

# Nahum 1:7

Sunday 11/28/2010

SEC: The Bible's Central Theme: Jesus Christ

Turn to the book of Nahum, that's in the Old Testament. We have been coming through the Old Testament, and what we've been doing here has been laying out how the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed in every book of the Bible. Once we finish here in the next couple of weeks with the Old Testament, then we'll move right into the New Testament.

Most people are not aware of the fact that when God wrote the Bible, He centered it around a characteristic of His Son. Every book of the Bible has a natural theme, but it also has a theme based on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. I think it's very important to see these and to go through these and really get them into your Bible. Week by week, I don't think I've enjoyed anything as much as I have done this.

I went through the prophets probably 15 or 20 years ago in my process of dealing. As I've told you before, there are 31,171 verses in your King James 1611 Authorized Version. I saw very quickly as I got into the ministry and got into the Bible that the key to the Bible, obviously for me, was going to be able to reconcile all of those verses with all the other verses. We know that the Bible is built like a network, and it all cross-references itself. Everything is connected to something else, and that's really the key to the Bible. You're going to find that every time I preach Thursday night, whatever we do, I'm always networking those things back and forth, showing those references.

I made a goal for myself that it took me almost 12 years to do it. I made a goal for myself that I was going to go through not just every book of the Bible, but every verse of the Bible and cross-reference it to where it needed to go and then vice versa. I did that many, many, many years ago, and it's been really the substance of helping me understand the Bible, even though there's a lot I don't know about it. I try to go through every book of the Bible at least once a year. I try to go through the whole Bible, renewing what I already have. But I don't think that even with that, going through and preparing these messages on the Old Testament prophets has just really opened up the book to me again.

Somebody asked me a question one time, "Why didn't God write a Bible that everybody could understand the first time you read it?" Of course, obviously, the answer to that is one, that God doesn't want you just to read it one time. He wrote a book that requires you not only to read it, but to love it and to be so dedicated to it that you're willing to invest the rest of your life in it. Then God gives it to you as you develop. That's just the way that it is.

Somebody asked me a question one time, "Why did God write a book that was so hard to understand?" God didn't write a book that was hard to understand. I guarantee you, if you learn a few basic things about the Bible, which we try to teach you around here, the Bible will become a very easy book. Most people want the Bible to be like all the other books that they read. Of course, if you could read the Bible and understand it the first time that you read it, that only would prove that the guy who wrote it wasn't any smarter than you and I are. God is sovereign,

and God is a great God, and He is the epitome of knowledge and truth. When He wrote a book, He wrote it on His terms. So when you get the book, you have to get it on His terms.

You have to learn. We have a lot of ladies in here that are nurses. I've met, I've known doctors before. We've had, I've known dentists before, and when you go to their school, they become whatever. You have to learn all the terminology, and the terminology is developed by their own group that kind of protects it, that you just can't go out and write a prescription. Of course, if you ever got a prescription from your doctor, you can't read it, but the pharmacist can because they use their own language by which they communicate. Well, the Bible's the same way. God uses His own format in His own language.

What I'm going to do today in this book, because I think this is a great book to do it, I'm going to show you in a very good way how some of this stuff works. I think it'll help you today. We're going to talk about Nahum as it applies to you and me, but there's so much in here that I want you to begin to see how God breaks down His Bible. The Bible's not a hard book. We just got to get on the same wavelength and hear what God is saying in His language, the way He's trying to communicate to us. It's not hard.

Have you ever noticed that 95% of your Bible is one-syllable words, other than the names? You've got names like Mephibosheth and Hezekiah and Manasseh, and some of those ones back there, you just take a good stab at and you hope you get it right. They're really hard. But in the text itself, 95 to 97% of your Bible is one-syllable words. The greatest verse in the Bible, probably for salvation, is simply this:

*1 John 5:12*

*He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

That's probably the greatest verse in the Bible that simply says, sitting here today, you either have Him or you don't, all one-syllable words. The Bible is not a complicated book. Men like to make it complicated.

You know why preachers like to make that book hard to their congregation? Because they always want to have something over you. Most preachers don't know the Bible very well. When you don't know the Bible very well, you get afraid of people who may ask you questions that they don't know the answers to, because they think that if you ask them a question that they don't know, they lose some kind of standing in your sight or something. I'll tell you right out of this shoot, I don't know everything about the Bible, and I certainly have no problem telling you when you ask me a question, "I don't know that answer to that question."

But you're going to find that the reason pastors, they don't want to, they want to always keep the Bible a hard book. They never want to teach you the Bible so that you can be on any even par with them. I've known pastors, and people in this church know them too. I've known pastors all my life that had good men and good women in their churches, had some men who had the really great ability to preach and teach the Bible. And those guys, the pastors would never let those guys get up in front of anybody. They would always put the dingbat as people you ever saw in your life in the pulpit. You know why they do that? Because they don't want anybody in the

church running competition with them. Most pastors would not be able to stand for the fact that somebody came up and said, "Wow, he was almost as good as you." What? How can somebody almost be as good as me?

Bottom line is, my goal for you, if you get around here long enough, you ought to know the Bible better than I do. You ought to preach better than I can preach because that's part of my job is to develop you up to that point and get you beyond that point. You don't want to stay where you're at. Most pastors can't do that. They're very intimidated by people, so they keep the Bible from them. They'll only give you the basic stuff that they know, and they'll never have an opportunity where you can really get in and learn the Bible because they're insecure. They want to keep the Bible way out here where that's their control over you.

They do the same thing with the Greek and the Hebrew language. When you get on the upper levels, a guy who studies Greek and Hebrew, he wants you to believe that you have to spend 30 years studying two dead languages so you might know the Bible. He doesn't want to admit the fact that he made a terrible mistake in his life. He wasted 30 years when he could have been deer hunting, turkey hunting, or having a great time in life, studying two languages that mean absolutely nothing to learning your Bible. But now what's he going to do? He spent 30 years, \$150,000 to learn a language that God doesn't care about. So he's got to maintain his respectability, so he holds it over you. You come in there and you say, "Well, the Bible says this." And he says, "Well, it really doesn't mean that in the Hebrew." Well, what does it mean in the Hebrew? And then you tell him what it means in the Hebrew. You see, when I have to tell you what the Bible says, I have control over you because you have to come to me for your answers. Now, I know to a certain degree, you come to me for your answer, but I don't have any control over you. I tell you, you better learn this for yourself. Everything I teach you is to help to get you to the place where you don't need me in the Bible to learn it. That's the key.

It's books like Nahum that are a great teaching tool to be able to see that. I want to bring you through some things today that will really help you, especially if you're just somebody new getting into this. This is going to accelerate you down the road here pretty quick and give you an idea of what's going on.

SEC: Nahum: Christ Our Stronghold

The book of Nahum, the name itself means comfort or consolation. Christ is portrayed in this book, and this is a great verse. You need to put this in your favorite verse selection here. The key verse, or it's pictured as Christ as our stronghold, and the key verse is Nahum 1:7. Here's what Nahum 1:7 says:

*Nahum 1:7*

*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

Now, that's a great verse. God, the Lord is our stronghold. That's something that's going to come through this book over and over and over again in everything that we talk about.

Nahum prophesies around the time of Hezekiah. That should make sense to you because we just came through Hezekiah. Remember the guy that asked for 15 more years and had Manasseh, and we talked about that and how stupid that was and laid it all out. It's during the time of Isaiah. Isaiah is also prophesying during this time, and he prophesies about 740 to 700 BC, and it's right before the exile. So it'll fit into that pre-exile book scenario. Again, the whole theme of this book, doctrinally, is going to be about the second coming of Christ, as all these prophets are. There's not a lot of positive stuff here in Nahum. It's just three little chapters with 47 verses of unleashed hell. He just gives it to them. He really does.

The key word here in this book is a real keyword. Most of you know this, but if you're new around here, it's something you always want to look for. The keyword here that really defines the context of this book is one little word that probably is the greatest single keyword in the Bible for figuring out things connected with the tribulation period and the second coming of Christ. It's the little word, "the end." E-N-D. You find it four times in three chapters: Nahum 1:8, Nahum 1:9, Nahum 2:9, Nahum 3:3.

Wherever you find the word "end" or "the end," 100% of the time—I've never found an exception—100% of the time it'll be dealing with the context. This is the key. In the Bible, it's the words that give you the context to the books. If you can just learn about 15 or 20 words—they're all listed out back there in my book that I wrote a number of years ago, \*How to Study the Bible\*, which has shelled well under a million copies—but if you can just learn about 15 or 20 words and get them into your head that every time you read these words in your Bible, it's telling you the context. That's the way Jesus laid out His Bible. It's the words. It's the words. The basic little simple words. So you find in Nahum 1:8, Nahum 1:9, Nahum 2:9, and Nahum 3:3, you find four times where he uses the word "the end."

