

## I. Introduction To Christ In The Old Testament

What started out as just an easy, simple thing to help you put your notes into your Bible has turned into a major endeavor that so many of you have just jumped onto the bandwagon. I love it when God does things like this. We don't really have a plan around here other than just teach the truth and let God manipulate it however He wants to for His honor and glory.

We have a real opportunity here with all of the new folks that have come into the church in the last year or so, to really get a handle on your Bible. We have been dealing with that and talking about that, and it's something that the prayer groups can work with and help each other with. It's just been an incredible thing. We're excited about what the Lord is doing.

We started coming through the books of the Bible, and our goal on Sunday was to show you how that in each book of the Bible you have Christ laid out and typified from the Old Testament, showing you how the Old Testament contained the New Testament. One of the greatest illuminating things about the Bible that you'll ever find out and grasp is the fact that Christ is all through the Old Testament.

God never wrote the Bible as we know it to be, the Holy Spirit of God. It's very unique. You had many different authors writing over the expanse of 600 to 1,000 years, and yet the whole book goes together in a cohesive fashion that really lays out the central theme. I showed you Thursday night how the very orders of the books in your Bible teach and lay out the greatest doctrine of the Bible: the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I showed you how the books in the Jewish Old Testament are not in the same order as yours. Your Bible ends in the book of Malachi in the Old Testament; theirs ends in 2 Chronicles 36. I showed you how in their Bible, God orchestrated those books to show that Jew that he needs to get back to the land. That's what you find in the last verse of 2 Chronicles 36, that Jew was told to go back up, and "up" meaning back to Jerusalem. It's an incredible concept.

You're learning things about the Bible if you just stay with it every week. You'll see today how our format is going to somewhat change here as I point out things to you that you need to reference down so you can get a lot of it done while you're here this morning. We're going to pick it up in the book of Deuteronomy today.

Remember now what we're focusing on on Sunday morning as we come through: we're going to try to do five books a week, and that is how Christ is typified in the Old Testament, showing you by the pictures in the Old Testament the New Testament principles. I've told you many, many times, this is exactly what you do: you've got to get both together. You find the principle, whatever it may be, in the New Testament, and then you have the ability to go back and see the illustration of it. There's more than one illustration of it, but you'll see as we go through this.

## II. Deuteronomy: Christ Our True Prophet

Now, in the book of Deuteronomy, Christ is typified as our true prophet, and that is a really important concept to see in this book. Each one of these concepts of the Lord will lend itself to a fundamental teaching that you and I need to know that is illustrated throughout the book.

Before I go any farther, I've got to correct this too. This week, many of you pointed this out: when we went through Numbers, I did not give you the New Testament passage for Numbers. My fault. It's John 3:14 for those of you that did not get that last week. Well, none of you got it because I didn't say it, but some of you asked me this week.

But in our book today, in the book of Deuteronomy, our New Testament verse is going to be Acts 7:37. This is what it says:

*Acts 7:37*

*This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.*

Now, the concept of Christ becoming the true prophet is simply this: as Christians, here's what you've got to come to terms with. Either the Bible is what God said it is, or it isn't. Either the Bible is the power of God supernaturally given to you and me through a book that will help you through everything you go through, or it won't. It's just that simple.

What we find in the book of Deuteronomy is that theme moving its way all the way through. Christ was their true prophet, and God raised up Moses to them, but He told Moses to tell them that there's another prophet coming like Moses, who is going to talk to your people and lay out the truth to your people, and your people should hear Him.

In this book of Deuteronomy, we see a great truth, and it's one of the most dynamic truths that I've ever found in the Bible. What it does is it basically lays out in the first couple of chapters here, really in the first couple of verses of chapter 1. In fact, it says this:

*Deuteronomy 1:2*

*There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.*

He says there's an eleven-day journey from where they started to get to Kadesh, where they crossed over. Then look at verse 3:

*Deuteronomy 1:3*

*And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;*

That is one of the most dramatic two verses anywhere in the Bible. You know what that verse says? It says that they could have been to the Promised Land in eleven days. The journey from when they left Egypt to get to the Promised Land of crossing over Jordan was an eleven-day trip, but it took them forty years. Wow, that is a staggering concept when we put it into the light of where you and I are at today as Christians.

I told you last week that the Promised Land, which is sometimes called by different names in the Bible—sometimes it's called the Land of Milk and Honey, sometimes it's called Beulah Land. It's only called that one time in your Bible. You've got a song in your hymnal that talks about Beulah Land. The word "Beulah" means "married." The reason the land is so important to the nation of Israel is because the nation of Israel was married to that land. The nation of Israel was given that land by God, and they are married to the Lord through that land. So it's called Beulah Land.

Wrongly, most pastors teach that the Promised Land is a picture of you and me dying and going to heaven. You know that's not true, and that's very misleading when guys teach that because it's just simply not true. The Promised Land does not represent you dying and going to heaven. The Promised Land, as I said last week, represents that you get to a place in your life where you have the blessings of God, everything that God has for you, and you live peaceably with the blessings and the fruitfulness of God in your life in the midst of your enemies who want to destroy you. God is so crucial that you understand that.

When the nation of Israel went into that land, God's whole plan was to give them that land, and God was going to take care of them, and everything that they needed, God was going to supply for them, but of course, they failed. They failed in two aspects. In Deuteronomy, we see two things that became their downfall, and unfortunately, it's our downfall too, because the whole concept is they could have been there in eleven days.

Once we understand that that Promised Land, the land of milk and honey, Beulah Land, represents spiritual maturity for you and for me—a place where you really start taking from God and start giving back to God, where God really now begins to use you—you see from this that you know what, you can get to that place in your life in a year, two years, three years, four years, and some of God's people will never get there in their life. It's the same concept. It's an incredible concept.

You know what the basis is? In your life, is Christ the true prophet? It's as simple as that. Did God really mean what He said, and do you believe He meant what He said when He said it?

We see the first thing that they failed is they failed themselves. They turned from God, not keeping His Word and not believing that He was the true prophet. The second thing that they failed in is they failed their families. God gives them the law the second time. That's why the book is called Deuteronomy. "Deutero" means "two." Deuteronomy simply means "second giving of the law." You want to put this down in your Bible by the name of it.

Why did He give the second giving of the law? Because now they're ready to go. Forty years have passed. They're ready to cross over into Jordan. You know what's happened? He has to give the law a second time because the families, the moms and the dads, were so busy out there in the world doing their own thing that they failed not only themselves, but they failed their children, and now their children do not know about God and all the promises, so He has to give it a second time. Hence the word Deuteronomy: "deutero," twice, second giving of the law.

As you come down through this book, you're going to see that the issue really that you have to deal with—and I think this is a great concept—it deals with the fact that you and I have to face

every day. They were faced with it. The issue is, how do you know when it's something that you've got to deal with? How do you know when it's of God or when it's not of God? How do you know when you have a decision in your life, something that you have to decide to do? How do you know that when it's God or when it's not of God? How do you know that it is just your flesh or the world or the devil imitating it? How do you know? This is the concept of Christ in this book: Christ the true prophet.

Now that concept is built around one chapter, and it's Deuteronomy 18. So let's go back to that as we start to come through it. We'll read the passage, and then we'll come down through it and talk about it some more.

*Deuteronomy 18:15-22*

*15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*

*16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.*

*17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.*

*18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

*19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

*20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

*21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?*

*22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

That is the quotation that I gave you in Acts 7, which is a quotation from here. So you want to mark those two back and forth. I'm telling you right now, you get the back table back there, you've got to have it done by now. Not really, but I've got to keep pushing you.

Here comes our problem. Verse 21, I love it.

*Deuteronomy 18:21*

*And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?*

That's the problem you and I have every day of our life. We're faced with decisions. We're faced with circumstances. We're faced with things that we have to make decisions on. We say to ourselves, "How do we know? How do we know?" Half my life in the ministry is spent helping people make the right decisions in the circumstances that they are faced with. It's just that simple.

