

2 Timothy 2:15

Sunday 12/30/2012

I am excited about tomorrow night and this morning, because today is going to be our first installment on what we are going to do tomorrow night. God has developed this thing as I have prepared it and tried to show me and follow how He wanted me to do this. This week I got the idea that to do this right, to have a time where we could get the foundation down of what we are going to do tomorrow night, that it would be a great way. I was going to try to jam it all together, but this way I can give you everything that you need, and we can just spend tomorrow night on coming through the story of the Bible. You will already have had for a day or so all of this stuff to soak in.

I am excited. I always try to look for ways to help you learn the Bible, and I love your attitudes about learning the Bible. We have over 200 people signed up just for tomorrow night to come, and that is great. It is always a time where we get visitors to come, and they may not be in a church where they get the Bible and find it. It is always a great avenue, however we do it.

Today, as I told you Thursday night, what I want to do today is I want to give you the 10 basic, fundamental, foundational concepts by which the Bible is built on. The Bible is a grand picture of God and His plan from Genesis to Revelation. There is no question about that. Tomorrow night I am going to lay it all out for you in a way that probably you have never had it laid out. Certainly, my intent in all of that is for you to put together a syllabus of the Bible that in time you will transfer into your Bible. But right now, it will be something that if you do it the way it needs to be done, you will have everything you need to completely get a good concept and context of the entire Bible.

The Bible is a great picture of what God is doing, but no picture is really ready to hang and no picture is really complete until you get it into a frame. The frame is what makes the picture and makes it available to put up on a wall and look at. I was talking to my mom for Christmas, and my mind always goes back to, and I always talk to her about it, because as a child growing up, it was one of the fondest memories that I have, other than her hitting my head and my dad with a chair, which I thought was always good too.

Anyway, I got talking about it. I said, "Mom, do you remember?" I said, "I will never forget this. Every New Year's Eve, we would do our family, but we would stay home." Obviously, as little kids growing up, my sister and I, we waited for the midnight hour, and we have dented more pots and pans than they probably ever had. My dad would shoot his gun off and all those things. But before that, my mom would always traditionally start to put together one of those thousand-piece picture puzzles. You see them all the time, and you have the picture on the box of what it is. She would start, I remember as a little guy, she would start about eight o'clock, and I would wear out about 12:30. We would watch Guy Lombardo, he was a band guy that brought the big ball down in New York, and all that stuff. When I woke up in the morning, that picture was on that table, always done. I looked at that and never forgot that. It made such a real impression in my little life at that particular point in time.

Years later, I asked my mom, because I do not have the patience to do those. My idea is just to get a pair of scissors and cut it and make the pieces fit. Yet, that is the way a lot of people handle life. They will not put it together the way they need to. So their idea to make their life work is to get a pair of scissors and cut it to fit. It never works that way. I asked my mom, "What was the secret of doing that? I mean, you did it year after year after year, and I would be there for a thousand years trying to get it together."

She told me, "What you do, first of all, is you separate all the pieces. All the pieces that are the corner pieces, that are the flat ends, you put those all in a pile." She said, "If you started just trying to make the pieces fit, you would never get it done. But you start to build the framework of the picture. So you take all the flat end pieces, and you start framing that picture in. Once you get the framework in, then you basically work from that framework toward the middle, matching up the pieces. The more you get done, after a while," she said, "the picture starts to take shape. You know what you are looking for. Now it is really a lot easier to put the pieces in there because now you have got most of it completed. You know what the picture is. Now you know where the pieces go."

I thought about that years later when I was learning the Bible. I thought to myself, that was the smartest thing or the wisest thing that my mother ever told me, probably. She had no idea what she was saying. But when it comes to the Bible, that is exactly the same thing you have to do. I know that some of you here today have no interest in the Bible. I understand that. But I also know that there are some of you here that really want to learn the Bible. Many times, people who want to learn the Bible get frustrated because they never really get the ability to learn the Bible because they try to learn it the wrong way.

Many people, like me putting that picture together, they just jump in the Bible somewhere and try to sort it out from somewhere in the middle of the Bible. They will just get into the Bible wherever they think, and they will just try to put it all together. You cannot do it that way. You think a thousand-piece picture puzzle is confusing? That book is much more confusing than a thousand-piece picture puzzle. But the way to learn it is the same format. You have got to get the framework of the Bible first. You have got to get the outline that goes around the picture. You have got to get all the end pieces together so you begin to form up a framework. Once you get the framework in your mind, then you begin to work from the framework in, and as you learn the Bible, the picture of the Bible develops. You start to see what this is and what that is. It makes it a lot easier to learn your Bible.

What I want to do for you today is I want to give you the framework of the Bible. I want to give you the 10 things that are the basic framework of the scriptures. So today, in preparation for what we are going to do tomorrow night, I want to give you this incredible framework. I want you to let this sink in. These are the 10 things that, and I am not saying you have got to be able to explain all of these to know the Bible. No, no, no. I am not saying that now, in time, you will. What I am saying is you have to have these 10 things in the back of your mind before you start to get into your Bible. If you want to hang the Bible as God's picture of what God is doing in your heart, here is the frame you have got to put it in to be able to hang it. It is just that simple.

Now I want to show you what you need to do to get ready to maximize tomorrow night. I am going to go over it again.

➤ Step 1: You need to get your notebook set up in a 1, 2, 27 concept format like I told you before. You can either do that with a single page or you can do that with a double page. For some of you right now, a single page will be fine. For others of you who are a little deeper in the Word of God, a double page is going to be needed. You are going to mark that section one, section two, section three, all the way up to section 27.

➤ Step 2: I told you that the first eight pages you are going to leave blank. That is because we are going to put these 10 things in those eight pages. In other words, we are going to create a complete syllabus of an understanding of the Bible as it is a picture of what God is doing.

Tomorrow night when you get here and we start working through this, we have a long way to go tomorrow night and not a lot of time to get it done. I want to try to be done by 10:30, by no later than 11:00. But we have a long way to go. This is going to help me doing what I am doing today because I was going to do this tomorrow night, and I just thought, "Hey, no way it is going to happen." I wanted to devote tomorrow night for what it is. So I wanted to devote this morning to give you what you need as far as the structure is concerned.

