little chapters, you find that phrase eight times. It would be good for you, and I do not have them here, but it would be good for you to take some time this afternoon or whenever you get into your Bible, take your little yellow China marker that we have back there that does not bleed through your pages and just simply mark every time in that book that you find the Day of the Lord. I suggest you mark it every time you find it in the Bible, but it will take you a little longer than this afternoon to do that. But I think that helps you. It immediately brings to the forefront, whatever you are reading, what the context is. You will see here in just a moment as we get into it.

III. The Three Applications of the Bible

Let me tell you about one of the problems that all the scholars have with the prophets. This is true whether it is a Major Prophet or a Minor Prophet. To me, it is pretty funny. But this is their big hang-up, and this is what they have a problem with. I have showed you for years and years and years that when you come to the Bible, everything in the Bible, every book, every chapter, everything in the Bible has basically three applications. To me, this is the key to the Bible.

- Historical Application
- Inspirational Application
- Doctrinal Application

IV. Pre-Millennialism: The Key to Understanding Prophecy

You know why they have a tough time with the prophets? I will tell you why. Because nothing matches with history. Nothing lines up. They cannot find what these prophets are talking about in many areas in history that they are writing about. The battles do not line up. The places do not line up. The circumstances do not line up to the period of history. They all say the same thing. When they cannot find it matching up to history, then they just take the position that it really does not mean anything. There is no history to it. So therefore, they just make it some kind of makeup thing that whatever we want to do with it is what we do with it. Of course, that is the problem. Because they do not understand that the reason why it does not line up to the actual places that he is talking about in the battles is because these prophets are prophesying about a time coming that is going to be a great battle when God comes back and judges the world, typified by God coming back and judging His people. They cannot get that. They cannot get the doctrinal application.

I am going to tell you something. If the Bible is like an engine, then the block would be the historical application. That would be the engine itself. The spark plugs would be the inspirational. That will give it the fire. But the gasoline that makes it all work is the prophetic application, the doctrinal. That is why when we teach the Bible here, in most cases, we teach all three applications so you have an understanding of it.

Now let me tell you what the main problem is. The Bible is written, and you want to learn this term, the Bible is written from a pre-millennial approach. What does that mean? In theological circles, you have three or four different views of the coming of Christ.

- Amillennialism
- Postmillennialism

V. Joel 1 and Revelation 9: The Tribulation Locusts

I want to show you how this thing works. So turn over here to Joel chapter 1, and I am going to give you a little lesson here this morning on how to compare Scripture with Scripture. But before we do, let us go to the Lord in prayer and ask God's blessing today.

Heavenly Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You and we thank You, Father, for all that You do for us. We pray today that You will give us the wisdom and the insight through Your Spirit to see and understand all that we have to look at today, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, look over here at Joel chapter 1. This is a classic point where they do not know what to do with this. It is kind of weird, I have to tell you, but its bottom line is if you just follow the Bible and do what I am showing you here like somebody showed me, it all works itself out.

Joel 1:1-7 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel. Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten. Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

Here is the problem. None of this fits historically. What most people do not understand, because the Bible is written from a pre-millennial approach, is that all this stuff the prophets are talking about historically that deals with Israel going into the captivity of Babylon is prophetically a picture of Israel going into captivity of the Antichrist in a very near future when he takes over the world. I do not have time to get into it all, but there are 18 types of Antichrist in the Old Testament. Somebody said, "Why are there 18 types?" Well, because in Revelation his number is 666, and 6 plus 6 plus 6 is 18. So, there are 18 types of Antichrist in the Old Testament. These men will show you in the stories prophetically what the Antichrist is going to do. There is more information given on the Antichrist in the Bible of who he is, his race, his sexual preference, everything that you want is found in the Old Testament if you just know where to look. The problem is that when you do not approach the Bible from a pre-millennial approach, you do not see these passages as a prophecy on what is coming. Therefore, you do not know where to go in the Bible to get it all worked out where you can see it.

What I am going to do in a moment is take you now, we just read Joel chapter 1. I am going to take you now to Revelation chapter 9, and I am going to show you in Revelation chapter 9, which we know is the Tribulation Period, what we have got here in Joel chapter 1, and that is the key. I want you to keep your finger in both places so you can flip back to it because I want you to look at Joel here for just a few more minutes, but get to Revelation 9.

Down here in Joel 1:4, we have got a plague. You might as well, and it does not mean just telling you, let me show you how you learn it, how you find it. I mean, "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and he will come back and kill you some night when you are not looking," or something like that. I do not know how it goes. But anyway, look at Joel 1:4, a plague, a plague of locusts, a plague of cankerworm, caterpillars, and palmerworms. What he is

basically saying here is that what one, a total destruction, what the locusts do not eat, the cankerworms will, and what the cankerworms do not, the caterpillars will, and the little palmer guys, he will get to eat what is left, but nothing is left, total destruction.

When you do not follow the premillennial concept of the Bible, then you are lost in all this. What you have to do is know where to go comparing Scripture with Scripture, but the first thing I am going to show you how to do is we get a context. My first clue, if I am reading down this for me, and I will show you how you get this, would be the word "locusts." That would be my first clue of where this thing is going, because I believe the Bible from a premillennial point, and I believe the Bible here is not talking about some allegorical thing that nobody can figure out. I believe it is giving you a very clear, understandable prophecy, truth of what God is going to do right before the Antichrist shows up, or right when the Antichrist shows up in a Tribulation Period.

My next key would be Joel 1:6, where it says, "a nation has come up against thee." That would be my next key. My real key would be Joel 1:7, where it says, "laid my vine waste and barked my fig tree." You know why that is? Because I already know, and most of you know this probably right now, you have it going through your head. I already know that the vine tree and the fig tree are both pictures of what in the Bible? Israel, you see? So now, to me now, it is not allegorical anymore. It is not figurative. I have a very real story here that is going to take place. It is just if you do not follow a premillennial return of Christ, you are lost as a goose, man. You are like a golf ball lost in high weeds, man. You will never find it.

Now look at this thing. Come over here to Revelation 9:1. Now follow along with this.