He says down there, "And if they say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken?" Here's the answer:

*Deuteronomy 18:22*

*When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

Now let me explain something to you. In Revelation 1:2, years ago I found this verse, and it puzzled me because I never thought of it like this. Revelation 1:2 talks about the testimony of Jesus Christ. I never thought about Jesus Christ having a testimony. I mean, I thought about my own testimony, and I'm sure you think about your testimony. When we do something stupid out in public, or we don't do the right thing, or we don't follow the Bible, people look at us and it hurts our testimony. But I never thought about Jesus Christ blowing His testimony. I've blown my testimony in my years past. I blow it today, and so do you. But I never thought about the concept of Jesus Christ blowing His testimony.

Then when I came on through it, I found out what the testimony of Jesus Christ really is, and that's found in Revelation 19:10. Yes, you do want to mark those two back and forth and put those two together. You want to put in one place "the testimony of Jesus Christ," then you want to put under that note that "go to Revelation 19:10 and find out what it is." Then you want to go back to chapter 19, and you want to put "go back to Revelation 1:2" and put the two back together.

Now, Revelation 19:10, and it follows right in line with our theme here of Christ being typified in the book of Deuteronomy as Christ our true prophet.

*Revelation 19:10*

*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

You know what that means? That means if Jesus Christ ever said one thing in that book that wasn't true or didn't come true, then He has blown His testimony, and He is no different than any other false god that's out there. The difference that sets what you and I have apart from Muhammad, from Confucius, from Buddha, from every religion on this planet, the thing that sets you and I apart is that you have a book that you can bet your soul on, that everything in it is a hundred percent accurate.

I've told you my testimony many, many times, how that before I was saved, I was an evolutionist, and I'd been into astronomy, and I bought into all of those things. What really began

to deal in my life was when a couple of guys got me together and sat down with me, and they showed me this concept of forty-eight prophecies in the Old Testament that were written about Jesus Christ. These forty-eight prophecies were written 600 to 1,000 years before He was born. These forty-eight prophecies were written by twenty different authors, and yet they took those forty-eight prophecies—and I still have them in my Bible, you ought to get them on yours at some point, and it would be a good Thursday night question.

They took those forty-eight prophecies and they figured out what would be the chances of forty-eight prophecies about one man, in this case Jesus Christ, coming to pass when they're written 600 to 1,000 years over three continents by over twenty different authors. What would be the chances against something like that happening? When they ran it through the computer, the chances against those forty-eight prophecies, the number was ten to the 157th power. Ten to the 157th power was ten with 150 zeros after it. You know what? There are not that many electrons in the universe. The chances against those forty-eight prophecies coming to pass was more against it than the electrons in the universe, but at the first coming of Christ, every one of those forty-eight prophecies was fulfilled.

Now that's the kind of book you've got. That's why this book portrays Christ as the true prophet. You want to know what God says about something? You want to know if it's really of God or not? I'm going to show you how you know that. Let me give you a great verse.

*Isaiah 46:10*

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

Anybody see or wonder why... it takes a lot to impress me in the Bible with people, but this would impress me. Anybody see here and wonder why or ever catch why He says "declaring the end from the beginning" instead of "the beginning to the end"? If you can figure that out, you're going to impress me because I'll tell you what, there's a real key to something right there, but that's not our point today, but I'll throw that out so you can chew on it because you've probably got nothing else to do this week.

But the thing I want you to see is He declares the end from the beginning, and from the ancient times the things that are not done yet, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." Now let me tell you something. Let me translate this concept of Christ being the true prophet. Let me translate this when He says to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament sense, "How do you know when the thing is of the Lord?" Because you and I are faced with that every day of our life. He says to them in the Old Testament, "When the thing comes to pass, or if it doesn't come to pass, that prophet is not of the Lord, because the Lord always brings things to pass by what He says."

Now let me translate into the New Testament for you with your problems and my problems of making decisions. You know what it's telling you there? I mean, how do you know when it's God telling you to do something, or somebody else, or your own flesh, or even the devil, or maybe the world? As I said earlier, half my life is spent helping people with decisions to make, to try to

validate if it's of God or not, and I've seen many, many of God's people who thought God was in something and then found out later God was not in it.

There's an absolute way that you don't make mistakes because Christ is our true prophet, and when He's laid out in Deuteronomy, you see everything you need, especially from Deuteronomy 18. So you don't make the same mistakes. It's real simple. Isaiah 46:10 says, "My counsel shall stand." You know what that means for you and me? You hear me talk about Bible principles all the time. You know why I talk about Bible principles all the time? Because Bible principles are the key to your success as a Christian life. You know why? Do you know how you know whether God is in something or not? Do you know how you know whether to make this decision or that decision? I'll tell you how you know. You know through biblical principles because here it comes. Here's the rule: God never violates His own principles.

You are safe because the Bible told you in Isaiah 46:10 that "My counsel shall stand." I get real nervous when people say, "Well, God gave me a verse." Now I understand that verses are very important in the Bible, and we all have our favorite verses, but you've got to be careful with that. I had a lady tell me one time that she had a big decision to make in life, and I've told you this story before, but there are new people here.

There was a nice lady, sweet lady. She claimed to be a Christian. I don't know if she was or wasn't. She didn't go to church anywhere. She ran out with the world most of the time with her friend, but she was a very nice lady. She was good to me. She was good to this church, and she was a nice gal. I was talking to her one time, and she told me about a major decision she had to make in her life. I said, "Wow." She said, "But God gave me peace, and God gave me the answer. I am so happy."

When somebody starts talking like that, I want to find out. You've got my attention now, because when people start to tell me what God did, gave them so they make the decision, I want to learn from that. I want to see if it's real or it's themselves. She says, "Well," she says, "I had this terrible decision," and she says, "I didn't know what to do." She said, "You know what?" She says, "I was driving downtown," and she said, "You know where the Dairy Queen is downtown in Lee's Summit?" I said, "Yeah, I do." She said, "Well, I was driving down around there, and this decision, whether to do this or not, and I kept praying to God, 'God, give me a sign. Show me, give me an answer to this decision,' much like you and I do.

She said, "God, give me a sign." God gave her a sign. It was a billboard, because she drove around there, and there was a Dairy Queen, and she saw this thing over here, and a big thing underneath it that said, "It's all cool." That was her sign. She had a decision to make, and in her mind and her heart, she drove right around that thing. God orchestrated her around, and she walked there, and she looked up, and she got the message from God on a billboard: "It's cool."

God doesn't speak through billboards. Now you've got to be careful when somebody says, "Well, I have the decision to make, and God gave me a verse." Now I understand that verses are very important in the Bible, and I'm certainly not taking anything away from it, but hear me out. You say, "Well, God gave me a verse," where she says God gave her a billboard. The only way you are a hundred percent safe—I mean, you know as well as I do, you can find a verse to justify

whatever you want to do. You know what principles do in the Bible? They do something that verses don't do.

Now you may have a tough time in your life, and I've had tough times in my life, and I've went to Psalms, and God gave me a Psalm, and that Psalm really helped me, a verse. But if I've got a major decision to make, I don't want to trust that just on one verse, because I know me. Maybe you don't know you, but I know me. I know that if I really want to do something, I'll find a verse in the Bible that'll support it.

I was the one time that I argued with a guy years ago about smoking marijuana. I said, "Marijuana is wrong." He said, "No, Jesus smoked marijuana." I said, "Where in the world do you get that?" He said, "Honest to God," he said, "because the Bible says Jesus was high on a mountain." Now you laugh at that, but that's exactly what human nature will do to justify what we want to do.

