

1 Samuel 1:1-31:13; 2 Samuel 1:1-24:25; 1 Kings 1:1-22:53

Sunday 8/1/2010

Well, if you didn't get anything out of Charlie's sermon last week, which I'm sure you did, there's one thing I got out of it, and I'm going to make it a part of our church, just like we do setting up and getting the new look from the old book. So if you're here this morning and you have your Bible, let's all stand up and we're going to learn this. So let's all stand up this morning, and I'll lead you in it. In time, we'll get it memorized, and in time, we'll get it going. I'll say it, and you say it back to me.

[Congregation holds up Bibles]

This is God's holy Word, divinely inspired by God, infallible and inerrant. It is my sword to fight the devil and his temptations. It is my comfort in times of trouble. It is my compass for my life's journey. It is God's love letter to me personally and my companion every day of my life.

Now, Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus today, and we thank you for the Word of God that you have given us. Truly, Father, there's nothing that is ever said that is truer than what we said this morning. Lord, may we take that to heart, and may we, every time that we open up this book on Sunday morning, remember and remind ourselves of that great concept. We love you. We thank you now for today. We pray, Father, you'll give me the ability and the strength to preach this morning as you'd have me to preach it. Lord, we'll thank you and praise you in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. Thank you, and you may be seated.

Now, you may have to bear with me this morning. I've got myself some heavy-duty stuff up here. If I get into a coughing spell, you don't have to put those as notes in your Bible. Just bear with me till I get through it. I see our tables are full in the back. They're going to get quite a workout this morning.

I. Introduction to the Books of Samuel and Kings

Today, we're going to enter into the book of 1 Samuel. In your Bible, here's how it lays out: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, and 2 Chronicles. These six books are a panoramic overview of God establishing the nation of Israel. Each one of these books is very, very important. We're going to break them down today, or as many as we can get through. We're going to show you how Christ is typified, which is what we're doing on Sunday morning, in each one of these books. I want to tell you that in itself is a lifelong study.

I don't know of six books that, if you're ever going to become a viable Bible student—in other words, if you're going to understand how to put the Bible together—at some point in your life, you're going to have to break down these six books. You're going to find that as you come through here, when the kingdom gets split—and we're going to talk about that, maybe today, maybe next week—when the kingdom gets split north and south, you have a record between

these six books of the 19 kings that are over the Northern tribes and the 19 kings that are over the Southern tribes.

I made up my mind that when we get to this point, and as you know, starting next week, once we get back to our regular format on Thursday night Bible study, we're going to start giving you the breakdown of each book. We already did Genesis; I gave you the handout. So we're going to start with Exodus and work our way through. But I've already decided that when I get to 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles—and let me just say this, 1 and 2 Chronicles just simply means a chronicle is an order. 1 and 2 Chronicles just means a chronicle of the kings. That's what it is.

You're going to find that in these six books, you have a complete panoramic overview of what God does when He begins to establish the kingdom of heaven on this earth. Those six books run you up to Israel's highest point, and then it brings you down to their lowest point when they go into the captivity. What it does is it shows you 19 kings of the Northern tribes, as I said, and 19 kings of the Southern tribes.

I really don't know, ladies and gentlemen, of any greater study in the Bible that shows you and I what we really should be in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ than these kings. Because each one of these kings, as you're going to find out down the line here, is compared to one king, and that king is David. It's a great picture because in these kings, you begin to see that many of them do what's right; they just do what's right, not all the way. It's a picture of your life and my life. Some of the kings, we're going to look at them when we get to it. Some of the kings, it talks about that he did what was right, but it was not perfect in his heart toward God.

Now, there's an enigma for you. An enigma is a mystery. How do you do what's right but not have your heart perfect with God? You're going to find almost every scenario that you and I find ourselves in as Christians in our relationship with God, compared to David, laid out in these kings. I knew years and years ago that if I was ever going to get the Bible down, that I was going to—and I dreaded it because it's a laborious thing—I knew that I was going to have to lay out these kings, and it's really a complicated scenario to do.

I found a book, or God gave me a book, a number of years ago, which really made it a lot easier. It's a little book that's way out of print by now, but it's called *The Kings of Israel and Judah*. It was one of those books that God just dropped in my world when I needed it. I had that book, but I saw—and that book is about that thick, and it's not a very big book, but the print's pretty small in it. I knew that someday I was going to have to break that thing down, but also I knew that it was going to be a hard deal, and it wasn't something that I thought I could do. I thought I could do two hours here and two hours here and two hours here.

I got the idea, and as Jim said, back then I was traveling quite a bit around the world and going to different mission fields and all that. I don't remember where I was going, but I knew I had a 14-hour flight, and I knew that I had to have an extended period of time to do this. I don't know where we flew out from, New York or Houston, one of those places, but when the wheels went up, I got out my Bible and I got out that book. And 14 hours later, when the wheels came down, and when I landed, wherever I landed, I had it done. I took 14 hours straight through and laid out

every king of the Northern tribe and of the Southern tribe, got it organized in my Bible. This guy went so far as to show you the prophet that was there with them. He showed you the verse in Proverbs that goes along with that king. It's incredible material.

I made up my mind that when we get to that point on Thursday night, I'm going to take four weeks, or whatever it takes, and I'm going to walk you through and break that down for you so you can get in three or four weeks what it took me many years to put together and finally 14 hours to get it done. We can just put it in your Bible as we go. I will break them down for you and list them out for you, but you will have that material because at some point you're going to need that.

II. Christ Typified in 1 Samuel: The Offspring of David

Now we're going to enter into the book of 1 Samuel today. Christ—and this is what we're looking at for those of you that this is maybe your first Sunday—we're looking at how the Lord Jesus Christ is laid out or typified in each book of the Bible. We have already talked about how Christ is revealed through the Old Testament. I've showed you many examples, and we continue to see examples. Now when we come to this book, we see Christ typified as we come down through here as the offspring of David.