Revelation 9:1-7 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold; and their faces were as the faces of men; and they had hair as the hair of women; and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth. We talked about last week how the stars were angels in the Bible. I had a guy say one time to me years ago, "Well, we know this has got to be allegorical, is because if a real star fell to the earth, why, I mean, our sun would hold a million of our earths, and our sun is just an average star. It is not a really big star. There are some stars out there that are called red giants that you could put a billion of our suns in, not our Earth, our suns in. So our sun is just an average star, and you could take one billion of our earths and put it and fill it up, and that is how many it would take to fill up how big the sun is." So his reasoning was,

"If that cannot be true because if a real star fell to the earth, how could that happen?" And he is right from a logical standpoint, but he is not right from a biblical standpoint. I pointed out to him, and of course, he never saw this because people today do not pay attention to every word in the Bible. He saw the word "star" and immediately goes to the scientific definition of a star. When I see the word "star" in the Bible, I immediately go to the Bible definition, and I pointed this out to him. I said, "Hey, can I ask you a question?" It says in Revelation 9:1, "And the fifth angel sounded, and a star fell from heaven unto the earth, and unto him was given a key to the bottomless pit." I said, "This star is a him." Now, you want to explain the scientific factors of him and her stars? Are there him stars and her stars? Well, they are out in Los Angeles, California. I told you last week in Hollywood. But in the Bible, stars are angels, and that opens up a whole can of things. But if you did not know your Bible and know that and catch that word, and I bet you people have said that all down through history, and they say, "Wow, wow, a star, that has got to be allegorical because a real star," but this star is a him. It is a him. It is a male star, and it has the ability to open up, it has a key to the bottomless pit. You see, it is real nice if you just say, "And I saw a star fall from heaven," and then you make your allegorical approach. But if you read the whole verse, you are in trouble because whatever this star is, it is a him, and it has the ability to have a key, and it has the ability of opening up a bottomless pit.

Now let us see what comes out of this pit. Revelation 9:2 says, "And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit." Here it comes, Revelation 9:3, "And there came out of the smoke, locusts." See that thing? Just like back in Joel 1. "Upon the earth, and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power." And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those men which have not the seal of God in their forehead. They are going after, this is a tribulation context, and they are going after people who do not have God's seal on their head, but have the mark of the 666 of the Antichrist on their head.

Now watch this. Revelation 9:5, "And it was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months, and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion when he striketh a man." Revelation 9:6, "In those days shall men seek death and shall not find it, and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." Revelation 9:7, "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle, and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold; and their faces were as the faces of men; and they had hair as the hair of women; and their teeth were as the teeth of lions." There it is.

Now you know what you have got in Joel chapter 1? Joel chapter 1, you know what you have got here? You have got during the Tribulation Period, after the first three and a half years, when all hell breaks loose on this planet, you have God sending some angel down, it opens up the bottomless pit, and for a period of time, an army of demonic proportions comes out of that bottomless pit, and on this planet, seeking men, and it is the most demonic thing, and you cannot kill them. You cannot get rid of them.

Now let me ask you a question. This is Halloween. You see it in everything. You are obviously no dummy, as I am no dummy, and you watch what is, I love them. I watch them all the time. I

like the old science fiction ones back in the 50s. I do not know if you know this or not, but back in 1947 is when they saw the first UFO, that guy flying out there in Oregon or wherever he was, and seven little disks came down and chased him around the sky for a while, and from that point on, every movie, every movie is about science fiction aliens, the Body Snatchers, the thing, the Alien, all this stuff, it just got it all going, and the bottom line is, everything that you see out there in a movie that Hollywood puts out, they have to get an original theme for it somewhere, and if it is a scary movie, it is going to be based around something in the Bible that is going to come out of the Tribulation Period. You know what you have got here? The watered-down version that we are watching on television right now? Nightmare on Elm Street. Jason, Freddy Krueger. You ever notice how you cannot kill him? I mean, how many sequels have there been to the Nightmare on Elm Street? There have been so many of them, they had to change the name of the street. And then they started going right back around again, "Reign of Jason," and all these things, and it just, and you know what, it is all the same thing. They stalk through the night, they kill innocent people, police officers are called, they stand there with shotguns, rockets, machine guns, handguns, and they shoot them, and they just keep coming. They have a ski mask on, and underneath that ski mask, it is very ugly. Krueger has the big old hands on him or whatever, and you shoot them, you kill them, and every time you think they are dead, a cop will shoot him there, and he will fall over, and a cop will walk up there, and he will stand over him like that, like that is a dumb thing to do. I would throw a hand grenade on him or something. He walks over there like he killed him, and what happened? The big hand comes up and grabs him in the neck, picks him up, pulls his head off. I mean, you cannot kill them. They walk the night, and they come out of hell, and you cannot stop them, and that is just a small taste of what it is going to be. Except there will not be a Nightmare on Elm Street, it will be a nightmare on every street in America and around the world. It is a true thing. Those are pictures of that, what is coming.

Halloween. They are held in Halloween is the same concept. I am far from a legalist. There are many Baptist churches around that the concept of Halloween, your kid dressing up like little demonic spirits is a terrible thing. For me, I do not think it is. I mean, most of your kids act like little demons all year long. Why not give them their night? I mean, have you not said to yourself, "Have a little demon?" Yeah, they are role-playing. Give them their night. Dress them up. Let them have a good time with it. I am all for it. Nobody, mom and daddy, ought to get dressed up too. They probably will, but anyway. But you know what it is, do you not? It is the old Celtic Festival of the Dead. It is the night that dead people come out, October 31st. It goes back through the Romans, back through the Babylonians, but the Celts picked it up, and it was the Festival of the Dead. It was the night that the dead came out and walked around at night. So people would do all kinds of things and put their little jack-o'-lanterns out, put the little garlic on the door to keep them away. But it has its root in what is going to happen in Joel chapter 1 and Revelation chapter 9. It is coming. I am not going to be here for it, but it is coming.