Now, the definitive chapter on that will be, and again, most of you know this, Matthew 24, and it's five times in that chapter: Matthew 24:3, Matthew 24:6, Matthew 24:13, Matthew 24:14, Matthew 24:31. It tells you there that when you find the word "the end," that context of that passage will be dealing with the end of the tribulation period, wherever you go. It's just one of those things that you can take to the bank.

I have a great spiritual lesson out of here that I want to teach you today out of this book, but I want to get some of this doctrinal stuff down first, because I think it'll really help you today, especially you new ones that are trying to catch up here and get a handle on the Bible. I want to take this opportunity to show you how that it's all built around keywords. Right in this book right now, you people at the back table, and if you can do it here on your lap, you want to mark these things down and you'll want to see it.

I've told you many, many times the key to understanding your Bible is one simple little word, and it covers the expanse of the Old Testament, of the New Testament, and everything in between. The two problems people have when they start to read their Bible:

1. They don't know what they're reading.
2. They don't know what they're to look for.

So what happens is they have the best intentions in the world. They get into the Bible, they start reading their Bible, but they don't know what to look for. It all looks jumbled to them. The worst thing a new Christian can do, I think, is to start in the Old Testament. I mean, in Genesis, you may be okay because the system kind of carries itself along. But get into Numbers and try to figure what's going on. Get into 1 Kings or 2 Kings. That's not where you want to start. Most people, I tell them if you want to read, start reading the Bible, reading the book of John. The book of John kind of carries the events through. It kind of gives you an understanding. It's got some great verses in it that you can get out of your own life. But even at that, you're not going to understand everything that you're reading. You have to spend time and learn.

The greatest single thing about every book in the Bible is determining its context. When you look at that book, what is the context of this book? What have I got here? What time period am I in? What is he talking about? How does it relate, first of all, to the history of the world, second of all, to me, and then how does it relate to what the prophet is saying to the nation of Israel or whoever? It's the key.

#### SEC: Identifying Key Contextual Clues

Now, I want to walk you through some of these and I want to show you some key things here. This will help you because they're not only valuable here, they're valuable throughout the Word of God. Some of you older Christians, this will be a review for you. But as I always tell you, the price of learning is what? Repetition.

Look at Nahum 1:4-5. If I'm reading this on my own and I just start reading the book of Nahum, here's the thing that's going to jump out to me. In fact, in my Bible, these things will be marked in yellow and I'll have my notes along the side, but they jump out and they give me the context. Look at Nahum 1:4-5. I'll read both verses:

*Nahum 1:4*

*He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.*

*Nahum 1:5*

*The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence: yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.*

Now, when you start to read a passage of utter destruction, I guarantee you probably 90% of the time the context is going to be the second coming of Christ when God comes back and destroys everything. But here's the thing you want to look at. Look at Nahum 1:4: "He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry; he drieth up all the rivers." Now, that would be my first clue.

I've taught you before about the little phrase that you find in the Bible called "the former and the latter rain." That little phrase means something in the Bible. When you look at the tribulation period, we're going to be raptured out of here any minute, and the tribulation is going to start. If you don't know, the tribulation runs seven years, and it's a period of time where the devil really runs this earth. We're taken out and it's turned over to him. God uses that seven years to bring the

nation of Israel back to Him, and then Christ comes back at the second coming and kills the Antichrist. As every movie, every fairy tale, they all live happily ever after. We move out with Christ and His kingdom, and everything is fine.

So when you start to find these places in here where it talks about all the water drying up, here's what happens. The first three and a half years when the Antichrist shows up, he brings a false security and a false peace to the people that are left. He'll make world peace. Israel and the Muslims will get along, and all the people that are left will kind of fall under this delusion, like we talked about last week, that will deceive them. For the first three and a half years, everything goes pretty well. But the devil, the Antichrist, he has a plan, and that plan is that he wants to rule the world. So he takes the first three and a half years and kind of builds himself up, and then he gets to the point and the place where at the middle of the tribulation period, three and a half years, he declares himself to be God. He stands up in Jerusalem, he walks into the temple, and he sits down in the temple, and he declares himself to be God, and he declares the whole world to worship him. He then attacks the nation of Israel to wipe them out.

Now the Jew's been told in Matthew 24, our chapter that I gave a few moments ago, the Jew has been told that when he sees them, this is called the abomination of desolations in your Bible. You find it in the book of Daniel and in Matthew 24. When the Jews see him sitting on the throne, they realize that something's going on, and the Antichrist tries to kill them, and they flee from him. The last three and a half years in tribulation is when all of the plagues fall on planet earth, that God brings the judgment on this planet. One of the judgments is this: He has His prophets, Moses and Elijah come back, and one of the things that Elijah does in the tribulation period is one of the things he did in the Old Testament. You know what he did? He shut up the heavens that it didn't rain for three and a half years. That'll be at the middle of the tribulation period. Elijah shows up, and he shuts up heaven. So it doesn't rain for three and a half years. For three and a half years, there's not one drop of water. That's why the rivers dry up, the ponds dry up, the oceans shrink. Everything that is fresh water pretty much gets evaporated, because there's no rain in the cycle to replenish it. Right before the Lord comes back, Elijah opens up the heavens, and it rains again. That's why it's called the former and the latter rain. That's what happens, and there's three and a half years in between, which is the great tribulation period. What happens is the fact that when he does that, it all dries up. Hence, when you find a passage in the Old Testament or the New Testament where he says, "he rebuketh the sea and maketh it dry, he drieth up all the rivers," you automatically know that the context now is going to have something to do with the tribulation period where Elijah shuts up the heaven, then it doesn't rain.

Let me give you the verses on the former and the latter rain, so you can look them up this week on your own. You've got to put them in your Bible and have them. The greatest one is James 5:7. It tells it out so clearly that you couldn't miss it.

- James 5:7
- Psalms 68:8-9
- Joel 2:23
- Proverbs 16:14-15
- Hosea 10:12

- Jeremiah 14:22

These are just some of the main ones. You want to mark those in your Bible because when you find those, it's going to tell you what the most important thing about the Bible is, the context. Context is always important.

Now, look at Nahum 1:5. It says:

*Nahum 1:5*

*The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence: yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.*

You know, I don't know what you did on Thanksgiving Day, but for me on the holidays, I get time to catch up on the great things on television. I don't know if you saw it on the History Channel, but all day long they had a series on ancient aliens. Did you see it? Yeah, it was good, wasn't it? I watched that sucker all day long. Now, why would I watch something like that? I'm going to tell you why. Because if you know your Bible even a little bit, you begin to see how these guys get these crazy ideas, and they don't know what to do with them.

During one of the sessions, they were talking about ancient aliens. They all go back, and you know what they're dealing with? They're dealing with Genesis 6 when the sons of God came down. But because they don't believe the Bible, so far removed from the Bible. These guys are atheists to the nth degree. They have no concept of God in the Bible. They go back to always go back to the Bible, but they don't know what to do with it. He's reading a passage back there, and the reason why I like to watch it is because it gives me great information. It's kind of like, you know how your kids like to play those video games, and they can sit there for hours? Well, I like to play mind games with TV programs when they throw things out and I line up the Bible to it. It's kind of like a mental game for me.

I was watching this thing all day long off and on, and I got some great stuff. I think the greatest single thing I got out of it was back, and I hadn't read an article on this, but I had forgotten that in the year 2000, the Roman Catholic Church declared that there was now life in outer space, and alien life forms in outer space presented no problem for them in the Catholic Church and their faith with life in outer space. You do know that the Vatican runs one of the largest observatories on planet earth and has a full team of scientists that are looking for extraterrestrial life and doing studies. So it all ties into that. It's incredible stuff.

These guys were talking about this passage, and it was ancient aliens, and it had this strange name of this person in here called "the Ancient of Days." Now, let me tell you something. He says, this is easy. Anytime you find the name "Ancient of Days" in the Bible, it's going to be a reference to God the Father, the second coming of Christ. He's called the Ancient of Days. But when you don't know that in the Bible, you know what you come up with? An ancient alien. Who was this Ancient of Days? Well, in the Bible, the Ancient of Days is God the Father, and whenever you find that phrase, the context will always be the second coming of Christ.