You know what? If you want to really marry somebody, lady or guy, if you really want to marry somebody, and you love them more and you do God, and you want that more than you want what God has for you, I guarantee you God will bring somebody into your world, or the devil will bring somebody into your world, or somebody will come into your world, and you want that person so bad, you will find a verse and then justify what you do. What principles in the Bible do is give you a context to what your decision is. Most people don't see this.

I had a guy tell me one time, he says, "You know, I was thinking about if I should marry this woman or not." And it was heavily on my heart. I was thinking about that, and I was thinking about it, and I was driving out there to see some of my friends that we were going to go out. One of my friends said to me, "Bob, when are you going to marry that gal?" And he said, "That was it. I was thinking about it. God put it in his mind. He said it. And that was God telling me to get married." They got divorced three years later.

1 Corinthians 14:39. You don't have to turn to it, just listen to it. Watch how this thing works.

*1 Corinthians 14:39*

*Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

How many times do charismatics throw that down in my face? I said tongues are wrong and not for this age. "What do you mean? The Bible says, 'Here's my verse. Why do it? Forbid not to speak in tongues.'" You see that verse? That verse proves it's okay to speak in tongues and that you and I shouldn't forbid it, until you get the supporting principles that put the context to the verse. See where I'm going with this?

The only thing you and I are safe in, as Christ is the true prophet, is God never violates His principles. You don't need a verse to find the right husband or the right wife. If you just stay with the principles that tell you what that person should be, and you make up your mind, you're not going to marry that man or that woman, but you're going to marry the Christ in that man and that woman, you're good to go. You don't need a verse for that. There is no verse for that. You know

why? Because you've got a set of principles, and God never violates His own principles. You know why? He's the true prophet.

He's the true prophet. You can find a verse to justify whatever we want to do, but you'll never find biblical principles that will allow you or me to do what we want to do. That's why the principles are absolutely so important. That's why He says, "How do you know when the thing's of the Lord and it's not?" Because God never violates His own principles. You learn the principles, you stay with the principles, you let the principles dictate what decision you make. There's a principle, ladies and gentlemen, for every circumstance you're going to, or set of principles, for every circumstance you're going to find yourself in life.

So in the book of Deuteronomy, we find Christ as our true prophet. We see that just as the nation of Israel failed God, they failed God because they did exactly what you and I do. They just really could not believe that God was who He said He was. When they were faced with decisions, they always went someplace else than the true prophet. I mean, if we're not going to use the Bible, then what is the point of even having it?

Somebody says, "Well, I don't know if I need to be, I don't know if I want to be baptized or not." "Are you saved?" "Yes." "Have you been baptized?" "No." "Well, I'm praying about it." What's to pray about? You know there is no verse in the Bible that says you must be baptized. Not one verse. Now somebody said, "Well, baptism gets you to..." No, baptism won't get you to heaven, but baptism shows everybody that you are going to heaven. It won't get you there. There is no verse in the Bible that says you must be baptized. But the principle is, in the book of Acts and throughout Paul's writings, everybody that got saved got baptized. That's the principle.

I mean, I know the Bible says in the book of Hebrews, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is," but you realize outside of that verse—and I'm not even sure that applies to what we're talking about today—but you know outside of that verse, I don't know one verse in the Bible that says you should go to church. There is no verse in the Bible that you read, "Thou shalt go to church." So what are you doing here today? You know why you're here today? Because the principle is, in the book of Acts and in Paul's writings, every time a person got saved, they got baptized, and then they joined the New Testament local church. That's a principle. Principles are the things that will save you from making some of the biggest mistakes you're ever going to make in life. People can take a verse out of context and prove what they want, but a set of principles always puts the verse in context, and that's the key.

### III. Joshua: Christ The Captain Of Our Salvation

Book of Joshua. Now I think personally the book of Joshua is one of the greatest books in the Bible, but then I say that about every book when I'm teaching it, so what's the point? But Joshua, each one of them is, for me, and I'm just telling you this, when I'm teaching you, I'm not teaching you from a set of notes or a set of series of sermons that I built together, I'm teaching you this based on what God has showed me. Because when I saw, when I began to see how Christ was portrayed throughout every book of the Bible, it opened up a whole concept that I had never seen

before. Every one of these things lends itself to what God wants to do in your life by the book and them wrapping himself around Christ being typified in that book.

Now, you know what you've got in this book? Christ is typified as the captain of your salvation. The New Testament verse you want, Hebrews 2:10.

*Hebrews 2:10*

*For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

That's Christ. Now, the context here—and remember, Joshua is after Deuteronomy, so a lot of these books are going to continue on because they're in an historical account, so you're going to see a lot of principles move along. You need to remember that. You're going to see that the context here is the great crossing over Jordan to the Promised Land. They just spent forty years trying to get here, which should have only took them eleven days. But now they're finally here, and now they're going to cross over into that Promised Land.

Remember, I told you, and do not forget this, put this note somewhere, everywhere you can: the Promised Land does not represent you dying and going to heaven. The Promised Land represents you getting to the place in your life as a Christian where you are in the midst of battle, you are in the midst of the enemy, but you learned to serve God and to let God do your fighting for you as the captain of your salvation. That's what it is.

Joshua shows the militant side of Christianity. There are two aspects to the church, and you never hear this today. Nobody even knows this today. There are two aspects to the church: there's the church triumphant. That is the fact that someday you're going to go to heaven in triumph. That is the concept that someday Christ is going to come and pull us out of here, and we're going to be up in heaven, and we're going to be with Him, and we're going to look back at the Bible says in Romans, "For the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us in that day." That's the church triumphant.

You know what the church militant is? "Alright, boys, fix bayonets, lock and load. They're coming over the wire." That's the church militant. You're in a fight. You're in a fight. If you are saved here today, and you're trying to get to that place where you really can serve God and you give God everything in your life and you become everything God wants you to be, how's that going for you? You're in a battle. Sometimes it'll be a battle with your own family. Sometimes it'll be a battle with your friends. Sometimes it'll be a battle where you work. Sometimes it'll be a battle with other Christians, but it's going to be a battle.

I think it's important. Most of you don't know this, but I think it's important that He says "the captain of my salvation." You know why He said "the captain of my salvation"? Because in the military, a captain is the end of the field grade commanders. You can be an officer, you can be a first lieutenant and second lieutenant, and you're in the field. You can be a captain, you're in the field. But when you become a major, they take you out of the field. They'll make you a battalion commander or a corps commander, and then you operate the war from a desk. You're not in the field anymore.

In the military, they call it field grade officers. A captain is the field grade officer. He's still in the field. In our military, a captain will have a company. That company will have four platoons. Each platoon will have a lieutenant over it. He'll have an executive officer, which will be your lieutenant. Each platoon will have a number of sergeants over it, and it works down that way. But the captain, you know what? The captain, he is the one that is out in the field. He is the one that shares the mud. He's the one that is right in the middle of battle with the grunts. He's not in a tent someplace in headquarters. If he's a company commander, then he's right in the middle of battle with them because he's still a field grade officer. Jesus Christ is the captain of my salvation because He's in the trenches with us. He's in the foxhole with us.

Joshua shows not only the church triumphant, but it shows the aspect of the church militant. It's a great verse in Isaiah 54:17, and you want to mark this one down. It goes along with this book, and its portrayal of Christ as the captain of our salvation. In fact, I'd put it right up there next to that New Testament verse in Hebrews 2:10. It is a great verse.

*Isaiah 54:17*

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

You have a heritage of the Lord, and that heritage is you get out there in the battle and He'll do the fighting for you. That's what you find in Joshua. You know why? He's the captain of my salvation. This book is so foreign to most Christians because there are too many conscientious objectors in Christianity today.