What you want to do tomorrow night as I start to come through, I will give you the heading of every section. I will give you the heading of what this section is going to be about. You are going to write that by section one, section two, section three. Then I am going to come down and tell the story as we come through it, and I am going to give you all the main ingredients that you are going to get in that section. We are going to move to the next section. We are not going to move like, "Okay, section one," and then I will tell section two. We are going to flow through a storyline. I will simply remind you that now we are moving into section two, and this is what you need to know about our story in section two. You are going to write it down.

I have got to move through it tomorrow night. You are not going to be able to raise your hand and say, "Could you give me that reference again?" You are not going to be able to stop and say, "Could you clarify that?" No, no, no. Look, when I get in my groove and I get, you do not want to get my mind derailed. When I am getting into telling a story and I want to stay on track, you ask me a question about, and somebody sure enough will say, "I was reading last week, why is a barley two parts of an ephah or something like that?" We are going to stay with the story.

Obviously, one of the steps in this is to get the tape from today and get the tape from tomorrow night. I suggest you do this: in those little white folders, those little paper things, I would go ahead and glue a part one in today in the front, and then glue the one in the back. So it is always in your syllabus. Obviously, what you are going to have to do is you are going to go back through these, and I am going to basically give you the headings, give you the people, give you

the events, and then you are going to come back, go over it again where you can spend more time. You are going to put the detail in.

I worked over 200 hours on this. If you are not willing to put in five or 10 hours on your own, what are you even doing here today? It is a thing where you are going to have to do your work. I have done most of the work for you, but if you think you are just going to sit, I realize in every group of people, you have people who are determined, you are going to do it. You have people who are going to try to say, "I am going to do it," and about halfway through it, you will never finish it. You will have one to say, "Oh, I got all I need." That is okay. But out of this, if you do what I am telling you to do, you are going to have in your hand a complete understanding syllabus from the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, with the 10 structural things that you have got to remember.

In time, you are going to want to move all this into your Bible, but not today, not tomorrow, maybe not for a while. It does not matter. You are going to have it here. Then what you can do is once a month, every other month, whatever you need to, you just get that out and you have got reading it. You can read it in an hour, a half hour, 40 minutes, and you keep your mind fresh on every concept, every event, and everything the way the Bible lays out. I am going to give you every, I am going to not only tell you the story of the Bible, I am going to give you every major event. I am going to give you every major person. I am going to give you many of the types. I am going to show you every sequence of the Bible story as it unfolds from Genesis to Revelation in the right order with every event in the right sequence. So you understand exactly how it flows through the Bible.

By the end of the night, you do your work on it, I would say by the end of the month, you will have the Bible down, and you will grow light years as far as where you are at with the Bible today. The end result will be obviously the complete notebook and study guide to your own Bible. That is really what you will want to accomplish. That is what you want to do.

Now, I want to start coming through this, and these are the 10 fundamental things you need to know. When I read my Bible, no matter where, when somebody asks me a question, these 10 things are always in the back of my mind. I cannot expect you to immediately get them in the back of your mind, but I am telling you right now, these 10 things need to go in your Bible. You can put those in next week. It would be nice if you had them in by tomorrow night, but I know some of you are going to watch the Chiefs play today, so for whatever reason. But you need to get these down because when I get into the book, here is where I start. These are the things that frame the Bible.

I. 1.) God's Three Distinct Plans

When it comes to the Word of God, God has three distinct plans weaving its way through the Bible. We think the Bible is just, "Oh, it is the plan of God." Yes. No, no, no. God has three distinct plans, weaving its way through that scripture from Genesis to Revelation. You are going to find that first of all, God has a plan for the universe. He created it, so there is some purpose to it. Now these three plans are separate, but they are all connected.

God has a plan for the universe. You are going to find that defined over there in Isaiah 9:7, where it says:

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

God had a reason and God has a plan why He created the universe. Now, the second plan that comes through that Bible is that God has a plan for the earth. It is a separate plan from the universe, but the earth is connected in the universe. So, they are connected, yet they are separate. Now you are going to find the reason for that in Isaiah 45:18. The Bible says that when God created the earth and formed the earth, He had a plan. The plan was that it was going to be inhabited.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Then you have the third plan coming through the Bible: God has a plan for you and me. Just as sure as God had a reason why He created the universe, just as sure as God had a reason why He created earth, just as surely God had a plan why He created you and me. This is found in Ephesians 2:7, where it says:

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

You see, God created the universe. He put the earth in the universe. Then He put me and you on the earth, three distinct plans. They are all connected together. God had a plan for you. He had a plan for the earth, so He puts you in the earth. He had a plan for the universe, so He put the earth in this universe. Not understanding those three and not figuring it out, there is a reason God made our universe. There is a reason God put our earth in the universe. There is a reason why God put man on the earth in this universe in the way that He did.

The earth is special. It is the only planet directly mentioned in the Bible with something God is going to do. It is the only planet named by God. You notice all the other planets, they are all named after pagan Roman gods: Mercury, that is the messenger; Venus, that is the love god; Mars, god of war. You might know God has a sense of humor. We all want to marry the Venus. She always wants to marry the man. But Venus and Mars are so close together that one represents the woman, the other represents the man. One is war, the other one is sexuality. It shows you when you get married, it is going to be a war. That is how it works.

You have Jupiter, king of the planets, biggest planet in our solar system. You have Jupiter. You have Saturn. Saturn is the god of sowing or the god of seed. You have Uranus, that is the sky god. You have Neptune, that is the sea god. That planet way, way, way out there that is the farthest one out is called Pluto, which was the god of the underworld. They are all named after Roman gods. There is only one planet that God named. He called it Earth in Genesis 1. He never named the other ones. You know why? Because His main plan is going to be focused on the one that He named. That is why. So He left the other ones to all the pagans.

I realize that only two planets are directly mentioned in your Bible. One of them is Earth in Genesis 1. The other one is Jupiter in Acts 19. When you get through the Bible, you are going to find that one represents what God is doing, the other one represents what the devil is doing. So, the first thing you have got to know is that God has three distinct plans. When you look at the Bible, tomorrow night, you will see it more clearly. I am just telling it to you now. When we are done tomorrow night, all 10 of these things, they are just going to be like crystal, because we are going to look at them, and I am going to remind you of them as we are coming through.