If you do not take the pre-millennial return and see there is a Tribulation Period, there is an Antichrist, and there are a lot of weird things going to go on, Revelation chapter 9 tells you clearly. I mean, there is no allegorical to it. This star is a him. He has got a key to a literal bottomless pit. It is opened up, and creatures come out that look like locusts and have teeth like lions. Joel chapter 1. Not hard.

If you go back to Joel chapter 1 real quick here, and I always tell you the first thing you will want to do is get a context. All right. I saw the vineyard. I saw the fig tree. I saw the nations. I saw the little things that got my attention to locusts. But now here is the key. Look at Joel 1:15. Here is the context. It says simply this:

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

That is the context. This is not some spiritual allegorical thing that you cannot figure out. This is what is going to take place right before the Day of the Lord. We know from the Bible that the Day of the Lord is the second coming of Christ. Put that context right in the Tribulation Period, match it up to Revelation chapter 9 with the locusts and the teeth like lions coming out of the bottomless pit. You have got more detail on what is going to happen when Freddy Krueger comes home for lunch. I mean, it is just the way that it is. It is an incredible thing. But if you do not believe the Bible from the pre-millennial approach, you are never going to get it.

VI. Joel 2 and Revelation 19: The Second Coming

Now, look at Joel chapter 2. Let us get a context here. I told you when you learn the Bible, one of the things that helps you figure out the Bible is one little word called contrast. Contrast. When you are looking at the moon through a telescope, you never want to look at the moon when it is a full moon. It is too bright because you cannot see anything. Not only is it bright, but there are no shadows because it is fully lit. So there are no shadows to contrast anything. No, the best time to look at the moon through a telescope is that little picture I got over there, which is right after first quarter. And you see that moon is only halfway and you see that dark line. You know what that dark line is called? It is called the terminator. Not Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Terminator. The terminator is the line between the light and the darkness. What happens when you look at the moon, when it has got that half moon or that three-quarter or whatever it is there, first quarter, when you look at that, that terminator, that dark side, you will absolutely go bananas of the detail you will see. Why? Because the darkness is contrasting the light and picking up the shadows and it is showing you the detail you cannot see when it is all full. That is why when you come to the Bible, one of the great ways that you will learn the Bible is by contrast. God contrasts His light versus darkness. When He does that, it shows you great things that you would not see if you just looked at the whole concept.

Joel chapter 1 was the demonic side. Joel chapter 2 is the second coming of Christ and the armies up in heaven coming back to destroy this demonic army, the Antichrist, and everybody else who is hanging out with him. Now watch this. This is called studying your Bible by comparing Scripture with Scripture, taking the key words and laying it all out and then coming to the point where by contrast you see how the Minor Prophets are not, oh, I am going to guarantee you there are some things in there that you will not figure out. But as far as getting a context of what this is, there is no reason to make it some allegorical stupid thing that means nothing.

Now watch Joel chapter 2.

Joel 2:1-7 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

Now you have got a contrast. Revelation 19:11 is the definitive verse in the Bible in the second coming of Christ, is it not? It tells you that when Christ comes back, the armies that are in heaven, that is you and me, the Old Testament saints, the armies that are in heaven followed Him on what? White horses, so you have got the horses coming right there. What you have in Joel chapter 2 is a picture of the Lord coming back at the second coming of Christ, and the armies that follow Him, you and me, the church, as we come back. Revelation chapter 19, all the way through the Old Testament. What you have in chapter 1 is a picture of the Antichrist with a demonic scud that is going on on planet Earth, and then suddenly, in the midst of that, the Lord comes back.

Now let me show you the key phrases here. You want to mark these down in your Bible. The first thing it says there is right in Joel 2:1, "blow ye a trumpet in Zion." There are two trumpets in the Bible. There is the trumpet for the Rapture of the church, and then there is a trumpet for the regathering of Israel at the second coming of Christ. You will find that regathering of Israel trumpet back there in Exodus chapter 19 in type with Moses who goes up on the mountain where there are voices and lightning and thundering, and when all the people hear the trumpet, they come up to the mountain, a picture of the second coming of Christ. You will notice here it says, "blow ye a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain." There are two Mount Zions in the Bible. There is the Mount Zion, which is what Jerusalem right now is built on. If you would go over to the Middle East, the physical city of Jerusalem is built on Mount Zion. That is where the Temple Mount is. That is Mount Zion. But the Bible tells us in Hebrews chapter 12 that there is another Mount Zion, which is up in heaven. This will be Psalms 48, "Mount Zion on the sides of the north with a city of our great God." That is the spiritual Mount Zion. There is a Mount Zion on this Earth, and then there is a Mount Zion spiritually up in heaven where God is at. Notice this Mount Zion is defined for you. You do not have to guess about it. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound the alarm in my holy mountain." This is the one up in heaven.

I have always had a pet theory, and this is my own theory, so do not take this too strong, but I believe it very carefully. Nobody wants to die. But Paul said it is better to go home and be with the Lord. He says, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." I mean, he

