

# Proverbs 2

Sunday 9/29/2013

You will remember that last week we started Proverbs chapter 2, and I laid out for you the eight things that will bring about the knowledge of God in your life if you do them. I told you also that I think probably in my own life, with the Word of God and what I know about it or do not know about it—I do not claim to know a lot about it—but I will say that probably everything I do know I attribute back to the day that I found that great passage. It really changed my life in understanding what the Word of God was.

Living your life by the principles and the promises of the Word of God from the aspect of making decisions in your life. We talk about it all the time: life is decisions. Your life is going to be filled with the choices and the decisions that you have to make, and it does not take many bad ones to ruin your life. We found that whether the decisions are big or small, living your life by the principles and the promises of the Word of God is the way to make them. These eight things that we talked about are what I think make Christianity and Christians what they are supposed to be.

We saw that a couple of weeks ago in our introduction when we were talking about Proverbs. I showed you a great concept in Proverbs 1:8 where it talked about the instructions of thy father and the law of thy mother. You remember I took a little time and I explained how that works for you and for me. The instructions of the Father will be the New Testament. In the New Testament, you have God the Father laying down the principles of the Word of God for us. But the law of the mother will be the Old Testament, and that is, as you are going to see today, the stories in the Old Testament supporting the New Testament principles. The Old Testament and New Testament go hand in hand.

You remember when I used that example, I used it in the example of a mom and a dad and a family. The dad is the one who lays down the instructions, and the mother with the children is the one that supports those instructions, and together they work as a team. I also showed you that the Bible works the same way. The Old Testament and the New Testament complement each other; they go together. From a practical application, all of the principles that you are going to find that the Father lays out in the New Testament will be supported by the stories and the illustrations in the Old Testament. Instructions of the Father, law of thy mother.

Today, we will see and hopefully understand why getting God's mind—this knowledge of God, the wisdom of God that we have been talking about, the understanding of God—is so vitally important. You will also remember at the close of last week's message, I gave you a key word found in Proverbs 2:8, where it says, "He keepeth the paths of the righteous, and preserveth the way of his saints." There was the word "preserveth," and we talked about how God wants to preserve your family.

In the day and age that we live in, the family is under tremendous attack. In the day and age that we live in, Christian families have been fractured. It is unheard of in a time when so many Christian families are in such desperate need and such desperate problems. Families where the kids grow up and go back out to the world. There has never been a time you need to have your

marriage preserved, your own life preserved, and of course, our ministry preserved, and certainly last but not least, your own relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ preserved. We now understand that when you get these things, when you understand the wisdom of God, you get the understanding of God, you get the discretion that comes with it, and they preserve you in every sense of the word.

Today, we are going to talk about when you get the mind of God, when you get this protection and this protection that He gives you, and the preserving aspect, you are going to see exactly what He protects you from and what He preserves you from.

## I. The Wise Man and The Foolish Man

So far in our study of the book of Proverbs, we have looked at two main characters. Up to this point, we have really built the book of Proverbs in our study around these two characters. There are two character studies that really the whole Bible is built around, and you remember way back we talked about and defined what a wise man is. There are two basic men in the Bible: there is a wise man and there is a foolish man. That study begins in the book of Proverbs.

The book of Proverbs details out, and we went through them and we looked at it, nine characteristics of a wise man. If you want to be wise, hang out with people that have these characteristics in their life and find them for yourself. It also laid out a foolish man, and that foolish man, we detailed that out, and we saw that a foolish man has eight characteristics that produce someone who is foolish. Really, it is a simple concept: a wise man is a person who takes the wisdom of God and applies it to his life. A fool is somebody who simply will not do it.

Today, I want to introduce you to two more people as we move through this. Not only is the book of Proverbs and the Bible built around a wise man and a foolish man, but the book of Proverbs is also built around these next two people that we are going to talk about today, who they are, what they represent, and how they will fit right into what we have talked about last week and all through the book of Proverbs. We will see today why it is so vitally important to get the knowledge of God. I would like to take this morning and introduce you to our next two people that we are going to talk about that are found in the text that we are going to look at today: the evil man and the strange woman. These are two very important aspects that are represented in the book of Proverbs that you need to understand.

I am going to take a couple of weeks and I want to develop these, and I want to show you some very important things that you need to see and understand. Understanding these two will not just be about the book of Proverbs, but it will be about life and the issues of life and the decisions that you have to make.

## II. Three Applications of Scripture

You will also remember that when we had our introduction to the book of Proverbs, I told you how the book of Proverbs, like all the books in the Bible, has three distinct applications. Everything in the Bible will have three applications. This is not taught today, and most people do not understand it, and that is why most preaching is very shallow because they do not understand

the three dimensions of the Bible. I do not have time to go through this morning and show you how the number three in the Bible is the number of completion. When you want to be complete in the Bible, then you understand these three applications.

First of all, talking about the book of Proverbs here, when we see the book of Proverbs from a historical aspect, we now know what that means. Solomon was a real man who really lived. He had a real son, his name was Rehoboam. Solomon writes the book of Proverbs to his son. Those are the first eight chapters that we talked about; the first seven chapters open up with "my son" or "my child." So we know historically that it is an accurate account of a real man, Solomon, who lived around 1000 BC, who wrote to his son Rehoboam.

Now, doctrinally, that will be prophetically. Everything in the Bible has a prophetic application, something in the future. In this particular case, you are going to find that Israel, doctrinally, this son is Israel. In fact, in Exodus 4:22, you are told very clearly and plainly that in a national sense, in a corporate sense as a nation, in a literal body of people, not a spiritual body, a literal body, that Israel is God's son. So you find doctrinally God telling this to the nation of Israel so that in their journey in the Old Testament, they do not get messed up in all of the things that we are going to talk about.