II. 2.) God's Two Main People Groups

In the Bible, God has two main people groups. You have got to remember this. God has two main people groups. The world is basically made up of Gentiles when it starts. Out of that group of Gentiles, God calls two people groups. In the Old Testament, He calls the nation of Israel out, and the Jewish nation comes out of the Gentiles with Abraham. There is your group in the Old Testament. When we come into the New Testament and God is temporarily finished with the nation of Israel, what He does then is He brings about a body of people out of the Gentiles, and He makes them the church.

So now we have two main people groups by which God is going to accomplish His plan. In the Old Testament, He is going to do it through the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, He is going to do it through the church. God's plan unfolds through these two groups. Tomorrow night, I am going to show you how it happens. Tomorrow night when we are done, right now, you are just writing it down. It probably does not mean a lot to you. Tomorrow night when I am done, these 10 things will just be illuminated. You will understand it better. But you see, you have got to have them before you approach the Bible. If I just get up and tell you the story of the Bible and I did not put it in a framework, it would not mean anything to you. Tomorrow night when we come through it, you will find me bouncing back and forth in the story with all of these 10 things and showing you how they work.

III. 3.) Similar Processes for Both Groups

The third thing that you want to remember is that as you go through the Bible, you are going to find that these two groups, the Jewish nation of Israel and the church, they both go through a similar process. They are really, really, really similar in a lot of ways. I know one is in the Old Testament on the law, the other one is in the New Testament on grace. I understand that. But there is a lot of similarities when you are coming through the Bible, looking at the Bible and what God is doing in God's three plans.

Both the nation of Israel and both the church go through a five-point process.

1. Both of them have a time when they are formulated by God in the Bible.
2. Both have a time when they are then called out by God in the Bible.
3. They both have a time then that they are established by God in the Bible.
4. Both of them have a point where they begin to fall apart and they go into a demise in the Bible.
5. Both of them get to a point where they are totally destroyed and in apostasy in the Bible.

One of the greatest, simplest things you will ever find about the Bible. You see, the Bible is not complicated. The reason why it is complicated is because you have got a thousand-piece picture puzzle and you are just trying to put all the pieces together. When you get really frustrated or you get some man's book that does not believe the Bible, all he does when you buy his book is give you a pair of scissors. No, no, no. You start with the Bible, the way God gave it to you, believing as it is, and then get the framework. This is the framework. Understanding this and in time being able to lay it out and follow it through the Bible is invaluable. After tomorrow night, you will. You will be able to follow it through. If you do what I am telling you to do with this, if you really want to learn the Bible, you just give God about two weeks of your time and really nail it down after we are done. I guarantee you, you will have it. You will have it so far ahead of where you are at right now that you do not even know where it is at.

IV. 4.) Three Major Events

The fourth thing, when you start coming through the plan of the Bible and laying the Bible out, you are going to find three major events that will begin to unfold in our story. The whole Bible wraps itself around these three events.

6. The first one is the first coming of Christ.
7. The second event will be the second coming of Christ.
8. The third one will be the millennial reign of Christ.

These three events will lay at the heart of the overall plan of God. Overall, when you look at the Bible as God's plan and we are working through our story, our goal is to get to the three places: the first coming, second coming, and the millennium. Everything in your Bible moves toward that direction. The quicker you learn that and get a hand on it, the better off you are going to be. The establishment is for God to come down here and shut this thing down and then set this thing up the way He wants it to run.

You know that is on everybody's mind. I do not know if you know it or not or how much you think about it, but the Bible is such a powerful book that it not only drives you and me as saved people who love it, but it also drives unsaved people who do not love it. Because if that book is absolute truth, and I do not say that with any doubt in my own mind, not only are you and I in our lives relative to it, but every unsaved man on this planet and woman is bound to it. That is why no matter what they believe or what they say, unsaved men and women always follow the Bible. They may not follow it right, but that is an absolute standard of life that you just go through, you just do.

Everybody is afraid now of the end of the world. Do you notice that? Everybody was afraid the Mayans were going to be right. I was upset that they were wrong. But everybody was paranoid. Some people made jokes of it. They made jokes of it because deep down inside, they are 20th century modern educated men. They really do not want to believe that. So they laugh about it, but deep down inside, you know what the inner fears are? What if it is right?

We all like *The Walking Dead*. Well, okay. We do not all like *The Walking Dead*. Those who like *The Walking Dead* stand with me today. Okay, good. Hey, did anybody find out when that is coming downtown? We are going to go to the Athol, we are going to go to the, see that *Walking Dead* thing. If we need to go down in a *Walking Dead* place. Now, I am not talking about First Baptist or Raytown, I am talking about the other place. Just kidding.

Do you ever notice how in the last five, 10 years, the zombie apocalypse movies are so popular? I mean, can you list them off? *Night of the Living Dead*, *Children of the Night of the Living Dead*, *The Walking Dead*, *The Dawn of the Dead*, *The Day of the Dead*. Now we have a whole series that has captivated everybody. It is probably one of the most popular things called *The Walking Dead*. It is all about one thing: the end of the world as we know it, and dead people arising and walking and the zombie apocalypse. Now, if you know your Bible, you know exactly what that is. That is Revelation chapter 9. That is the Tribulation period.

Everybody is worried about it. Everybody expects it. Everybody is afraid the end of the world is coming. Men who do not believe the Bible can feel the spirit of what is happening around them and not understand it. The spirit around us is very quickly, the world is going to come to an end. If we are not worried about the zombies, we are worried about being hit by an asteroid or a comet. We spend billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars with scientists, with their telescopes and all that stuff, plotting the courses of asteroids out there. From time to time, they say, "Well, we have got to have a near miss." Now, a near miss to them is 200,000 miles. To them, that is a near miss. But they are paranoid. They are worried about it. They even thought in the past that a meteor killed the dinosaurs. They even said, "Spend millions of dollars a year tax money, go down into Central America and say, 'Oh, we found a big hole. This is where it hit.'" No, no, no. The big hole is up here, not down there.

