

## I. Introduction and Foundational Principles

This morning, I would like to invite you to turn over to the book of 2 Kings. We have had so many folks who have come into our church in the last year and the last couple of years. Our church is kind of in two camps. We have the ones that have been around for three, four, or five years, maybe even longer than that, who have gotten into the Bible and have a good foundation. Then we have those who have come in in the last couple of years, some in the last six months. You are trying to get caught up and get a foundation in your Bible, and you are doing very well, and you will get there. Thursday nights are very good evidence of the work that is being done.

We started by taking a couple of Thursday nights. Normally on Thursday night, we have any question you want to ask about the Bible. But we took a couple of Thursday nights, and I showed you the four or five different ways that you put your notes in your Bible. Everybody needs to have a study Bible. The best study Bible, and I know you can buy them in the bookstores, but the best Bible study is your own—putting your own notes, the things that God gives you that help you really understand the Bible. We have talked about all of that.

We decided that we would start those Thursdays and lay out the basics and give you some great examples. Then I told you how the Old Testament is so key in the Bible. Most people do not know this, but the New Testament is found within the Old Testament. Jesus said one time, "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me." Yet you could not find anywhere where Moses directly wrote about the Lord Jesus Christ by name. But you find throughout the Old Testament, in the picture of the stories, not only the Lord Jesus Christ but every New Testament principle.

This is the fundamental thing that I really wanted you to grasp. If you can just hold on to this and never forget this, when God wrote the Bible, He put the most unique book together. That book is why every time we get up to preach the Word of God, we are going to say our little deal here and talk about it, because this is really what the Bible is.

So, let us all stand up and take your Bibles, and let us read it, and we will follow on from there. Here it goes:

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

Let us pray. Father, we ask You now to bless this time together. We ask You to take it and use it to strengthen these, Your people. Lord, we just thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. You may be seated.

That concept right there is what I am talking about. We embarked on a study, and I began to show you how basically all of the New Testament principles that you and I live our lives by are illustrated in the stories of the Old Testament. Then I took it one step further. I told you that in

each book of the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, Christ is typified in a different fashion. Christ is written within the pages of not only the Old Testament but the New Testament. When you go back into the Old Testament, you find Christ portrayed in every book of the Bible one way or the other.

We talked about that while we were doing this. We had just finished the book of Romans. I would take Sunday morning and walk you through every book of the Bible from just the aspect of showing you how Christ is portrayed in it. When we are done with this, if you are keeping up—and that is why we have the tables around the back, some people want to do their note work right now, we did that for that purpose—you are going to see, and you are going to get a workout today by the way, you are going to see how this Bible begins to come together.

We have gotten up to, and we are in the middle of, what we call the books of the Kings. That will run, we have already done 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel. We have already done 1 Kings. We are going to start in 2 Kings today. You will remember, just to put it all together, that in the book of 1 Samuel, we saw Christ portrayed as the true line. We saw in that book, very basically, the development of three men. We saw that God gave the nation of Israel the priest they needed, Samuel. Then God wanted to give them a king, and God wanted to give them David. But the people thought they knew better, and they wanted Saul.

The picture of that, and we talked about this, is that God wants to put the Lord Jesus Christ in your life. The real question you want to ask yourself all through these next six books, the underlying theme, is simply this: Who sits on the throne of your life this morning? When it comes to the decisions that you have to make in life, and we all have to make them, when it comes to the issues that you and I face every day that we have to make decisions and judgments on, the real question today that is outlined through these books of the Kings, because these books show you the beginning, the development of the kings of Israel, and then their demise.

You are going to find in 1 Samuel that God wanted them to have a king after His own heart. But no, no, no, they wanted Saul. Just like in your life and my life, many times God wants to be the King of our life, but we choose something else or somebody else. In 2 Samuel, we saw the life of David. Wow, what an incredible message! That message still reverberates in my mind and my heart. We saw that David, just like you and me, goes through the triumphs of his life. God goes through the tragedy of his life. After that message, it would be hard-pressed for you to look at any circumstance or anybody and not see yourself, that "yet by the grace of God, there go I," that we all have the tragedies and the triumphs in our lives. Yet God in His mercy came down and took David and restored him and made him the king after God's own heart.

Then we saw 1 Kings. In 1 Kings, we began a study of the line of the kings after David. The book of 1 Kings takes us from David up to Jehoshaphat. The key element there, and this is where we are going to pick it up today, was that in that particular book, we saw the dividing of the kingdom after Solomon's death: Rehoboam and Jeroboam. One of them was Solomon's son, the other one was one of Solomon's mighty men of valor. They actually split the nation of Israel right down the middle. We talked about how once the unity was destroyed within the nation of Israel, they were defeated by their enemies. You know why? Because they started fighting amongst

themselves. They went to war, North and South, Jerusalem and Judah, just like this country went to war in the Civil War against the North and the South. When they did that, they were in a weakened state, and the enemies of Israel came in and took them over, all by the devil's design.

## II. The Books of Kings and Chronicles: Christ Our King

We are going to start today the book of 2 Kings. The theme of this book, as we come through here, is the downfall of the nation of Israel and their going into the captivity of Assyria and Babylon. Christ, in this book, as in 1 and 2 Kings, and also in 1 and 2 Chronicles, the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed as Christ our King, found in 1 Timothy 6:15, which talks about the Lord Jesus Christ being the only Potentate and the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. All of these books follow the theme and show you how the nation of Israel, and their success—and this is some of the most amazing practical material you will ever get in your life—how the nation of Israel's success or their failure depended on what kind of king they had in their midst. I want to say to you this morning that the thing that determines your and my success or failure as a child of God is simply who the King is on the throne of our lives this morning.

In our last lesson in 1 Kings, we saw, as I already said, that they were divided against each other. At that point, it was very easy to destroy them. Somewhere at the beginning of the book of 2 Kings, you want to put this verse and mark it as the key verse to this particular book, because it is.

*2 Kings 17:23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.*

In this book, we see the downfall. We see that once they were divided, they began to fall apart. Finally, at the end of this book, they began to go into the captivity that God had prophesied if they did not do what was right. In this book, we again see the hardened heart of the nation of Israel, just like we see the hardened heart of so many of God's people as they spiral downward into the total captivity of the world system. The parallels between the nation of Israel and your life and my life are incredible.

God gives everybody the chance to do what is right on an ongoing basis. It is never God. I have met people in my life, in my ministry, who could never get back to God. I believe they were saved people, and I believe that if they are still alive and they die someday, or maybe they are already dead, I do not know. The bottom line is, I am convinced they were going to go to heaven. I believe they were saved, but they could never get back to God and get out of the world system. What had got their claws into them, and sin never leaves a man any better than it finds him. What happened was, in the process of time, they could not get back to God.

I have had people ask me, "Why will not God bring that guy back? Why will not God bring that woman back?" The answer to that is simply this: It is not God who will not bring them back. God's arms are always open. There will never be a time in your life where God will not accept you and forgive you, no matter what you have done, and restore you. The problem is, God's people want nothing to do with God. It is not God's deal; it is our deal. This is what you see in this great study of the nation of Israel.

During this time period, we see two great men. One of them is Elijah, and Elijah is a great prophet of God. Then we have Elisha, and Elisha is the predominant prophet during this particular book. He prophesied 58 years, and he is an incredible guy. The prophets, making back to that parallel, the prophets are the men that God sent to a wayward nation of His people who did not want to hear the Word of God, who wanted to pretend they were right with God when they were not, who wanted to pretend that all with God was okay when it was far from okay. The prophets were those guys that came in that just kept tearing things up. They would not let them feel comfortable. The prophets were hated. You can read Hebrews chapter 11 in the great hall of fame, and you can see many of these guys paid a price. Because any time you bear the truth to a group of people who do not want to hear the truth, you are going to pay the price for it. Many times they did, but it was a price paid for God because that is what God called them to do.