thought it was a good thing to get out of here and go to be with the Lord. But really, in reality, nobody wants to die. I do not think it is dying that really the problem is the process to get to it that none of us really want. But the truth of the matter is, when we look at it from the Bible side, what a great thing to go home to be with the Lord and be with Him and be up there when this thing is being set up. Now, we all want to, I mean, let us just be honest. I mean, I get up here and I talk about it. I want to go home to be with the Lord and da, da, da, but if you know what, and I will be honest. I am human like anybody else. And, you know, I have my friends, my family, and my dogs and everybody in my life. If you had to press me right down to it, I do not know if I could really say, "Lord, okay, if this is the button here to take me home to heaven and I just die on the floor right here right now," I do not know if I can push it. Some of you will be up here pushing it so fast you would not know what hit you, but you stay back there in your seats. But I think we ought to feel that way because theoretically here is the deal. And I believe this. You realize how many saints, saved people have died and went to heaven before we get there in the Rapture. See the Rapture takes another two or three years. And in that two or three years, I mean probably what, another million, two billion, billion people are going to be up there. The Rapture has been going on ever since the Church Age. That has been 2,000 years. If 100,000 people died a year, and that is probably a gross understatement that were saved. How many people are up in heaven already? See there is a great advantage to dying now than going in the Rapture because it says there that they come on white horses. And my luck when I go in the Rapture all the horses will be gone. Well at least the best ones. I will get one with a big old sway back in it, you know, like that thing, his legs are all bowed out. You know what really bothers me? In Judges, I think it is Judges chapter 5, the Bible again talking about the second coming of Christ, somebody comes back on white asses. Now it is our luck, guys. We have to, everybody has to go to heaven and pick out the horse that you found. And you know when you walked in there you get to heaven and you got there and the Lord said, "Hey, what are you going to do? Why do not you go pick out your horse today?" You know what? We are going to come back here a little bit. You walk down there, boy, whoa, look at those horses, man, that one is 10 feet tall. Man, this is my horse right here. This is my, he likes me, I like him. And we all get up there, it will be such a rush to get back. All that is left is those asses. Now I do not know, you never saw a real good cowboy type riding to save anybody on an ass? I mean, it just does not work that way. You have got a horse that is white and it rears up and down, and it dances, and it is, you know, and you have got a whole big, whoa, big fella, whoa, whoa. You get on a jackass and it just looks at you and he says, "I do not think I am going today." He must be a Baptist. There is great value in going home to be with your Lord right now. But that is what it is talking about. It is talking about the day that Christ comes back.

Now watch this. He says in Joel 2:1, "there is alarm up in heaven." I do not know what they do up in heaven. I am a military guy. I like war movies. When I read something like that, when it says, "blow the trumpet in Zion and sound the alarm in my holy mountain," I think of NORAD. I think of the Korean War. I think of the Battle of Britain, where all the pilots are sitting around there in the ready room with their chutes on and their flight suits on and jackets on and they are all just waiting to get the alarm. And suddenly, they are all reading magazines or playing checkers, trying to keep their mind off. Their planes are all on a runway ready to go. About that time, radar picks something up and somebody hits the horn. "Scramble, scramble!" All pilots,

man, they are flying. They drop what they are doing. They run out there. You have seen pictures. They get in their jets. They get their helmets on. They put their canopy down and they blow off of their afterburners. That is the way it must be up in heaven. People sit around. "Well, when did you die? Oh, you were around Paul's time. Oh, that is great. How about you? Oh, you died in the 17th century. Oh, you sure you are supposed to be here? What was your name again?" I see you right because you go down there talking to everybody, you know, that it is not Pam. It is just whoever sits in that seat gets it. That is not her anyway. And suddenly the alarm goes off. Everybody gets on those horses, saddles up because the battle that takes place, the battle that takes place. I just gave you the, you had to read the rest of the chapter. You realize that when we come back, we have glorified bodies and the horses are glorified horses. They are spiritual and you are going to come back and it says skipping them on the mountains. Now that is not figurative. Like you find, you know, you are just skipping around the mountains like you just have. No, no, it means literally mountain peak to mountain peak. The Bible talks about how that the armies that fight you, they try to thrust you through with a sword and it just goes in and does nothing because those things do not stop you anymore. Whoa, that is a battle I am looking for. That is going to be a day.

Joel 2:4 says, "The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses and horsemen. So they run." You see, the book of Joel follows the concept as all the prophets of the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Chapter 1 is the Tribulation Period with the Revelation chapter 9, Freddy Krueger is coming out of the bottomless pit, chasing everybody around. Chapter 2 is the Lord coming back with the armies in heaven, Revelation chapter 19.

VII. Joel 3: The Millennium and God's Character

Then chapter 3, the great restoration of the nation of Israel, the second coming of Christ. Look at Joel 3:18.

Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

"In that day," second coming, wherever you find the term "that day," second coming. "And it shall come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drop down new wine." Remember the last couple of things we read, the new wine was taken from them. Now it is dropping down to them again. "And the hills shall flow with milk and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with the waters and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord." That fountain right there from the house of the Lord is found in Ezekiel 47:1-9. That is the water out of the holy oblation. That is the water that comes back into the Millennium. It runs down to the Dead Sea, gives life back to the Dead Sea and runs out to the Millennium. Wherever it goes, it brings life.

Look at Joel 3:19.

Joel 3:19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

Tribulation Period.

Joel 3:20-21 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

He is back on Earth in Jerusalem. Now that whole book right there is a picture of three things. It is the picture of that. Basically, that is what your Old Testament doctrine is built around: Tribulation, Second Coming, and the Millennium. It carries through the nature and the character of God. God is going to judge His people. God will judge you when you have sinned. But the same God that judges the people and the same God that will judge you and me when we do not do what is right will never chastise us, never judge us, without giving us a path back to restoration. Oh, what a great concept Joel is.

VIII. The Book of Amos: God's Man and Sarcasm

All right, now let us move to Amos. Amos is just a little different. It is pre-exilic, but it is to the ten northern tribes, not the southern tribes. Christ is portrayed in Amos as "my husband" in Amos 5:16. Amos is the prophet, he prophesies around 782 to 763 B.C., just about 60 some years before they go down into captivity. He goes and preaches against the ten northern tribes that at this time are led by Jeroboam II. The name Amos means "to burden." And brother, does he ever.

I told you that these prophets God sent these men as His men to a nation of people that were backslidden, that hated God, that hated everything about God, that wanted nothing to do with anything that God did. And yet they wanted to maintain their Christianity, their spirituality and pretend to everybody that they were right where God wanted to be. And they were a stench in the nostrils of God. God always has His man. In any age and dispensation when the darkness begins to stand up and overcover everything, God always has His man. That man will take the Word of God no matter what and he will stand in the face of whatever opposition. All down through church history, you have seen them. All down through church history. They told Martin Luther one time, they said to Martin Luther who led the great Reformation and broke the back of all of the things that was going on. They said to Martin Luther, one of the most hated men of his day, "Do not you know the whole world is against you?" And he retorted back, "I am against the whole world." He was God's man.