The whole world is afraid that the end is coming. They do not understand it. They do not know why. But it is a spirit that permeates everything. The people who make the movies fall right into it. The people who write the articles fall right into it. The science who hate God and reject the Bible fall right into it. The problem is it is going to end. They just do not have the right way it is going to end. I have always thought it was humorous. I get humor out of a lot of things. I always thought that they spent hundreds and billions and trillions and billions and trillions of dollars trying to figure all this thing out, and you can go to Kmart and buy one of these for a dollar and get the answer. I always thought that was hilarious.

But you see it every day. Everybody knows today, whether they want to admit it or not, that something is coming. They are smart enough to know, even in their stupidity, that this earth cannot take much more. They are smart enough to know, even if they are not saved, that there is only a limit that something can take. We have about stretched planet earth about as far as she can

be stretched, and she is about ready to snap back. I am telling you the whole Bible and the whole history of man as the Bible unfolds is about the first coming of Christ. They crucified Him there. The second coming of Christ, they will not crucify Him there. And in the millennial reign of Christ. That is what it is all about.

V. 5.) The Theme of the Bible: The Second Coming of Christ

The theme of the Bible in conjunction with number four will be the second coming of Christ. This is where most Christians get off track because most Christians think that the most precious day on the planet is the day that Jesus came down and died for them. Now I understand that, but I must tell you with that that is very shallow reasoning and thinking on somebody's part. You are talking to somebody who is thankful every day, every second of the day, would give God praise and honor and glory every micro-minute second of the day for the fact that Christ came down and died for me. But I am bigger than that. I understand the Bible is a larger picture than that.

I am telling you right now, the greatest day on my calendar is the day that Christ came down and died for me. But the greatest day on God's calendar is not that day. People are kind of selfish. You think the greatest day on God's calendar is when He sent His son to the world and man took Him and beat Him and put stripes on His back and hung Him on a cross and put nails on Him and spit in His face and pulled His beard out and kicked Him down the road and put Him under a burden of a heavy cross and then finally killed Him? You think that is God's grand day? That is my grand day because He did that for me. That is my grand day.

God's grand day is going to be the day His son comes back and walks through that eastern gate and the whole world falls down on their feet. God's great day is when He comes back and that sharp two-edged sword comes out of His mouth and every liberal, every sinner, everybody who stood against God, everybody who educated himself against God's word has to fall down at His feet and His son sits on His throne and He is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. That is the day.

That day is so popular in the Bible and the Old Testament is talked about over 1,200 times. You find it called "the day of the Lord," "the Lord's day," "that day," "the day," "the day of visitation." That is not Tuesday night when they come to see you from church. When He comes on that day of visitation, He stays a while.

Two days in your Bible, you have got to get down. One revolves around God, one revolves around Christ. I am going to show them to you tomorrow night in the story. They are in the story.

9. The first one is the day of the Lord. That is God's day. That is when God brings His son back and sets Him up on the throne. That is the day of the Lord, God's day.
10. The second day you are going to find is the day of Jesus Christ or sometimes called the day of Christ. That is the rapture of the church. That is Christ's day.

At the day of the Lord, the first day, that is the second coming. The day of Christ, that is when Christ comes for His bride. That is the rapture. You have got to keep them straight. That phrase

about "the day of the Lord" or phrases, will set the context of probably over 3,000 verses in your Old Testament. Whenever you start reading your Bible and you find "the day of the Lord cometh" this or "the day of Lord" or "that day," you need to mark it down. Put a little note in it: "Context, second coming." It will clear up three or four thousand verses right now if you just know that. You do not have to raise your hand on Thursday night and say, "What does this verse mean?" There it is. "The Lord's day," "that day," "in that day," "the day of the Lord."

VI. 6.) Establishment of Two Kingdoms

The sixth thing. In conjunction with number five and number four, you have with the second coming of Christ and you have with the Lord's coming, you have the establishment of two kingdoms in your Bible. You have got to understand. I do not care what church you go to. If I had time, I would just send you out this afternoon and go to some other church and after the service, after the pastor, just ask him one simple question. Ask him what is the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. If you go to another church, ask your pastor next week. Ask him what the difference is between the kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven. Nine times out of ten, they are going to, ten times out of ten, they are going to tell you that they are the same.

That is the standard mindset because people who do not know their Bible. That is the standard mindset who try to take this gigantic picture puzzle of a hundred million pieces and just jump in the middle and try to make the pieces fit, and when they cannot, then they get a pair of scissors. When you put the framework to it and you understand these 10 framework fundamental concepts of the Bible, you will come away understanding that there is a difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven, just like there is a difference between the nation of Israel and the body of Christ.

Now I am going to make a very complicated study very basic today, and what I am saying is true, but there are a lot of ramifications to it. We do not have to worry about today, but let me say this. When you find the kingdom of heaven in the Bible, it will always be dealing with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. When you find the kingdom of God, it will be a kingdom that deals with the New Testament and deals with the church. Now I know there are other ramifications to that, but let us not get there today. Let us just start with what we can know.

If you want a definition of the kingdom of heaven, you will find it in the book of Matthew, 52 times in the book of Matthew. He talks about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven will always be to Israel. The kingdom of heaven will be what God wants to establish with Israel when He comes at the second coming in the millennium. The kingdom of heaven will be the literal, visible presence of the nation of Israel in the land that God gave them with Jesus Christ on the throne, established when Christ comes back as a political kingdom.

Now most people do not grasp that the Bible first and foremost is a political book. It is really a political handbook. People always say there are two things you do not talk about, and that is religion and politics. That is because you do not understand either. You cannot talk about God without talking about politics because God setting up His kingdom is a political system. It is a

political system. Our founding fathers understood that to some degree because when they founded this country, they founded it on biblical principles to the format that they created a republic. It was not until much later that they turned that republic and threw it out and made it into a democracy. Our country was formed as a republic based on the idea found in the Bible of a republic because they knew that the best system was God's system. They also knew that even though as mortal men in the 1700s, they could not bring in God's kingdom, they would establish one that was as close to it as they could. Boy, has that ever changed.