The New Testament reference for this is Matthew 1:6, where it says:

Matthew 1:6

And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

The theme coming through here is "the king, the king, the king." We see in this book where we have the beginning of some things in the nation of Israel that are going to lead us to David the king. But in this book, we begin to see some great stuff. What we begin to see are three great practical lessons. I want you to get these down because these will work in your own life. This really has nothing to do with Christ in it, but you've got to get these. These are three great practical lessons found in this book. I think it's very important for all of you young men and young ladies that are thinking about ministry or wanting to get involved in ministry or whatever.

- 1.) God's work must be done God's way.
- 2.) Backsliding starts with prosperity, not tragedy.
- 3.) We reap what we sow based on our bad choices.

In this book, we begin to see Israel's success or failure, much like your life and my life, is based on which lines they associate with, just like you and I. In this book, we see them forsake the counsel of God, and we see them get the wrong king. That's what this book is about. This book basically starts out with Samuel, and then it introduces Saul, and then it introduces David. David is not the predominant character in this book. He's going to become the prominent character in the next book. But right now, in this book, you begin to see that Israel, because of their apostasy,

is in deep trouble. They're in deep trouble again. The nation of Israel is again in total corruption and apostasy. The priesthood under Eli has totally corrupted itself. You know by now, you should anyhow, that a godly priesthood is absolutely necessary for Israel to maintain their right relationship with God. Much like a godly Christian in a Bible-believing godly church is absolutely necessary for the success of the ministry of God today in Christianity.

1 Samuel 4:21, and you want to put this in your Bible back there, that a young baby is born. They're told to call that baby Ichabod. You want to mark that in your Bible, and if you got those yellow pens, mark that in the other one. Put a note alongside of it. That baby's name is Ichabod. Here again, we find an object lesson which God is so great in doing in the Old Testament. Because the name Ichabod means "the glory has departed." What we're seeing in this particular chapter, as throughout this book, is that that is exactly what has happened. The ark—and we've talked about this many, many times—the ark of God was absolutely essential for the nation of Israel's relationship with God. There were three things in that ark. I'm not going to tell you what they are this morning. That'd be a good little test for you, and we'll talk about it throughout our time. But there were three things in that ark. Those three things represented to the nation of Israel what God was and had done for them. Do you realize that those same three things that were in that ark are the same three things that we have to have today in Christianity, in the church age, for us to maintain and be everything that God wants us to be?

What had happened? The world had taken the ark. The Philistines had come down and taken the ark of God, and now they had it captive. There could be no glory of God. Listen to me now. There could be no glory of God in Israel with these things missing. And there'll be no glory of God in the church in Christianity today with these three things missing. It's just that simple. So Ichabod, Ichabod, that boy is born, and they said, "Call his name Ichabod," because that name means "the glory of the Lord has departed."

III. Samuel: The Faithful Priest

So God gives them, as they come down through here, God gives them what they need so desperately. God gives them a true biblical priest. The priesthood, which was essential, had been corrupted. God raises up to them Samuel. Samuel is the priest that God gives them in the time of apostasy because God wants to bring them back as a nation. I don't have time to get into Samuel this morning, but I want to tell you something. Studying the life of Samuel is one of the greatest studies that you'll ever take. We find in his life everything that we need to see: how God takes a young man or a young lady and prepares their heart and their life for ministry. It's filled with incredible stuff. It's really, really a picture, when you want to put it into a context, it's a picture back then of the Laodicean church that Charlie preached about today.

We find in 1 Samuel 3 the calling of the man of God. We find how God will call you into the ministry. How you and what you're supposed to do, and you get exactly the protocol that God uses for calling men and women into the ministry. I think it's incredible. I told you a couple of weeks ago, and I preached it whenever I was preaching, and I gave you Acts 13:2, where it says that they there in the church at Antioch was what? Ministering unto the Lord. I told you that I would not let the sun set on my day before I found out how I need to minister to the Lord. Some

of you did. My phone rang all afternoon. Some of you, you could care less. You were off doing something else. You never thought twice about it. Some of you bugged me all week. And I refused to give you the answer. Then we worked through those answers, and I showed you what they were.

But I think it's incredible that in 1 Samuel 3:1, and there's only two places in the Bible that you find the Bible says that Samuel ministered unto the Lord. You're going to find that the only two men in the Bible that talk about that is the New Testament church that is our model in the Christian where they first called Antioch, and then a man in the Old Testament that pictures your life and my life, learning how to minister unto the Lord.

In 1 Samuel 2:35, you find the five character qualities of a godly priest. Very frankly, these are the five things that I—that you've got to have in your life. These are the five things that I look for either in a young man's life or a young lady's life. I know nobody's perfect, and I never expect anybody to be perfect. I'm certainly not perfect. We all have our downtime. We all make our stupid mistakes. I certainly make my share of them. You know, I can't hold yours against you any more than you can hold mine against me. But the bottom line is simply this: there has to be a consistency. These five things, the first thing the Bible says in that verse—and that's another verse, guys, you want to mark, and you can do that one right now too. You can put these five things right by these and put the note by there, "the five character qualities of a godly priest."

You know this morning that if you're saved, you're a priest this morning. If you're saved this morning, the Bible says that you're a priest after the order of Melchizedek, and you're part of the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ. We've talked about that before, but 1 Samuel 2:35 lays out the five character qualities of a godly priest right in the verse. You're probably seeing them already.

- 1.) He was a faithful priest.
- 2.) God's heart.
- 3.) God's mind.
- 4.) To build a sure house.
- 5.) He walked before God.

You see, in 1 Samuel, God gave the nation of Israel exactly what they needed to be everything God wanted them to be. Now, I don't know where you're all at this morning. There's no way I could. I mean, I see you, and I, we have a relationship and all that. But there's no way that I can look inside your heart this morning, but I do know this. I don't know where you're at today with God, but I do know this. You may be somebody here today that's trying to find your way back. You may be somebody here this morning that you're trying to do the best you can. You've got a good handle on it, and you're just trying to keep doing better. You may be somebody here this morning, you're not even saved, and you need to know you need to trust Christ as your own personal Savior. I don't know, but I'll tell you what I do know. It's important in your life. Maybe it's already been in the past, and you blew it. Maybe it's now, and you've got your chance, or

sometime down in the future. God is going to put you in the right place, and He's going to put you with the right priest, and He's going to give you the opportunity to get everything that you need to do the job that God wants you to do. Many of us, just like the nation of Israel, will have to make the choice of which line we're going to follow.