I'll tell you another one. This guy got onto the thing where he got into Ezekiel 1 and Ezekiel 10. In Ezekiel 1, there are these four creatures moving something back and forth. Then it's in Ezekiel 10. To them, ancient aliens, here we are again. This is ancient aliens. They take the position that the poor people back there that wrote the Bible were deluded idiots. They take the position that when these people wrote this stuff down in the Bible, they didn't know. It was like if we went back, had new knowledge of the day and age that we live in, and we were transported back in the 1700s, and we're sitting there, and all of a sudden, a 747 flew through the sky. What would we relate it to? How would we know that that was really a 747? So we in our stupidity, we saw something from another time would make it a big white bird. Some kind of thing going through the sky making a loud noise. Well, you wrote that down, and five, six hundred years later, somebody read that, they would say, "You know, wow, there was something back there that they didn't understand."

First of all, let me clear up any misunderstanding for you. The people that wrote the Bible only wrote what God told them to write. There weren't some deluded idiots out there saying, "Oh, look at that big fireball in the sky. I went out that way. I know what that is. That's a big fireball in the sky. Write that down, Martha." No, that's not what happened. God told them and gave them visions, and everything that they write about in the Bible is a picture of something that God is going to do in the future. When you go to Ezekiel 1, where it talks about the four creatures, those four creatures are called cherubim. When it comes to Ezekiel 10, those four creatures are also cherubim. What you have in Ezekiel 1 and Ezekiel 10 is those cherubims coming back and bringing God's throne to this earth at the second coming of Christ. But because you don't know the key words, because you don't get a context, you know what you got? You got ancient aliens.

As far as they're concerned, those of us who know the Bible understand that the Bible was the greatest single book ever written. Man didn't write it. God wrote it. I read some place a long time ago that if you took all the literature, all the pamphlets and all the books that man had written in the last 7,000 years, you could put them on a base the size of Nebraska, and you could put them on a stack filled up that side of Nebraska to go out past the orbit of the moon, which is 250,000 miles. If we could do that today and get all the books that were written by all the different men, put them in that pile, take them out past the orbit of the moon, the bottom line is this: We would still judge everything that was written in the light of one book that God wrote. That's the Bible.

When the Bible becomes your final authority, it unlocks the ancient aliens you watch on television. It unlocks a lot of things that you see that the average person scratches their head. We talked last week about the Mayan calendar, in 2012, and all of those conspiracy things that people worry about and the ends of the earth and the end of the world, and all of these things. I showed you how the apostles, they asked the same question in Matthew 24, and Christ told them what it was going to be at the end of the world and gave you every key for it, and some of these things that we're talking about are the keys.

Now, wherever you find a place in your Bible where the mountains quake and the hills melt and the earth is burned up, and then you look for this little thing here "at His presence," that means that Christ came back. The context is going to be the second coming of Christ.

Now look at Nahum 1:7. Here's a very easy one but a very important one:

*Nahum 1:7*

*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

Now that's a phrase. Anytime you find "the day of trouble," that's going to be a reference to the tribulation period. That's Israel's day of trouble, and you just find it.

Then look at Nahum 1:8: "but with an overrunning flood." Up in the last one we saw everything dried up. Now we have an overrunning flood. That overrunning flood will be in Revelation 12:15-16, and that's a flood that takes place at the end of the three and a half years when Elijah opens it back up. Now look over there and it says there in Nahum 1:8, here's our first time, "our utter end," see that thing? Now you've got everything in those passages to give you the context. If I was reading that and coming down through there, I'd already know that what I'm reading has to do with the second coming of Christ.

Let's look at some more. Nahum 1:9. Again:

*Nahum 1:9*

*What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.*

There it is again, see.

Now look at Nahum 1:15. Here's another good one:

*Nahum 1:15*

*Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.*

Now somebody reads that and they say, "Well that's really nice." Well, what is that all about? What does that mean? Well, let me tell you. "Feet" in the Bible are a very key word, and you're going to find that wherever you find for the most part, feet, especially in the Old Testament, you'll find places in like in Psalms and Song of Solomon 7:1 that talks about Christ's feet being beautiful. You'll find places where it talks about feet upon the mountain. You'll find places in Song of Solomon 2:8 that talks about when the Lord comes back, He comes skipping on the hills and the mountains. You'll find in Isaiah 52:7 that feet on a mountain that brings glad tidings, see. You're going to find in Psalms 121:1, it talks about "whence cometh our salvation" or something like that, "from the hills cometh our help." All those will be a reference of Christ coming back. The feet, the feet, the feet is always represented that bringing good tidings because you have to walk on your feet to bring those to somebody. The good tidings here is the gospel. The gospel means good news. In the tribulation period, they're preaching the everlasting gospel of Christ coming back. This passage here having to do with Christ's feet, "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings," that's the Lord coming back and telling everybody the Antichrist is wiped out, everybody's gone, I'm back, we're going to set this thing up and it's going

to be run right. That's called the everlasting gospel in the book of Revelation, and that'll be over there in Revelation 14:6. It means good tidings, the gospel, it means good news. You take the good news to somebody carrying it and you walk to them.

There's a great example of that in Acts 7, isn't it, with Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. The Ethiopian eunuch is over there on the backside of the desert on a chariot trying to read the book of Isaiah and can't figure it out. God sends him a missionary. Philip gets dropped down there about a hundred yards from him and God says, "Go join yourself to that man's chariot." Philip walks over to him, really he runs over to him, that's a message in itself, he runs over to him and he asks the guy, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" His answer back is, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" The Bible shows you how Philip sits down, opens up his Bible and tells him the good news of the gospel that Jesus has now come and died for his salvation and the man gets saved. You know what he did? He had to walk over to him. You know what those feet did? The feet carried the good news. So when you find feet in the Bible, many, many times it's dealing with the good news because you have to carry it on your feet. Feet in the Bible are very important. I mean when it comes to studying things out and seeing how the process goes. You should have the Word of God in your heart, you should have the Word of God in your mouth and you should have the Word of God in your feet. You take it to people. That's a good little three-point outline you could preach sometime. Of course that's exactly what you got.

Look at Nahum 2:1-4. Here's a good one:

*Nahum 2:1*

*He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.*

Now that might be a little harder right out of the box, but remember I taught you in Daniel 2 how Christ is the smiting stone and how that the Antichrist kingdom is represented by the 10 toes of Daniel's image there and how that the smiting stone of Christ dashes on those feet and breaks those feet toes which is a picture of Christ coming back and destroying the Antichrist kingdom. So when you find somebody dashing something against somebody, dashing it in pieces, this context is going to be the second coming.

Look at Nahum 2:3:

*Nahum 2:3*

*The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.*

"The day of his preparation." You want to mark that. "The day of his preparation" will always be Him preparing to come back on His day, the second coming of Christ. Just key little phrases that once you find them, you find them.

Let's finish up here. Look at Nahum 2:11-13. Now here's a good one:

*Nahum 2:11*

*Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid?*

*Nahum 2:12*

*The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin.*

*Nahum 2:13*

*Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.*

Now this is not Jesus giving a proclamation that He's against zoos. The word "lion" in the Bible means something. The word "lion" in the Bible means something because we know the Bible says that in the Bible that Christ is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah in Revelation 5:5, don't we? Ah, but wait a minute. There's another lion. 1 Peter 5:8 says:

*1 Peter 5:8*

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

Does you notice what the lion is doing here? It's devouring. Now that brings up a great key and a great study in itself. It shows you one of the greatest single aspects of the Bible, and I know this is down the line a little bit for some of you, but many of you have been around for a while. You've got this down and the rest of you will figure it out when you stay long enough and let us help you. That is the greatest counterfeit of the Lord Jesus Christ down through history has been the devil himself.

You know, we always get the idea that the devil has big horns and a pitchfork and a red union suit with a big tail on his feet and calves feet and calves hooves. There's a reason why that picture. I mean, I could take you through the Bible and I could show you where you find a pitchfork. I could show you where you find a cleft foot. I can show you where you find he's red. I can show you where he's got horns and that all down through history has come out with a composite of the devil that we all think of. Horns, pitchfork, a red tail, and walks around on a split hoof like a cow or a calf. Of course, that's not really the picture of the devil. The Bible says that the real picture of the devil is that he's an angel of light. He imitates, he imitates.

The first time the devil showed up in Genesis 3 wanting to destroy mankind and wanted to deceive Eve, he didn't show up as a red-tailed devil with a pitchfork and come out there and say, "Hey, let's go out and get drunk, get high, go smoke this, go do that or do that." No, the words out of his mouth to deceive Eve was, "Yea, hath God said?" And then you know what he did? If you study the passage, he changed what God said and it was in the changing that deceived her.