Now the kingdom of God on the other hand will be the spiritual kingdom for the church. You want the definition of that. You will find that in Romans 14:17 and Luke 17:21. The Bible tells you that the kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom that is inside you. That is the difference. The pastor or Christian or whoever, Bible teacher, whoever he may fancy himself to be that tells you they are the same, I will tell you one thing about him before you go any farther: he knows nothing about the Bible. If you do not have that one, I mean you may scoot by with some of the other ones. If you do not have that one settled in your mind, you will never go anywhere because that is probably the most major issue that you have to understand to be able to divide out your Bible. We are told the Bible says by Paul, he told young Timothy that we are to rightly divide the word of truth.

When you got saved, the moment you were saved and born again, you were born into a kingdom. That kingdom is the kingdom of God. That kingdom of God is righteousness, peace in the Holy Ghost. It is what you were saved into the moment you trusted Christ as your personal savior, and it reigns inside you today. That is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of heaven has nothing to do with you. The kingdom of heaven is when God comes back and sets up His kingdom to Israel, which we reign with Christ over them. Both kingdoms are here at the same time when Christ comes back, but both kingdoms are different. I told you there are two people groups in the Bible. There is Israel and the church. So what would make you think He would not have two kingdoms for each of them? And He does. One for the literal group, Israel, one for the spiritual group, the church.

You are going to find that every issue in news today, every issue in the last 6,000 years, man's history has been over one issue. That is the issue that when push comes to shove, who is going to run it? In other words, authority. That is the main, I mean, you could just take everything in life and everything in man's problems and everything that you and I get into. It comes down to that one word. I could preach that one word until Jesus comes back, and I would cover every mess and every circumstance and every problem people ever get into. I would cover every problem that the world gets into. You know why countries go to war? Because at the end of the day, it comes down to who is going to tell what to do, who is going to be the final authority. You can have lots of authorities, but you can only have one final authority.

Many of you have been in Bible studies where they have all the different translations of the Bible. Their idea of a Bible study is to sit around in a circle, read the passage of scripture, and they will say, "Now, Darren, what do you think it means? Kim, what do you think it means? Pam, who cares what you think it means? John, what do you think it means? Kevin, what do you think it means? Honey, what do you think it means?" Then after it is all done, everybody says,

"Was not that a wonderful time?" There is a word, a buzzword that I hate that is in Christianity today: "sharing." "We all shared the word of God together." No, no, all you had was one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight authorities. When it comes to church, really, when it comes to anything, you do not need eight authorities when it comes to the word of God. You just need one authority. I mean, I love you all, but who cares what he thinks, she thinks, he thinks, he thinks, he thinks, she thinks, she thinks, and he thinks when it comes to what He thinks.

That is the problem in the world today. The problem in the world is nobody wants to submit to any authority. You know what the problem is in your life? Well, you have problems. You will not submit to any authority. Your children grow up, they give you problems. You know why? Because they will not want to submit to authority. Now, maybe it is your fault because you are a bad authority, but that is the problem. You do not do what is right with God. You will not do what the Bible says to do. You come and hear me preach or any other preacher here, you hear week after week after week. You know what? You do absolutely nothing with it. You laugh at it. You make fun of it. You think it is a joke. You know why? It is not that you are a bad person. It is the fact that you reject authority. Authority is the problem. Always has been. That is why countries go to war. That is why we have the issues we have. That is why our country is in the mess that it is.

You see, there was a time when our country was founded on the final authority. Look what happened. You can see it is so simple. Everybody does not like the guns in school, people being murdered in school, the drugs in school. We have got to pass condoms out in school. We have got to do all of these things. Well, you know what? What do you expect when you take the Word of God and the Bible and prayer out of them? If you are going to get rid of that authority, do you think not some other authority is going to come in?

I deal with a lot of issues in life over the years, a lot of problems in life. I see a lot of people. I am going to tell you right now, you can deal with what you want to do with it. There is no plan for your life better than the plan God has got for you. Some of you, in spite of that, will absolutely do nothing with what I just said. You know what your problem is? Authority. How do you know that? Because I know what my problem was the first 19 years of my life. It was authority. I know what God had to do to break my neck to change that attitude toward that authority. At the end, God in His Word will be that final authority that begins these two political kingdoms. You will see it tomorrow night when we tell the story. We will lay it out very, very auspiciously for you. We searched that word, John, to find out what it means. I hope I did not say something wrong.

VII. 7.) The Devil as a Created Being

Now, here is a great one. This is something most people never think about. This one is about some of your best friends. This is about the devil. The devil was a created being. He was a created being. But the real key is there that he is created by God for a specific purpose. We get the idea because we do not know the framework. We get the idea because we do not really understand the Bible. We get the idea because we get in the middle with a pair of scissors trying to figure it out. We get the idea because we do not want to put ourselves to any authority. This

thing with God and the devil is like a ping pong game. God is up for a while, now the devil is up for a while. This is why we ask the question, "Why did God let that happen?" You know what you are saying when you say that? It looks like the devil won. "Why would God do that?"

I do not ever say anything because I realize where a lot of people come from. My job is to help people. But when a person says something like that, all they are doing, they might as well go out and rent a billboard and say, "I know nothing about the Bible. I know nothing about God because I am asking a stupid question as to why God would do that." The answer is God did not do that. I see little babies that die early, and somebody says, "Why would God let that happen?" God did not let that happen. God did not do that. God's original plan was a perfect place and a perfect garden where there was no death. We brought it in. Then when it happens, "Why did you do that, God?"

You know, it is a good thing I am not God. Because after, I would have added one more day. I would have just backed everything up and had one more day. It might have thrown the whole chronology off of the Bible, but it would have been worth it. On that last day, we made the stars, He made the galaxy, He made the planets, He made all the beautiful things, the moon. I would have made one last thing. That would have been a gigantic goalpost. "So why would you do that if you were God?" Kick you through it. Kick myself through it a couple of times.