IV. The Two Lines: God's Line vs. The Devil's Line

1 Samuel is Christ, the seed of David. You know, there's two lines in the Bible. When we started our study back, I gave you Genesis 3:15, where the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the seed of the serpent. I showed you how there's two lines through your Bible. There's God's line, and then there's the devil's line. The devil has his people, just like God has His people. The devil has his churches, just like God has His churches. The devil has his Bible, just like God has His Bible. In fact, there isn't anything that God does that the devil doesn't counterfeit in some way, shape, or form.

Where Samuel makes up the first part of the book, and that would be 1 Samuel 1-12, that's God's line. That's the right line. That's what God wants to do. God wants to take the man, the priest that God put in their lives to bring them back. And through Samuel, get them the king that God wants them to have. You know what? They get the wrong king. They get the wrong king. Where Samuel makes up the first half of the book, 1 Samuel 1-12, Saul makes up the second part of the book, 1 Samuel 13-31. Then you have God's introduction of David. 1 Samuel is divided between these two men, or really these three men. It comes through your Bible. You have the biblical line, and you have the worldly line, or the satanic line.

The book shows how God has the very best for you and for me. That'll be typified by David. He wants to give the very best He has through the priest that He gave the people to teach them and give them what they needed. That was Samuel. You can obviously already see the picture in the New Testament. God has something that He wants you to do. He wants to keep you on the right track. What He does, He in a church, He gives you a pastor, and the pastor does the job with the people like Samuel did with the people in the Old Testament. Samuel's job is the same as my job. It's to keep this church on track of what is right versus what is wrong. Everybody's staying in the Word of God and doing the best we can do. That is my job. That was Samuel's job.

But the book showed how God has the very best for you and I. That would have been David. But God will also give you Saul in your life if you reject what God has for you and what He says. Saul was the people's choice. I want you to know this. We're talking about Christ, the offspring of David. God wanted to give them the right king, David, who is in the line of Christ, and what a beautiful king that would have been to give them exactly what they wanted. Much like your life and my life, God wants to put the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of David, in your life this morning, whether you're saved or you're lost. If you're saved, He wants to have Him forgive you of your sins and put your life, make it mean something, and then move on from there. If you're saved this morning, He wants to take that and put everything in your life around the King of your life, who should be sitting on the throne of your life, the Lord Jesus Christ. Incredible study.

Saul was the people's choice over God's choice. You know, I've been in this business a number of years now, and it never ceases to amaze me how God's people can be faced clearly with what the Bible says to do. How God's people can be faced—I'm not talking about a controversial passage. I'm talking about something that is as black and white as anything you ever saw in your life. And yet, in clear defiance to what the Word of God says, take Saul over David.

Now, over the years, I've taken things like this, and in my own working with people in the counseling ministry, and many of you work with people, and you know people, and you see the situations people get into. When you look at this Christ, the true line, the offspring of David, and you see how that they were faced with either David as king in their life or Saul as king in their life, and you and I are faced with either Christ as king of our life or something in the world as king of our lives. The parallels are too spectacular. You couldn't miss them if you wanted to.

V. Three Violated Biblical Principles

There are three great violated biblical principles here. Boy, this is what I want you to see in this book. I call what I'm about to give you the analogy of a really bad decision. You and I are faced with decisions every day in our lives. You make the wrong decision, and it can ruin your life. You make the really wrong decision, and boy, I'll tell you what, you can maybe never come back from it. You don't come back from it because God won't allow you to come back. It'll be because it puts you so far down in a hole that you just can't dig your way out. There are just too many things that you'll put into your life. The more bad decisions you make, they don't stay single bad decisions. They all connect themselves together. It's like a chain. You know, you've got individual links. Every bad decision I've ever made or you've ever made is like a link in a chain. It would be okay if they all remained individual links. But they don't. This bad decision links up with this one, and this one links up with that one. After five or 10 or 15 years of bad decisions, you've got a chain that's going to keep you from ever getting back to where God wants you to get back. The only key, the only thing you can do, is to break that chain.

- 1.) They chose a king from the wrong tribe.
- 2.) They looked at outward appearance, not the heart.
- 3.) They wanted to be like other nations.

VI. Christ Typified in 2 Samuel: David's Lord

Now we move into the book of 2 Samuel. Where 1 Samuel, let's get it all together here. Where 1 Samuel, we see the nation of Israel in a big mess. God giving them the right priest who wants to get them the right king. And then they're rejecting him and getting the wrong king. Now we see that after Saul gets killed and Saul dies, God gives them the right king. We have in the book of 2 Samuel, the main character from start to finish is David and his relationship with God. In 2 Samuel, Christ is portrayed as David's Lord, or the God of David. We see in this book what really God looked for in the right king. This is going to surprise you. This is going to be a

revelation to some of you. This is maybe, hopefully, will change some of your whole outlook on life. Maybe not. But boy, I'll tell you what, it sure did for me a number of years ago.

Now the New Testament verse here is found in Acts 13:22. I'll pick it up in verse 21. Now this is them recounting what God had done in the Old Testament.

Acts 13:21

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

Acts 13:22

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Acts 13:23

Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Now that's the last word God talks about David in a direct sense. I've found over the years, and I've told you this before, that the last thing God says about a man is very important. You know what I've learned in life? If you ever get into the ministry, you're going to have to deal with this. There are people who come into our church who have some serious issues. There are people who come into our church who have mundane issues. There are people who come into our church who really have no issues. But you're going to find in every ministry that this is like a hospital. I tell people when you get into the counseling ministry, I break down my counseling ministry in medical terminology just for understanding. I talk about that some people come in and they just need band-aids and my thiolate. You know, they just got a couple of ouchies you've got to work through. The second level is people that, you know, have broken arms and legs and appendectomies, a little more serious, but a couple of hours and you're on your way. But then the third level, well, the third level, the third level is tougher. It's the toughest. Not too many people get to work in that area. The third level is brain transplants and heart transplants. You talk about something that I can't even imagine is heart transplants. I don't even understand that. I mean, the heart is such an intricate thing. Now somebody, and I read someplace where they just did a brain transplant. I mean, no, I mean, I just, I mean, do you realize what that entails? I mean, it takes like four teams of surgeons two days. I mean, I just, I can't even imagine that. Heart transplant takes about three teams of surgeons and takes about 12, 14, 15 hours. I can't even imagine that, but it's the same level of dealing with people's problem.