Now the first thing I want you to see, and yes, you want to make this reference, the name Joshua. The name Joshua in Acts 7:45, his name is called Jesus. Now I might just tell you here that all the scholars will tell you that that's a mistranslation, that it was done by a poor, unfortunate scribe who made a poor, unfortunate mistranslation. Well, let me tell you something. You're a poor mistranslation as a scholar. You're so stupid when it comes to the Bible, you're like a blind bat, you couldn't back in backwards. You're like a gospel lost in high weeds when it comes to the Bible. You don't understand that the reason why it says Joshua in Joshua and Jesus in Acts 7 is the great key to show you that that book, Joshua, is a picture of the captain of your salvation, Jesus Christ. You're too stupid, you're too educated to see it. You're not stupid, you're just educated out of your intelligence. You want to make that reference. Joshua is called Jesus in Acts 7:45.

Now in this book, Israel crosses over Jordan, and you need to understand that before they got over that land, the devil had strategically placed all the enemies of God's people all around them in that land. In fact, Numbers 13 and 14, this is one of the reasons why they had to wander for forty years. You know why? Because they walked over there and they said, "He sent the spies over in Numbers 13 and 14." The spies went in at night like a recon, and they got into that Promised Land to search it out, and they came back and they said, "Oh, it's great, it's wonderful, it's the most beautiful thing in the world, but we can't go there." They said, "Why?" "Because not

only are the grapes big, not only are the apples big, but you ought to see the guys that are over there, they're really big too."

There were giants in that land for 430 years. For 430 years, while they were down in Egypt being forged into a nation, the devil was building the land that they were going to, filling it in with every enemy they had, with the giants that made them look like grasshoppers, they say, and they came back and they were scared to death. So they had to wander for forty more years, and then finally God takes them over.

I'm going to tell you something, that's a picture of your Christian life and my Christian life. The book of Joshua is a great book because it shows you and me that Jesus Christ is the captain of our salvation. It shows you and me that yes, when you get into there and you go over to Promised Land, there are some scary things over there. How many times I've seen where somebody has decided to make God king in their life and they decide to do what's right, and the next day their whole world falls apart. That's exactly what you can expect.

You've got this little dial-up thing here where you call up for a blessing and you dial it up and it gets some person on the other end and you can't even tell what sex they are. He says, "This is the day the Lord hath made. Be glad and rejoice." If they were telling the truth, there'd be a man's voice on there like a drill sergeant, and he says, "Look pal, this is the day the Lord hath made, and you're going to get it in the neck, praise God." Because that's what's going to happen. You see, there are too many illusions in Christianity today. Couple that with Christians that have no steel in their backbone. Christians who won't do what's right when they know what's right to do. Christians who will let themselves be bent back and forth by popular sway, that's what's wrong today. That's why nothing's getting done.

That's why I'm telling you right now, if you're going to take a stand for God, get set. Get set. God is going to throw you into combat. You're going into battle, and you're going to get in there, and you're going to have to pick up a weapon and stand your post. He's the captain of your salvation. That's why most of your songs in your hymn book, you know what they are? They're about war. "Am I a soldier of the cross?" They're about war. They're about "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before."

Israel crosses over Jordan, and the devil has strategically placed all the enemy of God's people. He's had 400 years to get that prepared. God's people like you and I are greatly outnumbered. They're greatly outsized by the giants. They're called the sons of Anak in Numbers 13:33. You want to run that back to Genesis 6.

Here's the picture: Joshua is a type of Christ. That's why in Acts 7 he's called Jesus. Because before them, he leads them and he smites them in a supernatural way. This is where you see when they're outnumbered in a battle of Jericho, and it's a walled-up city. That's a frontal attack. It's a suicide mission. You go against a walled city, you're going to lose 80% casualty when you try to take that the first time. They're walled up. "What do we do?" God says, "Don't worry about it. Just march around singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' Just march around that city. March around once. March around twice. March around three times. March around four times. March

around five times. March around six times." When the seventh time they went around, the walls came down.

Now you know what the scholars tell you, don't you? They tell you, you know, in the military if you go across a footbridge that's up high, you go route step. You know what route step is? Out of step. Because if you go in step, what'll happen is all the pressure at the same time, everybody marching in the same way, well, we can that bridge, there's a good chance it'll collapse. So they go route step. It messes up the pressure points. Our scholarship says that that's what they did. God wasn't involved in it at all. He had 600,000 men march around the city, and they went into route step. Then at a command, Joshua said, "Alright, get in step, boys." And it took seven times going in step with all the pressure, and it crumbled those walls. Anybody here believe that?

Like a guy said to me one time, "Well, you know that Bible, there's no miracles in the Bible." I said, "What about the miracle of the Red Sea?" I said, "God split that Red Sea to get them out of it." "He did not. That's the Sea of Reeds. That water wasn't no more deeper than four inches they went across." I said, "A story of miracles." I said, "What do you mean?" I said, "All the Pharaoh's army drowned in four inches of water." Read the book, stupid. There was no route step in step. God told him to go around seven times. You know why? Because seven is the number of perfection in your Bible. And the seventh time around, so you may have to go through something a few times to perfect yourself. But that Jericho, that Jericho, that is a picture of whatever fortress out there that is against you. It wasn't them. They just walked around in a circle. It was God who brought those walls down. It'll be God that'll bring the walls down that you have to face, if you can trust Him as the captain of your salvation.

Supernaturally they won these battles. Over there in chapter 10, you have the story of the battle of Gibeon. Oh, that's a good one. The battle of Gibeon is where they were fighting, and they're doing great. They're whipping them, but it's not quite got them beaten yet. They don't want to stop because they've got them. If they stop, they'll regroup or counterattack or dig in, and they'll lose more guys. Now in our military, that's a good, sound decision. When you're pursuing the enemy and you want to get them and you don't want them to get away, you don't want to pull off the attack because it's nighttime, and you want to wipe them out and get them done. You know what you do? You call in an airstrike. You call in artillery. You blow them off the face of the planet.

They didn't need aircraft. That Bible says back there that I gave you, "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper." Well, I guess they did call in an airstrike because God came down and said, "What's going on, Joshua?" He said, "Well, we're whipping them fair, Lord. We're clobbering them. But Lord, I'm afraid that we're going to lose this thing in darkness. Because once that sun comes down, we have to break off the attack. They're going to dig in, and we're going to have to hit them. We're going to wind up paying for the same ground twice, and I don't want to do that." Lord said, "You ain't going to do that." He said, "What do you got in mind?" He said, "Just keep fighting." "You just keep fighting." You know what the Lord did? He made the sun stand still. And the Bible says almost the whole day.

Now some of your educated scholars, they don't like that. They don't believe that. They don't understand that Provescent taught him all the way back in the 1800s when he figured up the chronology of time, found out there was twenty-four hours missing in time. There are two places that account for it in the Bible right there. What's an almost day? The other time is back there where the sundial goes back ten degrees. You know how long ten degrees is? That's twenty minutes. Between those two, you'll find your missing twenty-four hours. You better stick with the book. He is the captain of your salvation, and He'll deliver you in the battle supernaturally if you can believe who He is.

Now, inspiration, this is a life of the picture of the believer after salvation. We have to fight daily, the world, the flesh, and the devil, to keep the promises and the blessings of God. But Jesus is the captain of my salvation, and He does the fighting for me.

Now I've got several little outlines in here that I'm going to give you because I know you guys will use these in your devotions because they're great devotions. They're great sermons. But there's a number of things in here that I'm going to give you the first one, and you need to put these in here someplace along the line here. But then I'm going to give you how this thing is laid out here. But first of all, let me give you a three-point outline for success in ministry.

1. Faithful
2. Fearless
3. Fervent

Now I'm going to show you how that works because chapter one, when we get into this thing about the captain of my salvation, it lays out three areas that you and I have to have down, and it builds around these three things I gave you right here: faithfulness, fearlessness, and being fervent.

When you come through chapter one, I want you to mark in your Bible, first of all, verse 6, then I want you to put a big yellow circle around chapter 6. We'll get you another way in margin Bible, start over again. Verse 6, then verse 7, and then verse 9.