But inspirationally, the practical side of it, we know that because of the new birth that we are God's son. From a practical standpoint, every verse in the Bible, every chapter in the Bible, will have a practical standpoint, inspirational, how it applies to you. Most people, most pastors, most Bible teachers, they will teach you the inspirational, and many times the historical. But really, the spark plugs of the Bible—you can have the fastest engine, the biggest, hottest engine in the world, but if it has no spark plug, you will not go anywhere. You can know all the historical aspects of the Bible, many guys do. You can know all the practical applications of the Bible, many people do. But the spark plugs of the Bible, the thing that makes the Bible fire, the things that make the Bible work, are the doctrinal or the prophetic. All through this book and the Bible too, you will find these three applications flowing together as you read through the Word of God. We will examine the doctrinal today; that is what I want to look at. I want you to thoroughly understand how this fits in a doctrinal format to Israel first. Then next week, I will come back and I will put it in a practical application, in a historical application, and you will see it.

### III. The Evil Man and The Strange Woman Defined

Let us read our text today. Let us get in Proverbs chapter 2, and we will pick it up in verse 10 at the paragraph mark.

*Proverbs 2:10-19*

*When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

*Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:*

*To deliver thee from the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

*Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*

*Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*

*Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*

*To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;*

*Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.*

*For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*

*None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.*

Now Father, we thank you and praise you today for the Lord Jesus. We thank you for those that have gathered today to hear your word. We thank you for the privilege and the opportunity to preach it, as unworthy as I am to stand here and open up this holy book and to put forth the holy words of God. I thank you for the privilege today, and Lord, let it go without saying that without the Holy Spirit of God today, nothing I have to say can go forth and nothing that these people need to receive in their hearts can be received. So we ask you today to send us your Spirit, to give us that teaching Spirit that we need, Lord, that you will take all of the things and put it into our hearts and into our lives, and then guide us to apply it into all the things that we do. Help our church, help the men and women who have decided that this is their spiritual home to raise their families and to bring about the mission of God in their life through this New Testament local church. Help me always to be there for them as their pastor, always to lead them and guide them and bring them back to the book in every issue of life because there alone, Lord, live all the answers. We will thank you today and ask your blessings upon this time in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it, Amen.

Now Proverbs 2:10 says, "When wisdom entereth into thine heart." Now look at Proverbs 2:11, "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." We have talked about understanding many, many times, and so it is not new to you. The concept of understanding is your ability to grasp the principles at hand in the Bible. Understanding is your ability to grasp the principles that are in the Word of God and leads to the knowledge of God. When you have understanding and you know the process—you get knowledge, you get wisdom, and then you get understanding—it is a building process. When you get understanding, you grasp the principles that leads to your ability to have discretion.

Where understanding is your grasp of the principles, discretion will always be the ability to use and apply those principles in any given situation by simply understanding the situation. When you look at things in life, you are going to see it in one of two ways. You are going to see it as it appears, which is what most people do, or you are going to see the situation as it really is. A great example of that is the world we live in today, our own country, the Middle East. We look at our country and we are faced with the government shutdown, we are faced with Obamacare, we are faced with all of the seemingly gridlock in Washington that nobody can get anything done. We look over in the Middle East, and where this country was basically feared by other nations, now we are pretty much a laughing stock to the other nations. They know we do not mean what we say.

You look at that and you think that that is the Democrats' fault. That is what the Republicans think. Maybe the Democrats think it is the Republicans' fault. So you take one view or the other on that depending on what your political persuasion is. I am not political about anything. I think the Democrats are as big a crook as the Republicans are and vice versa. I am like the guy one time who put an ad in the paper. He said, "Half the politicians in the country are crooked." He incurred the wrath of all the politicians, and they demanded that he print a retraction. So he did the next week. The next week he retracted what he said, and he said, "Okay, half the politicians in this country are not crooked." So that is the way it works with me. That is where I am at with it.

I do not believe in a democracy. I do not believe in a republic. I believe in a monarchy of Jesus Christ being King. That is the government I am looking for. I am tired of a government that lies to you. I am tired of a government—I am not talking about the one we have, all government. I am tired of kings who reign over you. I want a righteous King on a righteous throne that makes righteous decrees that everything goes across the board righteously. And it is coming.

But when you look at the world right now, you do not necessarily see it that way. You see it as the mess that we are in, the dismal future of what, \$18 trillion debt that is going to be all around our neck. We were waving our little American flags last night, and some astute person in this church, and the church is filled with them, came over and asked me, "Does it not bother you that your American flag has a little thing made in China?" It was a time that would not have bothered me, but it does not bother me today. China owns half of the United States. So what is the point? They buy our debt out of us all the time. One of these days they are going to say, "We want our money." And they say, "Well, we do not have the money." And they say, "All right, give us New York. Give us this, give us that, give us this." And here we are. That is where it is going to work.

So you look at the country and you see it in that kind of state. But that is not how you look at it from the Bible. You look at it from the Bible, things as bright as the promises of God. There is nothing dismal about where America is at if you understand your Bible. There is nothing dismal about Obamacare. It just has to come with the thing. The thing that makes it bright is all this has to happen for the Lord Jesus Christ to come back and clean this mess up. So you look at things two ways. Understanding is your grasp of the principles, but discretion is your ability to apply the principles in every given situation and then understand the situation.

Our next two people, one of them found in Proverbs 2:12 and the other one found in Proverbs 2:16, are the evil man and the strange woman. Now the book of Proverbs, doctrinally, what we are going to talk about today, the book is written to God's son, Israel. We know that from Exodus 4:22 in a national corporate sense. The evil man here and throughout the book, doctrinally or prophetically, will always be a reference to the Antichrist. You want to remember that. It is doctrinally, prophetically, it is Israel up against the Antichrist. This evil man will always be the Antichrist in a prophetic sense. Next week, when I show you the inspirational side and apply it to you, it will be another, but this is the beauty of the Word of God.