Here's what I've learned. This is why I tell you this all the time. I don't ever care what you've done in life. I really don't care where you've been and what you've done. We had a guy gave a testimony a couple of weeks ago in our ball team. One of the nicest guys, he's a chaplain to the prisons up here. He gave his testimony. I think I told you this, he gave his testimony and how that he got saved because he was on his way to take another man's life and God intervened. People get into some bad things in life. I've learned over the years that, you know what God

looks at? God doesn't look at how you start. God looks at how you finish. None of us look good in the start. None of us look really good in a lot of things that we do, but you know what? It's how you finish that counts with God. Now that's David. I mean, how could you get anything else out of that, but that he says, "And when he had removed him and he raised him up, David to be their king, whom also he gave testimony and said, I have found David, a son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, which shall fulfill all my will." Really, "Of this man's seed," here it comes, "there's after the fact for this man, have this man's seed, God hath according to his promise raised unto Israel, a Savior, Jesus." It's not how you start, it's how you finish. That's why I don't care what shape your room. When you come in, everybody gets the same fair shot because you can end perfectly. Doesn't matter how you start. Doesn't matter how you screw it up in the process. All that matters is, is when He comes, where are you standing and how you do it? Oh, it is. That's a great concept.

Now, may I say this to you, character studies in the Bible are one of the greatest ways to study the Word of God. I think the life of David, I know of no greater book than the book that was put out by A.W. Pink, Arthur Pink, simply called *The Life of David*. That book is about that thick. To this day, and all of the things that I've read, I have never found a book that puts David in a more understandable light and shows through his character and that great study, how we are as God's people. You know, that's what character studies do. Now I know that probably most of you haven't entered into character studies yet. Some of you have, but I want to tell you something. What the greatest thing that character studies do for you when you study them in the Bible, Mel Subaki used to say, "The greatest thing that character studies do for you when you study it is show you and me that we're real characters." Boy, that's a lot of truth to that. That's a lot of truth to that.

Two words when you come down through David's life really sum up his life. Yet when I look at my own life, and if you're honest this morning, you look at your life, it's the same way. His whole life is built around two concepts: David's triumph and David's tragedy. You know, that's life for you and for me. We have our triumphs and we have our tragedies. Some tragedies are more prominent than others. I've met people who, who, you know, portrayed themselves as somebody who's never done anything wrong in their life. Of course, the fallacy that is, and I've learned many, many years ago, we'll all take our minds places we would never think of taking our bodies. Character studies are good. I think that there's no greater powerful character study than the study of David.

I think the reason why I wanted to have Charlie here last week—and I met Charlie a couple of years ago at that old camp meeting. I wanted to have him ever since. I couldn't get him last year. I wanted him to come because not only is he a good preacher, does he stand for the values that our church stands for, and he believes the book. But Charlie's a guy who lost what we all know now is his own sight. I don't know if you noticed when he was preaching up here last week, he had a little earphone in here. See, he doesn't understand how to do Braille. It's only been blind for two years. I can't even imagine learning to do Braille. He learns by association. When we took him over to his hotel, he had that couple with him. They went in there. They explained to him where everything was. They do it on a clock system, and they give him where everything's at.

Then he's fine because he visualizes where it's at because he doesn't understand or how to read Braille. Can you imagine how articulate he was in his sermon and the verses that he did? Now, you know how he did that. If you paid attention, he had a little earphone in here, and he had a little recorder down here, and he stopped it and stopped it and gave him his next point. That's how he preached. Here's a man who lost what you and I cannot even fathom to lose. Can you imagine how you would be tomorrow if you lost your eyesight? We take things like that for granted, don't we? Could you imagine what it would be like if you woke up blind in the morning and you know you're never going to see again? The last time you saw your wife or you saw your husband or you saw your kids was really the last time you'll ever see them. That you have to now recall and remember what colors are. Remember what autumn's like. Remember what spring's like. When you smell the freshness of spring or the burning leaves in autumn, all you have to recall that is what your memory was. I can't even imagine it. Yet I'm sure Charlie went through his times. I know we did. But in his life, God took from him that honestly, if He took it from us, we'd probably fold up, be mad at God, and go out someplace and never go back to church again, wouldn't we? Because we do it that way and get mad at God over a lot less things. That's why I wanted Charlie here.

There's another young man I want to get at some point. He's really hard to get. His name is Tim Green. Tim Green was a Marine in Vietnam, unsaved man, stepped on a landmine, got both his legs blown off in Vietnam, and God got him saved after that fact. Now for the last, ever since he got out of the Marine Corps, some 30-some years, he's went around in a wheelchair wearing his Marine Corps dress blues as an evangelist for the Lord Jesus Christ. I wonder what you'd do if God took your legs today. I wonder what I would do if I got in Iraq and they had to take your legs off. I wonder what we do with God in our life. See, it's those kinds of character studies or real-life character studies. They're important, but the ones in the Bible are important too. We become so pious, don't we? Yes, we do. I'll answer that for you. We become so pious. We become so self-righteous in our Christianity, the way we look at things, the way we look at people. Character studies help us not to forget that it's God that each of us stand before. Not anybody else in this room. It's God that we stand before.

How many of you have read the Psalms? How many of you read, not all the Psalms, but how many of you read Psalms at some point in your life? Certainly everybody, I hope. You know, Psalms is a great book. Psalms is the book that I think it's unique. It's unlike any other book in the Bible. Psalms is the only book in the Bible that I found that contains all the emotions that man has, and that's why people in a time of trouble are drawn to Psalms. You know, David wrote most of the Psalms. You know why the Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart. You know, if you really want to learn the Bible and you really want to get the Bible down, it's not your academics or how much time you're going to spend in it and studying, though that's important. You know what really is important about it? Your attitude toward that book. You know where you find David's attitude toward the Word of God that made God write, when He wrote in Acts 13? It's Psalms 119. You want to learn how to love God's Word, follow David as the example. Follow David as the example, a king after God's own heart.