### III. God's Dealing with a Hardened Heart

When you come through this book, I think that it illustrates to me one of the most terrible chapters in the Bible, and it is found in Ezekiel chapter 14. I want you to see this because here is what happened with the nation of Israel. I want you to understand this because God help you if this ever happens to you. It can happen to you just like it happened to them. We read passages like this, and we think it is talking about unsaved people. Hey, the nation of Israel were God's people. They were not some pagan nation. They were God's people, and this happened to God's people, and I guarantee it can happen to you.

Look over to Ezekiel chapter 14. Pick it up in verse 2. This is God speaking to Ezekiel. Ezekiel was one of the prophets, and he was sent to the nation of Israel during their captivity. Here is what he says in verse 2:

*Ezekiel 14:2-5 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.*

I am going to give you a concept of God that probably most of you, as God's people, never realized existed. We think of God being a righteous God, and He certainly is. We know that the Bible says that He was tempted on all points, like we are, yet without sin. He is without sin. But the concept I am going to talk to you about this morning, and show you how it fit into the nation of Israel in this book, and how it also fits into you, and the thing you better not ever let happen in your life, is this, simply this: God will give you a lie to believe if you want one.

You see, God deals with you and me on the basis of our heart. You are going to go to work tomorrow, and someplace in your work process, you will probably get an evaluation of your job. You will sit down with your foreman, or your boss, or whoever does it, and they will evaluate your job, your work. You will get a raise, or no raise, or you will get something, or nothing,

based on your performance. Because that is the way the world system works, if you are a great athlete in college, and you are a great athlete in sports, in football, or baseball, or whatever the case, basketball, you will get picked up by the pros, and they will put you in. Based on your ability to play ball or play sports, you will have your life handed to you pretty much any way that you want it. The world system works that way.

This is the problem. For you and for me, as Christians, it does not work that way. God does not give you anything on the basis of what you can do or what you cannot do. God does not give you anything based on your abilities. You may be the greatest guy in the world and have the shiniest personality, or the most beautiful woman in the world, and have all the things—not all of you are, ladies—but have everything going for you. But that means absolutely nothing to God. What God does with you is based on when God looks inside you and sees your heart. Your boss does not give you a raise based on your heart attitude. He gives you a raise based on how you produce for the company. God does not look at what you do. God looks down inside your heart.

Here is the key. When God sees in a man's heart, like here in Ezekiel 14, someone who has already got their mind made up what they want to believe, somebody who wants to put God in their life, but on their own terms, somebody who wants to build a fictitious Christian world, or fictitious religious world, based around the Bible, and many times the right Bible, based around God, but yet it has nothing to do with God. What God does is that God will give that person exactly what they want for the purpose, here it comes, of deceiving them.

You do know over there in the Bible, in 2 Thessalonians 2:11, that the Bible says that God sends somebody strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.

*2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

You know why He does that? Because the Bible says they held the truth of God in unrighteousness. I am going to give you a good piece of advice today. This is a good piece of advice for you to have, and it will not cost you anything. God and His Word are nothing for you and I to trifle with. God wrote everything in there. Every principle, every precept, every concept is in there for an exact purpose and an exact reason. God gave it to you for you to accept it exactly the way it is written. Light, the Word of God, rejected, becomes lightning. When you reject the clear principles of the Word of God based on what you want to do in your own life, then God will give you that lie, if that is what you want, based on your hardened heart of having it your way.

God never reached it, Burger King. There you can go in, and as the sign says, you can have it your way. You cannot have it your way with God. It is God's way. When you and I build up in our heart that this is what I am going to do, this is what I am going to believe, and it is against the clear teachings and preaching of the Word of God, then God is going to snare you in your life. He is going to take the attitude of heart that you have, and He is going to give you that lie to believe.

We live in a world today that Charlie preached about this when he was here. We know it as the Laodicean church. The Laodicean church, I think the key verse is found in Revelation chapter 3, where it talks about Jesus saying, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and he open up to me, I will come in and sup with him and him with me." That verse shows you that in the church age that we are living in, the church has put Jesus Christ on the outside of the church. He is locked out of His own church, knocking on the door trying to get back in.

We know that if you have dealt with any kind of people at all in your life, and we know that people in my life and all through my associations and relationships, I have seen people who go to church to hear what they want to hear. I want to say something to you. When you have the attitude in your heart that you do not want to hear truth and you want to hear what you want to hear, I guarantee you, you will find the church that you want. God will make sure that you get to the church that you are looking for that will give you exactly what you want.

*Ezekiel 14:9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet; and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.*

See that thing? You do not understand that God deals with you and me on the basis of our heart. When we bring a bad heart to God that is contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God, in whatever it is, that is the heart that God takes and works with. We talk about being deceived, and the Bible says, "Be not deceived." The reason why God's people deceive themselves is because they try to deceive God by doing something clearly against what the Word of God says, no matter what it may be.

We have an unpopular thing with God's people today. It is called opinion shopping. Shop around until you find somebody that agrees with what you believe. There are people that go from church to church to church. One hundred years ago, you went to a Baptist church, and you sat in a service, and a preacher got up and took your hide off, and you got offended, and you said, "Well, I am going to the Methodist church." You go to the Methodist church the next week, and you get up there, and that preacher would stand up, and he would take your hide off. You would get mad and say, "Well, I am going to the Presbyterian church." So you go to the Presbyterian church the next week, that guy would take your hide off. Then you say, "Well, I am going to the Lutheran church," and you went there, that guy would take your hide off. But it is not that way anymore.

You see, you can find a church today that will tell you exactly what you want to hear. You can find a preacher today that will tell you exactly what you want to hear. You know how I know that? Because that is the way it was back with the nation of Israel. You know what he says back there in Micah 2:11?

*Micah 2:11 If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.*

He says, "If a man walking in the spirit of falsehood," and that man gets up and he talks about it is okay for you to drink strong drink and liquor. In other words, some pastor getting up and

saying it is okay to booze it up, some pastor getting up and saying it is okay to do this, it is okay to do that. It tells you back in Micah 2:11, when that man under a spirit of falsehood says that, the people say, "That is my guy." You know why? He is preaching what they want to hear.

I have one goal in my preaching, and I have been criticized for it all my life, but I really do not care. I have one goal in my preaching, my main goal. I have lots of things I want to accomplish. I want you to learn the Bible. If you are saved here this morning, I want you to get saved. All of those things are true. But my main goal, every time I open up that Bible in the form of any crowd of people, is to make sure to the best of my ability that you do not leave here comfortable. That is my goal. If you are doing what is right with God, I want you to leave here not being satisfied with that, and know there is always more that you have got to grow to. If you are not doing what is right with God, I want to ruin your lunch. I want you to sit there and have your whole mind made up of what you were going to have for lunch this afternoon, and then sit down there. Instead of having that thing for lunch, you have me for lunch. That is what I want. That is the job of a prophet. People who want to do wrong instead of what the Bible says will always be able to find a host of people to support and agree with their unbiblical position.

#### IV. Understanding People: The Three Categories from Proverbs

I am going to give you a great verse here, and this is one of the greatest verses in the Bible, and this is where you people at the back table are going to start to get writer's cramp. Proverbs chapter 1, verse 22. Most of you want to be involved in ministry. Many of you already are, but the ministry is people. One of the things that you have got to learn to do to be effective in ministry is obviously understand people.

I do not know a better book in the Bible that is a book that defines just about everything. In fact, I have got this sneaking suspicion that every principle in the Bible goes back to the book of Proverbs. I know that the book of Proverbs is a key book in the Bible, and I know that the book of Proverbs defines so many things. But in Proverbs 1:22, here is what you have. This is what you need to begin to understand if you are going to work and deal with people in the ministry: that people who have problems fall into three basic categories. The book of Proverbs is such a grand book that it defines each one of these people.

Let us read it first, and then we will talk about it. Here is what he said. One little verse. Who would ever think?

*Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?*

Three types of people who do not want to do what is right. I have never seen this fail. Every person I ever dealt with in my ministry who did not want to do what the Word of God says, and they get that lie to believe, you know how the system works. You get out of fellowship with God. You see it all the time. I have seen it all my life. I have seen people that got out of fellowship with God and pretended they did not want to get out of fellowship with God. So they get mad at

something in somebody's church. The next thing they do, because they want to go out there and they get back into the world, and then they find a church that supports that, that they do not have to be under any scrutiny, that it is a big enough church that they can hide under the pews. They just go there and be happy and bring their world right in there with them. Everybody is deceived except God, and you, if you know your Bible.

Because when you start to work with people, and you start to see the parallels of the nation of Israel, and how they have idols in their heart, things that they wanted to believe that had nothing to do with the Bible, but they wanted credibility of being right with God, they found the people and the places and the preachers and the churches that told them exactly what they wanted to hear. Let me show you how that works for you.

Now, the first one he says down here is, "How long, ye simple ones?"

*1.) Simple Ones A simple person is someone who just does not care. They would rather live their life around the Word of God than through the Word of God. I call this type of person the "good old boy society," and of course, there are women in it too. You know the good old boy society. You are not going to take anything real seriously. You are always going to have one foot in the world and one foot in church. You think that drinking and smoking and being part of the world system, you are all part of that. You just cannot ever get it all together.*

Now, that is my definition. I see people like that all the time. I see people who are some of the nicest people in the world. You love them to death. I mean, if you would adopt them, this is the kind of kid that you would want. They are absolutely nice people. I meet them like that all the time. But the bottom line is, when it comes down to really doing what the Bible says, they just do not care. They just do not care.

Now, let me show you the Bible's definition. What you want to do, here is what I would do if I were you. At the beginning of the book of Proverbs, you folks on the back there or anybody here, at the beginning of the book of Proverbs, the book of Proverbs defines many, many things. You maybe do not want to get them all in, but you definitely want to get these in. At the beginning of the book of Proverbs, I would talk about the Bible says that the book of Proverbs defines the three basic types of people who do not want to do what is right. Then I would put the first one. That would be my heading. Then the next one would be the simple folks, and then I would put these verses. You do not have to write them out, but I am going to give them to you, but you need to put them under the simple folks.

*Proverbs 7:7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,*

Proverbs 7:7 says that the simple ones, they are void of understanding. They do not have any ability to see God in anything. They do not have the ability to see what is really going on around them because they are just too busy having a good time. They really just, if there is anything that will take the edge off of you as a child of God, it will be the world. That is why the devil likes to keep you in the world. That is why there are so many of God's people that think they can have one foot in church and one foot in the world. The devil is just fine with that because all of their

life they do not have an edge for God. They have no sharpness. They have no understanding because they are blurred. It is like putting frosting on your glasses. You can see a little bit, but you cannot see clearly. That is a simple person.

*Proverbs 8:5O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be of an understanding heart.*

Proverbs 8:5 says that the simple, they have no wisdom. In other words, they do not have any real ability to look at things in life and make any spiritual discernment on it. They are someone who just, and they are good people. Most of them never cause any problems in a church. These are not your problem-causing people. This is just your good old boys who get drunk on a Saturday night and feel bad about it on Sunday morning. These are your good old boys who just cannot get it all together. Then it says in 8:5 that he has no wisdom.

*Proverbs 9:13A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.*

Proverbs 9:13 says that a simple person knows nothing. He is just along for the ride. His friends will talk him into doing anything. He does not have any ability to say no in certain things in his life.

*Proverbs 14:15The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*

Proverbs 14:15 says that a simple person believes everything that somebody says. I have them in my life all the time. I have them in my life. I get emails from them. Nice guys. Nice girls. Some of the nicest people in the world, but I will get an internet from them. "Do you know Barack Obama was fathered by an alien?" Well, come on. Who did not know that was true already? I think the internet is a great thing. If I am putting a sermon together, and it happens all the time, you know, if you want to say you are putting something together in history, and you are up against something like the Macedonian Empire, and you are not sure how it all worked, you get anything you want out of it. It is a great tool. But boy, I will tell you what, it is also a bad tool because you can find anything you want. You can find that Barack Obama was fathered by aliens. You can find that the earth is going to end in 2012. They had a thing on here a while back about, and I get phone calls on this, how Mars was going to be so big it was going to be the size of the moon, that it was going to come so close to this earth that when you walked out of your house, if you saw a full moon, what you would see was Mars.

Now, to me, maybe just because I have a science background and a little bit in astronomy, to me that just, I could not even, I would not even, I would not even read that. But I get 20 emails or phone calls, "Bob, you know that Mars is going to be as big as the moon?" Yet for 500 million years, the closest Mars has ever got there is 35 million miles away. I guarantee you if Mars ever got close to Earth where it would be as big as the moon, you would hear about it on every newspaper, every TV show, and everything in the world. But you can get on the internet and get all that stuff. I mean, there was somebody that had a thing on there, it was a planet, Planet X, and it was coming toward the earth, and it was going to crash into the earth. Somebody sent me the website, so I go to it, and the guy says, "I have pictures. Here it is. I have taken pictures." Now, Mount Palomar has a 200-inch telescope that can see stars of 25th magnitude. That is about a million times fainter than your neighbor. The Hubble telescope up there around space can see out

to the ends of the universe. But they all missed it. Oh yeah, but Jack Lacaskey with an eight-inch Meade telescope in his backyard, he not only sees it, he photographs it. What would be your first clue that that is probably not correct?

So I go to it because I have got to see this now. I mean, I have got to see it. What it is is this, and I have taken many, many astrophotography pictures, so I know how the system works. What he did was just took a star. You know, when you come to any camera or your telescope, you look through a telescope, and you focus that star, that star is just a pinpoint of light. But if you defocus that star, it comes into a round ball. With the atmosphere being dicey, a lot of clouds, that ball will, you actually see the turmoil in the atmosphere in it. So what this bozo did was take a bright star, defocus that, put his camera in, and said, "And watch it change colors." You know why it changed colors? Because his telescope was not corrected correctly with the light prism, so it goes from yellow to blue to red and all through the spectrum. But because you do not know that, and you are looking at it, "I wonder." But I bet there is a million people out there that said, "Oh honey, pack the kids, get the station wagon ready. Here it comes." No, but the truth of the matter is, I can stand up here every Sunday and tell you the truth about something that is coming, and you do not even want to hear it. See how it works. There is nothing wrong with planet Earth, I have come to the conclusion, it is just the folks that are on it. Proverbs 14:15 says he believes everything somebody will say. "Drugs are really good." "You want to hide?" "Yeah, I want to hide." "There you are." "Well, you are a real man until you smoke it like this." "Okay, I will smoke it like that because I want to be a real man." That is the simple folks, you see.

Then it talks about the scorners.

*2.) Scorners My definition is simply this: Scorners are people who their problem is they have a real issue with God. Somebody who makes fun of preachers, churches, God's people who are trying to do what is right. Those are our scorners. When you get past the personal attack, because you should never take it personal, and you get the Bible's definition, and that is why these are so important, ladies and gentlemen, you will understand what a scorners is. A scorners is not somebody who scorns you in your life because of your ministry, your church, or your preaching, or whatever how you deal with things. Do not take that personal. Understand that the Bible defines them as somebody who has a real problem, is they have a problem in their own life with God. But they want to take it out on you, so you just understand that you take the Bible's definition and you move on.*

Scorners are very deceitful people. The Bible says in Proverbs 9:8, and you want to get this down because I am going through this, you will take a walk down memory lane, I hope.

*Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorners, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.*

The Bible says in Proverbs 9:8 that when it comes to a scorners, you reprove him, and he will hate you. In other words, you preach what he does not want to hear, and you stay on his hot button, and he will wind up blaming you, and he will hate you for it.

*Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorners heareth not rebuke.*

Proverbs 13:1 says a scorners will not hear rebuke. You cannot tell him where he is wrong.

*Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.*

Proverbs 14:6 says a scorner seeks wisdom, but he cannot get it. The reason why he cannot get it is because of the fact that he has got a problem in his own life with God that he is not willing to deal with. There is the multitude of the idols in his heart, and he wants to blame everybody else for her scenarios, or she wants to blame everybody else for her problems in life, when the truth of the matter is, they go back to themselves just dealing with God. But the reason why that they never will, because Proverbs 21:24 defining them says that a scorner is proud and haughty.

*Proverbs 21:24 Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.*

Now you all know what proud means. Proud means that prideful, and prideful goes along with you not being able to hear rebuke, or when somebody reproves you that you hate them for it. But haughty is another word. Haughty is an old English word that makes it, it comes, it carries with it the definition of somebody that thinks they are higher and mighty, that they are never, they are never to the point where that they are better than you are. They are haughty, their spirit is lifted up more than it should be. That keeps them from ever getting to the point where they see what their real problems are.

Then he says fools.

*3.) Fools Fools are simply, in my definition, people who are unteachable. I have met some pastors that were nice guys. If you met with them and talked with them and saw them, you would think they are a nice guy. But the truth of the matter is, they are a fool. You know why they are a fool? Because they are unteachable. They are trying to stand up in their pulpit teaching their people when they have got so many issues in their own world, and they will not let anybody else teach them.*

If you ever pastor, fellas, let me tell you a good piece of advice. If you ever pastor, you ought to expect to be taught by your people as much as you teach them. For some reason, pastors come to the point, and I do not know why it, well, I do know why it is, but they come to the point where they think that they can teach you everything, but you cannot teach them nothing. You get into that position, you are a fool. Everything in life ought to teach you something. You ought to glean something that you learned, good or bad or indifferent, from every person you meet. When I sit down with many youth throughout the week, and we go through things in the Bible, and most of you have been there know this is true, there will be times that I will stop you, and I will get my pen and pencil out and put things in my Bible that I did not see that you saw, and I will make the comment at the end, "Well, I got to thank you today as much as you can thank me, you taught me as much as I taught you." In other words, teaching is a two-way street, and of course, a fool cannot see that. A fool is unteachable.

Now, people can be a combination of these two. I mean, it just is not like, but I mean, these are the three, these are the three types of people.

*Proverbs 10:18 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.*

Proverbs 10:18, the Bible says that a fool slanders people. Many times, you will find that people that do not want to do what is right with God, their protection mode is to slander somebody else that takes the attention off of themselves. I have known preachers that got into a jam because they did not know how to pastor a church past a certain point, and they get to that point in their ministry, and because they are unteachable, and the church is stalling out, and people are leaving, and they have all kinds of problems, that the only recourse they know to do is to blame the people.

Now, you and I are smart enough to know that everything rises and falls on leadership, and it does. Every church has zero people in it. I mean, we have very few, but if any, but every church has them, and because we do not have many, I am putting a sign next to our sign saying, "We need some zero people in here, so come on in," you know, to kind of balance it all out. The bottom line is simply there. Oh, we got them. Trust me. The bottom line, just being kind for whatever reason, I am not sure, but anyway, he slanders people. When a person, a pastor, gets to the point that he does not know what to do, and he is unteachable, the only thing he can do is to maintain his respectability, his position of pastor, is to blame the people for it. If this church rises and falls or fails or is successful, directly it will never be your fault, it will be my fault. You know what will happen? It will go bad because I allowed something to go on that I should not have allowed and did not step in to stop it. If I do that, and it just goes on and continues and continues, and the thing falls apart, that is my fault. That is not your fault. If somebody comes to me and says, "Hey Bob, this is not right, you are preaching one thing, but we are doing something else over here," and I just ignore that, that is my fault.

Now, the second thing.

*Proverbs 10:23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.*

Proverbs 10:23, a fool, the Bible says, makes sport of his sin. He uses the word mischief, but in Proverbs 10:23, a fool is somebody who makes sport of mischief. What does that mean? He thinks it is funny when he does wrong. He thinks it is funny. He laughs about getting drunk last night. He laughs about the fact that he or she are still does things with the world. Sometimes you see him, sometimes it is very obvious, you know that people come to church, and they are no more interested in being here. You do not even know why they are there. I mean, they are sitting texting back there, talking back and forth, laughing and everything, not paying any attention to anything that is going on. You wonder, I mean, you wonder, and that is what it is to them. A lifestyle outside of God is funny. It is sport, and that is exactly how the Bible defines a fool.

Then it says in Proverbs 12:15, it is talked about the fact that the way of a fool is right in his own eyes.

*Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*

He suffers from what we call occupational dominance. He thinks that what he does and he is, or who she is, is the most important thing in the world. They only see life from their own perspective. They do not see it from God's perspective. They see somebody come in, and they

have problems in their life, and they will push them away. They will not want to be part of it. They will see somebody come in as a new person, and they will, a visitor, and they will never walk over and shake their hands. You know why? Because they see life only from their perspective. They do not see the fact that somebody comes into this church who has issues, who has problems, and our job is to help and restore them. They do not see that. All they see is their own deal. They do not see that a visitor sitting here for the first time, maybe somebody who is just looking for a friend, and a warm handshake will do more for them than if you gave them one hundred dollars. Now me, I will take the hundred dollars, but they take the handshake. You know why they do not see that? Because they only see what they see. He is right in his own eyes. It is always sees.

*Proverbs 17:10A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.*

Proverbs 17:10 says a fool can get beat up a hundred times, and he still cannot figure out what is going on in his life. The Bible uses "hundred stripes," stripes being like whippings, and you find people like that. You find people who go from problem to problem, saved people. They go from problem to problem to problem. Nothing ever goes right. Nothing ever turns right. They get a job, and then they lose the job. They get this. They get that. If you looked at their life, it is just one problematic thing after the other that they are not willing to deal with life. Then they have the audacity to stand there and scratch their head and say, "I wonder why this happened." That is a fool. That is a fool according to the Bible.

*Proverbs 17:24Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.*

The Bible says in Proverbs 17:24 that the eyes of a fool are to the ends of the earth. You know what that means? That means he is always looking long distance, but he is never looking short distance. There is a lot to these things that I wish I could take. I could take a Sunday on each one of these and lay it out, but I do not have time. His eyes are at the end of the earth. What does that mean? It means they always see the long distance of things, but he never sees the immediate impact of what he does. He always can see it out here, but he cannot see it for the short term. He says, "Oh, I want to have kids. Yes, I want to have kids. Why? I want to have kids. Lots of kids." But he does not see the responsibility that if you do not get those kids saved, they are going to wind up and probably die and go to hell unless somebody else steps in. See, his eyes are at the end of the earth. He sees long distance, but he cannot see short distance.

*Proverbs 18:2A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.*

Proverbs 18:2 says a fool has no delight in understanding.

*Proverbs 19:1Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.*

Proverbs 19:1 says a fool is perverse in his lips.

*Proverbs 24:7Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.*

Proverbs 24:7 says wisdom is too high for a fool. I guess the one that ties it all together that really puts the thing in its proper perspective is Proverbs 28:26, where it says a fool simply trusts in his own heart.

*Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.*

The Bible says in Proverbs chapter 3, another book in verse and Proverbs, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." See, that is totally contradictive to a fool. Three types of people defined for you in Proverbs that are people who get into problems, and you need to mark those as I gave them to you someplace in the book of Proverbs.

We are not done yet. You see, First and Second Kings ask from God's standpoint that simple question that we talked about all the way through here that you and I have to answer, and it is simply this: Who sits on the throne of your life? Who is the King of your life tonight or this morning that you use as the basis for the decision that you make? You see, the great unknown factor is simply this: you get the wrong attitude of heart with God when the Bible clearly tells you to do something that you do not do or you will not do in your own personal life. When the Bible clearly lays that thing out, and you build up the idol in your heart, do not be surprised if God does not come down and deal with you on the basis of your heart and give you the lie that you want to believe and put you in a church and put the people around you that support your false idea. You know why that is? Because the Word of God is not something that you play with. The Ten Commandments were never written as the Ten Suggestions. The Bible principles are not there for you to discern if you want to do them or not. When a person comes to the Word of God with that attitude of heart, no matter what the basis of it is, they are in trouble.