You would not even have a Bible today. You would not even have the truth found in that King James Bible if it was not for a man by the name of J. Frank Norris. Most of you do not even know who he is. And yet you would be caught in the garbage of the mess of Christianity if it was not for one man who single-handedly took on the whole Southern Baptist Convention and broke their back because he was courageous enough to take a stand in the face of tremendous opposition. I told you a while back in the book of Ezekiel, one of my favorite messages was "God Looks for a Man."

Yet when you read down through here, you find that Amos was not some great theologian guy. He was just a little shepherd boy. He was just a little guy that was out there taking care of the herds about 12 miles, a little town about 12 miles from Jerusalem. God came down and He took that little shepherd boy who had no theological training, who had no public speaking, who had

absolutely nothing to offer anybody. And God made him a prophet to take God's stand. You know what that tells me? That tells me that God will take every young man in this room, every young lady in this room, that if you are willing to take your stand for God in these last days, cast off whatever shackles is holding you back and take a stand for God and get your head where God wants it to be, you too can take a stand for God because it is not about your qualifications. It is not about your ability. It is about your availability. Not about how much you have of God. It is about how much God has of you. And are you willing to give it to Him? Are you? You see, these guys paid a tremendous price. It cost them their families to do right sometimes. Are you willing to give up yours if it comes to that to do what is right? It cost them their friends. Are you willing to give up your friends if that is what it takes to take a stand for God? Certainly do not tell me you have greater friends in this world than you have a greater friend in God. Certainly you would not let your family or your friends or any influence keep you from the relationship that you have with God when God calls you to stand. It happens many times, if not most of the times.

Amos was a contemporary of Hosea. He even quotes Hosea in Amos 1:2. It leads me to believe that they are listening to each other's CDs in a chariot with their going places. Again, the main theme of this book, again, is God's judgment and then God's restoration. The book is wrapped around six great concepts. I want to quickly give you these six great concepts and show you how that, and you need to mark these in your Bible. But there are a couple of other things I want to look at very quickly here because I think it is very important.

I told you a couple of weeks ago, and this is a true statement. Most of you maybe will not understand what I am about to say, but maybe you will get a little better glimpse of it when we are done today. I told you a couple weeks ago, most of us really do not know God. We have a concept of God. We spend no time in the Bible. We go to church when it is convenient. We give very little attention to the Word of God except when we are here. And we take all kinds of notes, but we just never do anything with them. And then we wonder why we do not have an understanding and a relationship with God. We wonder why we have so many issues in our lives.

I am going to tell you something. One of the things that will mark you as a mature Christian, and I hope it happens sometimes in your life and I hope it happens at some time in my life, is that we fully understand who this God is that we are supposed to serve. We have been so bombarded with all the garbage that is put out about God. How that God is a God of love. How that God would never send a man to hell. How God would not do this or God would not do that. And we went through the stories many, many, many times. When you start talking the way, I am going to show you some things this morning. I even thought about, "Should I even do this this morning?" But then I thought, "Oh, you know what, I have to look at myself in the mirror in the morning." So I, you know, I do not put myself up as a prophet of God, but I do not put myself as a coward either. So I am somewhere in between.

But that is the great concept of, did you ever see God's sarcasm in the Bible? Now sarcasm is a terrible thing, is it not? I remember one time when a woman came to the Lord Jesus, Matthew chapter 15, and she had a daughter that was really sick. And she came to the Lord Jesus and she besieged Him to help her. And He blew her off. She obviously goes to the disciples and then says something to them. And they finally come to the Lord and say, "Well, you take this lady,

whatever she needs and get her off our back, she is driving us nuts." And then He insults her. He brings up the race issue. And then she comes back again. And then He brings up, He calls, Jesus, Jesus, my Savior, lover of the world, Jesus, lover of my soul. She comes to Him and He calls her a dog. Now, anybody here need help on figuring out what the B word means for a female dog? I mean, that will be in a new translation, pretty soon probably. Now, what happened? Did He have a bad day? Jesus, I mean. No, no, no, no, no, no. Let me tell you something. Jesus does some things sometimes just to see where you and I are really at. And do not you ever think for a moment that God uses sarcasm?

IX. God's Judgment and Sarcasm in Amos 4

Look what He says to Israel here. This is important, I think. Maybe it is nothing to you. Look what He says to Israel. I cannot imagine this. Look at Amos 4:4.

Amos 4:4-5 Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

He says, "Come to Bethel. Commit more transgressions." He said, "You got beer in your refrigerator? Go get another six pack. You like going out and doing this? Go on out and do it some more. Bring it in the church." Bethel, the house of bread where Jacob went every time he got right with God. Probably one of the most holy places in the Bible. And He is saying, "Come on down and transgress." Wow. You know why He is saying that? Amos 4:5, "And offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving with leaven." Wow. That is a violation of the law. Leaven is to be nowhere in part with your sacrifice to God. Leaven is a picture of the world system. You know why He is doing what He is doing? Let me tell you why. Because there comes a time in your life and my life when we do not do what is right with the Word of God that it does not matter to God anymore. You might as well keep on sinning and keep on joining, keep on doing whatever you want to do because it does not matter to God anymore. God was coming down to judge them. So it did not matter. He knew they were not going to do what is right. He had given them prophet after prophet after prophet after prophet. Just like God gives you message after message after message after message and it still does not sink in. There are times in your life when God says, "Just keep on doing what you want to do. Just party till you puke. Just go on and drink it up, whore it up, do whatever you want to do, have the time of your life because I am coming back to judge it."

Oh, boys and girls, we better hang on to this one. We better hang on to this great concept. I am always careful. I have learned a great thing in the Bible. I know this is not just true. I am true of any pastor. I know that anybody who leads anything and wherever you have movement, movement means friction. It is just a way of life. Any pastor that is worth his salt is going to get cheap-shotted by just about anybody who does not like because you cannot make everybody happy. That is just the way it goes in life. You have to accept that to be in the ministry. But let me tell you what I have learned and it is a good piece of information that you want to carry on with you taught in the Old Testament prophets. It will be just good for general surviving on planet

Earth. I am very careful what I say about people. I am very careful how I am judgmental about people. Now people may lie about me or lie about you and you have every right to set the record straight. I am not talking about that. I am talking about what goes on in the world of Christianity.