You have to study the great battles of David. Most people don't know this, but you have David first, then you have Solomon. David reigns for 40 years. After him, his son Solomon reigns for another 40 years. The picture of that is David in his 40-year reign is a picture of the second coming of Christ. You know what David does? He wipes out all of the rest of Israel's enemies. So when Solomon comes to the throne, 40 years later, there are no enemies, and the land is at rest. So David pictures the second coming of Christ. Solomon, when the land's at rest for 40 years, pictures the millennial reign of Christ. See that thing?

Hey, before I forget about it, I've got a guy that I want to bring to church next Sunday. I met him this week. He's something that some of you guys can really help, I think. Now, this guy's had some problems in his life, I want to tell you. We've probably had to really take a vote on it. So, because I don't want anybody mad this morning. This guy was a really good Christian. He had a good relationship with God. Then, you know what he did? He saw another man's wife. He coveted that other man's wife. Then he went and he took that other man's wife and entered into a secret affair with her. But in the process of time, when nobody knew about it because her husband was away, she got pregnant. Now, I know that we all know stories like that. So that probably wouldn't be too bad because we could all deal with that. But the story gets worse. Instead of going and making it right and dealing with it, this guy conspired a plan to kill the woman's husband and actually committed murder and killed the woman's husband to cover up his own sin, and then thinking that when everybody thought that the husband died, that it would be all right for him to marry this woman and everybody would be fine with it. Should we let that guy come to our church? Well, I've got news for you folks. He's already in church this morning, and his name is David, and he's in your Bible.

You know why character studies are so important? It shows you and I that we were all not clean in God's sight. You know what it shows, character studies like that? It shows you and me that we as human beings, you know, like God picked David and allowed him to go through those two things, to experience those two things. And then after, have the audacity that God have a lapse in memory. What happened? How could God take somebody who did those things and then say about him, he was a man after My own heart? Really? People are strange, aren't they?

I knew a guy one time, and I worked with this guy, and I liked him. I liked him. But like so many people, young guys growing up, he had a self-righteous side to him. It really only got worse. He got very pious, very unforgiving. He would very clearly mark out and talk about the sins of other Christians. Very unforgiving everything he did. He'd forgotten, and I looked at that situation, and I thought to myself, he's forgotten. He's forgotten just about a year and a half ago. He was caught up in the filth and the ungodliness of being addicted to pornography. He was caught up on the Internet and in the chat rooms, and he almost lost his wife, and he almost lost his family, and God intervened in his life and brought him back, and took that out of his life, and God forgave him and restored him to his family. Now he looks at others judgmental on what they've done because he's forgotten what he's done. People are weird, man. This is why character studies are good.

Several years ago—some of you know this story, so if you put two and two together, please don't say anything. Several years ago, a number of years ago, I was getting hung with the word

"several." I always think it means seven because "several" has seven in it, but I'm told it doesn't. It just means a few. So like most things, I make up my own words. I make up my own terms. Several years ago, I had a young man in my ministry. He had a nice wife. This guy, for the life of me, as he grew up—and sometimes it just goes this way—he became one of the most self-righteous, pious, pharisaical guys I could ever meet in my life. He was judgmental about everything that I did, everything that anybody else did. He was always going around and accusing other people of situations and circumstances, unfounded. I thought to myself, "What is this guy's problem?" He was unforgiving in anything. When somebody did something, boy, I'm telling you what, he was, he, he just had a tough time forgiving him, and I don't know that he ever did forgive him. When somebody did something, boy, he held it against them, and where maybe the church would bring him back, he would stay away from him and have nothing to do with him. He was one of the most egotistical, pious guys I ever met in my life. And one day—and some of us saw him about what, six or seven years ago, at a skating rink when we had our New Year's Eve party. Sometime after that, he got caught with sexual relations with an underage girl about 14 or 15 years old. You know what he did? He went back to his church, and he cried, and he whined, and he begged for the same forgiveness from God that he himself had denied so many others. People are strange, aren't they? Character studies show all of us, none of us are clean. None of us are clean. We just like to pretend we're clean. We just get caught up in our phony self-righteousness that pretend we're clean. I've seen parents criticize other parents' kids, and I've seen parents criticize parents' kids, and yet their own sons and daughters are deep in sin and in the world. I've seen divorced people that have been divorced two or three times, hold it against somebody else that was divorced in a situation, and it just never ceases to amaze me how people are.

Yet David commits, I guess as far as the court of public opinion is concerned, two of the greatest sins that a man can ever commit. Yet the Bible says that he was a man after God's own heart. You know why God chose David at his best and at his worst? You know why God chose David to make him the king and then lay out so clearly his triumph and yet his tragedy? Because he's just like you and me, that's why. The day we forget that is the day we enter into that self-righteous world, that pious world, that unforgiving world where we actually think that we are clean. As somebody my mama used to say, "Those who live in glass houses should not throw rocks."

Now in this book, what you learn from David's Lord is the fact that none of us are clean in God's sight. We just in our own self-righteousness like to pretend we are. In this book, you talk about a New Testament principle found in the Old Testament. It's only found one place. It's only found one place. It's found in this particular life of David. We see one of the greatest New Testament principles ever found anywhere, and it's found right smack dab in the Old Testament in 2 Samuel 7. You want to mark this back there and put this down. I'm going to read it for you starting in verse 12, 2 Samuel 7:12-17. I want that. This is God talking to David now. I'll wait till you get there because I want you to see this. You guys back in the back table, you can get this in right now. I'll tell you what, I'm going to give you the references. Maybe some of you people sitting down here can do it too.