The strange woman is not the girl you dated in high school that you are thinking about right now or your ex-wife. In some cases, that may be true. But anyway, the strange woman here will

doctrinally be the religion of the Antichrist. She is defined for you in Revelation 17:5 where it says:

*Revelation 17:5*

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

She is a religion. This is the Antichrist's evil man, his church or his religion. The mystery that he talks about here, we are not certainly going to get into it today, but it will be a great Bible study question at some point. The mystery is how the first time you find Babylon is the first Gentile kingdom found in the Bible in Genesis 10. The mystery is how does Babylon, where you find it in Genesis 10 the first time, and the last time you find it is Revelation 17 and 18 where she is destroyed. The mystery is how does Babylon survive from Genesis 10 up through the time that we live in today? Where is she today? What is she doing today? And how does she get to where she finally meets her end? That is the mystery. It is a great study in the Bible, but not one that we are going to take this morning.

You remember also that this is her religion, and the Bible calls it Baal worship. Baal is the sun god. We talked a little bit about that Thursday night in the Old Testament. This is what automatically destroyed the nation of Israel when they rejected the instructions of their Father, God, and turned to Baal worship. This happened for two fundamental reasons, and I am giving a little background here, but it is a great background of understanding the way things are in the Bible. This happened for two fundamental reasons that were about the study.

Reason one was the evil man. The evil man will represent all the kings and the leadership of the nation of Israel that were wicked, that led them as a nation astray. You have heard me say it many, many times, and it is something that I live by and will die by and believe every moment with every fiber I have: everything rises and falls on leadership. That is never more true than with the nation of Israel. When you gave them good kings, they were good people. When you gave them a series of bad kings, they were bad people. Whoever in the history of the world has a group of people been more dependent on the leadership that they had? The evil men will be the men who led them astray, the bad kings and the leaders who led them away from God.

The strange women will be the wives that they took from the other nations, and they were specifically told not to do that because what happened when they took all those wives from those other nations? All those women brought their gods in with them, all the false gods, and Baal worship entered into it and infested the nation of Israel and brought them down.

#### IV. Types of the Antichrist and Christ

In your Bible, these men are represented and listed for you, eighteen of them. I have told you before, and I have given them to you on Thursday night, and I have taught it many times over the last ten years we have been here, that there are eighteen men in the Old Testament that foreshadow, doctrinally, prophetically, who the Antichrist is going to be. We call them types in the Bible, pictures in the Bible. These eighteen men, by their lives, by the things that they do, the

events that unfold in their life, will, in a prophetic sense, foreshadow what the Antichrist is going to do, and they show you a composite of who the Antichrist is. Eighteen of them. Somebody says, "Why eighteen?" Because his number is 666, and three times six is eighteen.

You will find the first one in the Bible is Cain in Genesis 4. He is a type of the Antichrist. You remember, Cain has a mark, and the Antichrist has a mark.

In Genesis 10:10, you will find Nimrod. Nimrod is a type of the Antichrist because this is where the first time you find Babylon in the Bible.

Pharaoh is our third one, Exodus 1-12. We know what he does. He persecutes the nation of Israel just like a Jew is going to be persecuted in tribulation. What does God do? God, through Moses, a type of Christ, sends the plagues down just exactly like He is going to do it in the tribulation period. You learn what is going to happen in the future by what God did. The Bible told us that. Paul said the things in the Old Testament that happened in the nation of Israel were for our examples and our ensamples. He told us that. Most people do not pay any attention to that.

The fourth one is a guy in Numbers 22-25, and his name is Balak. He tries to destroy the nation of Israel just like the Antichrist will do.

When you get into Judges 5:19-20, you are going to find a man by the name of Sisera. Sisera, again, just like the Antichrist, tries to destroy the nation of Israel.

You get to Judges 9 and you find a guy by the name of Abimelech. Abimelech is a leader of Israel just like the Antichrist is going to be. He is called the Bramble, and he leads Israel astray as a type of the Antichrist.

We get to the seventh one in 1 Samuel 12-13. It is Saul. Saul was a perfect example of the Antichrist because Saul is someone who tries to observe the priesthood, and of course, God killed him for that.

We come a little bit farther in 1 Samuel 17, and we have our friend Goliath. Goliath is a perfect type of the Antichrist. He is up against David, a type of Christ, and they fight a battle like the battle of the Second Coming of Christ. It is a beautiful, great study, a beautiful picture of that. He defies the nation of Israel. David stands up and defends Israel. It is all a great picture.

You get into 1 Samuel 25 and you find a guy by the name of Nabal. He takes a stand against David, and he is a type of the Antichrist.

Absalom, David's own son, 2 Samuel 14:25. He plots to take over the kingdom. He dies hanging in a tree, just like Judas does, and he tries to overthrow David and take the kingdom, just like the Antichrist is going to do.

You have Jeroboam in 1 Kings 12. Jeroboam, he splits the kingdom. He splits the kingdom between the north and the south. He divides it just like the Antichrist is going to do, and then he follows that old concept, divide and conquer.

One of the greatest ones that we are going to talk about in just a few minutes, that really mirrors our study in Proverbs, is a guy by the name of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. We are going to talk about that.

One that most people would never think of as a type of the Antichrist is Solomon. Most people would never equate Solomon with the type of the Antichrist. Solomon is the most unique man in the Bible because he is not only a type of the Antichrist, but he is also a type of Christ. Somebody said, "Well, how can that be?" Because the Bible is showing you how close the Antichrist is going to be to the real Christ, except the only way you are going to tell him apart is by understanding the Word of God. God never violates His own principles. God never speaks outside the Word of God. When the Antichrist shows up, he is going to look like Christ. He is going to portray to be Christ. He is going to set in the temple showing himself that he is God. The only way you are going to be able to rat him out is to listen to what he says. You come over there in the great chapter with Solomon in 1 Kings 10:1-13. He is a type of Christ in every sense of the Word. Then in 1 Kings 10:14, the weight of gold that came to King Solomon, guess what it comes out to be? 666. From that point on, he is a type of the Antichrist. You have got to look for things like that in the Bible. 666 only shows up, I think, three times in the Bible, and it is very significant every time you find it. So you have got Solomon. We are not going to deal with all that today. That would be another great Thursday night question.