## V. David and the Two Natures: Lessons from Samuel and Chronicles

All right, now let us look at, let us move on to the book of 1 Chronicles. The book of 1 Chronicles is a great book. The book of 1 Chronicles, and you need to know this, again Christ is portrayed as our King, the only Potentate and King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, like we already gave you there in 1 Timothy 6. You are going to find that that is the theme of 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles because we are dealing with the Kings.

The book of 1 Chronicles covers the same time period as 2 Samuel. You need to know that. In other words, 2 Samuel talks about the life of David, and then when you come to 1 Chronicles, it talks about the life of David. But one notable exception, and this is what you have got to see, and this is very important. In chapter 1 through chapter 9, we have nine chapters on Christ's genealogy, and in that genealogy is very important because it ties Him to Christ and then ties Christ into the line of David. Christ is called the Son of David in Matthew 15:22. Then you are going to come through that chapter, very basically, 1 through 9, you are going to find out it starts all the way back to Adam, comes up through Noah. It goes through the genealogy of Noah's three

boys, Japheth, Ham, and Shem, and then brings it right up to David, and you see that David is in the line of Shem in chapter 10.

Most people do not understand the importance of genealogies in the Bible. Let me just give you this since we are here, and I can be done with it. Genealogies in the Bible are very important. First of all, genealogies develop the correct timeline of the Bible events and the timeline of the Bible itself. The unsaved world and many of God's people believe that the world has gone on for hundreds of millions of years, and they talk about the dinosaurs and the caveman and the Piltdown man and the Java man and all of those things. Java man liked coffee a lot, but anyway, you come down through those things. The truth of the matter is, when you come down through the chronology in the Bible, man has only been on this earth for seven thousand years. Now that throws a bone into the evolutionist and all that stuff, but that is okay, they need a couple bones thrown their way. The truth of the matter is, that is what genealogies do for you. Genealogies fix the time element of the Bible.

Ah, but there is another important thing for genealogy, and that is to the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel, for it to be effective for God, has to know who the priest tribe is. Right now, and for the last two thousand, twenty-six hundred years, they have not known who the priest class is. When they go into captivity in 606 B.C., those records are lost. This just understanding what I am giving you today will help you immensely with all of the goofy stuff that is out there that the simple ones get caught up in.

Right now, if you go on the internet, you would find that right now down in Texas and some place over in Israel, a bunch of guys are trying to breed cattle, and they are trying to breed cattle so they will come up with a perfect red heifer. A red heifer is in their minds what the nation of Israel has to have for the Jew to build the temple. So they are screwing around, and the group down in Texas, a mix of Jews and Christians, said that they have almost got it to the place where they have got the red heifer almost breeding to the place where it is right there, and pretty soon they are going to have the red heifer. When I look at something like that, I think to myself, "What a waste of beef." You bring that red heifer over, slaughter that sucker, and we will have a feast on it.

Let me tell you something, boys and girls, if you found the red heifer today—not talking about your mother-in-law, I just kid you, my mother-in-law does not have red hair, so I am safe. Now, what we will call it a staff that says, "I ain't gonna believe it, I got my hair done, it is now red," I will be in trouble, but anyway. If you found a perfect red heifer that fulfilled everything that the Jews say it has to fulfill, it would be absolutely worthless. You know why? Because you have got to have a priest to offer that sacrifice of the red heifer, and the bottom line is, they do not know who the priesthood is today because they do not have the genealogy. You go back to Ezra and Nehemiah. After 70 years, you know what Ezra and Nehemiah are doing? They are scurrying around trying to find a record of genealogy so they can establish the priest class, and when they do find it, they have to throw out some of the priests because they are not in the line of genealogy. The genealogies in the Bible for the nation of Israel develop their priest class, it is absolutely imperative. They do not have it yet, and the ashes of a red heifer have nothing to do with the nothing to do in the Bible. That Jewish junk that has been built up over the years, and

people try to get into it, they have nothing about the Bible. The bottom line is this: the temple that they say the red heifer, if they find and they sacrifice, the Jews are going to build the temple. Hey pal, if you know your Bible, that is the antichrist temple. That is the one that he sits down on in Jerusalem and claims to be God. God's temple is one that is built in Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48 in the millennium, and you do not need any red heifer for that. Genealogies are important. Genealogies show you that that is what the nation of Israel has to have at some point to get that priest class, but that will not happen until the tribulation period. It would not matter if the Jews had everything they needed right now, they are still in apostasy, and they will not come back to God until they go through the tribulation period, and then and only then will God reveal to them who the priests are.

So that is chapter 1 through chapter 9. When you get to chapter 10 through chapter 29, you are now, as I said, covering the same material found in the book of 2 Samuel on David's life, but with one great noted exception. In chapters 10 through chapter 29, David is typified in every aspect as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. So you are going to find, because he is, that there is no mention of any of his sin or his encounter with Bathsheba. This is very important because what we see here, and I do not know of any two books in the Bible that really display a New Testament principle better than these two books, because in the one book you see David in his sin, and the other book, which covers the same time of David's life, you see him without sin. Where last week we saw, or last time we saw 2 Samuel, and we saw that God had to give him the sure mercies of David because of his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. Now we see another great book where there is absolutely no mention of it.

Now, why is this? It is because it is a picture of something that most of God's people do not understand today. The book of 2 Samuel, where it pictures David with his sin, is a picture of your flesh after you are saved. The picture of David in 1 Chronicles is a picture of his soul after he is saved, and it is sinless.

Turn over to 1 John chapter 3. I am going to show you one of the strangest passages in the Bible, and I want to break it down for you today, and you will go out of here understanding it.

*1 John 3:4-9 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

Now that is one of the hardest passages anywhere in the Bible. Because that Bible says that he that is born of God does not commit sin. Now, pastors today, you would probably not find five pastors in this city that could explain this verse. I am not saying I can explain it because I am so smart; I just explain it because I believe what the book said. That Bible says that he that is born of God cannot commit sin. So now what happens is the pastors have a problem with that, and

theologians have a problem with that. So they say that that is a mistranslation in your King James Bible. Because they do not know what to do with the verse, as always, when you do not understand the verse, then change the verse so you can understand it. So they take out the word "commit" and put in the word "practice."

Because they do not understand a great concept of the old nature and the new nature. They do not understand the concept of the two adoptions in the Bible. They have no clue the concept of spiritual circumcision, which divided at the time of salvation your soul from your flesh. After that operation of God made without hands, Colossians 2:11, you now are two people.

*Colossians 2:11*In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

You are an old nature and you are a new nature. The old nature is your flesh, and if you yield yourself to the flesh, you do everything an unsaved man does. But if you yield yourself to the new nature, which is your soul, which at the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit of God came in and sealed you, Ephesians chapter 4, with a Holy Spirit. You know what God did? God is a holy God. You and I are sinners. We know that from Romans chapter 3 and a million other passages. Here is the kicker. How can a holy God have fellowship with you and me when you and I are sinners? There is only one way He could do it. He had to fix some part of you that was no longer a sinner.

Now, how did He do that? He came down, He looked at you having a body, a soul, and a spirit. He knew that your body and your spirit were worthless. He saw your soul, which He created in you when He created man, that animals do not have. Animals have a body and they have a spirit. They do not have a soul. You have a body, soul, and spirit. Your body is your flesh, and in your flesh dwells no good thing. Your spirit, the Bible says that you are to cleanse your spirit of its filthiness by the Word of God, and then you have a soul. You know what God did? God came down and He divided. He put your body over here, and He put your soul over here. He divided you, and then His Holy Spirit came down and indwelt your soul and sealed it, never to leave again. Now you have a new nature that is your soul, sealed by the Holy Spirit of God, which is perfect and sinless. And you have your flesh, which is as big a mess as ever been.