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

See that thing? Now that tells you for time and eternity that the devil was part of God's plan. We get this idea that the devil threw a revolt against God, and God walked out and God says, "Oh, what am I going to do now? He is going to mess everything up. Oh, God. Can't you angels do something? I mean, I agree. Michael, where are you at? Why can't you go with this guy? I mean, I made him, he was everything. I gave him this, I gave him that. I made him Lucifer. I made him Son of the Morning. I gave him everything he wanted. And this is what he did to me. Now what am I going to do?" That is what we do. God knew at the beginning exactly what was going to happen because he is part of God's plan. God at first tells you that he was created for a purpose. See, when you get these 10 things, boy, the whole Bible just kind of shapes up. He was created for the day of evil. I do not have time to get into that today, but that is a good study in itself.

He was created to give man the alternative whether to go with God or not in God's overall plan. God gave us when He created us a free will. I know the Calvinists want to take that away from you, but then when was ever a Calvinist who knew anything about the Bible? When God created man, He gave you a free will. It is very important that He gave you a free will because that is part of God's plan. God uses the devil and all that he does to help establish His plan no matter how it looks down here to us when we do not know the Bible.

I will give you a couple of great illustrations. Last Thursday night, somebody asked a good question out of Revelation 12 and 13. It was a great question. Once you get out of chapter 12 and 13 of the book of Revelation, it is how much the devil hates the nation of Israel. He hates Israel. I am going to tell you why tomorrow night. You will figure it out in the story. He hates Israel. He

disdains the nation of Israel. All through his world, he has one goal, and that is to destroy the nation of Israel.

Around 589 BC, when Israel had gotten into apostasy and gotten into a mess, the devil was just licking his chops because he knew that he had brought in Baal worship. He had brought in everything. He had brought in all the nations. Now he was going to bring Sennacherib from the king of Assyria, Babylon down to the Southern tribes from Nebuchadnezzar. He was going to finally, finally, finally do what he had tried to do. Wait until I show you tomorrow night. One, two, three after the other. But at this case, he says, "I have got it made. I am going to send my boy, Sennacherib down to the north. I am going to bring my guy Nebuchadnezzar up from the south. We are going to wipe that nation of Israel. I am going to put him in bondage, and there will never be anything again." That was his plan.

Sennacherib came down and Nebuchadnezzar came in. God says, "You know what? I know you want to destroy them. I know these are your boys. These boys are going to be your boys that try to do what you want to do to wipe them out. So, you know what? I am just going to use your boys to give them a good whipping. When I am tired of it and I am done with it, you know what I am going to do? I am going to kill your two boys, and I am going to replace those nations. The nations you bring after them, I am going to wipe them out. The nations you bring after them, I am going to wipe them out. At the end of the day, there is only one nation that is going to stand. That is the one you think you are going to wipe out. You know why? Because you just think you are in charge."

You know what happened? Where the devil thought he was going to wipe them out, he did not wipe them out because they are God's people. God just used the devil to give them a good whipping when they needed it. I will tell you another one. Around the turn of the century, the devil sees Israel is coming back. "Ooh, Israel is, everybody is looking around, they are feeling sorry for them. They do not have, they are displaced people. They do not have a land. I better do something. People are starting to look around and say, 'We have got to help them.'" So he says, "I have got to find me another man. Oh, I have got him. Here he is. I will get me that old Austrian corporal that was gassed in World War I, one Iron Cross, first and second class. Adolf Schicklgruber Hitler. That is who I will get." You know, the guy goes around with a happy day, big smile. "I am going to get the guy I will get."

He said, "You know what I will do with him? I will get him to write a book that will become the Bible for his nation. It is going to be called *Mein Kampf*, which means 'my struggle.' In that Bible that he is going to write, he is going to tell all his people that the reason why Europe has got the problems that it has got and the reason why Germany has got the depression that it has got is because of that Jew. I will get him to put him in Treblinka, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Nordhausen, and I will get him to murder him, murder him, murder him, murder him, and murder him by the millions. I will wipe him off the planet."

At the end of World War II, when he was defeated, there were only 8 million Jews left on this planet. That was his plan. But he is part of God's plan. God says, "Okay, your plan is to wipe him out. My plan is to bring him back as a nation. I think I will just let you help me do that. Because

by the time you are done with him in World War II, when I get done with everything that happens, they are going to have more sympathy for him. You just tried to wipe him out from '39 to '45." Well, guess what happened in '47? They became a nation again. Thank you very much. He is just part of the plan.

Now, if you are smart enough, spiritual enough, and can make the spiritual leap from that into your own life, you are going to solve every problem that comes in your face with the same thing. The devil cannot hurt you. He cannot touch you. I told you many, many times, God may have a message for you, and He wants to use the devil as the delivery boy to give you the message. We get so paranoid with the delivery boy at the front door, we never get the message. You have got to get the Bible. You have got to understand the devil is a created being. He is created for a purpose, and God uses him. He uses him.

VIII.8.) The Bible's Story as a Parenthesis in Eternity

Now, I personally, I think this is the one that is the key to the whole Bible myself. But we are going to get into it more in a good way, graphic way. Number eight is the story of the Bible is nothing more than a parenthesis in eternity. What you have got here is this: eternity goes on both sides forever, but God had a plan. So what God did in His plan in eternity, and everybody knows what a parenthesis is, that is those half circles that you block something out with. So you have got eternity past, present, or past, future. Right in the middle of that someplace, you have got a parenthesis that God put in eternity, and He put in time. That time runs 7,000 years. During that time period, God enacts part of His plan.

You see, we get so caught up that we get all hung up on what is inside the parentheses. That is where most of God's people live, especially today. Inside those parentheses is our human life. Our human life in that parentheses is about one thing. It is about giving you the choice, you choosing or not choosing through your own free will to be part of God's eternal plan when He picks it back up again. What God simply did is He gave everything He created a choice. Before He made that parentheses in time, He gave the devil a choice. He was a cherub. There were five cherubs. Now there are only four because one of them left. That is Lucifer, the devil. But He gave the cherubims a choice. He obviously gave the seraphim, they connected with the altar of God, a choice. He gave the angels a choice because the Bible says that a third of them left and went with the devil.