You have the fourteenth one, Haman in Esther 7. He tries to destroy Mordecai, who is a type of the nation of Israel.

Number fifteen is Isaiah 10, and that would be Sennacherib. Sennacherib is the king of Assyria. He comes down and takes the northern tribes' captivity, just like the Antichrist is going to do.

Number sixteen is Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 1. He comes down and takes the two southern tribes, just like the Antichrist is going to do.

Then when you get into the New Testament, you have Herod. Herod is the Roman emperor, Matthew 2-3. He does exactly what the Antichrist is going to do, and he is in charge of the Roman Empire.

Then the last one, the eighteenth one, is found in John 17 in particular. That is Judas. There are only two times you find the word "son of perdition" found in the Bible. One of them is for the Antichrist himself. The other one is for Judas in John 17, and there is a reason for that.

There you have the eighteen men that are a type of the Antichrist. Let me put it even together for you. When I gave you, I think Bob Greg, the last time or this time, when he was in charge of the prayer groups, and I think he gave you an assignment to find foolish men in the Bible or find fools in the Bible, well, these eighteen men right here are the main fools of the Bible. They are the main fools of the Bible. Those eight characteristics I gave you, what fools are, you will find in each one of those lives. So right there you have, and it kind of puts it together for you, right there you have these eighteen men are the eighteen primary fools in the Bible. You have other men who are fools in the Bible and women who are fools in the Bible, and those are your basic eighteen guys. By these eighteen men and their actions and their attitudes and what they do with

Israel, they are a picture and a type of the coming man of sin, and they form up a composite of him that you can understand. It will tell you his race. It will tell you his religion. It will tell you his desires. It will tell you how he thinks. It will tell you where he came from. It will tell you all the things that you need to know, and specifically, it will zero in on what he is going to do.

We have here in our text an evil man. We know now the evil man is a doctrine of the Antichrist, but then we also have the strange woman, and the strange woman we also now know is the religion that he has. As I was coming through those eighteen, there are no two greater people in the Bible that illustrate this than the story of Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab will represent for us the wicked man, and she will represent the strange woman.

Let me read it for you here, and let us come back here and look at it in 1 Kings chapter 16 if you want to follow along, verses 29 through 33. It says:

*1 Kings 16:29-33*

*And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.*

*And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

*And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

*And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.*

*And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*

Here is a great example of the instruction of a father and the law of your mother, one more time so you can see it. In Revelation 17 and 18, and in Revelation 12 and 13, you have the principles about the man of sin, the Antichrist. Everything in there, the Father lays out for us. But when you really want to understand it, you have got to go back to the law of thy mother and see the story here in 1 Kings 16 and put it all together.

Ahab is Israel's most wicked king, the worst king they ever had according to 1 Kings 16:30 and 1 Kings 16:33. He takes a wife, Jezebel of the Zidonians. I want you to notice this, it says in 1 Kings 16:31, "And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam." In other words, he really does not look at sin as anything at all. It is a light thing for him to go away from the things of God. You find that in Christianity today. You find God's people who claim to be saved who find it a light thing to live a life outside the principles of the Word of God. It is incredible.

But that is not what I wanted to show you. It has been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, and he took to wife Jezebel. Jezebel, that is Baal. When you find these names start ending in "Bel" or "Baal," that is a reference to Baal. She has Baal in her name, and look at her daddy. Her daddy is Ethbaal. He has Baal in it. The Zidonians were an absolutely

wicked nation that were steeped in the worship of Baal, which we know as the sun god. He takes to wife Jezebel, 1 Kings 16:31.

The union with King Ahab that he takes with Jezebel, when you get to Jeremiah 44:18, she now represents the religion. She is called the queen of heaven in Jeremiah 44. She has 400 prophets of Baal, and she sets herself up as the priestess over the religion, and Ahab becomes the king. So you have King Ahab, who is a type of the evil man, a type of the Antichrist, and then you have Jezebel, who represents the whole of Revelation 17. Why do you think that when a woman catches her husband with another woman or whatever the case may be, and someone who is loose and hangs out with, she is always called a Jezebel? Because it goes back to this right here. This is why there are two names in the Bible. Nobody ever names their kids Judas, the other one Jezebel. I wonder why that is. Those names do not fare well in our own world because they bring up something that everybody understands at least fundamentally where it is.

She is the prophetess of Baal worship that in time destroys Israel. She has 450 prophets of Baal, and they head up her church, 1 Kings 18-19, and she has another 400 prophets that take care of the groves. Let me explain very quickly about the groves. The groves were like gardens of hedge work, and you still see them today. When they wanted to worship their gods or their sun god, they had these very elaborate shrubberies that maybe were 10-12 feet high, hedge works. They were grown up and trimmed very pretty, and you walked down, and there was a path between the two, and you could not see over them. You walked in, and then they had little sections that went off, and the little areas there, and in those little areas would be a statue of the god with a little chair you could sit in or a bench, and you could worship your favorite god as you went down through there. When you finally got to the end, Baal the sun god was there, and you made your way through from station to station to station as you walked through that grove, and you worshiped the particular gods, and you worked your way down to the big god, Baal the sun god. That is what the groves are in the Bible, and you find when the good kings come in, they rip them up, they tear them up. But they are an absolute necessity for Baal worship.