Now three areas that are the key areas of you having success in the ministry built on Jesus Christ being the captain of your salvation. Here's the first one in verse 6. You want to write this right outside of verse 6. The key word here is courage. Now we think of courage differently in the world and even in our Christian world than we do in the Bible. Courage is not some big tough guy. Courage in the Bible is real courage defined because when it takes a Christian...

I heard Kevin last night talking his devotion, and it made his point, fit into my message. He got up there, and I don't know if I'll quote him exactly right, but he'll get the gist of it. He was up there telling his guys, and then I could tell there were some saved guys in his team last night. He's giving his testimony, and he's talking about how that before he was saved, when somebody would talk about going to church, he would think they were a wuss. Before he was saved, when somebody talked about reading their Bible or witnessing, he would think they were a wuss. He says, "Now," he says, "now that I am saved," he says, "I've taken the same position," and he says, "it just turned around on me. Now as a Christian, I understand that if you don't go to church, you

are the real wuss. If you don't read your Bible, you are the real..." He has defined at this young age of his life what the Bible defines as courage.

You've got three aspects here. You know what you've got in verse 6? Put this out by it:

- Courage to Believe God's Word.

That's what you find in verse 6. Either God is who He says He is, or He's not. You have to come through, you have to realize that you have to have, it takes courage in the face of bad times. God's people will do one of two things when bad times come: you'll either run to God or you'll run from God. You better run to Him. You better learn that it takes courage to hang on to God's principles and promises in a tough time.

Then add this to it: you're not defined as a child of God by the good things in life. You're not defined as a child of God when everything is rosy in your life. What defines you as a child of God, when the world is falling down around your shoulders, where do you stand with that book? That's what defines Christianity. That's what courage is. Courage in the face of your enemies. Courage to believe God said what He said and meant what He said. The key to your Christian life is not when it all goes great, it's when it all goes bad. People go through tough times. God brings them through. You know what? God never said that you'd never have any hard times in your life. He never promised that. He just promised that when you would go through those tough times that He'd go through them with you. But something happens bad in our life. Nothing defines you and me more than when the crap hits the fan and your world comes down and everybody's turned against you. Where do you stand with that book?

Verse 7:

- Courage to Obey God's Word.

In spite of circumstances. In spite of your family. In spite of your friends. Hey, where do you stand today on your ability or inability to just have the courage to obey what He says? If it's the right thing to do, then it's the right thing to do. If the book is clear on this is the procedure, that's the procedure. Doesn't matter what you think about it. Doesn't matter what your friends think about it. Doesn't matter what your peer pressure thinks about it. Doesn't matter what your family thinks about it. If it's right, it's right. But that takes courage. That takes courage. It takes courage.

May I remind you a verse that I gave you a while back in James 4:17.

*James 4:17*

*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

That book has some principles that we follow. The thing that defines you and I is, do we follow them? In every spectrum of Christianity. But it takes courage. I've seen people that had a hard decision to make. We talked about that a couple of weeks ago. I talked about making the hard choices. In the ministry, there are some hard choices that need to be made. In the ministry, there are some unpopular choices. Most of you enjoy a life in this church without making any controversial decisions. You're young. You come. You get the Bible. You have fun. You get

everything that you need. But as you grow up the ladder, one of the things that marks you as a leader is your ability in the face of your friends, in the face of your family, in the face of your peer pressures, to make the right choice when it's right.

I can't use you. You're no good to me. How good are you to me that every time there's a hard choice that's got to be made, I've got to make it? You put your tail between your legs and run for the pillars. If it's the right choice, it's the right choice. But that takes courage. It takes courage. It takes courage. It ain't just courage to believe what He says. It's courage to obey what He says.

Then verse 9. Hey, it's either the right thing or the wrong thing. It's not hard. Christianity's not hard. Your life is not complicated. You just make choices, do the right thing or the wrong thing. You say, "I'm in the middle." There is no middle. Jesus said, "If you're not with Me, you're against Me." There is no middle ground.

Then the third thing, verse 9:

- Courage to Rest in God's Word.

God's work is never done. It's never done. You know, most of you have jobs that you get off at five o'clock and you can forget about your job. Some of you have your own business and you carry it home with you and you've got to deal with it. Some of you are in upper management levels, and you're not just somebody who puts something together or does this or types letters, and then go home. You have responsibility because you have upper level management. I understand that.

But in the ministry, there's never a time that you can say in the ministry, "I'm done. I don't have nothing to do today." There's never a time. The ministry is likened to a warfare. When you're in combat, you never let your guard down. When you let your guard down, you're dead. You're dead. One good thing about combat that is ongoing combat, you may get dog tired and you may be so fatigued you can't keep your eyes open, but the bottom line is you never just let your guard down.

I think in a lot of ways the toughest job, and I pray for Joe Christensen, my hero, and Russ, my fireman hero, I pray for him all the time because police officers I think have the dirtiest, rottenest, worst job in the world today. Everybody gets to shoot at you, but you can't shoot back. The problem of a police officer is, stop and think about this. Every time you go up to a car in a traffic stop, it may be a guy in there who just broke into some place. You don't know about it. He may be out of his mind. He may have just robbed a bank. He may be running from somebody. You don't know it. And you walk up there and you put yourself right in front of that window where he's sitting down, and you can't see what he's got in his hands or you can't see, and you've got to go up and say, "Good afternoon, sir. May I see your license?" Bang.

Now, I know they train them. I know if you've ever been pulled over at night, they put the spotlights on you so you can't see them. I know that you think they're walking up one way and they're walking up another way. You think that they're coming up on the side of your car and you're ready to shoot them. Next thing you know, his head comes down over the roof of your car and he says, "How are you? Can I see your driver's license?" I understand that. But you know

what the real problem is? Try to keep that in your mind all day long when you make a hundred traffic stops that are just normal. To keep that in your mind and keep that level of intensity up when you're making a hundred traffic stops or fifty traffic stops a day. And most of them are little old ladies or young teenagers or somebody that just was hurried to get home from work. After about thirty or forty of them, you know what human nature does? I mean, let's face it. You can't go up to every car and throw a gas grenade out and say, "I'm that car, lady," or "I'm going to shoot you." I mean, it makes nice TV, but it ain't going to work for you. You've got to go up and you've got to be kind. You've got to be respectful, but you've got to watch yourself because the time you think that it isn't going to happen. But the time you think, "Oh, that's just a nice old school teacher," she is a serial killer and she parts your head like a canoe. That's tough to stay up that level all the time, isn't it?

Human nature would suggest that you get lax just by the boredom of going through traffic stop after traffic stop with common ordinary people. Christianity is the same way. The intensity will never be off. You always have to be on your guard. I tell you all the time, you hear me say it all the time, "Look ahead, look behind, and look around you." You've got to look at yourself as you're on patrol some place. I know military isn't popular today, but you know what? I can't change what the Bible says. He's still the captain of my salvation.

You know what you and I are in this church? Oh, I know we're Old Path Baptist Church. Yeah, that's nice. We're having a great time. Hey, we're in a war, and we're on point, and we're on patrol, and we're about the size of a good rifle company. You can't ever let your guard down, but at the same time, you've got to have courage not only to believe God's Word. You've got to have courage not only to obey God's Word, but you've got to have courage to learn how to rest in God's Word. You know what burns Christians out? They don't learn to rest in the middle of combat. They don't learn to rest in the middle of what they're doing. They don't learn to rest.

One of the ways you do that is to realize that it's not your job. Most of the time we get in trouble because we're starting, we're trying to fight the battle ourselves and let Him stand like God fighting and us resting. My job is not to fight. My job is to rest into the principles and the promises of God's Word and let Him take the fight for me. "No weapon formed against me will ever prosper." You can take that and put that in your repertoire of great verses that'll carry you through this life. I don't care who's against you. I don't care what they say about you. I don't care how they hate you. I don't care how the destroyers destroy your ministry. If God is on your side, God and you make up the majority. It just does not matter. It just does not matter. Real courage is doing what's right in the face of circumstances, friends, family.