Now that's why this church stays with the King James Bible, because we know the King James Bible is the book and when we gave free Bibles out to our new people, we give them King James

Bible. Because King James Bible is the true word of God that goes back, that's never been changed and never been messed with and goes all the way back to the beginning where they're first called Christians in Antioch in one form or the other. Obviously, they didn't have King James Bibles back then, but that's where the text comes from where they're first called Christians in Antioch. We do that because we believe the Bible is unchanging. If you have any other Bible here today, and we're not mad if you do, and if you don't have a King James Bible, you see me and I'll get you one before you go home today. But the bottom line is this, there's 60 some thousand changes between whatever Bible you may have than a King James Bible. Those 60,000 changes are very important. In other words, you could not do the word study that I'm talking about today in any other Bible. You know why? Well, they change the words. Words are important. If you ever go through Psalms 119 and see how many times in that great passage on loving the Word of God, he put the emphasis on not the word, but the words, individual words. You know what he said in John one time? He says, "If any man love me, he will keep my word." Ah, not word. "If any man love me, he'll keep my words," the individual words. So we don't mess with the Bible. We let the Bible mess with us. That's a good philosophy to follow. I tell you all the time, the Bible is the only book in the world that when you begin to read it, it begins to read you. Don't mess with it, but let it mess with you. That's a good philosophy to follow.

But you're going to find that the devil, to deceive, and we know now that it's all about deception. It's all about deception. When the devil wants to deceive us, he doesn't deceive us any other way than becoming like Christ and imitating Christ. So when he shows up to Eve in Genesis 3, as "Yea, hath God said?" all the way through the Bible, you're going to find that in John 8:12, that Jesus is called the light of this world. You're going to find in 2 Corinthians 11:4 that the devil is also called a light. Christ is called a king in Revelation 19:16. The devil is called a king in Job 41:34. Christ has a bride that is a city. The devil has a bride that is a city. In Isaiah 9:6, Christ is called a prince. In John 14:30, the devil is called a prince. In John 20:28, you got Christ being called God. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, it says that Satan is called the God of this world. All the way down through it. In Revelation 6:2, in the book of Revelation, you got a white horse rider. In Revelation 19, you got another white horse rider. You know what you got? In Revelation 6, you got the Antichrist coming on a white horse to imitate and deceive the world that he's the coming Christ, but the real Christ doesn't show up till Revelation 19.

Now you know how that works? I'm going to tell you how that works. Every Bible college in this country, you go to Calvary Bible College, Miss West Bible College, Northwest by Southwest, by East West, wherever you want to go. You want to go to Springfield, Tennessee Temple. I don't care where you go. When you get into their seminaries, every seminary professor on this planet will teach you that the white horse rider in Revelation 6 is Jesus Christ coming back. The white horse rider in Revelation 6 is not the Lord Jesus coming back. It's the Antichrist coming, but that's how deceptive he can be when you don't know your Bible. That's the problem. He deceives us. So it's no wonder when we come here, we find he's perceived as a lion because he's imitating Christ. Jesus Christ is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The devil portrays himself as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

What you've got down here, and I'll just give these to you very quickly, you got three classes in here. You got the young lions, you got the old lion, and you got the lion. If I was to take the Bible and lay it out, I would tell you this, pretty clear. I would tell you this:

3. The old lion is the devil himself.
4. The lion is the Antichrist.
5. The young lions are the confederacy with the nations and leaders that he makes during the tribulation period.

That's what you got. We don't have time to lay that all out today, but that's how you find those things.

Now look at Nahum 3:1-3:

*Nahum 3:1*

*Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;*

*Nahum 3:2*

*The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots.*

*Nahum 3:3*

*The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:*

Now, historically, this will be Nineveh because we're going to find out here a little bit that this whole book is dealing with Nineveh. So it's Nineveh historically, which was the real city. That's the one that Jonah went to to preach the message we studied a couple of weeks ago. But here it's a picture of Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18. In Revelation 17:6, it's called a bloody city because it kills the saints. The Bible says in Revelation 17:6 that the bloody city, Babylon Great, the mystery religion, the Antichrist city, is drunken with the blood of the saints and the blood of martyrs. Of course, we know that it's responsible at the end when Christ comes back of over 200 million people being killed. Revelation 14:20 says when Christ comes back, the battle of Armageddon, the blood is three and a half feet high for 160 miles around. It's a bloodbath. That's where the term comes from, a bloodbath. It's exactly what it is. We know that that battle takes place in Revelation 19:15-18, and Ezekiel 39:4 tells us that when that battle takes place, it takes seven months to bury all the dead people. That's a great battle. What is responsible for that great battle and all those millions of people, plus the Christians that are killed, is that city, Babylon mystery religion, the mother of harlots, drunken with the blood of the saints and the martyrs.

All right, look down at Nahum 3:3. "The horsemen lifted up both the bright sword and the glittering spear." This will be second coming battle now. "And there was a multitude of slain and a great number of carcasses and there was none end of their corpses. They stumble upon their

corpses." That's where you want to put it. Ezekiel 39:4 talks about seven months to bury the dead.

All right, Nahum 3:11-12:

*Nahum 3:11*

*Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.*

*Nahum 3:12*

*All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.*

Now there's a thing. Anytime you find the word "fig tree" in your Bible, it's going to be a picture to the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. Let me walk you through a couple of verses here to kind of set the scenario for you. First of all, you find it in Mark 11:13. You know what that story is? That's where Jesus came out and saw the, He saw a fig tree over here and He thought He'd go get Him some figs and He went over there to eat some figs and the Bible says there was no figs because the time of the figs hadn't come yet. What did He do? He cursed the fig tree. I've had people ask me the question, "Was He mad? Was He having a bad day? Did He have something against fig trees, put all the fig tree pickers out of work? What's the deal here? I mean, why did He come out and look at that fig tree, get an attitude because they didn't have any figs?" Well, the truth of the matter is He was God. He could have said there ain't no figs on it. Figs appear and it had been full of figs. He could have said fig newtons appear and it had fig newtons on it. He could have done whatever He wanted. Why did He come out and look at that barren fig tree? He knew the Bible tells you the time of the figs weren't ready yet and then cursed that poor fig tree because that fig tree is a picture to the nation of Israel. He's showing you something and He's showing you that there was a process. Israel at that time when Christ came was barren. When God took the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and developed them to be His nation, He wanted them to bear fruit. One of the fruit that He wanted them to bear in a spiritual sense was figs, hence the fig tree. They didn't bear any fruit. In fact, here's the verses that come down through it. In Jeremiah 24:6, which is right the time that we're studying through the kings and the prophets, it talks about the fact that it's a barren fig tree and it's not bore any fruit. Israel had a chance to be the fruit, the gift of the world, the spiritual nourishment. She rejected it and now in the Old Testament when Jeremiah writes, she's a barren fig tree. She's still a barren fig tree when Christ shows up some 400 years later and He curses the fig tree. Matthew 24 tells us to be careful because Matthew 24:21 says that there's a time coming when that barren fig tree is going to put forth leaves. We know that time period to be very clear in history, 1948 when the nation of Israel became a nation after 2,000 years of having no homeland. She put forth her leaves. Song of Solomon talks about it in Song of Solomon 2 when it talks about the rapture, it talks about that by the time the tribulation takes place and a rapture takes place, those leaves have now turned to green figs. It's growing but they're not ripe yet. Then we come over to, then we come over finally to Revelation 6:3 and Nahum 3:11 and now we find that the fig tree is ready to be harvested. See how the thing works? Fig trees in the Bible always picks up the nation of Israel in a doctrinal

sense, in a doctrinal sense. I know there's other meanings but that's what we're going to stick with right now.

All right, finally I look here in Nahum 3:18-19. It says:

*Nahum 3:18*

*Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.*

*Nahum 3:19*

*There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?*

Now you want to, I know this sounds stupid but you want to watch the word "bruise." We've all had bruises so you know what a bruise is? We've all had them. You want to watch the word "bruise" especially in a context like this. "There is no healing of thy bruise, thy wound is grievous." All that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee, for on whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually. Now what this context here is about the end of the Antichrist, and the world being happy that he's gone. But notice the word "bruise." Notice the word "bruise."