When you understand that there are two parts to you, Paul calls it the old man and the new man, the flesh versus the spirit, the old nature versus the new nature. It is that soul that the Holy Spirit of God encased itself in that God can fellowship with you. The Bible says in that verse, "He that is born of God does not commit sin." He does not change the word to "practice" to figure it out. You bozo. You just have to understand the Bible doctrine behind it. He that is born of God. Your flesh was never born of God. It was your soul that was born of God. Your flesh did not get born again. If my flesh got born again, I lost it someplace, because yesterday was a terrible day for me. Come to think of it, Friday, Thursday, Wednesday, Tuesday, Monday were not bad either. My flesh did not get saved. That is why the Bible says, "These things have I written unto you, my little children, that ye sin not. But if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father." That is how He says over there in 1 John chapter 2, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." And yet we have a process that says that he that is born of

God does not commit sin. How do you get it all straightened out? Simply understanding you have an old nature and a new nature. Your old nature sins. Your new nature cannot. It says, "He that is born of God cannot commit sin because his seed, Holy Spirit of God, remaineth in him." That is how you figure it out. You do not have to change the Bible. You just believe what you got and take the principles that go along with it. That is exactly what happens.

Now here is what you got. What you have here in these books is a picture of that very thing. It is a picture of you and me. In 2 Samuel, we have David typified as the man in his sin, and a little picture of you and me dealing with our flesh, our old nature, every day of our life. In 1 Chronicles, you have a picture portrayed of David as he pertains to his new nature. So you find no sin listed in that book. Those two books are the greatest examples of what I am telling you, that the New Testament principles are defined and explained by the pictures in the Old Testament. 2 Samuel shows you a man, David, after God's own heart, that committed adultery and murder. God gave him the sure mercies of David and restored him. That is a picture of a man in his old nature screwing up life, and God forgiving him and restoring him after he got saved in two of the worst sins, if you want to categorize sins there is. In the book of 1 Chronicles, we have a picture of the same man. Not one thing mentioned wrong that he does. You know why? 2 Samuel is a picture of your old nature and your flesh. 1 Chronicles is a picture of your new nature in Christ Jesus. That is what you got. I put those notes up there and get that stuff in around there.

That is why Paul in Romans 7:14-18, he says a great, carries with it some great ideas.

*Romans 7:14-18 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

I will give you a good verse, 1 Corinthians 6:19, but you never thought about this one.

*1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

*1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

"For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God's." Let me ask you a question. Why did he not say soul? Why did he just say body and spirit? Why did he not say glorify God in your body and your soul and your spirit? Why did he say that you and I have been bought with a price, Christ died for us, and now you and I are to glorify God in our body and our spirit, and mentioning nothing about the soul? You know why? Because your soul already glorifies God. It was sealed the day of redemption, and it glorifies God 24/7, even when your flesh does not. That is why. Great, great, great, great concept.

## VI. Practical Lessons from the Kings of Judah

All right, now let us come to 2 Chronicles. Now 2 Chronicles goes along with the book of 2 Kings, and it takes us up through the lines of the Kings. Again, it will be 1 Timothy chapter 6 as your New Testament verse, the only King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Now, I want to give you something that will help you keep these books in the right mindset, and you want to write this down. I would put this somewhere at the beginning of these books, either 1 Kings or maybe put it at 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles, and maybe put it at 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, it would not hurt. But here is what you want to remember: where 1 Chronicles is a commentary on 1 and 2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles is a commentary on 1 and 2 Kings. In other words, 1 Chronicles will commentate and cover the same time period as 1 and 2 Samuel. Where 2 Chronicles will cover the same time period as a commentator on 1 and 2 Kings. You need to remember that. Again, this book is typified as Christ the King.

In this book, we see the final chapter in the nation of Israel's life as the greatest nation on earth. It ends temporarily with the concept of the Kingdom of Heaven being taken off this planet and God turning these nations into captivity. They go into captivity in 2 Kings, and they go into captivity in 2 Chronicles because they cover the same time period. One comes from the northern tribe, one covers from the southern tribe, but do not worry about that today. This time period now begins to start the times of the Gentiles.

In this book, the emphasis will be on the southern tribe of Judah, not the northern tribes, because it deals with the temple concept. That is very key because the key to this book, as in 2 Kings, is the Kings listed in them and how they picture you and me. In time, you are going to see how Israel's life as a nation is parallel to our times in the Laodicean church, just like we have already talked about. You heard me say earlier that the ministry is people. I think personally that the books of, I know that they are hard books to read to some people. I think the books of the Kings, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles are six of the greatest books in your Bible of helping you understand the concept of your relationship with God. I really do.

I do not have time to do it all this morning. I told you when we come to, on our Thursday night when we come to Kings and Chronicles, I am going to take whatever time it takes, and I am going to walk you through these 22 kings in both cases and give you everything you have, and you will have it done in your Bible at that particular point in time, and we will get that thing done. But the key verse here is chapter 15, verse 3, and it is a great verse because history will always be our greatest teacher. In verse 3 of chapter 15, it simply says this:

*2 Chronicles 15:3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.*

There are three things that Israel now has lost, and I think they are very instructive for you and for me today. The first thing was no true God. I love the fact that he put "no true God." He just did not say "no God." This is not a pagan nation. This is a God that is religious in every sense of the world. Like most of God's people, they just do not have the true God. Do you know why they do not have a true God? I will tell you why. They do not have a true God because of the fact that

God has taken away their teaching priest through their rejection. Because of that, now they have no law. They have no Bible. So they have no true God. They have no preacher, and they have no Bible. We have commented on this and the fact in 2 Kings. God took away their, God, they had a lie that they wanted to believe, and because they wanted what they believed in their heart, God came down and took their preacher away from them. God says, "You do not need a man of God who is going to preach through the Word of God." So He took Elisha home, and He left them without a teaching priest. He left them without a prophet. Now, just like the Laodicean church age, they struggle through because they have got a false God with a false concept of Christianity in their lives, and now they are in a mess.

Now in this book, we see a couple of things, and I think they are very important. The first thing I want you to see is the fact that God always has a standard by which He does something by. There needs to be a reality check here in even the things how we say things sometime. We make statements without any point of reference. I know many times it is people with conversation, but conversation is very powerful. God always gives us a point of reference. When you want to find and study the greatest type of Christian in the Bible, certainly the New Testament, it would be John. If you want to study the model missionary in the Bible, then it would be Paul. You want to study the model pastor in the Bible, that will be Timothy. If you want to understand the model of stewardship in the Bible, then it would be Titus. If you want to understand the model servant in the Bible, then it would be Philemon. If you want to study the model of evangelism in the Bible, then it would be Philip. In other words, God always gives us a standard.

This is what you see in the Old Testament, and this is the first thing that you want to see, that God always compares these kings that He is going to go through to one king, and that king is David. That king is David. We talk about a lot of things without a real biblical reference. I hear people say it all the time, and in my mind, I am always asking this question. I may never say it publicly, but I hear guys say, "Well, he is a good man." In my mind, I will say, "Really? Compared to who? Mao Zedong? Me? Who?" Somebody says, "Well, he really did a good job." "Really? Compared to what?" "Well, he is really a sharp guy." "Compared to who? Forrest Gump?" Come on. What is your standard? "Well, he is really smart." "Compared to who?" "Well, he is really a good Christian." What is your standard? You see, God never does that in our lives. There always gives us an absolute standard for everything. In the New Testament, it was Christ. In the Old Testament, it is David. So the first thing you want to realize is that David is held up by God as the standard for every one of these kings. Every one of these kings is compared to that standard. He is our model. David's triumph and David's tragedy. He is our model.