Now I want to tell you something here, and each one of these, and I try to lay it out to you. I'm going to show you an aftermath consequence because I think it's important. The nation of Israel, just like most of us, never learned these three concepts. They never learned to have courage to believe God's Word. They never learned to have courage to obey God's Word. And they never learned to have courage to rest in God's Word. Because of that—and this is a great lesson—even though when we're reading Joshua and He's the captain of their salvation, even though 400 years from that point right there, they're going to have their greatest point in history under David and Solomon. Do you know what happened? At the end of the day, they ended in disaster.

You may go to a point in your life where you think you're really doing well. You may grow to a point in your life where you really pretend you're doing well. You may grow to a point in your life where you try to get everybody to believe you're doing well. But if you listen to me, learn the lesson. The principles in the New Testament are taught in the lessons of the Old Testament. They got to the highest point 400 years later, but even though they ended in disaster, you know why? Because they truly never learned these three things. You can pretend only for so long, and then you burn and crash just like Israel did. They never learned these three principles. Even though they went to a great point in their life, they ended in disaster because at the end of the day, they still had not learned to have courage to believe in what He said, so they went after Baal. They couldn't have the courage to obey what He said. They changed everything that He said, and they certainly could not rest in what He said. Dear brethren, that will be the greatest lesson you will learn in a long time. Or maybe I should say it is the greatest lesson we will not learn in a long time.

#### IV. Judges: Christ Our Deliverer

Alright, the book of Judges. Now the book of Judges, it's my favorite book in the Bible. I gave you this outline Thursday night, so you have the historical outline of how this thing works. It was one of our models we used. We're going to talk about it now, so you'll be able to put it all back together. We're going to talk about it now as Christ is typified here as my deliverer. The New Testament verse you want here is found in 2 Corinthians 1:10.

*2 Corinthians 1:10*

*Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*

I could preach that verse alone for a long time. That's a great verse. Wait till we get to 2 Corinthians. We'll be there in about four or five years probably. It's all right. This is God's church, His timing.

Now the book of Judges has a great theme. I told you this Thursday night, but I want you to underscore this and get it down. Here's the theme of Judges: if God doesn't continually inject Himself into our lives to keep us on track, we're in trouble. The book of Judges shows the law of human collapse. It shows what happened to anybody typified by the nation of Israel, but it puts your own self in this picture. It shows what happens to anybody who gets off track with God, and then God has to keep injecting Himself into us to get us back on track.

At the same time, you find in the New Testament a great word. That word is called "longsuffering." We find that many, many times the Bible tells us that we should be longsuffering. We don't really know what that word means today. That word "longsuffering" again, that New Testament word, is defined back here in this Old Testament story. Because what you have in the book of Judges is another picture of God's longsufferingness toward the nation of Israel. It really explains why God doesn't come down and kill us this next week. It really explains where, when we have done things that are wrong against God, and we have turned ourselves against God, and we've done tremendous sins against God, that God is always willing to take us

back. In fact, there's never a time when God is done with us. Never a time. There may be a time when you're done with God, but there'll never be a time when God is done with you.

I don't care—and you hear me say this all the time—I don't care what you've done. We have people come in here with some very dark backgrounds who've had issues like one of the greatest things that our team heard last night, Bob, you wouldn't hear, but old Tim, the guy that has the prison ministry, brother, he flat did a job last night in that deal. He talked about his background and where he'd come from. He talked about the fact that how he got saved. You know, you got saved, I got saved. I got saved because I got out of the army and my dad died, and God used that to get me saved. I think that's a good testimony. I've heard other people get saved, a good testimony, but he last night talked about that. Now, he got saved, he was on his way to kill somebody when God intervened in his life. That's a pretty good testimony, especially if you're the guy who was going to go kill. I'd be thanking God, singing to Jesus all day long because this kid is who he says he is, I guarantee you. He is one of the sweetest, kindest, godliest men I've ever met. I love him to death, but you can tell that he is on the level, brother, with what he does. He's got a relationship with God that works. He deals with all these prisons and all these inmates and convicts, and he's got a great ministry. He did a great job last night, a great job last night.

But this book will show you longsuffering. It's a situation in your life and my life, as I said, that I don't care what you've done in life. God doesn't care what you've done in life. The longsuffering of God is the fact that when you're ready, God will always take you back. When you're ready, God will always be there waiting for you. That's God's longsuffering. God will never leave you in the lurch. God will always, no matter how far out of hell... there's been times in my life, early on in my life, that I was way out of touch with God. You know what? God kept knocking on my door.

Mel Sabaka tells the story, and he laughs about it. The fact that when I was fourteen and fifteen years old, and I was supposed to be a Christian, I don't know if I was or I wasn't, but we didn't go to church. My mom and dad got mad at the preacher about something, typical story. They decided not to go back to church. Well, I went with a gang and out in the world, and was in there doing all the things there and there. But old Mel Sabaka never gave up on me. He laughs and tells the story now. Tuesday night was visitation night. Most of you don't know what visitation is, but that's when he used to go visit people that don't come to church. You actually go to their house. It doesn't work much anymore. But, you know, you go to somebody's house now at night and they shoot you. So you don't want to do that. But back then you could do it.

He tells the story and laughs how that the fact that every Tuesday night—and this is the true story—every Tuesday night they would come to my house to visit me. He tells the story how that I would pretend I wasn't home, or if my mom was there, I'd run out the back door, go out the back door. You know what he did? He's not stupid. You know what he did, don't you? He had the people knock on the door, and then he went and ran around and waited for me to come out the back door. You know what? That was longsuffering. He did that for five or six, seven years. It paid off. You know why? Because when I did get right with God and went back to Him, he was my father in the Lord. We didn't have to vote that many, many times.

I told him one time, I said, he used to go preach together. I played the trumpet and lead singing, and he'd preach. I'd give my testimony, and he'd get up, and I wouldn't tell that story. He'd tell that story. On the way home, I'd tell him, I'd say, "Brother, I'm sure glad I never gave up on you." I said, "I'm sure glad you never gave up on me." I said, "You don't know what it means to me." You know what he said? He looks over and he said, "Well, I appreciate that, but you know what? It wasn't me. God never gave up on you." That's longsufferingness. That's longsuffering. That's something we as God's people need to understand, need to have. And that's what you find in this book.

God has a plan for Israel. God has a plan for you and me. In this book, He's laying out that plan, but they keep, like you and me, going away from God and winding up in the bondage of their enemies. One time they go into Moab, then God sends them a deliverer and frees them. They're all praising God and hallelujah, kumbaya. Then they go away from God and they get caught in the bondage by the Philistines. He sends them a deliverer. They get out and they're all kumbaya and pine treeing around. Then they get away from God, and then Sisera takes them over. He comes down and kills Sisera, gives them a deliverer, and they're all happy to be with the Lord. Then they get back, and then Jabin, and then takes them over, and then Moab, and then the Philistines. It's just one thing after another. It's a picture of your life and my life, but God keeps delivering them. God keeps delivering them. He keeps raising up judges to bring them back to Him because He made a promise to Abraham. That promise is a picture of the promise that He made to you and me the day we got saved.

God made you a promise the day you got saved and made me a promise the day I got saved that He'd get me home to heaven if He's got to get me there in a wheelchair. God made a promise to you the day you got saved and to me that He'll get you to heaven if He's got to get you there in a casket. God made a promise to you and me that He'll get you and me to heaven if He's got to get you there in a rollover car accident at four o'clock in the morning that throws you through the windshield, but He'll get you there, or you can go hand in hand. Life's about choices, isn't it? Longsuffering, longsuffering.