Now I'm just going to ask this and raise your hand. If you're reading this right now and you take the word "bruise" and see how smart you are, and I know that many of you young ones won't get this, and see how maybe many of you old ones won't get it either. But where would you, where was the first thing you'd go when you saw that word "bruise" that would date on? That's right. Genesis 3:15. Genesis 3:15, all the way back to Genesis 3 is the great prophecy on the second coming of Christ. It simply says this:

*Genesis 3:15*

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

Now he's talking to the devil. This is after Adam and Eve were deceived, and God is upset now, and He's coming down and He's saying this to Satan, and He's saying to the devil, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman." Now we know that he showed up as a serpent, that's why women of this day are scared to death of snakes. I mean that's just the way it is. So how did you marry that snake in the grass you're married to? You try to explain that to me now, okay? Now that'll be another session.

Anyway, he says, "I will put enmity." What's enmity mean? Strife. You're not going to get along. Our word from "enemy" comes from it. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed." Now the seed of a woman is Jesus Christ. Isaiah 9:7, Christ comes from a virgin. But the other seed is the Antichrist. What He's telling you there is a great prophecy on the second coming of Christ. Because of what the devil did in Genesis 3, he is going to be at enmity against the woman. That woman is a type of the church by the way. And between thy seed, the devil's seed, which is the Antichrist, and her seed, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. And then it

says this, "it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Now that bruising there is a bruising at the second coming of Christ and the first coming of Christ. At the first coming of Christ, Christ got His heel bruised. How? He put a nail through it. At the second coming of Christ, the Antichrist gets his head bruised. He gets a head wound. That's why you got the word "bruised" down there. See?

Now it's things like that that become very important to you to pick up those key words. The Bible is not a hard book. If you could just learn 10 or 20, 25 maybe, key words, get them in your brain that every time you read a book of the Bible, you look for these words, you understand what they mean. The context would come out and develop itself. In time, you'll learn the Bible. Now that is a little lesson in doctrinal going through that. I just couldn't pass that up. It's so easy to see there.

SEC: Historical and Inspirational Lessons from Nahum

Now let's talk about it historically and inspirationally. Now we'll get down where we're going to get in your face a little bit. This book is very important historically and inspirationally because one tends to lay out the other when you study one. The other one pretty much falls out and it reveals itself. There's a lot of places in the Bible like that.

First of all, let's talk about it historically. Look at Nahum 1:1:

*Nahum 1:1*

*The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.*

Let's pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Pray, oh bless us now as we come into this portion of the Word of God. Help us to take it to our heart, to see it as it is, to clearly Lord give us all that we need and everything that we do. And we'll thank You and praise in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

"The burden of Nineveh, the book of the vision of Nahum." Now this book and the book of Jonah go hand in hand. You remember Jonah a couple of weeks ago? God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. We went through the whole fiasco how Jonah didn't want to go. We laid out all of the great spiritual applications for it. Finally, he goes to Nineveh and a great revival breaks out. A great number of people come to God. Now in this book, wherein Jonah we saw a great revival come to Nineveh. Now in this book, the city now has rejected the message of God. They've turned their back on the message and the Word of God like so many nations do, like so many individuals do. Now the judgment of God is about to fall on them. So he says, "Woe, the burden of Nineveh, the book of the vision of Nahum."

The theme of this book inspirationally goes back to that little phrase I gave you a couple of weeks ago that is going to carry us through and you never want to forget it: Light rejected becomes lightning. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the true light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. God lights individuals. God lights nations with His Word. All this stuff about the fact that, how does the heathen hear and all of these things, and what about the people who never heard the gospel? Let me clear that up for you in a very short time. The Bible says He

was the true light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. I can guarantee you one thing, and there's not a lot of guarantees in life today, but I can guarantee you one thing. Every man and every woman and every child that got past the age of accountability, where they now were accountable for their own sin. Every man and every woman, every child at some point in their life, God revealed Himself to them and they either accepted that light and moved on and God gave them more light and then they accepted that and moved on until God gave them enough light that God dealt with them, sent them somebody, however He wanted to do it. Or they rejected that light and went away and never followed the light that God gave.

You see, we live in America. In America, there's a church on every street corner. In America, we hear the gospel all the time. You can't hardly, you can't, even in a bad sense, I mean, you can't turn on the radio and go through your thing without hearing somebody preach. You can't even get on television and go through without somebody talking about the Bible somewhere. They may be terrible, but that's out there. The bottom line is this, God gets His message out and we think in America that if God doesn't do it the way that we know He did it for us, then He doesn't really do it. That's stupid. God doesn't deal with people around the world like He does in America. He deals with people His own way.

How did He do it in the Old Testament? Do you actually think that when the Bible is unfolding itself there in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and everything is centered around Jerusalem? What about the American Indians over here where we live today? What about the Eskimos? What about the people that are far away from where the center of things that never, nobody ever told them, they just all die and go to hell? No. How do you know that? He was the true light that lighteth every man. Just because I can't explain how He did it doesn't mean He didn't do it. I do know this. I know that when the Pilgrims' fathers found up here and they began to explore, they found Indian tribes that knew all about a book that God had written about His Son. Now, how did He do that? We talk about there, when we talk about the Indians, and I know all history is skewed to such a bad deal now that it's hard to sort it all out, but you know what? You read about the American Indians. You know what he did? He worshiped the Great White Father. Well, that's about as close to God as you can get in Revelation 1 and Matthew 17. He wears the Great Spirit. Well, I'd be the Holy Spirit in the Bible. You know what an Indian did? When he walked out that bow and arrow and shot a deer and went over to that deer, you know the first thing he did? He got down and he gave thanks to the Great Spirit for bringing that deer to him. And you sit down at lunch and you sit down and gobble it down and you don't even thank God for anything. Who is the heathen here? Bet you were sitting up that old deer stand and that old deer walked down there and you blasted him. You never even said, "Thank you Lord for bringing that deer." God says, "Okay, next year you'll sit in that thing a week before you see something." You're laughing about that. But you know how Esau deceived Jacob and locked out the thing? Esau had such a bad heart. He went out to hunt deer. This guy was a great hunter. You know what happened that day? He couldn't get a deer and that gave Jacob the chance to get with his father because while he was out there with a rotten heart trying to get a deer to come back, God was keeping them deer from moving so he couldn't get one so Jacob could do what he needed to do. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. You play your games and I'll play mine. I'll tell you what, I'll learn more from mine.

Ancient aliens, I'm in it. I'm going there. I'm ready. I have my alien driver's license. This is by the state of Missouri. My alien driver's license. I can find a UFO, I can drive it. You get pulled over by the state highway patrol, not me. You see, you think you ever use it? I don't even know what happened. No, you can't buy it so don't ask for it. They're given out by aliens or special people and I got one you don't. I don't know what to tell you. But He was the true light. He lighted everybody. I don't think for a moment that all of those in the end. You find some that did human sacrifice, you find some that reverence God. There was a tribe here in Washington state that when they started to move across it came down that knew about the sun, that knew about a book that the Great White Father wrote and wanted to ask the settlers if they could get a copy of that book. Now where'd they get that from? He's the true light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. That's how. That's exactly how.

Now the theme in this book is light rejected becomes lightning. The book shows historically why history runs the way that it does and gives us great insight. Maybe you're so caught up in where you're at that you don't see the value of history. But let me tell you something, when it comes to God and the Bible you got to have it all together. Inspirationally the book shows us why the things go the way it goes in our lives. There's a great correlation between the lessons of history and the lessons of our lives. I say it many, many times, the only thing men never learn from history is men never learn anything from history. Therefore they're bound to repeat the mistakes of history again.

#### SEC: The Consequences of Rejecting God's Word

The Bible says He was the true light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. You know in your Bible when you lose your Bible, when somebody comes and tells you that Bible is not something that you can understand and tells you you got to learn the Greek or you got to go to Bible college or seminary and learn the great Bible and hang out with. When they tell you that and they talk you out of your Bible and they get you to take something else, you realize that when you lose your Bible or any nation dumps the Bible or in your life maybe you keep your King James Bible you just walk away from it. You don't read it anymore, you don't care about it anymore. You know it's not exciting to you, it's collecting dust someplace. I guarantee you if the dust was blowing off all the Bibles sitting on coffee tables and shelves in Kansas City today there'd be a dust storm to smuggle the crops, man. I'm telling you, you walk away from that book.

When you walk away from the Bible or somebody takes that Bible from you, I don't know this is a great message and I can't preach it this morning but I give you about nine or ten messages in every message I give you. There are seven things you lose, and when you understand what those seven things are you realize why Christianity is the way that it is. You realize why this country is the way that it is. You realize why our lives are the way they are.