So now when He, you see, God will not force you to love Him. People say, "Well, why would God let somebody make a terrible bad choice in their life that is a Christian?" Because when you do not, He already told you how to live your life. If you reject that book, do you actually think He is going to come down and impose His word over you? No. Life is about choices. How many times do I tell you that? You choose to be a bozo. You stay a bozo. You get saved and you choose to live like hell, do what you want to do, chase the women, drink the beer, do the stuff the world does. That is your choice. Be not deceived. God is not mocked. See, but it is your choice. His choice was different. Your problem is, can we go back to the former one? Authority.

You know what the devil said? The devil said, "I do not care if you are God. I am going to do what I want to do. I am going to do the way I want to do it. I am going to set my throne above the stars of God. I am going to ascend up into heaven and show you who is boss." Shoot, that is no big deal. Some of you say that every day to God. Oh, I am so sorry for deviating from story and getting into preaching.

From Genesis to Revelation in this parentheses called time with eternity on the ends. Before eternity starts up, God says, "I want to have a creation of sinless beings that love Me, worship Me, and want to fellowship and spend eternity with Me. But I am not going to force them. I am not concocting look potion number nine here. I am not good. They are going to have to make the choice. Yes, I will come down. I will die for them. I will give them everything. I will not hurt them. But in the final analysis, it is their choice." That is what He did.

Here comes back to one and two. In the Old Testament, He gave them that choice through who now? Help me. In the Old Testament, He gave them that choice through His established people, who? Israel. In the New Testament, He gives them that choice through His established people, who? The church. Oh, you have got to go as dumb as you look. Genesis to Revelation is simply the plan of God has been put into play. Before eternity starts in the real plan that God master plan, this is just a sub-plan. He wants to give everything that He created the choice to choose before eternity. He picks it all back up again to be part of Him. So He gave the cherubim, the seraphim, the angels, and He gives man. The Old Testament, He does it through Israel. The New Testament, through the church.

At the end of Revelation 21 and 22, in God's mind, He has got what He wants now. To His mind, it is satisfied, the sin question dealt with. In God's mind, Revelation 22, when the heavens scroll away and there was no new heaven or new earth, He picks up His plan that He always intended, and the parentheses of time goes away. Now we move into eternity, except this time God has everybody that He created has made their own choice. Now forever I will be with the one who died for me. What a day, what a glorious day that will be by my choosing, by my choosing.

Do you not know that is going to be a tough day for some of you? Do you not know that is going to be hard for you to knuckle down up into heaven when you had knuckle down down here? Do you not know you will rebuke the authority of the word of God down here and did your own thing? Do you not know heaven is going to be a strange place for you? All through this thing, going back to number seven, you know what he does? He uses the devil as the alternative choice. He uses the booze as an alternative choice. He uses sex as the alternative choice. He uses drugs as the alternative choice. He uses riches and lifestyle and all the fun things that we love to do with the eternal joy.

You see, the devil thinks he shows you what a good time is right now by boozing and drinking and having a great time and carousing and doing all the things you do. He paints that as a great fun time. That is because you are stupid when you fall for it because you do not get in the book, and God will show you what a real fun time is. But it starts after Revelation 22. How stupid some of you are to give up that fun time for the piddly little fun time you have got now. You are a

fool. I say that with all the grace and love of my heart, but you are a fool. You are a fool. You are a fool.

The devil will deceive you. I have told you before, he paints every picture of this world like this is really life. This is what it is all about. This is real life. Going to church and the Bible is so boring. Man, come on, let us go booze it up. Let us go drink. Let us go here. Let us go this. Let us do all this. Let us do what we want. You think that is life. You have no idea what God has for you out there, what He has created for you, and the price that He paid to give it to you. I might as well be speaking into a hundred-mile-an-hour headwind with most of God's people. Your problem is not me. Your problem is not church. Your problem is not anything. Your problem is one thing: authority. You are going to be your own authority over God's authority, come hell or high water. The devil is used of God, and the story of the Bible is simply one of a parenthesis in eternity. In that 7,000-year period before it all starts up again, you will see it tomorrow night. We will walk with all of this now. We are going to walk through tomorrow night hand in hand, and you are going to say, "Oh golly gee, oh wow, oh wow, look at that. Oh wow, this is all going to come falling into place for you." If you get these 10 things, just 10. You go to Bible college, you spend \$40,000, you get a thousand things. Come here and spend nothing and just love the book. You get what it really is. Just 10, 10, 10. That is what he does.

IX. 9.) One Day with the Lord Equals a Thousand Years

Then the ninth thing. This one sets the timeline for the Bible. Everybody needs a timeline. That chart up there on the wall is a timeline. It is a very good timeline. We will use that tomorrow night. But the Bible says in number nine, what they want to put down here is the heading is "One Day with the Lord Equals a Thousand Years." You will find this in 2 Peter 3:8. Again, I think it is absolutely vital. He says in 2 Peter 3:8:

2 Peter 3:8-10

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

He says, "beloved be not ignorant of this one thing that one day with the Lord is a thousand years." That is a great key in your Bible. It basically says that man is going to be on this planet for 6,000 years, and then the Lord is going to come back and reign the 7,000th year in the millennium. That is what it says. You notice it is connected to the second coming of Christ. You see it back in Genesis. In Genesis 1, if you are paying attention, of course most people do not pay attention.

Genesis 1:5 on the first day, what does he say? He says, "The evening and the morning were the first day." In Genesis 1:8, when he does all the stuff the second day, he winds up saying, "The evening and the morning were the second day." When he gets into verse 13 and he does all that, then he says at the end of that one, "The evening and the morning was the third day." When he gets into verse 19 and does all of that, then he says in verse 19, "The evening and the morning were the fourth day." When he gets to the next day and does all that he does, he says in verse 23, "The evening and the morning were the fifth day." When he gets down there and does all he does on that day, then in verse 31 he says again, "The evening and the morning were the sixth day." But when he gets to the seventh day, he does not say there is any evening and the morning. You know why? Because that is a picture of what 2 Peter 3 just told you. Man is going to be on this earth 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000, 5,000, 6,000, with a day and a night, and then the 7,000th year when Christ comes back, that is the eternal day, there is never any nighttime again. That is some book you have got there. No evening and the morning on the seventh day, that is the eternal day.