I was reading Ruckman's book back there. I had never read it and it was a book on something about how to start a church or something like that. And I thought, "Well, I have already started one, maybe I better find out if I did it right." I was kind of reading it over Thursday night and he said some things in there that I already knew but it just reinforced it. And he said one thing in there, he told the young, he wrote this for young guys who were starting churches and he told him this, he said, "You know what, get this down. When you start a church, the worst enemies you will ever have, the worst people that you will ever have to deal with will never be the unsaved world. They will be God's people." Boy, that was a true statement. That is a true statement. I have learned over the years that you never use the pulpit for a platform for a personal agenda. You do not have to if you just preach the truth.

I have had guys come up to me after I preached. I preached a message a couple of weeks ago, maybe a month ago, I forget, but anyway, we just tore the paint off the wall. And I had two people come up and apologize and he said, "I do not know who told you what I was into but I am glad you preached that message." And I did not know what to do. I did not know what to pretend like somebody told me. I had no idea. I mean, you could have kept your mouth shut. I would never know anything about it. You see a lot of times the Holy Spirit of God will do the work in your heart and convict you about things. I have had people saying, "Well, you know what, somebody must have told you because that is exactly what my problem was." No, nobody told me. If somebody told me and I knew you were there, I would probably preach another sermon because I have learned something about the Bible. And you better learn this too.

I am going to tell you something, folks, and you see this in the Old Testament nation of Israel. God will take what comes out of my mouth and your mouth and if it is the wrong thing and it is slander or it is gossip or it is something that is designed to hurt somebody, you know what God does? God has a way of taking those things and turning them back on you. And you better learn that lesson. One time David, I will show you some examples in the Bible so you just do not think I am making this up. But that is what he is doing in Amos. He is turning the tables in his sarcasm. He is saying, "Hey, you want to sin? You want to have a great time? Hey, repentance is done. You crossed a line, pal. You just keep on sinning and bring it right into Bethel. And have at it."

David one time took Uriah's wife, got her pregnant, then had to come up with a plan to hide it all. You know what did he do? He got her husband to come home on leave from the battle trying to get him to go home and sleep with his wife so they could say, "Have a plan that this is how she got pregnant." He is more loyal than David and the king was and he would not go. So the next thing David does, plan B, is get him drunk because when you get drunk you can talk him into going home. He was not that gullible, he stayed right there and slept out there. And when David asked him what was going on, he says, "How can I go home to be with my wife and in my home when my comrades are sleeping in the dirt and the foxholes out there on the front line?" Now that is a soldier. Too bad the king was not that honorable. So after a period of time David thinks he gets it all done, he sends a letter back to Joab with a runner. In fact, Uriah carried his own

death notice. They put Uriah in the forefront of the battle and then they pull back and he gets killed. And I am sure when David was at the funeral and the taps were playing, tears ran down his face. And I am sure he played the thing out and just did everything, comforting the widow there. Oh yeah, we all got our plans, do we not?

And then a little while later God sends Nathan. He is a prophet. He is God's man. Send him into David. David always took the prophets in because David knew that they had a message from God. And Nathan tells this story, "Your Majesty. There is a man in your kingdom who has everything he could ever want. He has great flocks of herds of sheep and lambs. And this one great man saw this one little lamb that this guy had that is the only lamb that he had. And that man took that lamb and then killed that man and took his lamb. And your king being the honorable king that you are, you must, you must do something." David was enraged. And David out of his mouth said, "I do not know who this guy is and I do not know what his name is and I do not know where he lives but I will tell you right now. He took one, he is going to pay back fourfold. He took one lamb, he pays back fourfold." God told Nathan, "All right, now is the time." Nathan put that bony finger in his face and he says, "Thou art the man." You know what God did? He judged him by the words out of his own mouth. He took one little lamb, killed Uriah. Then he got up there, big time spiritual person, shot his mouth off so he would be real big and spiritual and talked about how that he would take four vengeance four times. God says, "I will judge you out of all four boys." David's boys died, one lamb, two lamb, three lamb, four lamb. Better be careful what you say. Better be careful who you say it to. God has got a way of taking the things out of our mouth and judging us by our own words.

I love the story in Luke chapter 19. Here is a story where the Lord comes back and at the end He is given these guys pounds, talents and they are supposed to make good investments. And the one guy comes back and the Lord comes back and He says, "What did you do?" And he says, "Well, You gave me one, I got You ten." He comes to the next guy and he says, "What did you do?" And he says, "Well, I got You gave me one, I got You five." And then He comes back to the next guy and the guy says, "Well, I did not do anything with mine because I knew You were this, this, this, this and this so I hid mine." You know what the Bible says in Luke 19:22?

Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Jesus says, "Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee." And then He throws what that man said right back in his face sarcastically and then judges him.

Now you are probably all saved here this morning, but you know how God judges an unsaved man or woman? Do not think about it, man, after what I have just told you. You know how God judges an unsaved man or woman? He judges them right out of their own mouth. All their life an unsaved man and unsaved woman walking down there, they are asking God to damn everything. "God damn this, God damn that, Jesus Christ this, God damn this, God damn that." So at the end of his life, you know what God does? God takes the same words out of his mouth and damns him by everything he has asked God to damn all down through his life. God judges you out of your

own mouth, out of the words that we say when our hearts are wrong and our hearts are not right and we do things with an ill motive. God has a way of just taking those things right back around and judging us. I guarantee you there are parents out there today, maybe not here, but there are parents out there in this world today, Christian parents, who have lost their kids because of the fact of how they have dealt with other people's kids. I will guarantee you right now there are people out there that have lost their marriages because when somebody else was going through a tough time they were so judgmental and they thought, "Oh, it could never happen to me," and God takes those things and brings back around and shows you there is no difference between you and me or anybody else on this planet when it comes to sin. Oh, you better learn this one. God has a way of, in a sarcastic way, God has a sarcastic way of bringing things back as the old saying says, and it is not in the Bible but it ought to be, "What comes around, goes around."