2 Samuel 7:12

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:13

He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

2 Samuel 7:14

I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

2 Samuel 7:15

But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

2 Samuel 7:16

And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

2 Samuel 7:17

According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Now, you know what you've got there? David commits two sins: adultery and murder. This is why the character study is so good. David commits two sins that there are no sacrifices for. The penalty for taking another man's wife and committing adultery, and the penalty for murder, is death. There's no sacrifice you bring. There's no lamb, no bullock, no ram, no oxen. There's nothing that the priest can do for you. If you commit these two sins, you're dead. If you commit one of them, you're dead. David committed both of them. David was allowed, or God, God allowed David to get into that mess. I'm going to finish it up and show you the end result here in a moment. But God allowed David to get into that mess, and then after he got into that mess, because David is one of the greatest types of Christ in the Bible. I do not know of another man who pictures, after you get to the point in your life, your walk with God and your relationship with God in the Word of God, better than David. God gives him what is called "the sure mercies of David." You'll find that term in Isaiah. You want to put this right there by 2 Samuel 7:12. You want to put Isaiah 55:1-3. You want to put Acts 13:34. You want to put Psalms 89:28, where those verses talk about the sure mercies of David.

You know what the sure mercies of David was? Listen to me. It was God giving one man in the Old Testament eternal security like you and I have in the New Testament. You can commit adultery today or you can commit a murder today, and though it's grievous sin, and you'll pay the price for it, the bottom line is God will forgive you for it, and God will restore you for it. But the bottom line is in the Old Testament that wasn't true. You know what God did? God took the character study of a man that pictures your life and my life, made the point that he wasn't clean before God, just like you and I are not clean before God. Then after he did those two things, God came down and gave him the sure mercies of David. God's gift to David that no matter what you

did, I'm going to forgive you for it. That's exactly what He gave you and me. People that have a tough time believing they can lose their salvation, I guarantee you one thing about them: they know nothing about the sure mercies of David. You throw them a Bible, somebody that says, "Well, I believe you can lose your salvation," throw them a Bible and ask them to explain the sure mercies of David. They'll fumble around the rest of their life trying to figure it out. The sure mercies of David is a complete picture of the New Testament principle of God's eternal security and an Old Testament character study. It shows you and me not to get too high-minded, not to get too pious, not to get too self-righteous, because we're all unclean in God's sight.

Now you don't want to misunderstand me. A picture of David's Lord is a picture of God extending His mercy to him and to his family, just like you and me. But I want you to understand something that's not to be taken out of context. I'm not justifying what David did. Brother, God may have come down and extended His mercy and gave him the Old Testament eternal security that only one man got. But I want you to know in his physical life he paid the price for it, and he loses all for his boys. He caused all kinds of problems in his kingdom. He caused all kinds of problems in his house, and I want you to understand that I'm not justifying what he did. I didn't tell you what he did to justify it. I told you what he did to show you that you and I are no different. The Bible says he that looked at the woman in his heart has already committed adultery with her. You don't have to do the act to get the charge before God. All you've got to do is think it. We become so pious, don't we? People just, I don't understand them sometimes. How do you get what God has given you when you actually look at yourself? Maybe I just answered my own question. Maybe you don't look at yourself anymore. Maybe you don't see yourself as a sinner. Maybe you think you're above that. Maybe you think you've never done anything to hurt God's feelings.

I'm going to show you something here, and this is something you all had to go home and work on this afternoon. I'm not justifying what David did, but brother, he may have got eternal security in the form of the sure mercy of David, but he paid the price for it and lost everything in his family. But God restored him as God will restore you because that's not how you start. Ladies and gentlemen, it's how you finish. God restored him as God will restore you. You want to go home this afternoon and read Psalms 51. I spent so much time in Psalms 51, my Bible just automatically opens to it if you throw it on a table. The fact that yours doesn't has got to be a shame to yourself. You've got to read it sometime. You know what Psalms 51 is? It's David's prayer of getting right for the grievous things he did against God in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. It's him getting restored. It shows every part of the process that a man or a woman has to do in any aspect of their life to come back with God.

I think it's interesting in verse 4, and I'll just point this out and then I'll move on because my point is not to give you that. You read it for yourself today. But in chapter 4, you're going to find an interesting thing. David took Bathsheba. That was Uriah's wife. David got her pregnant and then conspired a plan to have Uriah put in the forefront of the battle, where the hottest part of the battle. He called Joab all the way in and Uriah home. You know what his first plan was? It shows you that you and I are the wickedest people in this world. Instead of just getting right with God, we always try to come up with a plan. You know what David did after he knows he got this

man's wife pregnant? You know what he did? He brings Uriah home on leave. Thinking that he hasn't been with his wife for many, many months. She'll go down there and be with his wife sexually, and then she'll say, "Oh, I'm pregnant. Uriah was home," and they cover it that way. But you know what? Uriah won't go home. You know the next thing he tried to do? Hey, it's you and me, pal. You may not want to admit this this morning, but you can write your name in here. I already got my name in there. You know the second thing he did? He got him drunk. Then he got him drunk, thinking that when he was drunk, he would go out of his mind and go on home and lay with his wife and have sex with her. Then she'd get pregnant, and she was already pregnant, and then she could say, "Oh, Uriah was home," and David could cover his sin. Didn't work either. So finally, when none of the plan A or plan B worked, we always come up with plan C, don't we? So he called Joab in. No, he didn't. That was another story. You know what he did? This even makes it worse. He called Uriah in. He says, "You're going back to the battle, aren't you?" He said, "Yes, I am." He said, "I've got a message for my captain, my general Joab. Would you deliver it?" Not only do you do all of those things, but in that message that Uriah carried back to Joab was the message that David wanted him put in the forefront of it. He carried his own death warrant back to Joab. I mean, carry a break. So Joab looked at that thing, and he said, "Uriah, you take the point down in front," and when they got in the heat of the battle, everybody fell back, and Uriah was killed.