So now we see that doctrinally, Ahab as an evil man is the Antichrist, doctrinally, prophetically. Jezebel, our strange woman in the story, will represent Mystery Babylon the Great, and this is the great sin that Israel falls into when, as God's son in Exodus 4:22, they reject the instructions of their Father, God, and the law of their mother, and go after Baal worship, and it is an incredible study in the Bible. The book of Proverbs will go into great detail on both of these people after we get past their introduction today in chapter 2. You are going to find them all through the book of Proverbs, so it is obviously very important that we get it down today.

## V. Consequences of Rejecting God's Wisdom

Now look at Proverbs 2:10-11. It says, "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul. Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." Four key words here: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and discretion. This understanding and discretion will preserve you and keep you from the evil man and the strange woman.

The Bible goes on and says in Proverbs 2:13 about them, "who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness." Proverbs 2:14 says that they "rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked." Proverbs 2:15 says, "Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths." Proverbs 2:17 says, "Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God." That guide of her youth simply means that in the early years of the nation of Israel, God was right there. When they came out of Egypt, He split the Red Sea. He brought the manna and the quails down. He did everything. He stopped the sun in Joshua so they would have a few more hours to win the battle. She had forgotten all of that. She had forgotten what God had done and guided her.

You remember when they came out of Egypt how God guided them where He wanted them to go? They did not know where they were going. God gave them a land, a promise to Abraham. They did not know anything about it. He had a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. That was their guide from God. In an inspirational way, and I keep jumping back and forth, but some things you just cannot wait until next week to say, that is what He does in your life and my life. That Word of God is a cloud, or every time Christ shows up, He is connected with a cloud. And a fire is the judgment that God has. In your life and my life, He wants to lead by the pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke. That book. If we will follow that just like they were supposed to follow that, you will get to where God wants you to go. But they did not. And most of God's people do not. But knowledge and discretion will preserve you. It says they forsake the guide of their youth and forget the covenant of their God. A lot of Christians do that same thing, and churches do too.

This is Israel's spiritual condition by, what, 600 B.C.? Yet I want you to understand, because it is easy when I start laying all this out that you think of them when I start laying out all this wickedness, that you think that it is rampant in every way, shape, or form. And it is. But yet I have got to have you know they are very religious. If you walked into one of their church services, you would think you were in a modern 20th century church today. They talked about God, but just not the same God of the Bible. They talked about all the same things, but it was not anything relevant to the Word of God. They have an altar when you study the passages. They have an altar. They pray. They pray to God. They make sacrifices. They have Sunday services just like we do. They have all of the things that we have, except there is absolutely no relevance to anything that has to do with God. All because they have put on Baal worship. As I told you, Solomon is both types. He is a type of Christ, and he is a type of the Antichrist. It shows you how close this was to the real thing. You are going to find it today where people use the same terminology.

We know that Mormonism is a cult. At least I thought we did. Today, they got so much flack for using the word Mormon. They got so much flack and got their rear end kicked so much for saying, "We are Mormons." Now they have changed their name, and all through Lee's Summit, all through Raytown, all through Kansas City, they do not call themselves Mormon anymore. They have now a name that you would never suspect that they are a Mormon. They talk about family values. That is what people want today. They talk about all of the things that you want to hear. But at the same time, when you get into that thing, without knowing it, you get hooked into it. I will tell you the greatest guy on the radio that does it is Glenn Beck. Everybody loves Glenn

Beck. Glenn Beck stands for this. He stands for that. He stands for that. He stands for that. Well, let me tell you what he does stand for. He stands for the Mormon church. When you go to these churches, and they do not call themselves Mormons anymore, they call themselves by a blasé name that you would never suggest. It has Jesus in it, and you go in there to look just like this. They do not have all the goofy stuff that the Mormons have. It is a ploy to get stupid people who do not have discernment or discretion sucked in, and before it is too late, you are in. So that is what you have in Baal worship. I did not just mean to pick on the Mormons, but that is the way it works.

Now Proverbs 2:18-19 says:

*Proverbs 2:18-19*

*For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.*

*None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.*

This woman in her religion, her house, is a path of total destruction. Once you get in, you do not get out. Once you get in, you cannot get out. This is why you see, coming back to the practical side, once a person really gets into Jehovah's Witnesses, you never get them out. Once a person gets into a cult, you never get them out. You never get them out. Why? Because if you notice, Babylon's misreligion is the mother of all the false religions. It starts with her, that is why. This woman in her religion, her house, is a path of total destruction, and no one gets out alive.

Let me just jump to a side note here and allow me to jump again into the practical for just a moment for the person of enlightenment. Over the years, I have seen Christians—I say they are Christians, I guess they are Christians—the same way. The book of Proverbs is so clear and warns you over and over again about the people that you hang out with. You have heard me talk about it all the time. I have seen it 45 plus years in the ministry. I want to tell you right now, there are people out there. There are couples out there in this old world that whoever hangs out with them gets destroyed. Let me say it one more time. There are people out there and couples out there that when you join yourself to them, you hang out with them, you listen to them, you are guaranteed you are going to get destroyed. Their negativity drips from their lips like venom from the fangs of a rattlesnake, and they will bite you. When you hook up and you spend time and you get involved, you are dead spiritually. They kill everything they touch. This is why again, the Bible spends so much time on who you hang out with because you will become who you hang out with. This is why this Bible spends so much time telling you about fools and wise men and tells you to stay away from these people. They are fools in every sense of the word, and they will totally destroy you. They will claim to be a Christian. They will claim to love God. But if you watch very carefully, they always take a stand against real Bible Christianity. They always take a stand against real truth. They will talk about the truth, and blasé people who cannot figure it out and have no discernment, they will say, "Well, they talk about God. They love God. They pray." So did everybody in Baal worship. What was your point again? There are people in this world that will tell you what you want to hear to suck you in, and when you examine it closely with discretion and discernment, they do not believe one thing about that book. You have got to watch that.

## VI. The Way of Good Men and The Wicked

Now, look at Proverbs 2:20-21 again. Proverbs 2:20, "That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous." Proverbs 2:21, "For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it."