Again, in your hymnal—and this is why we use this hymnal—it's filled with Bible. Page 261 in your hymn book. Here's the theme song that goes along with this book: "Trust and Obey."

- Trust and obey, for there's no other way
- To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

I mean, these guys that wrote these songs, man, they believed the book. They believed it. Let me give you a good verse that goes along with this, and you'll learn this if you work with people. It's such a true concept. Proverbs 19:19-20. This is a great verse. Somebody actually gave me this in a counseling thing, or a couple of weeks ago we were talking. I forget who it was now, but thank you very much. It's a great one, and I added it to my list.

*Proverbs 19:19-20*

*19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.*

*20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.*

This is so true, and you know it's true. You know it's true about you. Knew about me. "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment, for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again." See that thing? If you don't turn your life around with God and make a difference in your life, you know what your life is? It's just one problem after another. It's just going from the proverbial frying pan into the fire. It's just a man of wrath, a person who just keeps getting into trouble and won't change their life.

Look at the next part of that verse. The next part of that verse tells you what to do. Oh, we won't do it, but it tells us what to do. "Hear counsel and receive instruction that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end." That's a great verse. You know what that verse says? That verse says it doesn't matter how you start, it just matters how you finish. You could be the mess-up in the whole wide world. You know what? God will make your life and turn that life around, and the latter end, He'll get the honor and glory out of it. That's what you have in Israel. Unless something changes in our life, we just keep making the same mistakes over and over and over again.

Now, the book of Judges. Once you see Christ in it and have a New Testament, you so clearly see how it lays out why we have so many issues in our life. The key verse, and you want to put this down, that the whole book is built around in this aspect of Christ my deliverer, is found in the last chapter and the last verse, Judges 21:25. Very important. You want to put that in the front someplace.

*Judges 21:25*

*In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

See how it goes back to the previous books? "In those days there was no king in Israel, and everybody did what was right in their own eyes." No Bible principles. That's Christianity today. That's why we think we're Christian, we say we're Christian, and we live our lives and do what we want to do. The Bible means nothing to us. The principles mean nothing to us.

Now let me show you something here, and I try to put all this thing together. Now I want to show you real quick here, in the last book Joshua, I told you that it took courage to believe the Word of God, courage to obey the Word of God, and courage to rest in the Word of God. Now I want to show you something here that I think that you need to see to put this book in perspective. It's the example of Gideon.

I don't know of any better example that illustrates how Christ should be our deliverer, but in our lives He's not. I told you, remember the last book? I told you that Israel never learned those principles as a nation. They never really believed them. They never really put them into their life. So yet 400 years from that, they got their greatest moment, fifteen minutes of fame, they ended in disaster, and that's just the way God's people's lives are.

Now let me show you an individual that did the same thing: Gideon. Who doesn't know the story of Gideon? I'm going to tell you a story about Gideon you don't know, because I'm sure we teach him in a Sunday school class, and I'm sure I've preached about Gideon's 300. You know the story

of Gideon. Gideon was a guy that had started out with 32,000 troops. He's going up against the Midianites. He's already outnumbered. You know what God did? God took Gideon and He said, "Cut those guys down to 300 men."

Now I don't have time to preach this this morning because I want to get through the book of Ruth this morning, but the bottom line is this: I think how He called them was filled with New Testament principles. He calls the faithful 300, and He divides those guys out two ways. You know how He divides them out? On a New Testament principle? You know how God divided out the ones He could use versus the ones that He could not use? Oh, here it comes, by how they drank water. Water is a picture of the Bible. He chose and divided out the men that were going to get the job done by the ones that He could not use, and He sent home by how they drank water out of the brook. God will judge you and either send you home or use you in the ministry based on how you drink that book. There's a New Testament principle. Oh, I wish I could develop that today, but I can't.

But let me show you what you've got here. Let me show you what you've got. Judges 6, 7, and 8. Gideon is one of the great deliverers. But in Judges 6:36-40, we see something that I've never understood. I've even seen God's people do this, and they don't even understand what they're doing, because in this chapter is where Gideon puts out the fleece. You know what that story is, I guess, don't you? I mean, God just said, "I want you to deliver the nation of Israel," and Gideon says, "Well, okay," he says, "but I'm going to put the fleece out and do something to this fleece that is completely out of the ordinary, and then I'll know that You're really with me." So God did it. So he comes back the next day, and God says, "Now we're going to get this thing done." He says, "Yeah, we are. Let me put out the fleece one more time." And he says, "Do the impossible," and He does. And the Lord next day says, "Now come on, we're going to get this thing going," and Gideon says, "Look, third time's the charm. Do it one more time." Oh, and this time we're going to really make it hard. So I put the fleece out there, and because in the morning, and God did the supernatural thing, and he said, "Wow, God's going to really deliver us."

Now I've heard God's people when they're faced with a decision use that same analogy. Seriously, they say, "Well, I'm putting out the fleece. I'm going to see what God's going to do." Did you ever stop and analyze that story? The fact that Gideon put out the fleece is not a good thing. The fact that he put out the fleece shows that Gideon didn't have the principles down either. You know why? He didn't need to put out a fleece if God told him He was going to deliver him. You see, what God told him wasn't enough. And for what sometimes what God tells you and me isn't enough. So we run around saying, "God, give me a sign. Give me this. Show me this." God says, "Show you what? I gave you a principle in the Bible. This is what I'm going to do." "Yeah, I know, but I need something else." Gideon was that kind. He was a great soldier. He was a great warrior. But he lacked the basic fundamental things that he needed to believe God and have courage and to obey what God said. To believe what God said and then rest in it. If he were to believe what God said when God said, "I'm going to smite those Midianites, and I'm going to kick them from here," then he would have said, "Amen, glory to God, I'm with You." But no, no, no. "Okay, Lord, we put out the fleece," not once, not twice.

Let me show you Gideon's end. You never see this. This is the story of Gideon you never see. I'll show you because it's our story. Now let me show you this. Judges 8:27. Gideon winds up in apostasy. He winds up with all the other false gods just like everybody else does. You know why? Because he gives the appearance that he's a good man. God uses him, but deep down underneath, he just can't do. He lacks the courage to do what God's Word says to do. He winds up on the ash heap. I'm telling you, man. You may think God just wrote this book because He didn't have nothing else to do. I'm telling you right now that book says James 4:17, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

## V. Ruth: Christ Our Kinsman Redeemer

Alright, book of Ruth. Ah, this will be a nice refreshing one. We can do this in ten minutes. Ruth, my favorite book in the Bible. Now, book of Ruth, Christ is laid out as my Kinsman Redeemer. A New Testament principle for this will be 1 Peter 1:18-19.

*1 Peter 1:18-19*

*18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

*19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Now, based on what we've been talking about, how the Old Testament contains the New Testament, and all the New Testament principles are contained in the Old Testament story, let me tell you, this is the crowning glory one. If you can't see it here, you'll never see it.

Now the book, the theme of Ruth is basically the romance of God's redemption. It's a story about a group of people. This story completely lays out in an Old Testament story that took place 1,500 years before the church started, but yet shows you every aspect of how you got saved. It's clearly a book that lays it out.

Now we have, you might guess, a cast of seven people in this story. Our first man will be Elimelech. He'll represent God the Father. The name Elimelech means "God is my king." Our second cast of characters here will be Naomi. She's going to represent the nation of Israel, and in some cases, the Word of God, which comes from the nation of Israel. Her name means "pleasant."

Then we have two sons that she and Elimelech have. We have Mahlon and Chilion, and these two boys are going to represent for us the Old Testament law. You're going to find that Mahlon, his name means "unhealthy," and Chilion, his name means "puny." Yes, puny. I laughed too when I first found that out. That's okay.