6. In 1 Thessalonians 3:16-17, it says that when you lose the word of God you lose the furnishings that God has for you. In other words, the furnishings are what God puts on the inside that He makes you what He wants you to be. Your body's to be the temple of the Holy Ghost and in that temple there were certain pieces of furniture that represent spiritual things

that when you lose the Bible you lose the furniture. That furniture makes the Holy Spirit of God who lives inside you comfortable. Hey, how about if you come over to my house some night and you said, "Bob, you know we had to get out of our house. We live in an apartment and the people downstairs, their house caught fire, smoke damage, we can't go back to our house. Can we stay at your house?" I say, "Absolutely. I'd love to have you stay in my house." And you say, "Good, we just got clothes on our back." "No problem. I got a place for you to stay." So you come up to me and I take you down there and I open up the door, you walk down and it's my bare basement. I mean there isn't a stitch of furniture anywhere. It's four concrete walls and a concrete floor and I say, "Here, make yourself at home." Walk back upstairs, close the door. The light, and this is why you're thinking about, "Wow, what am I going to do?" The light goes out and the swag switch is outside the door and you're down there in an empty basement with cold concrete. Nothing to lay on, nothing to sit on, nothing to get comfortable with and I've told you to make yourself at home when there's nothing there to comfort you. No furniture for anything at all. You got to sleep on a hard floor. You got to sit with your back up against the wall. There's no chairs. There's no tables. There's no couches. There's no bed. There's no nothing. How comfortable would you be? Well, you know what? That's the way most of God's people have prepared where Jesus Christ the Spirit of God lives in them today. You got Him living in a bare room with concrete walls and a concrete floor. You've not provided a couch. You've not provided a bed. You've not provided anything at all and yet you've got the audacity to say to Him, "Be comfortable now. Thank you for being inside me. Are you comfortable?" He's grieved. You know what grieves Him? No furnishings. You know where you get the furnishings? From the book. No book. No furnishings.

7. I'll tell you the second thing. 1 Thessalonians 2:13. No working of God through you. He talks about when we receive the Word of God, you're received not as the Word of man but as it is in truth the Word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe. You wonder why God isn't working in you? You don't believe it anymore. Oh, you academically believe it. If I ask you right now, "I believe the Word of God," yeah, you'd say, "I believe the Word of God." You don't really believe it. If you believe something, you do it.
8. I'll tell you the third one. John 14:22. The Bible says there, "If any man loved God, he keeps my words." If you love Him, you keep His word. I'll let somebody take it. You love His word, you keep His word.
9. I'll tell you another one. John 4:29. No worship. We have to worship God in spirit and truth. Somebody takes the truth from you. You don't have any worship. You probably think worship means a song, don't you? I see churches that say, "We have a nine o'clock worship service." What is that? I've never heard of a worship service in the Bible. There is absolutely, you think this is a worship service? Is that a worship service? This is a get in your face service. This is a preaching service. Now we may worship God and exalt God through the preaching but the bottom line is you don't worship God in a service. That Bible told you in John 4:29 you worship God in spirit and truth. Your spirit, it's a small s, and His truth. You don't have the spirit of worship service. You live in a state of worship through the book. I want me to go back to the old deboring drive doctrine and stuff now and show you some more key words or shall I just keep on getting in your face. All right, thank you very much. It's a thing where the

bottom line is that's what worship is. Worship is 24 hours, seven days a week of your personal relationship with Him based on what? The word of God. Somebody says, "We're going to worship God with our tithes and offerings." He'd rather have you worship in spirit and truth. Keep your money. If you worship in spirit and truth, your money and tithing will never be an issue. We like to make it, you know what? Because we've lost the word of God. We've lost the definition of worship. Boy, you lose the book, you lose something.

10. I'll tell you what the next one is. John 15:7, no power in prayer. Wow, no power in prayer. No power in prayer. That's why some of God's people pray and pray and pray and nothing ever happens. That's why some of God's people have the biggest disasters in their life and they wonder what's going on. You lose the book. You lose the light. No power in prayer.
11. Now I'll tell you one of this one's for preachers here. Jeremiah 1:8-10. No power in preaching. You know what preaching is? Preaching's an art. I used to hear the old boys that when they preached, I remember a guy preaching hell so, preaching on hell and preaching hell so hot you could feel the heat. I watched a guy one time preaching on hell and boy, by the time he was done you could hear the screams of lost people in hell. Preaching is taking the message of God and then painting a picture through the words of the Bible, through the passion that God has given you, through what you have in your relationship and in that book. Your preaching depth will only be as deep as your time in that Bible. You listen to some guys preach. Some guys are good. They're just surface. Then you listen to other guys and there's a message in every word that they say. There's a depth to it. You know where that depth comes from? You don't get it in Bible college. You know where you get it? You get it spending time in that book because that book will give you the power that you need to have in preaching. We've lost that power today. You know what you do? You entertain. You have light shows. You have to have all kinds of music things. You have to have smoke coming out from under the thing when the lights go dim. You use now a big overhead and you put on all the things on there. You don't even have to bring your Bible anymore because they will put the verses on there so you have to read it. We ain't putting the verses nowhere. You bring your Bible every time you come. If you don't have one, I'll give you one. Bring your Bible. Going to church without your Bible is like going to a gas station without your car. The reason why guys don't have any power in their preaching is because they've lost the book. When you lose the book, you lose the power and preaching becomes just a boring thing. You get your messages off the internet. You'll give nice little sermonettes on little cassettes by little preacherettes. You'll get all the little things that just are nice and you just, if you, and all the things that are just so inspirational, but there'll be nothing to it. You lose your Bible, power and preaching.
12. Then the seventh one is in Joshua 1:6-9. No success. Joshua 1, he tells them the success that God is going to give them is based on what they do with the Bible. He said it in Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit

in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The book, the book, the book. He's the true light. He's the true light.

Now, I don't know if you know it or not, but God lights every man on planet earth, and God lights every nation on planet earth. See, we live in a world with so much disinformation. We live in a world that is so backwards and people are absolutely just ridiculously stupid about anything that goes on around the world, especially in history. But you realize it was the time in the history of this planet throughout the last 7,000 years, when every nation on this planet had the word of God. You know what? In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel had a function. You know what that function was? God established their kingdom in 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, but at times Solomon is on the throne, the whole world knows there's a God in Jerusalem. Well, you can read it. All the nations are coming into Jerusalem to meet with Solomon. They want to see the temple. They want to see all that God is doing. The name of God was spread through the nation of Israel all through this world. You'll never get that in school. You'll never get that in college. You get that in the Bible and history of the Bible. And nations, the Queen of Sheba, they were all coming into Jerusalem to see the great nation of Israel whose God was the great God and they were coming to worship. Israel impacted the whole world and then they dumped the word of God and it all went away.

In the New Testament, that's the job of you and me. You see, in the Old Testament, I've told you this many, many times, there was a temple and God set it up that the whole world came to the temple. In the New Testament, we don't have a temple. We don't have a building made with hands. The Bible says your body is now the temple and in the Old Testament where the whole world came to the temple, in the New Testament, you and I take our temple to the world and we failed that. We failed. Israel failed. We failed. We failed for the same reason. It's because of the fact that we have rejected the word of God, the history of Europe in a capsule view.

Somebody was telling me, Steve was talking about last night and somebody was talking about it a couple of weeks ago on television. They have these preachers that were in America that were pastors of churches. We talked about this in church history a couple of weeks ago and they were pastors in churches in America who were hiding from their congregation that they're now atheists, that they no longer believe in God. Yet they're getting up every Sunday morning and preaching and they feel terrible about it. They've lost their faith years ago but the church is their income. What's he going to do? Because most preachers couldn't do anything and it could never work for a living. What are you going to do? And now they're caught and they blacked out their faces and altered their voices so their congregation wouldn't see them or know who they were and they're telling their pitiful story. "I'm a preacher. I have a church but I no longer believe in God." Everybody went, "Oh, how can that happen?"

In Europe, when they talk about their churches in Europe, Lutheran church, Catholic church, when you talk about churches in Europe, see when we talk about our churches when you sit down to somebody the question you'll ask them is what Bible do you use? "Well we use the King James Bible. We use the NIV. Well we use this. We use that." That's basically where it goes. In Europe, you know what the question between churches are? "Oh, is your pastor a believer in God or is your pastor an atheist?" You see in Europe, they have no problem. Europe is completely

amoral. There's no morals in Europe. The churches in Europe, the great churches in Europe are museums today. You go to cathedrals that were built in the 12th century, the 9th century, the 15th century and there are museums today. There's nothing in it. Nobody goes to it. Europe is a land without God, without the knowledge of God and they don't care about God. How did that happen? It happened because every nation, every country in Europe at one time or the other had the word of God.