In the Bible, you not only have eighteen men who are fools, and you are told all through the Bible not to hang out with them. But in the Bible, you are told in Proverbs 2:20-21 that you are to walk in the way of good men. Not only do you have eighteen men who are fools in the Bible, who represent the Antichrist, who when you see the eight characteristics that I gave in your life, you are to stay away from. But in your Bible, it also says now to walk the way of good men, righteous men. So you have twenty-one men who are types of Christ in the Bible. Those twenty-one men will represent the character qualities of Christ, and they will represent the character qualities of the people you want to have in your life, and they will represent the nine character qualities that I gave you in Proverbs. These are your wise men in the Bible, the main ones.

There is Adam, there is Abel, there is Shem, there is Noah, there is Moses, there is Aaron, there is Joshua, there is Jacob, there is Abraham, there is Isaac, there is Melchizedek, there is David, there is Elijah, and Elisha, there is Solomon, there he is again, there is Joseph, there is Jonah, there is Gideon, there is Samuel, there is Barak, and there is Hezekiah. You heard me talk about over and over again models in the Bible. These are your models. There are other men in the Bible who are good men that you can follow, but God gives you eighteen primary men who are fools in the Bible and will fulfill every characteristic that you find in Proverbs of a fool. Then He gives you twenty-one types of men who are a type of Christ who will follow the nine principles of what real wise wisdom is, and you should put them in your life, and these are the people you should hang out with. It is that simple.

If I want to learn about sacrifice, I am going to study Abel. If I want to learn how to walk with God in the wicked world, I am going to study Noah. If I want to understand how to be a pastor and to serve God, I am going to study Moses. If I want to learn about the priesthood of the believer, I am going to study Aaron. If I want to be a warfare and a good soldier of Jesus Christ, I am going to study Joshua. When I want to learn about faith, then I am going to study Abraham. It is just that simple. When I want to study about learning the Word of God, I gave you this last week, I am going to David. When I want to study the religious opposition I am going to face and the battle I have got to face with all the false religion, I am going to study Elisha and I am going to study Elijah. It is just that simple. When I want to understand about being falsely accused and being clobbered for something you did not do, then I am going to study Joseph. It is just that simple. When I want to study the ministry, I am going to study Samuel. These are the men in the Bible who represent the wise men. You just cannot go wrong.

The Bible says that we are to walk in the way of good men, righteous men. Proverbs 2:21 says, "For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it." Israel was told to follow good character. Israel was given as God's son the principles of a wise man and a foolish man, just like you and I are, inspirationally. They saw every king that came along. They saw every leader, and they should have known what the Word of God said, and they should have

understood how to deal with it, but they did not. "For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it."

Now, doctrinally, that land there is the land of Palestine. That is the land that we know of Israel today that God gave the Jews back in Genesis 12-14 when He gave Abraham the land grant. That is the land over there that the Jews only have a thumbnail on it. That is the land that for, what, 2,600 years or almost 3,000 years, they did not have a land. In 1948, they got the land back through the Balfour Declaration and after World War II, but they only got a small, small piece of it. That land grant was given to them, runs all the way from Egypt to the Euphrates, which is Baghdad, and runs all the way up to the southern end of Turkey there at Mount Ararat. That is the land grant given to Abraham. They do not have it, but they are going to get it.

When He talks about that the land that they are going to dwell in, that is the millennium. That is what we are seeing in the Middle East right now. That is what we are seeing America coming apart at the seams. That is why we are seeing this thing of we cannot stop anybody from doing anything. Somebody wants to gas his people. We use harsh language. That is all the farther we are going to take it. We do not want, and all the world is watching, and what they are watching is they are watching how we do not respond, and Iran is laughing up her sleeve saying they did not stop the guy who gassed his people. They are not going to stop us when it comes to getting a nuclear weapon. That nuclear weapon that Iran is going to get is for one reason, and if you cannot figure it out, then you are pretty dense. It is to go against the nation of Israel. When that happens or gets close to that, and Israel strikes first or strikes back, it is going to put this thing into the end, and it is going to go from third gear to fourth gear, and God is going to stamp down on the pedal, and we are headed home. That is where it is at. Then God comes back. He kicks the snot out of everybody, and they get the land. They get the land of the Second Coming, and they will run out into the millennium, and into eternity to keep that land. Promised to Abraham, called the Promised Land.

*Proverbs 2:22*

*But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.*

That means the millennium, and the transgressors shall be rooted out. Let me give you a couple more key words here you want to put in your Bible. When you find these words like "cut off," "rooted out," "rooted up," or "rooted from," or "rooting around," whatever, in the Bible, it will always be a reference to the context of the Second Coming of Christ and somebody going to the lake of fire, going to hell.

In Job 18:14, 16, this is talking about the Antichrist directly. It says:

*Job 18:14*

*His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.*

*Job 18:16*

*His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.*

Malachi 4:1 says:

*Malachi 4:1*

*For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

Now, "rooted out." Any time you find those words, the context is going to be the Second Coming of Christ. You want to remember that.

## VII. Israel's Doctrinal Failure and Leadership

As we examine this passage from the doctrinal aspect, here is what we see. This is very important for you to get it. You are not going to understand the practical next week if you do not get to understand the doctrinal side this week. Israel is God's son, told by their Father, God, to get knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God. When they did it, they will get discretion, and that discretion will preserve them and keep them as individuals. It will keep their families, and it will also keep their nation, the nation of Israel, God's main force of getting God to the world in the Old Testament. You all know that.

Two great identities in the Bible that God used to get His Word of who He was to the world. In the Old Testament, it was the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, it is the body of Christ, the church. Where the Old Testament had a literal temple and all the world came to the temple, in the New Testament, it is a spiritual kingdom. Your body is the temple. You take the temple to the world. It is just that simple.