Now in that story, one of my favorite verses in that thing. Boy, I've looked at myself in this many, many times, out in the same scenario, but you can look at yourself in it many, many times, no matter what scenario you'll find yourself in. I can just see David, because I know me, that I know you. He gets word back that Uriah is dead. He thinks the problem's solved. He thinks his plan worked. He thinks he's got all his bases covered now. He's just going to go on being the king. Right down at the end of that chapter, one little thing that ends that chapter, and it says, "But the thing David did displeased the Lord." David may have been done with it, but God wasn't done with it. In Psalms 51, after David goes through and makes it right and does what he needs to do, pays the price. In Psalms 51, you see the great prayer of his forgiveness and his restoration. The thing that I want you to see here is in verse 4, and this is my point. Because this is where we all have a problem with sin. This is where we get pious, and we hold things against people, whoever. But in verse 4, you want to read that. Did I give you the reference to that? Let me give it again. Psalms 51:4. This is what he says:

Psalms 51:4

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Now you would have thought that he'd have put Uriah in there, wouldn't you? You thought he'd have said, "Oh yeah, Lord, I sinned against Uriah too." No, no, no, no. His sin was never against Uriah. Because Uriah was the biggest sinner as he was. Your sin is really never against somebody else. Now I know that's hard for you to grasp because you don't understand things like this. Your sin is never against anybody else. I don't care what you do. We like to make it that because then we can hold grudges. But when you understand that your sin was not against anybody individual, your sin, by David's example, his sin was against God. He says, "Against

Thee and Thee only have I sinned." Your sin is not against me, your sin is against God. Boy, when he comes down through that thing, he lays himself out, and he puts himself right with God. God takes him up, and God restores him, and he winds up being the man after God's own heart. God forgave him, and then God restored him. I'm telling you folks, it's not how you start the race. It's how you finish it, and where you're at with God.

VII. Christ Typified in 1 Kings: Christ Our King

Now the book of 1 Kings, we can do this one quickly. The first book of 1 Kings will bring us up, as it says, to the Kings. It starts with the death of David and then runs us up to Jehoshaphat. 1 Kings 22. You're going to run from David. He dies up through Solomon and then up through the line of the Kings. Like I said, there's 19 of the Northern tribes and there's 19 of the Southern. I'm going to break it out for you.

Now Christ is portrayed in this book as Christ our King. We want for that 1 Timothy 6:15. He says, I there, I'm going to start in verse 13.

1 Timothy 6:13

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

1 Timothy 6:14

That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 6:15

Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Now you're going to find, as I said, in 1 and 2 Kings, as in 1 and 2 Chronicles. You're going to find a list of kings. One of the things you're going to find that all of these kings are all compared to David. David is the gold standard. Yeah, if you have a problem with forgiving, you better take those parts out of your Bible there because you want to be consistent. Each book will show a different aspect of the kings, much like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John show the different aspect of Christ coming.

Now in this passage, you see God taking Solomon's son and talking to him and giving him a warning. Now look at 1 Kings 9, and here's the verse that this thing is built around, 1 Kings 9. This is to Solomon after David's death when Solomon takes the throne.

1 Kings 9:3

And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

Now here comes the warning. Watch it very carefully.

1 Kings 9:4

And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father did walk, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments;

1 Kings 9:5

Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

1 Kings 9:6

But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them;

1 Kings 9:7

Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

Now there's two main things you want to see in this book about Christ being portrayed as the king, and God trying to establish that king, and He gives every one of these kings a prophet, and that prophet does what Samuel did. That prophet tries to bring that king back in line.

- 1.) Israel was told to stay with God's Word or pay the penalty.
- 2.) David is the standard by which all other kings are judged.

The great lesson for us is what happens to a church, any church, our church, any church, or to a family, any family, or an individual life when they leave the principles of this book, and they establish somebody else as the king of their life.

VIII. The Division of the Kingdom and Its Lessons

Now, have you ever seen this, what I'm about to say, in God's people's life, in their relationship with God? You ever see somebody who for a while was really doing well, maybe for a number of years, and then suddenly something goes wrong. They lose the joy. They lose their service. They lose everything. I'm not saying they don't come to church. They just fall in that lukewarm thing, where they're not really hot, they're not really cold, they're just kind of in that mixed multitude group, you know. There's a reason for that, and that reason is found in this book.

Now, he says in 1 Kings 11 and 12, and this is the great turning point in Israel's relationship with God. Now, I'm going to translate for you. I have studied all my life Hebrew, and I now have the ability to translate this so you get the true meaning. 1 Kings 11:1 says, "But King Solomon loved

many strange women." Now, remember now, this is the turning point, and it starts out in the turning point in 1 Kings 11:1 says, "But King Solomon loved many strange women." Now, let me translate that for you. That's the day you love the world and the things in this world more than you love God. Those women represented the world. Those women were the nations by which they were told not to take as wives. As their nations, they represent the things of this world.

Then 1 Kings 11:2 says that once he loved many strange women, "they turned the strange women, turned his heart away from the word of God, that was his success." Now, let me translate that for you. That's the people you put in your life who give you advice contrary to the Bible. Let me give you a great New Testament principle, and you want to put it in here, but you want to memorize it yourself too, and you want to keep it with you. 1 Corinthians 15:33:

1 Corinthians 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Underline that part, because a lot of God's people get deceived today. "Be not deceived, evil communication corrupt good manners." Now, the Old English word there "manners." We don't use "manners" today like they did back then when they wrote the Bible. We use the word "manners" today as when you go over to your mother-in-law's place to eat, you don't eat like a pig. That you show a little restraint. You know, that you don't get more food on your face than you have on your plate. But in the Bible, manners is not dealt with that way. In the Bible, that means that "be not deceived, evil communication corrupt good manners." Manners is that when you hang out with the wrong crowd, who go contrary to what the Bible says, and you let them influence you against what you know the Bible says to be true, it corrupts your manners. It corrupts the manner of person you are. That's how the manners is used.

Now, the next thing we see is Solomon starts that downward spiral. The next thing we see in 1 Kings 11:12-13 is the prophecy that God gives them that He's going to take the kingdom from him. Remember now, He told us in our opening passage that as long as he stayed with the book, He wouldn't take the kingdom. But he didn't stay with the book. He went after influences and people that took him out of the book, and now God is giving a prophecy of the dividing of the kingdom. We find that Jeroboam, one of his mighty men of valor, takes the ten northern tribes, and Rehoboam, his son, takes the two southern tribes. Now we see exactly what will destroy every church, will destroy every family, and will destroy every individual. When you let the devil divide you out, and I think the term is "divide and conquer." Once Israel got divided from the unity it had as a single nation, then the devil attacked both parts. He got both parts fighting each other. Shoot, they're fighting each other and going to war with each other instead of fighting the nations that are out there. The devil knows that the way to destroy you is to divide your family. Divide you from the Bible. Divide you, divide any church over the teachings of the Word of God. Once that happens, once the devil breaks the unity, it's only a matter of time.