In the 1500s, Czechoslovakia, no longer a Czechoslovakia today, but in the 1500s, a whole nation of Czechoslovakia followed a guy by the name of John Hus. The whole nation believed in God. In Holland, William of Orange, in the Dutch Baptist, the whole nation in the 1500s believed in God. You're going to find in Europe, in Germany, when Martin Luther and the Reformation, he broke from the Roman Catholic Church and he brought about the Lutheran Church and they were established fundamentally on grace, salvation by faith. The whole nation, the nation followed Martin Luther. All of them, every one of them, England. England set the scene for 400 years when she broke off the shackles of Queen Mary and came to the point under Elizabeth and then James I of Scotland and she became a King James Bible, Bible believing country and God took that little island nation and set out nations around the world. I've been in Africa, I've been in Central Africa, Uganda, I've been in Uzbekistan, I've been in Kenya, I've been to all those places 20 some years ago. There was, everybody spoke English, everybody believed in God. Why? Because those British missionaries taught kids to read and write with a King James Bible and they poured it into it and everybody knew God. Today, they're all Muslim. Philippines was the same way. Central America was the same way. Been there. Now they're all Muslim. They're all gone because they all rejected the Word of God.

America's the same way. America started with our founding fathers and built into the Constitution and the start of this country was fundamentally built on two of the greatest Bible believing preachers and the preaching of a King James Bible, George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. They formed the fine set of the founding fathers. Ben Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, many of them were not even saved but there was a reverence for God. In fact, when the Declaration of Independence was written, Thomas Jefferson looked at it and he sent it back to the guy that was doing it and said, "There's not enough references to God. We can never forget what God had done for us," and he put three more references in but we forgot, we forgot. We sure did.

The book of Nahum historically illustrates the great truth of Psalms 9:17 where it says:

*Psalms 9:17*

*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

Where once Nineveh received the message of God, took the message of God, now they reject it and light rejected, my friends, becomes lightning. What you've got in Europe right now is the result of those countries having the word of God and then rejecting it. What you've got in America right now is America was founded on this book. Now it's rejected the book and America is going. I told you this Tuesday, last Tuesday in church history, there's never been a nation on planet earth after they rejected the word of God survived the next 200 years without being gone.

Oh, they may still be a nation, but they're gone morally and spiritually. Great universal truth that no nation after rejecting God's word is going to survive.

Hey, it comes down to this folks and it's the theme of this book, either God is your stronghold or He's not. Now that principle also works for you and for me. You have the book, the word of God, God lights you with it and then you walk away from it. When you do that, the same principles that destroy a nation are the same principles that now go against you.

I want to give you a great verse and you ought to write this verse down if you don't have it. I give it to you many times, but you don't pay attention to it. But I'm telling you, you ought to put this down. You ought to put this on your forehead backwards. So when you look into a mirror, you can see it. Read it. It's the greatest single verse in the Bible for you and for me, because it's the greatest principle that happens that God's people don't get because they think, because we live in a world where you can do what you want to do. We live in a Christianity where there's no rules, no regulations, do whatever you want to do. When somebody holds you accountable, wah, wah, and go someplace else that you can get away with it. Well, write this verse down, sweetheart.

*Job 9:4*

*He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?*

And the answer to that is nobody. Last week I talked about the deception that comes into our lives when we reject the light of God's word, how we get deceived. We looked at the great warnings in the Bible, "be not deceived, be not disarmed, and be not discouraged." Another great sermon.

Let me tell you something. All my Christian life, I've seen God's people delude themselves. I've seen God's people rationalize their situations. I've seen them through their arrogance and their pride and their selfishness. I've seen them convince themselves. I've seen them deceive themselves that they were right when they were dead wrong. I've seen that verse fulfilled in everybody's life when you walk away from God in that word. I don't care how you try to justify it. I don't care how you try to rationalize it. You cannot harden yourself against Him. You may make it the church. You may make it the pastor. You may make it somebody in that church. But at the end of the day, when the Bible says that you're supposed to do what you're supposed to do to fix that and you don't, it comes right down to you harden yourself against Him and everybody else is just an excuse. That's how it works.

You never, never, never. And I mean never. And I mean never, never. And I mean never, never with a capital N. I mean a never with a big N and a big E and a big V and everywhere else how you spell it. I mean never underline. You never want to lose the blessings of God and the hand of God out of your life. Because once you do, my friend, it's a downward spiral, no matter how you try to justify it, how you try to rationalize it, how you try to explain it away, who you try to blame it on.

Years ago, you older folks remember this. I think it was Wendy's. Remember they had this, it was either Wendy's or Burger King. Wendy's. Remember this old crotchety lady that like everybody's

grandmother. She was that pain in everybody's side and a little lower until the left. The ad was, and it was a great ad, it was famous. In fact, she just died about four years ago. She was this crotchety old grandmother, like your grandmother, like my grandmother, sat in her ways and would get on anybody's face about anything. The idea was that she went to all these other places and when she got a burger, it was just a little piece of beef on it. Wendy's idea was they had big patties on it, big square burgers. So this commercial, she would go into McDonald's, Burger King, all these places, order her food, go sit down, open it up, and then come back up. With this voice like two gears grinding on a broken 57 Chevy transmission, she'd get that guy's face, not once, over and over again, drawing attention to herself and to her issue. Her words were, "Where's the beef?" What? "Where's the beef?" Over and over and over again, bringing to the point she had a hamburger that was not very good. It's big. You ever see him? The bun's this big and the hamburger's that big. She was making her point. "Where's the beef?" Wendy's was saying to the world, "Compare our hamburgers to yours. You say your hamburgers are good, you're better than ours, they're as good as ours. Where's the beef?"

Well, let me ask you a question. You think you're right with God? You think you're doing what you're supposed to do? You've got a problem with everybody else, but you think you're the only one? Let me ask you a question. Where's the fruit? Where's the fruit? Don't tell me you're right and everybody else is wrong. And you go out and live a life where there's no fruit. Don't tell me that you go out and do your own thing and nobody ever gets saved. There's no fruit. I want to ask you the same question she was asking Wendy's or McDonald's or whoever. Where's the fruit? If you're a Christian and you're saved and God's hand is in your life, where's the fruit? Don't tell me you're right with God. Don't give me all these great things about you and what you're thinking and where you're at and how you're the victim of everything in life. Where's the fruit? It's all in the fruit, folks. Just like it was all in the hamburgers. You look at this one over here and Wendy's, whoa, no comparison. You put somebody up on a table that's got the hand of God in their life and somebody that claims to have them but don't. All you got to do is look at it. Where's the fruit? Where's the fruit?

All my Christian life I've seen God's people delude themselves through pride, through arrogance, through sinfulness, through selfishness, convince themselves, deceive themselves that they were right when they were dead wrong and everything in their life. I've watched them. I've watched them and you know what? I've watched them when God took their hand off of them and I'll tell you, every one of them starts. I'm going to tell you right now, every one of it starts. Over the 30, 40 some years, it all starts with one thing. The day you stop getting involved in ministry, the day you take, don't stop, you stop working with people. The day there's nothing in your life that takes up that you're accountable for with somebody else. When you walk away from that, it's just a matter of time that you'll walk away from Bible study, you'll walk away from the Bible, you'll walk away from everything and then you got to maintain this facade and then it can't be you. It has to be everybody else. I got one question. Where's the fruit?

Things in life are not complicated. I've watched people lose their joy and turn to bitterness. I've watched people lose their financial stability. I've watched people go into bankruptcy two or three times. I've watched them, I've watched them everything they touch turn to dust. I've watched

them lose their houses two or three times. I've watched them lose their health. I've watched some lose their sanity. I've watched them play the most amazing game.

Years ago, I had a woman that was a grandma and she had a gambling problem and she was hiding it like she could hide it. Finally she had come to the point where she had gambled everything in her savings and the husband had found out about it. So I get called in. She's lost \$40,000 in a weekend, lost everything. These people were on retirement. So she does, and this was a classic case, we'll get into this in Counseling 101. So she goes into what I call the survival mode. She fakes like she's had an emotional breakdown because when people get into trouble, they'll do one or two things. They'll either blame it on somebody else and if that won't work, then they'll say that, "Well, something happened to me and I was out of control." Or they'll do something after they do something that you'll feel more sorry because of the fact that you're, it's like when your kid, you said you did kid you something wrong and he says, "I'm going to whip you," and he says, "You do, I'll run away." You're so afraid he'll run away. You won't whip him. He knows that. See what you do is pack him a little bag, get a little lunch spreader and then whip him and then say, "I'll see you Christmas." He ain't going anywhere. He ain't going anywhere, but he manipulates you.