Then we have our next character, Orpah, and then we have Ruth. Now these are two Moabite women, and they are a picture of two of you and me as Gentile sinners. Orpah, her name means "stubborn." Ruth, her name means "friendship." And then we have Boaz, and Boaz is going to be our type of Christ. Oh, looky, looky. He's from Bethlehem, and his name means "strength."

Now watch this, and if this book isn't God's book, then I don't know what is. Chapter 1, just so you get a handle on it, and we'll break this down when we come through it on Thursday night.

*Ruth 1:1-5*

*1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.*

*2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.*

*3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.*

*4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.*

*5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.*

There's a famine in the land of Israel. Elimelech and his wife Naomi and their two boys, they go down into Moab. At this point in verse 3, Elimelech leaves our story because he dies. Then the two boys marry two women, that'll be Ruth and Orpah, and then in the course of the story, ten years later in verse 5, the two boys die.

Now what you have here, and I don't know if you've got a picture of this. Boaz is on the scene and then Boaz is taken off the scene. Just like in the Old Testament God is in everything, and when the New Testament starts, He goes back to heaven, and then everything runs through Christ. Remember we came through Romans, I told you that in the New Testament that you're dead to the law that you might be free to marry another man. Alright, we've got two Gentile sinners here. Women who are married to two men who represent the law. Now the two boys die, picture the law being taken out of the way. Now these two women are free to marry somebody else. Let's see how the story unfolds. Just stay with me here.

Ten years later the boys die, and then we see that Naomi, she hears that the famine is over in Jerusalem, and she decides to go back. Now Moab in our story is a picture of the world. Bethlehem is where they need to be, but for this to be a picture of salvation, they had to get out of Bethlehem and go to Moab, a type of the world, and now they're coming back. Now keep in mind, Elimelech gone, God turned it over to Boaz, type of Christ. The law now is taken out of the way, the two boys are dead, these two women are free. Watch what happens.

Naomi says, "I'm going back to Bethlehem where I belong." Both Orpah and Ruth are given the chance to go to Bethlehem. Now Bethlehem is the name of the city where Christ was born, and Bethlehem means "the house of bread." Oh, a famine in the land. Picture of your life before you get saved, and you have a need spiritually, and so you're going to go get bread at the house of bread where Jesus was born. Bread's a picture of the Word of God. See where this thing is going?

Now watch. Orpah, whose name means "stubborn," stays in Moab. She says, "I ain't going down. I like Moab. I like the world. In fact, I've just got a TV contract, and I'm going to have a new show." Orpah stays in Moab. Ruth on the other hand—now remember, they're both pictures of the Gentile sinners—she goes back to Bethlehem, and you know what that's a picture of? That's a picture of what we have every Sunday morning. Every Sunday morning when I preach the Word of God, we've got Orpahs and we've got Ruths. You hear the message that Christ died for you, that He loved you, and you need to get out of Moab and come to Bethlehem, the house of bread, and get saved. You know what we do? Some of you stay in Moab, and some of you come to Bethlehem. What you've got?

Now watch this. Pictures of two sinners. One says, "I'm going." The other one says, "I'm staying." So finally she comes back to Jerusalem, or into Bethlehem, and she's out there in the field. The field's a picture of the world, Matthew 13. In time, Boaz sees her, asks who she is, watches her, sees her heart, she sees him. Ah, you know how it goes. They fall in love together, but there's a process because she's a Moabite. He can't just marry her. Under the Old Testament law, something has to be done. He has to pay a certain price for her to become his wife. So Boaz, a type of Christ, redeems Ruth, the Moabite sinner, and they live happily ever after. That thing's incredible. Every aspect of this book lays out the New Testament storyline of New Testament salvation in the Old Testament.

Naomi, a picture of the Word of God through the nation of Israel. John 4:22, "Salvation is of the Jews." Moab, a picture of the world, the enemy of God. Ruth was an enemy of God. She's a Moabite. Bethlehem, the house of bread where Jesus was born. The two boys represent the law. The two girls, one goes, one stays. Ruth keeps going back in this story to Naomi. Why? Because Naomi's a picture of the nation of Israel and the Word of God. So when she's trying to cultivate this relationship with Boaz, who does she get her advice from? She keeps going back to Naomi, a picture of the Bible. You know what Naomi says? I love it. I don't know what verse it is, but when you find it, put it in yellow, red, pink, chartreuse, everything else. Naomi says, "You want to get it right with him? Just do whatever he tells you to do." You want to get along with God? It's so simple. Just do what He tells you to do. It's just that easy.

Book of Ruth teaches us three absolute principles about building our relationship with Christ. We don't have time to get them this morning, but I will give them to you when we come through it on Thursday night. In time, as I said, Boaz redeems her, and she becomes his wife.

Now there's a side note here, and I want to close with this, but you better get this. Not only as I came through these books, not only did I want to show you how Christ was portrayed, but I wanted to leave you in every sense with a thing that's going to impact your life if you're willing to let it impact your life, going back through this Christ and this book.

Here's something that most people never see, and it's a side note, but boy, it's absolutely incredible, and it's an encouragement to me as a Christian, and it should be to you as a Christian. It's an overwhelming concept. It's found right in here, and it is so unknown. Most people do not even know that in Ruth 4:17, that Ruth winds up in the line of David. She is David's great-grandmother.

When I look at that and I see David, and I see him the way he was and what God did with him and how he was the champion, the king that God wanted Israel to have, and he is an incredible type of Christ, I look at that thing and I say, because she did what was right—and notice now, her sister didn't do what was right, and there's going to always be a chance for you and for me not to do what's right even after we are saved—but because she did what was right, God used her to give the nation of Israel the greatest king they ever had. You know what that tells me? You know what that tells me? That tells me that one person, God can have one person, God can have one person change the course of the world if they'll let God do it with him.

That's what I look for in you young men and young ladies, you couples. That's what I look for because I know the lesson of this great story, and I know that one person can change the world with God in His Word by simply doing right. On Tuesday night in our church history class, we've seen it. We've seen Martin Luther change the world because he believed what the book said. We saw Count Zinzendorf change the world in missions because he believed what we saw. We saw George Whitefield, we saw Billy Sunday, we saw David Brainerd, and you can put your name in there because if you're willing to do what's right, and you're willing to understand and put the Word of God into your life and get this thing in perspective, you could be that person because God took that little Moabite who nobody knew anything about and used her in the line to bring about the greatest king Israel ever had, and God will use you if you allow Him to use you, and it goes back to that word courage. Courage to believe the Word of God, courage to obey the Word of God, and courage to rest in the right. Doing the right thing that you know is the right thing to do. That is the theme the nation of Israel could not get, and though they came to a point where they really looked good, they crashed in disaster like Gideon, and that is the great lesson that are these books.

## VI. Conclusion

Now here's what you should have. You should have Deuteronomy, Christ the true prophet. You should have the book of Joshua, Christ the captain of my salvation. You should have the book of Judges, Christ as my deliverer. You should have the book of Ruth, Christ as my Kinsman Redeemer. What you want to do, boil that information down that I've given you, put the references in that you already got that I showed you today, but get that little paragraph right under each one of those books that typifies Christ and shows you how He illustrates the New Testament principles in that book.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. When we're finished praying today, for those of you who are going to be baptized, please make your way up here to my left so Barb can have a quick meeting with you. This will be your last day to sign up for the anniversary Sunday. I've got to turn the food order in tomorrow, so please take that, make sure that gets done, and I'll see you at the mission tonight. God bless you. Let's pray.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do love You. We thank You for these great books. Father, it's incredible to me how these books lay out through their types and their stories, all the New Testament principles. That makes it so easy, or it should make it so easy for us to see what You'd have for us to do in our lives of simply having courage. Courage, Father, to

believe what Your Word says, courage to obey what it says, and courage to rest in it. Keeping us, Lord, faithful and keeping us into the work that You've governed us to do. And Lord, we'll thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.