The problem is really simple here. When the leadership at the top, in this case Solomon, fails to hold the line with the book that God told him to, like David held it, when you lose your unity, it's only a matter of time before you're dead spiritually. You know what? They don't go into captivity

for 400 years yet. For 400 more years this thing spirals downward very slowly. They'll get one bad king, then they'll get another bad king, then they'll get a good king, and then they'll get two more bad kings. Slowly but surely, because they never get back to the unity. They never get the unity back. Once the unity is gone, it's over. That's why in your life as an individual, I don't care who they are. I don't care how close a friend they are. I don't care what your association is with them. Never let somebody separate you from doing what the Bible tells you to know to do. Never. The moment you allow anybody or anything to separate you in your thinking and your spiritual process from what you clearly know what is the right thing to do in the Bible, you are cooked. Maybe not tomorrow, maybe not the next day. 400 years later they nosed into the ground and was finished. I'm just telling you.

That's why if you ever become a pastor, you need to understand that your position is once you believe the Bible and you know the Bible to be true, then you hold to the teachings and the unity of the Scriptures. If the Bible says this is what you're supposed to do, this is what you do. If somebody says, "Well, you do that, I'm going to leave the church," that's why we put another door in. You can't ever let anybody, any influence, any circumstance keep the unity main body from doing what the Bible says. The moment you do, just like in Israel, and you get divided, and Jeroboam saying one thing and Rehoboam saying another, you're cooked. That's why in the book of Ephesians and all through Paul's writings he talks about the unity of the Spirit. You've got to have the unity.

Charlie talked to me when he was here last week, and I just made mention to it, but we talked quite a while about it. His church runs, I asked him at first how his church was going. Charlie and I don't really talk a lot, and we will from this point on, but he said, "Well, it's doing a lot better now, Brother Bob." I said, "Well, how is that?" He says, "Well," he says, "we lost about 30 or 40 people." He said, "We were running about 180 people, and now we're running down around 120, 130." I said, "Well, what happened?" He says, "Well," he said, "you know, we got a younger crowd coming in, and they started coming in, and they didn't like the way we did things." He says, "They were one of the things they didn't like." He says, "They didn't like the standing up every Sunday morning and saying this is the Bible." They thought that was goofy. The moment he told me that, then I was convinced that that's exactly what I'm going to do. Because if you think what we did this morning is goofy, you just documented yourself where you're at with the Bible. I'm going to do it every Sunday. In fact, in time, I'm going to, if somebody can really do it nice, and you are a nice writer, you don't want me to do it. If you do a nice writer, I'd just assume have you do that on a nice piece of poster board, and we'll put it right up here so everybody can memorize. You want to memorize that every time before you open up your Bible and read it, you want to quote that thing back to God.

He said, "People thought that was stupid. They didn't like our music." He didn't go into all the details. He didn't go into all the details, but he said, "You know what?" He said, "What it was," he said, "we may not have the numbers now that we had, but we do have what we didn't have before is we have a unity now." He said, "Brother Bob," he said, "I know you know this." He said that it's not about the numbers. It's about the unity. I said, "Charlie," I said, "that's an incredible observation." I didn't ask him what all was going on because it really wasn't any of my

business. He said it was very painful to go through. You know, most people look at church splits as a bad thing. I'm, and if you want to call that a church split, and yet in many times they can be. Many times churches split over the fact that somebody will have the church wanted brown choir robes and the other church wanted red. Now, that is a stupid thing. But when it's a doctrinal issue over something that is right and very clear in the Bible, and somebody says, "We don't want to be that way anymore. We want to do this," or "We're not following this anymore. We want to do what we want to do." You know what? You have to take a stand. Charlie was man enough to take a stand, and he was blind. He told me it was painful, and I know it's painful. I'm sure it's painful. It's painful to go through any time you lose anybody. But at the end, as he said, the unity of the church was intact.

Then he said something to me, and I never thought about it this way. This is why I like being around Charlie. He says, "You know, Brother Bob," and he's looking. He can't see, and he doesn't know exactly where I'm at. So he's kind of looking off. But to me, it's like he's looking right through me. It's like he's saying, like God saying, "Listen to what he's got to say." He says, "You know, Brother Bob," he said, "it's a lot like this. If you have a sore festering on your leg, and that sore refuses to heal, and it won't get better. And you try to do everything, go to every doctor, and nobody can make that sore heal itself. In the process of time, that thing gets infected. No antibiotics can fix it. Nothing will stop it. It turns in time, gangrene, to the point where now it's cutting into blood poisoning, and it's out of control." He says, "When you've got a sore that just refuses to heal, and it turns to the place where it's going to threaten the whole body." He says, "To me, it was just an obvious choice. There's only one thing you do. You've got to amputate that leg." I thought to myself, "Wow." He says, "So what we did is we amputated the leg to save the body." I thought to myself, "Wow."

You know, the turning point in the nation of Israel was when they got to the point in their life that they were simply not going to do what God said. They got to the point in their life where they didn't learn their lesson of Saul. After David was gone, Solomon brought the things of the world into his life, just like many of God's people do. This is why people fail. This is why people get mad at church, go someplace else, and pick up a carton and a cigarette and a six-pack of beer on the way and pretend everything is okay. This is why people start going to church, get in, and then quit coming. This is why churches have problems. This is where it all comes down to. People in their lives get out of that concept. When the unity is broken, when the thing gets split, when the thing gets separated to the point now, like it was with Israel, the devil steps in. God gave them time after time after time. Then finally, God said, "I'm done with it." When God said He was done with it, the thing got split. The thing got split. When the thing got split, 400 years later—we're going to talk about that when we get into 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles. You're going to see this thing walk itself all the way through. You're going to see in a picture of the kings, a picture of our church, you're going to see a picture of your family, and you're going to see a picture of yourself. All laid out because God had something He wanted the nation of Israel to accomplish for Him. They just continually turned their back on what the Word of God said. Every head bowed and every eye closed.