We have the kings themselves, and each of them will show us the kinds of God's people that we will run into. More importantly, it shows us an in-depth look of the kind of God's people we really are. I am going to go on through this with you, but from here on, I am going to look at myself, and you need to look at yourself if you have not done that already. It is absolutely incredible material of defining who we really are. Because we all get ourselves to the place where we think we are better than we are. I talked about it when we talked about 2 Samuel, how here was a man that committed two sins worse than anything else in the world as far as our standard is. He took another man's wife and then murdered him. Yet God says he is a man after

My own heart. I showed you all the ramifications of that. Now you are going to see it. You are going to find yourself in these kings. You have bad kings like they have. You have good kings like David and everything in between.

Now I want to walk you through a couple of examples here. I want to show you how this thing works. I want you to remember our theme question: Who sits on the throne of your life this morning?

*\*\*King Jehoshaphat: The Danger of Bad Association\*\*The first one is in 2 Chronicles 17:1-6. It is a king whose name is Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat starts out right, like so many of God's people, but he ends up wrong. You are going to find in these pictures of these men, and I wish I had time to do them all. I have just got to take a few episodes and give you some pictures of it. But you are going to find in these men exactly the way you and I are. The standard is David. So few of us ever get to the point where we meet that standard, if any of us ever do. Yet in these kings, you will find yourself. You are going to see God's people who start out on fire for God wind up in a mess. You are going to find people who, and you are going to find in these kings every reason why people make the messes they make in their life.*

Now watch this.

*2 Chronicles 17:1-6 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.*

Jehoshaphat, his son, reigned in his stead and strengthened himself against Israel. See, they are fighting amongst themselves. Jehoshaphat is the southern tribes, and he strengthened himself because they are going to fight against the northern tribes. He placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and he sought not unto Baalim. You see that thing? Compare him to David. Now watch. But sought to the Lord God of his father and walked in his commandments and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand, and all Judah brought Jehoshaphat presents, and he had riches and honor and abundance. His heart was lifted up in the ways of the Lord. Moreover, he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. Hey, what a success story!

You know how many young men in my ministry and young ladies in my ministry fit that first passion right there. Here is a guy who starts out right. He has the heart to serve God. He does everything right. He puts the things out of his life, and God strengthens him and gets him to a point in his life. He strengthens him and gets him to a point in his life.

Then we come to 2 Chronicles 18:1. We are going to see what destroyed this young man.

*2 Chronicles 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.*

Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor and abundance, and joined an affinity with Ahab. Right there is the beginning of his downfall. Ahab was the most wicked king that Israel ever had. Ahab is married to Jezebel. Jezebel is the prophetess that went up against Elisha and Elijah. She is deep into Baal. Ahab is into Baal worship. He is the worst person in the world to associate with. This guy, once he got to the point where he had everything that he had for God, and he is doing well, he made the fatal mistake. He thought he could allow somebody like Ahab to come into his life. Boy, I will tell you what. You need to mark it down.

*1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

It says, "Be not deceived: evil communication corrupt good manners." Because we see by the time we get to 1 Kings chapter 22, he has put the high places back in effect. He got the people back into Baal worship, and his whole kingdom began to crumble around him. Here is the guy who starts out right. He has everything that he is going to do right, and it looks like he is going well, and then he makes the fatal mistake of letting people into his life that had no love for God the same way that he loved for God. I am telling you, this is where you have got to watch who you associate with. This is where you have got to watch who you hang out with. This is where you have got to watch exactly who you let into your life because there will be people who claim to be Christian, who will already have the God showed up in the heart that are against, and you are going to see it here in a moment. I am going to show it to you in a couple of these Kings how this thing works out, and they will destroy your relationship with God by association, association, association, association.

*\*\*King Asa: The Danger of Not Bringing Issues to God\*\* Now, the second one in 2 Chronicles chapter 14, 15, and 16 is Asa, and he is another good example. Here is another example of a man who starts out right with God and then winds up leaving God. He destroys in chapter 14 all the idolatry. He brings rest to the land for 10 years. Yet we find in 2 Chronicles 16:11-12, it says:*

*2 Chronicles 16:11-12 And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.*

Here is a man who starts out really good with God, and then what happens? He has a disease in his feet. That is a picture of something wrong with your walk with God. Psalm 1 says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." You begin to see that he had problems in his feet, and instead of taking it to God and getting it right, he took it to the world. He took it to the psychologist. He took it to the psychiatrist. He took it to the world that has nothing to do with spiritual things, and he wound up dying because of it. All because of the fact that he had a disease in his feet, his walk with God, and he would not take it to the Lord.

To this day, I do not fully understand how some people can know God, love God, truly have a relationship with God, and then have some issue come into their life where they simply will not bring it to God. They simply will not let God deal with it, and they think that they are going to be okay. Hey, God's Word is nothing to be trifled with, and when you do not take it to God's Word, then you will wind up in the mess that these kings wound up in.

*\*\*King Amaziah: The Danger of an Imperfect Heart and Revenge\*\*Now let me show you another one, 2 Chronicles chapter 25, verse 1, Amaziah. Here is another one that starts out okay, but he ends bad.*

*2 Chronicles 25:1-2Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoadan of Jerusalem.And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.*

Amaziah was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Jehoadan of Jerusalem. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. Ah, watch this, but not with a perfect heart. Now you explain that to me. How can you do right with God but not with a perfect heart? You see, these kings get right down where you and I live because we all do things that are right, but sometimes our heart is not in it. We all do things that are right sometimes because we do not want to get caught, or because we do not want me to find out, or because you think that is what you are supposed to do. You do not want your husband or wife or somebody in the church to find out, but that is not about just doing what is right, it is about doing what is right with a perfect heart. Everything goes back to the heart. Everything goes back to the heart. Everything.

Now watch this. In 2 Kings 14:1-5, it goes back to the other account of his life, and here is his downfall.

*2 Kings 14:1-5In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoadan of Jerusalem.And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.*

One guy, and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father. Ah, he missed a mark. Watch it. He did according to all the things that Joash his father did. See, see how he makes those comparisons? At the end of your life, folks, at the end of my life, your life, what you want, maybe you will never get there. I will probably never get there, but it ought to be the goal of your life is that when God sits down and compares you, that your life is compared to David's. Howbeit the high places were not taken away as yet, the people did sacrifice and burn incense in the high places. Now watch this. Here it comes. And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king, his father. See that thing? He is a great man. He did what was right, but he did not

have a perfect heart. The moment he got into power, he wiped out the ones and took revenge on the ones. You know what? In a Christian's life, there is no room for revenge. There is no room for ill feelings. The great model here and a great moral here is the fact that it is not just doing right, but it is doing right based on the principle that you have in your heart.

Boy, this brings up a great concept. You know, again, the book of Proverbs. There are 11 Proverbs that are given to kings. These 11 Proverbs are written by the wisest king that ever will ever have, and yet he could not even follow them, and they were his downfall. You know why there are 11 Proverbs given to kings? That these are how kings are to conduct their daily lives. This is how kings are to conduct themselves as kings. I will tell you why, because someday you and I are going to reign with Jesus Christ, and He wants you to reign as a king. These 11 principles go to you and me just like they go to the kings back in the Old Testament. Make it their success or failure is what they did with these 11 things, and your success and my success or failure will be what we do with these 11 things. His downfall was that when he had the power to do the right thing, he could not carry it all the way through.

Now watch. I am not going to read all of these because I forsake a time, but I am going to give them to you. I am just going to read you the last one.

- Proverbs 16:10
- Proverbs 20:8
- Proverbs 20:26
- Proverbs 20:28
- Proverbs 22:11 (This one deals with the fact that the king needs to make friends with people who have a pureness of their heart. We have already covered that with some of the other kings when he made an affinity with Ahab after he failed.)
- Proverbs 29:4
- Proverbs 29:14

The one that I want to talk about that fits this story is Proverbs 3:27, and it is a great one.

*Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.*

All right. We have Amaziah. He became king. He did what was right, but not with a perfect heart because he had malice in his heart. He had malice in his heart towards somebody who had done something to his father. So when he got into the king, instead of acting kingly, instead of doing what kings are supposed to do, he takes revenge, and it leads to his downfall. Now here is the verse that goes along with that. "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due when it is in the power of thy hand to do it." That is an incredible concept and principle. Showing mercy and grace in situations where most of the world and God's people take a selfish revenge. The word "good," the word "goodness" are all derivatives of God. The greatest single aspect of your life and my life that proves our relationship with God is that when you have the power to make something right that God is going to get the honor and glory out of it, and not you going to get the honor and glory out of it, what do you do with it? What do you do with it? When it is in your

hand, when it is in your hand and the power you have to do good, do you withhold it or do you do it?

Now here is the bottom line. He does not take all the bad things out of his life. He leaves the high places in verse 4. The Baal worship is still going on, and when you keep one foot in the world and try to keep one foot in the church, and I am telling you, when you keep one foot in the world and try to keep one foot in the church, the world will always win. It will always win. We learned it from the book of Judges, "totally obey and utterly destroy."

We saw a woman in the New Testament one time that was the woman with the alabaster box. Remember that story where the Bible says she brought an alabaster box full of goodly ointment. The Bible says it was very costly. I heard a preacher preach on it one time, and he said that that alabaster box with that ointment in it probably cost her a year's salary of what she would have made in a year's time to buy that. Yet she brings that in, and there is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says she breaks that alabaster box, and she puts that oil all over His head, and it runs down, and it was a picture of Him being covered with the Holy Spirit of God. The Bible says the sweet smell went out from that, and everybody smelled it. It is a great picture of when you do the right thing, when good is in your hand. Hey, she could have kept that box to herself. The preacher preached that message, and it was a great message. He said, "You know what, it cost her a year of her life to make Him smell good for just a moment of time." When you and I have within our hands, of that woman, the chance to give God the honor and glory, she should have kept it. Some people there were upset because of the fact that it said, "What did she do that for? What a waste to put that on the Lord Jesus Christ. That could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor." Let me tell you something, you can give all your money to the poor and do everything in the world unless He is glorified. It is all a waste of time. She took that alabaster box, and she broke it, and she put it down over His head, and in that house the odor smelled, and the Bible says everybody smelled it. You know what the moral is? When you do what is right, when you have the chance to do what is right, to give God the honor and glory, everybody sees it, and God gets glorified from it, just like that odor went out from that precious ointment. These are the things that kings do. These are the ways that kings should run their kingdoms. These are the things that will determine whether you and I are a king in the millennium or not. "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due when it is in the power of thy hand to do it."

## VII. The Power of Preparation

Then we want to look at this last one. The last one is found in 2 Chronicles 27:1-6. This is Jotham, and we will be finished with this. This is a group I am going to end on today. I had some others today, but we will just finish up here.

*2 Chronicles 27:1-6 Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly. He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much. Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and*

*towers. He fought also with the king of the Ammonites, and prevailed against them. And the children of Ammon gave him the same year an hundred talents of silver, and ten thousand measures of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. So much did the children of Ammon pay unto him, both the second year, and the third. So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.*

Jotham was 25 years old when he began to reign, just like some of you. He reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was also Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah did, howbeit he entered not into the temple of the Lord, and the people did yet corruptly. He built the high gate of the house of the Lord, and on the wall of Ophel he built much. Moreover, he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forest he built castles and towers. He fought also the king of the Ammonites and prevailed against them, and the children of Ammon gave him that same year 100 talents of silver and 10,000 measures of wheat and 10,000 of barley. So much did the children of Ammon pay unto him both the second year and the third. Jotham, here it comes, here it comes, here it comes. So Jotham became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.

I want you to notice the key to his success was his preparation. God always requires preparation before you have success. Christian life is so simple, yet it is so out of reach for so many Christians, and here is the reason why: it is one word, preparation. Most of God's people will not prepare themselves.

*Psalm 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:*

Psalm 10:17 says, "Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear." You know what that verse says? It ought to be your prayer every day. Your prayer every day of God to prepare your heart because when God prepares your heart, that is when you hear what He has to say.

The contrast of that is over there in 2 Chronicles 12:14 with Rehoboam.

*2 Chronicles 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*

It says, "So King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. For Rehoboam was 41 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there, and his mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess." Here it comes, here it comes, verse 14, "And he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord."

*Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

Ezra chapter 7, verse 10, the great Ezra who leads the nation of Israel back, it says, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgment." Now if you ever want a little devotion to teach at your ball game, here it is. Ezra

7:10, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgment." Every little point outlined:

1. His preparation: he prepared his heart.
2. He just did not prepare his heart, he did what the book says. It says, "prepared his heart to seek the Lord and to do it."
3. He taught others.

Three aspects to your life and my life: your own preparation, you living then what you prepare, and then giving it to somebody else.

1 Chronicles 29, the end of David's life. You know we talked about David being a king after God's own heart. It is places like I am about to show you that give you the understanding why he is. It is really the key. You ought to read the great prayers of David. This is one of them. It picks up in verse 10 through 20. We are not going to read it all, but you ought to read this. But I want to draw your attention to verse 17 and 18. This as a pastor has always been my prayer for you as a church.

*1 Chronicles 29:17-18 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:*

He says, "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee." Here it comes. "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee."

The ministry and serving God has nothing to do with preparing your life, your body, or your family, but it all hinges on rather the preparation of your heart to do all of the Bible. I will give you one last verse, and then I am done today, and you will want to get this one. This is probably the greatest single verse in all of the Bible. I have seen this verse in operation in so many of your lives. In fact, Kim, this verse is exactly what happened to you yesterday when you did your devotion. It happened when you did yours, Kevin, and all of you young people step out. You did not even know it. I know it because my job is to know it and to watch it. But let me give you a great verse. You take this verse home with you today because it sums up everything. The last time I asked you, "Who sits on the throne of your life today?" You will be no service for God without preparation for God. My job is to prepare you.

Now watch this verse. This is the reason why somebody like that who a year ago could never have done it, did it, why Kevin could do it, why some of you younger ones this year have stepped out and done it and stepped up to the plate, down at the mission giving your testimony, telling me you are preaching for the first time or giving your testimony for the first time. Here is

the verse that you will want to take home and thank God because this is what God did in your life.

*Proverbs 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.*

You get that? "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord." When you prepare your heart to do what God wants you to do, when you prepare your heart to seek after the Lord, then God does His part, and the answer that comes out of your mouth is from Him. You prepare your heart, He gives you the words to say. You take the time to prepare your heart, you sit down and give a devotion, you may be scared, you may be nervous, but because you have prepared your heart, God speaks through you and gives you the words to say. That is how it works. It does not work any other way because the key to God is preparation, and in these kings, you will see ourselves. We will see the way we are, how do we do things for our own advantage, do we do things that are right but are not always perfect.

I think Romans chapter 12, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. You see, there is a will of God that is good but it is not perfect. There is a will of God that is not only good but it is acceptable, but it is not perfect. But then there is the will of God that you and your life, when you prepare your heart, that not only is just good, it is not only acceptable, but in God's sight, it is perfect. That is where you want to be. These kings of Israel show you the inside of where you and I live every day in our real relationship and the reality of the Word of God.

Every head bowed. We thank You today for the Word of God, and Lord, I, what an inadequate job to try to lay all of these things out. Lord, there is so much here. My stumble and my struggle is to decide what to say and what not to say with a warehouse of material. But Lord, Your Spirit has to be the one that takes these things, and it helps us see that the things and the struggles of the nation of Israel so many years ago were the same issues and struggles that we have today. The idols that we put in our heart, how we justify our lifestyle when in reality it is how do we deal with all of those things, Lord, and do not deal with them on the biblical concepts. Help us, Father, help us to look at these kings and everybody that we have looked at today and every message we have had, and to see that those things were written aforetime for our admonition and for our learning and for our instruction because the New Testament principles are illustrated in the lives of the Old Testament people. Thank You, Father. May we leave here richer today, more blessed today, and understanding the reality of life today, Father, that the Bible is nothing to trifle with. When it says to do what is right, then that is what we must do. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask of it. Amen. God bless you, you are dismissed.