When they get these things, they now have discretion. I cannot tell you how important that is for you, and next week I am going to show you the ability to do it. This knowledge, wisdom, and understanding which leads to this discretion will keep them from the two areas that Satan will use to destroy them and take them away from God the Father and all that He has for them and His instruction through the Word of God. That will be the evil man. Doctrinally, that will be the Antichrist. The devil and the wicked men he will use in their midst. Doctrinally, it will be the strange woman who is the false religion, the false teaching, who the Antichrist brings in when he brings all the religions together, which is exactly what he is going to do. This is exactly what happened to them as a nation.

I have talked to you before historically about the nation of Israel, that there are four aspects to studying Israel. I break it down into four parts that you can follow it.

1. The first part is what we call the formulation of the nation of Israel. That will be in Genesis.
2. The second part is the calling out of Israel. That will be in Exodus. That will run up through 1 Samuel.
3. In 1 Samuel, we start the third edition of Israel, and that will be the establishment of the nation. This is where they get their first king.
4. Then once they get really bad, and the bad kings come and it all falls down from 1 Samuel to 2 Samuel, we have the fourth stage, which is the demise of the nation of Israel.

When God called them out in Genesis with Abraham and later in Exodus with Moses, He told them to be a separate nation. The greatest passage on that is Exodus 34:10-17. It lays it out in clear detail. He told them not to have anything to do with the other nations. He told them to circumcise themselves physically. That is the covenant given to Abraham of circumcision in Genesis 17:10 that made them different from all the other nations. He told them to cut their hair differently and their beard differently because He wanted them to be a peculiar people. He wanted them to be a separate people. He wanted them to look different on the outside.

So in your life and my life, gentlemen, back over for a moment, they got physically circumcised. You get spiritually circumcised. They cut their hair on the outside so people would see the difference. You are supposed to trim yourself on the inside so people see the difference. You see how it works? Theirs is a literal kingdom, yours is a spiritual kingdom. That is how it works.

When they left Egypt, they were told only to marry within their own nation and to keep the strange women out. This is why when they took over a city, most people do not get this, when they took over a city, they were told to kill everybody and everything. They killed every man, they killed every child, they killed every woman, they killed all the animals. People look at that and say, "Well, God is really having a bad day today. Why did He do that?" He understood. You do not understand. Those nations were so deep and so infested with Baal worship that it had absolutely taken over everything, and bringing anything in was going to compromise and in time destroy the nation of Israel.

Of course, they did not listen. They struggled with it all through the books of the Bible. Moses had problems all the way back when he just came out of the land, when he made the golden calf and they are down worshiping it. Again, it was the mixed multitude that they brought out. Joshua 24, read it sometime. The whole chapter before Joshua dies is telling them that you have got to put away the strange gods if God is going to help you. You know what they do? They keep ignoring what he is saying and saying, "We will serve God, we will serve God." He says three or four times, "You have got to put away the gods or God is not going to bless you, and you cannot serve God with them." They just ignore the putting away the gods and keep saying, "We will serve God, we will serve God." They never want to deal with the issue.

You really see it in Judges where thirteen times they get into Baal worship and oppressors come down, and God has to raise up judges to deliver them. You see it in 1 Samuel with Eli's sons called sons of Belial. They are the priesthood, and it is so corrupted. David brings them back on course for a little while with God and his word, but then after his death, Solomon starts the final demise. Solomon starts out good. He builds the house of God. He has the wisdom of God. He writes the wisdom books in the Bible, or many of them, and then it happens.

Now look for a moment, I want you to see this. Look at 1 Kings 11. Let us go to 1 Kings 11. I want you to see this. Here is where it all starts to unravel, and there are some great principles here.

*1 Kings 11:1-8*

*But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;*

*Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

*And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

*For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

*For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.*

*And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.*

*Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.*

*And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.*

This is where it starts. This starts the final chapter on Israel. Solomon brings it in. He violates the law, and it goes down from here. It talks about in 1 Kings 11:7 Molech. You find that in the Bible, the fire of Molech. Molech was the fire god, and Molech was a big bronze god of enemies that they had fashioned with a belly that was hollowed out with two mechanical hands. They built a fire in Molech's stomach, and it raised, and the thing got red hot. It was made out of brass, and the hands were mechanical. When they cranked, they had illegitimate babies to the sun god. They put those little babies in the hands of that Molech fire god while that fire was burning, and they beat on the drums and had their religious service and prayed to God and did all the things that they did. They cranked those hands, and that little baby was thrown into that belly as a sacrifice. You find a little bit later on that the kings of Israel are following that.

You ask yourself in your own mind, "How could a parent do that? How could any parent take their child, their baby, and offer it to some false god?" For years I used to scratch my head about that, but then after about fifteen years in the ministry, I saw God's people doing the same thing. God's people today deliver their kids to the world. They deliver their kids to Molech. They deliver their kids to Ashtoreth just as they take them over there.

There was a story in a paper a couple of weeks ago about a young man that was killed tragically in a car wreck. He got out there after some party and was all drinking and drunk and went hill jumping and hit something, and the car exploded, and he got killed, and it was a terrible thing. That kid had been to this church. That kid played on one of your volleyball teams. That kid came to this church. But the thing that pulled him away was other men, other kids who claimed to be Christians who lived like hell, who did what they wanted to do, and they went with him instead of coming in here, and he is probably in hell today. On Facebook, after alcohol killed him, after

he drank himself to oblivion when he lost control of his car and all those young kids were all drunk, nobody learns the lessons. Nobody learns from the mistakes. On Facebook, all of his buddies are toasting him with beer, the same beer that got him killed.

I am telling you. I have seen parents weep when their kid committed suicide or their kid did this or their kid did that, and I do not say it. I do not ever say it. I do what I am supposed to do. But inside my mind, inside my brain, I am thinking to myself, "You know what? You killed that kid just as sure as you put a gun to his head." As parents, you give your kids a message. As parents, you deliver a message to your children, and then your children take that message to the world. When they are 20, 30, 25, 26, you actually see what message you delivered.