X. Amos 5 and Job: Astronomical Ordinances and End Times

Now there is another great key found here and I want you to look in Amos 5:8. We probably will not get through the six things today, we will pick them up next week, but you have to see this, this is important. This is really why I put these pictures on the thing up here with Psalms 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

Now look at Amos 5:8-9.

Amos 5:8 Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name: Amos 5:9 That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.

I will just save you a lot of time here, we are in the second coming of Christ here, right, Tribulation, right before a second coming of Christ. Now let me just tell you something, and I do not fully, in fact what I am about to say I do not understand a lot of it but I know what I am talking about, I just cannot fix it all together yet, probably never will, but that is okay. Anytime you find the word "shadow of death" anywhere, and I have given this to you on Thursday night Bible 34, anytime you find the phrase "shadow of death," the context will always be the Tribulation Period. There is some shadow of death and the shadow, there is some shadow in the Tribulation, and I do not know anything about it. I can find it, I can see it, but I have never figured it out, nobody ever has that I know of. There is a shadow in the Tribulation Period that comes over some place like a cloud and when it comes over whatever it is, it kills anybody under it. That is why the Bible says in Psalms 23, which is the Tribulation context, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." See, we all think that means going through the valley, almost died, and inspirationally it does, but doctrinally, prophetically, that is the Tribulation passage. I could take that Psalms 23 and break it down from the Tribulation, the second coming, and show you how that thing fits right through in there. So that is what you have got.

Now here is what, here is the thing, he mentions two constellations in here. I got them on the board over there. I got the one over there and the constellations are connected with the

Tribulation Period and the Antichrist. One of them is the "seven stars," that will be the constellation the Pleiades, commonly called the Seven Sisters. The other one is Orion. Orion was called the "mighty hunter." Now it does not take a brain to figure out what they represent in some form or fashion because Orion the mighty hunter matches up to Nimrod or the Antichrist. Nimrod is the first type of the Antichrist in the Bible and he brings, second type of Antichrist in the Bible, he brings you all the way through and the Bible says he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Of course when you look up in the sky up there you will see that the Orion is that constellation that kind of spreads like that with a star up here and a star up here, a star at the foot, star here and it has got the three belts in the middle. Now the Pleiades are called the Seven Sisters. The only way they can figure out in the Bible is there are seven periods of church history so those seven sisters, and I am going to show you here in a moment, those seven sisters, those Pleiades have to be a picture of the church.

If you go back into your Bible you are going to find an interesting thing and we talked about this Thursday night. Genesis 1:14 says that the stars and the constellations are for two things. First of all they are for days and they are for years. All right, that is for you and me. We live in a terrestrial planet that has 24 hours days, 365 days a year. So then the stars and the constellations, you see it in a farmer's almanac, they plant by the stars. So in that case, therefore, days and years. And then it also says signs and seasons. Now signs and seasons will always be God's timetable in the Bible. The second coming of Christ, the Rapture of the church and the events at the end times are always likened to understanding the signs and the seasons. The signs and the seasons spiritually will be understanding the signs that God gives you that bring about the seasons. If you know anything about the constellations, they are broken down to 88 constellations in our zodiac and they are broken down into the fact of spring, summer, fall and winter.

Pleiades and Orion are both winter constellations. And 1 Thessalonians 5:1, when Paul was talking about the second coming of Christ, what did he say? He said, "Of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." Now I am going to show you what these things mean. I know everybody thinks astrology, and you meet some girl or some guy and the first question out of your mouth is you want to know if you are compatible so you say, "You know what sign are you?" "You know, I am a Capricorn, I am a Gemini, we match." "Oh, just made fate." That is not what it is for. I was with John Knox Village one time and saw two old people sitting down there and this old guy came up in a wheelchair and he said, "Hey honey, what sign are you under?" She says, "Blue Cross."

Right now in the fall, October going into November, if you would go out tonight about nine o'clock, ten o'clock and look to the east, you know what you would see? You would see the Pleiades coming up on the horizon about 10 degrees up. If you waited till about midnight, went back out, maybe a little later now, you would see the two top stars of Orion coming up behind them. In other words, my point is this, the Pleiades come up first, Orion comes up second. But by the time we get to winter, which is February, January, February and March, both Orion is straight overhead, he is now reigning over everything. I told you before that Paul told Timothy, "Do thy diligence to come before winter." Winter time in the Bible is a picture of the time that everything is desolate. It is a picture of the Tribulation Period. For what you have got with the constellations

and the stars for signs and seasons from God's timetable, not the days and the years, but from signs in the season, you have, I can look on my horizon tonight and I can see the Pleiades coming up and leaving and then see Orion coming up and taking over. Just as I can see on my physical horizon for what it talks about days and years those two constellations coming up, when I know what those two constellations do in the Bible from the book of Amos, I can look on my spiritual horizon and I can see the church going to be taken out and that mighty hunter going to take over and reign over planet Earth. I am going to show you something. I am going to show you something, it is an amazing thing. We walk under those stars every night and we have no clue what is going on.

That is why the Bible says:

Psalms 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

It is a universal language. God's witness on everybody if you understand. And Amos here, Amos here is the key of putting it all together.

Now Job 9:9-10. I will read it to you.

Job 9:9 Which maketh the seven stars and Orion, and the chambers of the south. Job 9:10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

"Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south, which doeth great things past finding out, yea, and wonders without number." Now in your Bible there are eight astronomical objects. These are called, I am going to show it to you here in a moment, the ordinances of heaven. Ordinances in the Bible are laws. They are laws that God has set in effect. So these seven astronomical things that you find, the moon, the sun, Jupiter, Arcturus, the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, chambers of the south, which everybody says is the clouds of Magellan, Orion and Pleiades. Every one of those is connected somehow with the signs and the seasons of which is going to take place and show you how this thing is going to work out. I am telling you, I do not have it all put together. I do not understand it all fully, but I can see it. I am telling you right now this is where we are at.