Now, that is one of the greatest single things that lay out the timeline of the Bible. What does the devil do? The devil comes up with all the scientific evolution and all the facts, and you try to tell anybody who is educated and unsaved or even a lot of saved them, you try to tell them that man has only been on this planet for 6,000 years and the Lord is coming back, they are going to look at you like you are a three-headed monkey, and they are going to laugh at you and laugh you out of the place. You know why? Because the devil has done his work. He always does his work. Wait until I show you the work that he did tomorrow night coming down through history. But he always does his work. Why? He has been out there for almost 4, 5, 6,000 years, fighting the idea that evolution is true, that man has been here for 40,000 years and that the earth has been here for 100 million years. He said, "Look at the dinosaur. Where do you put the dinosaur?" I know where to put the dinosaur. Where do you put them? I know exactly where to put them. I have an absolute. I know where they go. All you do is say, "Well, they might be in this period or this period. We do not know what happened." I know exactly what happened to them. I cannot help it. You do not. Do not get mad at me because you spent \$100,000 getting education and you are dumber than I am. It is not my fault. Do not get mad at me. I mean, that is your deal, not mine. I am sorry you did too. I would like to have half that money. I would have taught you something.

But see, they just cannot handle that, and the devil has done it. Their reasoning and that is called strata. Strata is levels in the dirt, and they will find a bone someplace, and they will dig down and they will look at the strata and they will say, "The strata is a hundred million years old." They will go, "Oh, wow, that is a hundred million years old strata." They will dig down a little deeper and they will find a bone and they will say, "We found a bone. This bone is a hundred million years old." "How do you know that?" "We found it in the strata." "How do you know that strata is a hundred million years old?" "Look at the bone we found." It is how they do it. You say, "Well, no, no, no, we do, we are more scientific now. We do carbon-14 dating." "Oh, do you, doctor? Carbon-14 dating, do you?" Carbon-14 dating, the rate of carbon breaking down and what is the word I am looking for? Decay. Yes, decay. You like Beethoven? He was a great composer. I hear he is decomposing right now. Is that right? It decays. So we know now we find this bone. We do carbon-14 and therefore we can come up with it. I asked the question, "What does carbon-14 decay rate on?" The atmosphere. "So you are telling me that the atmosphere, a

steady rate against this and the radiation in it will show you that." "That is absolutely right." Well, see, you have got a problem with that because if you believe the Bible, the atmosphere has been changed for a time before you found that bone. If you believe in absolute. I once was an amoeba when I began to begin and I was a frog with my tail tucked in. Now I am a monkey in a banyan tree and someday I am going to be a college professor with a PhD. I know how it goes. I know exactly how it goes. You had too much to drink last night. You better knock it off.

X. 10.) God's Plan Versus the Devil's Opposition

The 10th thing, final thing. I think in closing, this is the most important thing to try to remember. It is all important. It all goes together, and it is kind of, but you have got to get it down. We have talked about a lot of things here, and we laid out a lot of things, and you are going to have a good time tomorrow night if you can work, take this rest of this day and work this out. But you have got to, and I am telling you right now, you have got to, I am telling him, you have got to, I am telling it. You have got to train yourself to think this way. This is not, you have got to train yourself to look at these things and keep these things. That is why I tell you, I am giving them now, get the tape, go back, get it all sorted out, put it in the front of the back of your Bible, and the 10 things the Bible builds around. No matter what else you do, get those things done. You have got to start with that. We will take care of the rest tomorrow night.

But the last thing I want to tell you is this: all history of planet earth and man's history and all that God is doing. I am the kind of guy who has to make things real simple. I am not a very complicated person. I do not understand very complicated things. I envy some of you guys, the way you work on a computer and do things and figure all those things out. My computer freezes up, put it in a microwave, try to thaw it out. I do not know what else to tell you. I cannot figure them out. I still use an old flip phone that just was like they had back 20 years ago. To me, the more gadgets that are in it, the more gobbledygook you have got to deal with, the more things are breaking on it. I mean, that is how I look at it, but that is just me.

But nothing, when it comes to the Bible, it does not have to be complicated. Nothing more, when you look at all of this and what God is doing, it is so simple to understand it in its most simplest, simplistic form. All man's history, everything that is going on from Genesis to the end, it simply can be put in the context of God moving through history to accomplish the plans that I gave you and the devil moving in opposition to stop the plan. That is all it is. You will see it tomorrow night. I am going to show you time after time after time in our story. But that is all it is. It is God moving down through history to accomplish what we talked about here and then the devil moving in opposition to stop it. It is just that simple. It is not complicated.

Tomorrow night, you are going to come away with a book right now today you think is astronomically complicated, and I am going to show you how simple it is tomorrow night. You have got a great head start with these 10 things because this is it. This is the Bible. The Bible is built around these 10 things. You hear me talk all about context and perspective. These 10 foundational frameworks will bring that into your life with the Word of God. It will give you context no matter where you are at because you are going to have your syllabus that puts all the events in the right place. It is going to give you perspective because you are going to see it not as

we look at it from how God sees it. Now you are going to have some stuff. Now you are going to get some stuff done. Your life will never be the same. Then I say that clearly knowing that some of your lives will always be the same. But some of you really want to do something with the Bible. The rest of you, it is a joke. It is a joke. It is a joke. You know it. I know it. God knows it.

I have spent literally way over 200 hours putting all this together. You want to put it in a context, I spent the last 30, 40 years getting it together. So you are going to have to, I have got it in a simple, basic, easiest format that I could ever give it to you. But that does not mean you are not going to have to do some work. I can do the major pieces. You are going to have to do the rest of the pieces. If you will take this and get it down, come tomorrow night in the right format, right frame of mind, come praying. Do not come thinking that you are going to get it all. Get the major things that you have got to get tomorrow night and get back and work it through. You are not going to get this all in one setting. If it took me 30 years to understand it, you are not going to get it in three or four hours. But I am going to give you the biggest piece of the puzzle you ever had in your life for Christmas. My gift to you, and you are going to have to take it. Do it with your life. Then my prayer for you is the gift that keeps on giving. Remember last week, you give it to somebody else. All right, one more time. We eat from six to seven.