Having kids, Dad, does not make you a father. Having children does not make you a father. Anybody can get a woman and father a child. Having children does not make you a father. Taking responsibility for your children makes you a father. That is what the Word of God says. Giving them the message that they will carry to the world. Parents fold up, break up, quit going to church because by the time their kid gets 18, 19, 20, the message is clear. They are alcoholics. They are drug addicts. They are caught up in the world. Their parents are standing there with their face hanging out, wanting to blame everybody. It is you and the message you gave them.

I fell right on my face on that one. I am telling you, you deliver your children. You bring them right in and put them in the hands of Molech. You crank the crank. And he devours them. All because we pretend we are something we are not. All because we want to pretend we believe God, we believe the Bible. But your kids see our lives. The message we give them is the wrong message. Then they take it out to the world and live the message Mom and Dad gave them. And we wonder why. The message many times gets them killed. I am telling you what, the fractured family today is beyond belief. Christian families, moms and dads who bought into Baal worship a long time ago. Oh, they still go to church. They still carry the Bible. They talk about everything, and they show up on Sunday morning and all the times that they are supposed to be at church. But the message to their children. Then they walk in, and they are like, "children." Then they wonder why. The kids get to be 18, 19, and 20. They do not respect Mom and Dad anymore. They do their own thing. They live their own life. Mom and Dad have no more recourse. They cannot tell them anything. It goes from one bad choice to another bad choice. They stand around saying, "Gee, what happened?" I will tell you what happened. You built the high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. You went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Zidonians, and Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites. We put all of those things in our life, and we live our lives separate from the Word of God, and we think our kids do not see.

I had a kid one time that was an alcoholic, and he was so bad he never got out of it. I never lost track of it. I do not know what ever happened to him. But he showed there and told me that, and I thought, "You know, you got in high school and you did this and you did that, and that is where you got the drink." He said, "No, no, no. I drank in high school. But I was an alcoholic long before then." He said, "Every night my dad would have two or three beers before he went to bed. He would go to bed early because they had to get up early. When Mom was over here and over

there, I would go over right there to that couch and I would drain the last few suds he left in that bottle." There you are, Dad. Congratulations, father of the year.

Now starts the downward spiral of Israel. The bad kings, the evil men, the Baal worship with the strange women. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, takes over after Solomon's death, and he splits the kingdom north and south. Jeroboam, one of Solomon's mighty men, takes the northern tribe. Now instead of fighting against sin, against Israel, they fight against each other. Let me tell you something. That is why I will always stand and always have men around me and women around me who will stand for the unity of this church because once a church loses its unity, it is on its way down. You have to be unified, and when he split the kingdom north and south, the devil came in, and he conquered. Instead of fighting the sin of the other nation, now they fought each other.

2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles are a list of the kings and the men who destroyed Israel. There are nineteen for the northern tribe, there are nineteen for Judah. Some are good, some are terribly bad, but it is all over. Once a nation or a church leaves the book, or a Christian leaves the book, you are done. By 2 Kings 17, 721 BC, the King of Assyria comes down, takes the ten northern tribes into captivity. By 2 Chronicles 36, 606 BC, Nebuchadnezzar comes in from Babylon, takes the two southern tribes. Israel as a nation, Israel as God's purpose to bring salvation to planet earth, is finished. All by just two things: the evil man and the strange woman. They were warned not to get involved with over and over and over again. There they remain up to and including today. Only Jacob's time of trouble, only the coming tribulation period where they have their back broken and their will busted, will they totally return back to God, but today they are in total apostasy.

Next week, we will take the same passage and we will study it from historical, which we pretty much laid out today, but we are going to really fall into the practical. You will see how in a spiritual, practical way the evil man and the strange woman apply to you as a Christian and to this New Testament church, and how the devil will use the same two aspects, the evil man and the strange woman, to destroy the church, destroy Christians as he did to the nation of Israel, to destroy your family and destroy you.

When you look at Israel and the struggle they face, and then make the spiritual application to you and to me, you see what I say all the time, and I even told you already today, that everything rises and falls on leadership. Everything. Everything rises and falls on leadership. God's structure of Israel was a monarchy, a king after God's own heart. The model for that is David. Every king you find always relates back to David as the model, as the standard. God's structure for Israel was a monarchy, a king after God's own heart. God's structure for the church is a pastor with a heart after God's own heart, and God's structure for the family is a father who has a heart after God's own heart.

The nation of Israel's failure was simply a failure of good leadership. That is all it was. The devil is always going to be there, the evil man is going to always be there, and the strange woman is going to be there. There is never a time in your life where you are not going to have to face the world, the flesh, and the devil. The problem with Israel was not a problem with the devil. The

problem with Israel was a failure of leadership within the ranks of Israel. The church today has failed miserably. Churches fail today not because of the devil, not because of bad people, not because of the times that we live in, not because of how hard it is. Churches fail today because of pastors' failure to be a leader from the pulpit. Fundamentally, that is the problem.

I will just take it one step farther. The failure of the family today is a failure of a good, strong leadership of a father in every sense of the word. If your children will not respect you as a father to do what is right when you tell them and correct them, and I know there are times they will get out of line, there are no perfect kids, and you have got to drop the hammer. I understand that. But if your kids will not respect that hammer and respect the fact that you are who you are and you have got to drop it, how do you ever think they will ever respect God enough to do right? They will not. Failed authority in their life by a failed leadership. I am going to show it to you next week. The message we deliver to our children, they take through their life, and they deliver it to the others and to the world. As I said before, having children does not make you a father. What makes you a father is taking responsibility for those children. Doing what the Word of God says, producing the character qualities of wisdom in their life. We will talk about it next week. Let us pray.