See, she was manipulating. Her daughter called me in a panic. "Oh, my mother, she's had a nervous breakdown." I said, "I thought she just lost \$40,000 at the boats." She said, "Oh, she did, but now she had a nervous breakdown." I said, "Are we going to deal with the money?" "Oh, we can't worry about that right now. We just can't." She said, "You ought to see her, Bob. It's pitiful. It's pitiful. It's just absolutely pitiful. She just sits in a chair and she just goes like this. She can't look. She won't, I ask her questions and she just stares off. She's in a comatose state," whatever that is. I said, "Is that next to Wyoming or is that next to Missouri or where is that exactly?" She says, "That's California and she's, I know it's Bogusville." Oh, that's where it's at.

So I go over, I still had my white horse on. I walk in the house. Now I watch everything. I watch everything. You don't do a thing that I don't see it. That's my job. I watch. I got the eyes of an eagle because I got the book of an eagle. I walked in there and the moment I walked in, she was sitting over the corner and I didn't even pay attention to her when I caught her out of my peripheral vision, whatever that is. I saw her out of here. The moment I walked in where she was sitting there, the moment I walked in, she started this. She started going like this. I said, "Selective breakdown." I may have one of them myself. So I walked over there and I did all the things. Yeah, that's what she's doing. She's doing this like that. Just like that. She even looked like her a little bit.

You know what she did now? She got in trouble because she gambled away \$40,000. She doesn't want to be accountable for it. Everybody's mad. So she throws this to throw everybody off. So they're more concerned about this than we are the \$40,000. So I know what's going on because I, my peripheral vision, I saw it when I came in. So I asked everybody, "Could you just let me have some time with her?" Now they're thinking, "Bob's going to pray with her. Bob's going to lay hands on her." Yeah, I'm going to lay hands on it. "Bob's going to fix that." I said, "Would you just please go out of the room? Let me have some time with her." So she's there, and then the rocking picks up. Now she's, because now she's doing the show for me. Okay. So the rocking's

picking up. I go, got a chair and sit down in front of her. I said, "Look, let me tell you something. I know your fakeness and I know why you're doing what you're doing. Now here's the deal. I'm here to help you. But if you want to continue to play this act that you've had a nervous breakdown and a mental breakdown, and you want to continue to play this, when I walk out of here, when I leave, I'm going to suggest that they put you in Missouri Western mental health and you're going to get locked up down there with the people who are crazy. And if you're not crazy, which I know you're not, when you go in, you're sure going to be crazy when you come out." And I said, "Well, this is your last chance. When I walk out of here, you know, you're playing a game. I know you're playing a game. I think it's despicable. You did something wrong. You're caught, cowboy up. Let's get the thing fixed, deal with it, get your solve your problem. But when I walk out of here and you want to play this stupid little game, I'm telling them to call 911. And I'm going to tell them that you told me you're going to commit suicide. And I'm going to tell them to get you locked up and put you down there. And that's where you're going to play out this little game. And you got one last chance between now and the door." And I got up and started to walk away. By the time I got my hand on her, she said, "Pastor," she says, "I want to talk to you."

People play the games all the time. It's part of human nature. She came to the point where she deceived, tried to deceive everybody. Many times people do lose their sanity. Many times they, I heard a guy say one time that 75% of the people in the sanatoriums are born again Christians. You know what? I believe that. You met the Bible says that this book is God's mind. Let me give you a piece of advice. You got saved. You took this book. You took His mind. It's real simple. It's elementary. It's like two and two. You mess with His mind. He messes with yours. You don't get away with it. I've seen them lose their house, lose their health, lose their sanity. I've seen them lose their husband and wives. I've seen them lose their families. I've seen them lose their jobs. I've seen them lose their faith. But most tragically of all, I've seen them lose their kids.

You see, they're so into themselves, they forget that, yeah, maybe they're saved, but the little kids growing up are not saved. So when they get an attitude towards God, and we say it again, "Who has hardened himself against him and prospered?" You don't go up, you go down. The more you try to justify it, rationalize, blame it on somebody else is that it is eating a whole enchilada yourself and dealing with it, the worse it gets, and it compounds itself. You think the devil misses any trick when it comes to damning your family? The devil knows he can't get you, but I guarantee you, he sees those little ones growing up. When you quit going to church and you quit getting into your Bible, and you quit doing the things you're supposed to be doing, or even worse, you quit going and trying to teach him a Bible story, and he sees the facade of both sides of this thing, the devil's going to get him just like that. You're going to wind up going to heaven, you're going to spend the eternity in heaven, that little kid of yours is going to grow up against God. It's going to, every generation growing up is worse than the generation that produced it. I told you that. That little kid's going to grow up, he's going to reject God, she's going to reject God, you're going to wonder what happened, and they're going to die and split hell wide open. All because, all because, all because you never learned a great verse. He is your stronghold. He either is or He is not. He either can solve all the issues and the problems or He can't. But certainly, ladies and gentlemen, "Who hath hardened himself against him and prospered?" The

devil never misses a trick, never misses a trick. Christ our stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him. It's that simple.

God gives the word of God to every man. I look at it this way. I look at God coming down and He gives the word of God to every person. That person takes that light and accepts it or says no thanks. God is not obligated to give it to you a second time. I want you to understand that. He only is obligated to give it one time. He didn't say He's the true light, that lighteth every man coming into the world many times over. Now He may because He's a gracious God and He's not willing that any should perish and all should come to repentance. Praise the Lord. But He only has to give it to you once. When He gives it to you once and you accept it or you reject it, then that's where you're at. You go on and your life will get worse and if something changes in your heart and you come back to God, then God will work with you. Most people will never happen. Not today, anyhow. The world is so damaging. It just keeps going getting worse and worse and farther and farther and farther till there's no coming back. It's not that God won't save you. It's that you're so far in the world you can't get unsaved. It's like an alcoholic. An alcoholic gets drinking so much that after a while he can't stop drinking. He can't come back to a normal life. It consumes him and this world will consume you from God if you let it.

For a Christian, it's simple. You may be saved. Your kids are probably lost if they're little kids and they got to come to that point at some time in their life where they need to get the same deal you got. They need a mom and a dad that's going to raise them up. They need a situation that's going to put it in the right context of those little kids growing up, get every chance they need because you may want them as much as you want them saved. I know most of you, not all of you do, you'd be stupid not to. But I'm telling you this, as much as you sit here this morning and want your kid's saved, let me tell you something. There's one who wants to damn their souls to hell 100,000 times more than you want them saved, that's the devil. If you think, if you think he will not exploit everything in your life that you don't cross the T's and dot the I's, if you don't think that he won't take advantage of every situation you give him, he will.

Now is the time, ladies and gentlemen, where we're at today that you need to button up your homes and button up your families and button up your children and you need to make sure you do it by the book. Get the help you need if you don't understand it, but now is not the time to walk away from the Word of God. That book, He wants to be your stronghold in a day of trouble. Do you know what that means? Your stronghold. What in this world can you and I hang on to that is any guarantee of getting us through anything? Not a thing. He wants to be your stronghold. He wants to be the one that you hang on to and the one that gets you through everything in life and brings your family right along with it. I don't care what scenario we're in today. I don't care where you're at, but I am telling you this. God wants to start where you're at and He will take you where you're at. Some of you just got saved, some of you are just getting plugged back into the Bible. That's great. He'll take you where you're at and will help you get to the place where we cross all those T's and dot those I's.

This church has one great thing going for it among many great things going for it and it has to do with the great people that are in it. You'll never have to go through a problem or deal with something that you don't understand how to do it by yourself. We're here to help you because

that's what a church does 24/7. You can call me and I'll be there to help you do whatever I can do. You got a problem. Don't understand how to do this. Don't have to fix this. You come and see me. I'll get you where you need to be. Get you what you need. Give you everything you need to give you the best chance to be everything God wants you to be. That's the job of the church and that's what we need to do with individuals.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Oh Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You today and we thank You Father for being our stronghold in a day of trouble. Lord, this old book, boy, I can look down through history and I can see how men and nations have just forsaken this book. I've seen in my own ministry over the many, many years how God's people have walked away from it. How people get their nose bent on a joint about something that is so ridiculously stupid that it infects and impacts their whole life.