I do want you to look at this, Job chapter 38. Turn over here. I want you to see this one good bang. Here it is again, right in the context. You see when God made these things, He told you before, you went 13 verses in Genesis chapter 1, that they were going to be for two things. They were going to show you a time element for life on planet Earth, days and years, and then they were going to show you the spiritual element of God's timetable, signs and wonders and signs and seasons. And it follows that thing all the way through.

Now look at Job 38:30-31.

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?

"Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion?" He is talking about somebody binding up the influence of the Pleiades and then letting loose the bands of Orion. Now I am not much for UFOs and I read a lot of stuff. I read a lot of stuff and I am not what you call a UFO-logist. I do not follow that in any way, shape or form. But I will tell you this, I will tell you that every UFO fanatic out there will tie in some place with UFOs with Orion constellation in the three belt stars. I also tell you this, you go to the Great Pyramid of Khufu over there in Egypt and all that stuff lines up there and lines up to everything in the world. It is built on the circumference that points right toward Orion when it comes up in the three belts. Those three belts have something connected with it. You right back to the Antichrist, goes right back to the Tribulation Period.

If the seven stars, the Pleiades, are the church, what right now has the influence on this world? That verse is saying that they are going to bind up that influence. And when that influence is bound, that would be the Rapture of the church going out, those bands are going to be loosed. Revelation chapter 12 and 13 talks about a great red dragon. Supposedly, have you read it? A great red dragon. That great red dragon is the devil and the Antichrist. Now I told you already, ladies and gentlemen, that when you put the constellation Orion up there, it is kind of like this, it has got a star down here and a star over here, his legs are spread. He has got one hand up, in fact he is holding something in his hand, I cannot remember what it was, something he just killed. And that hand is up here and he has got a club in his hand. He is either getting ready to club it or he just clubbed it or he is high-fiving or I do not know what he is doing, but that is the shape he is in. He is kind of tilted like that in the sky. And then in the middle are three stars, bang, bang, bang, which is his belt. It says, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?" And then what? "Loose the bands of Orion?" If you would look at Orion tonight in those bands, you cannot see it with a telescope, but if you have the right equipment and know what you are doing, do you know what is in the center star? Revelation 12 and 13 with what the great red dragon, remember? Do you know what is in the center star of the nebula Orion in his belt? The great red dragon that you cannot see visually. It only gets picked up after a certain technique that you learn to do that will absolutely pick it up. But this is the great red dragon of Revelation chapter 12 and 13. You can see his head right in the middle with a red background and that is the middle star of the belt.

So when my Bible tells me in Amos, my Bible tells me in Job that the sweet influences of the Pleiades, which I know is the church, is going to be taken out and it is going to be bound, and then the band, why did it say the band? Because in that band is everything you need to know. You can see his head right there in the picture. In that band is the great red dragon of Revelation chapter 12 and 13, showing. Now I am not saying that that is the devil and he is going to pull himself out of that nebula. That is not what I am talking about. I am talking about he is showing you from the Bible why the Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God." That is why understanding the prophets is so important. That is why, ladies and gentlemen, you have to understand that when you read these guys or you listen to these bozo the clown pastors who have no clue of what the Bible is saying, they will take what I just gave you today and they will just make it into some allegorical nothing meatball spaghetti slop that means absolutely nothing. It will never give you one bit of truth.

I do not know what to do with it. I do not have a clue how to put it all together, but I am going to tell you this. I have given you today the keys that you and I need to know to understand Christ's coming. I do not know how to put it all together. There are things in there I look at that, those two are easy for me, but you get into the chambers of the south. Now that is something else. Everybody says that is the clouds of Magellan down in the Southern Hemisphere. Maybe or maybe not. But I will tell you what, Admiral Byrd back in 1927 supposedly, and I got a book on it called *The Inner Earth*, that supposedly found an inner chamber going through the South Pole. You heard about it? In fact, about four or five years ago when a candidate said he started, there was an ad open that you could join an expedition that was going to the South Pole to find the opening to the inner Earth. I will show you in the Bible. You do what you want to do with it. I am not standing up here saying, "Okay, let us all sign up, get a plan to go to the South Pole." But I am telling you this is the stuff that you have to try to figure out.

I can take you in Job right now. I can take you in Job right now on Thursday night if you ask, I will do it, and show you in the book of Job where there is a path where no man has went, that no bird has walked, flew through, no animal has trod on. And that path is likened to different minerals, and you know what those different minerals are? They are the same minerals composite found in Daniel's image in Daniel chapter 2. We talked about Thursday night. Now I do not know what to do with all that. I am telling you this, you better figure out what you are going to do with your life because God has got a book that is bigger than all of us. I do not understand a smidgen of it. God throws me a few scraps and I can see some things in there, but I am telling you what, I am telling you what, I got enough of it to know that that book and God is a lot bigger than I am and He has got this thing on His track way it is going. And those prophets were preaching to His people about His coming and judgment, and those people thumbed their nose at God. They thumbed their nose at the prophet and they went on with their godless lifestyle. God has sent prophets today to preach to you His people about God's coming judgment, and you can do one or two things just like they did. You can thumb your nose at God and do your own thing, or you can recognize where you are at and what you have got to do, and you can get yourself squared away to the point where you fully understand that God has something for you to do in your life before He comes back. But that book is true. That book, every time I am in it, I have been in that thing for almost 40 years, every time I am in it, I come away with one great truth that I understand better than anything else: how little I really understand what I am reading. That thing is an inexhaustible gold mine of the eternal riches of God that never end. As long as we keep digging, it is not how much smarter we get, it is how dumber we really are. But then God puts you in that position and shows you those things. I will be the first to tell you, I have no idea how all that ties together. I just know it does. And I do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure that thing about the seven stars being the seven periods of church history and somebody binding those influences and then the three stars in Orion when it pops up over and over again in the Bible and I find a great red dragon and all I have to do is buy a telescope and look at it and take the right stuff to get a picture of it and bang, there he is. And someday he is going to be loosed and that is when Joel chapter 1 will take place with all the creatures coming out of the bottomless pit. And then praise God that is when Joel chapter 2 plays and we come back with Him and we make every wrong right.