

# Proverbs 7:6-23

June 2014

SEC: Introduction to the Book of Proverbs

Last week, we started Proverbs 7. I told you this Thursday night, I am always aware of the crowd that I am preaching to. I know that you have what I call entry-level Christians who are just getting into the Bible, and you have mid-level Christians who are moving along in the Bible. Then you have upper-level Christians who have been around for a while and are truly in the book and truly know the Word of God. In preaching, you want to try to give something to everybody. This is not always the easiest thing to do. I certainly do not want to confuse anybody, but I always want to challenge people.

One of the things I want to accomplish today is to show you the depth of the book of Proverbs. We have talked a lot about Proverbs being the fundamental issues of life, and they are. We find in Proverbs everything we need to truly understand how to get through the issues in life; there is no question about that. But there is a depth to the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs, in particular, represents the mind of God. We know that God's mind is endless as far as depth is concerned. The book of Proverbs is a book that is endless as far as depth is concerned. I want to show you some things today that I think are going to motivate you. It certainly ought to convict us and certainly give you some great insight into the book of Proverbs.

We are going to use our Bibles today. Normally, a lot of times we go to a verse and we talk about it and make references. We are going to go through the Bible today and show you some things. If you are not very adaptive to the Bible yet, that is okay. Do not be embarrassed about that. If you do not have a Bible today, do not be embarrassed about that. Tell John or one of the guys back there to get you a Bible. We will give you one, or just look on somebody that has one. If you are bigger than they are, take their Bible. That does not matter to us. We do not care. We are just glad that you are here, and I want you to get this.

SEC: The Preparatory Chapters of Proverbs

Last week, as I said, we started Proverbs 7. I told you that this is the last time, as we come through Proverbs, that we get to the concept of "my son." Fourteen times now in the first seven chapters, we have seen the instructions of a father to his son. He starts out by saying, "my son," directing things that he wants us to know.

I showed you last week how these first seven chapters are preparatory chapters. They are chapters that get you ready for the rest of the book. They tell you what you should be doing in your life so that when you get into chapter 8, which we will be getting into in a couple of weeks, you have a good, strong foundation to build on. All this material we have seen so far, from a practical sense, and what follows in Proverbs 8-31, is written to give you and me as the son of God, and Israel as the Old Testament sons of God, wisdom, understanding, discernment, and discretion. In particular, it is to keep us from being deceived, to keep us from being fooled and drawn away from God.

This is what we have seen now in Proverbs 7. The first week we looked at it to keep us from getting drawn away from God by the two major threats that are represented in this book. One is the evil man, which we know now is the worldly structure of everything in the world. The other is the strange woman, which we know now is organized religion that is outside Bible Christianity, whose only purpose is to destroy you and wind you up in hell. We have talked about that. The whole book of Proverbs is about these two people and what they represent and what they will do to you: Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament.

SEC: The Strange Woman's Seduction

I want to begin reading in Proverbs 7:6-23. We will come down through it, and then we will make some remarks here.

*Proverbs 7:6-23*

*For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,*

*And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths,*

*A young man void of understanding,*

*Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,*

*In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:*

*And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.*

*(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:*

*Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)*

*So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,*

*I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.*

*Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.*

*I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.*

*I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.*

*Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.*

*For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:*

*He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.*

*With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.*

*He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;*

*Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*

*Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.*

*Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.*

*For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.*

*Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Father, thank You for all that You give us, and thank You for the book of Proverbs. Help us, Lord, to learn today. Lord, I love these folks, and these are the people that You have given to me. I always feel such a great responsibility to not only give them good Bible, but to give them the truth and to help them grow, but also to help them stretch and exercise themselves. I pray, Father, today that You will take Christians at whatever level they are, and if they cannot get it all, they will get enough to motivate them about some things that will make them want to grow more and to learn more about You. Let them know that I am always available. Anytime they can come over to my home, I will sit down and help them figure out the Bible on Thursday night or whatever it takes to help them get to where You want them to be with the Word of God. But help us today. Give us the things that we need, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

SEC: Exercising Our Senses in Scripture

I am going to stretch you today a little bit.

Hebrews 5:14

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

You do that by stretching. A man who goes to the gym and is a bulked-up bodybuilder, who looks in the mirror all the time and is huge, like the Incredible Hulk, he got there because he obviously overdid it, but he stretched his muscles. He made his muscles; he ripped them, and then they repaired themselves, and they keep adding to them. That is what he does to get the bulk that he has. As a Christian, you need to have a lot of bulk in your life with the Bible. You need to have that book saturating in you, and you ought to be Mr. Olympus when it comes to the Bible in a spiritual sense. You ought to have muscles bulging out all over the place in the sense of Bible doctrine and what the Bible does. But the only way you get there is for somebody to exercise you and to stretch you. Sermons like this will not only show you, and my goal is to motivate you to see the depth of the book of Proverbs, but my goal also is to help stretch you today. As always, if there are things that you do not grasp or you do not understand, my home is always open. As soon as I am done here, I go back there, and I take appointments on Monday night, Tuesday night, and Wednesday night. You can come over to my house. You can ask me any question. I will lay out anything for you. My goal is to help you grow.

Last week in Proverbs 7:4, we saw that wisdom was to be made our sister, and understanding was to be called our kinswoman. That is like an aunt or maybe a niece. I told you from that verse that the practical application for you and for me, when the Bible says that wisdom is my sister and understanding is to be called my kinswoman in my life, is very clear: God's wisdom and God's understanding need to be part of our families.

When you are raising your children, when you get married and you start to build a home, the two women that you want to bring into your home that will help you with that are wisdom and understanding. These two naturally come into any family through a marriage. Once you and I get saved, we are espoused to be married to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then wisdom and understanding should be part of that marriage agreement that we have that automatically comes into your house because you are going to get to the point where you are now espoused to the Lord Jesus Christ. Someday, at the marriage of the Lamb, we are going to be married to Him.

Now we see another woman show up, and she is called a strange woman. For a lot of reasons, but one of the main reasons, is because she is a stranger to the things of God. She is an evil woman. In all that she does, it is nothing but wickedness. She wants to come in and be part of your family for the purpose of wrecking your family. We have all heard stories of a woman being a home wrecker. Here is the original home wrecker right here. This woman comes in, and when you allow her to be part of your family, when you allow her to come in, she will do nothing but destroy your family. She wants to come in and wreck your home. She wants to break up your family.

In a practical sense, this chapter is really a comparison of these three women who want to be brought into your family. One of them is wisdom; you should have that one in. The other one is understanding; you want to have that one. But the evil woman and the strange woman, you do not want this woman in your house. You do not ever want to accept her, to be associated with her, or bring her into your family. She will destroy you and everything that comes into her contact and her path. Do you also know that there are people in life just like that? There are people in life whose whole purpose is to destroy other Christians. I have seen it all my life. Whatever they touch, whatever they get associated with, goes down.

SEC: God's View and Man's Choices

Again, in this chapter, we see this strange woman for what she, or who, she really is. She is the harlot of Revelation 17 and 18. We laid that out on Thursday night. You can begin to see how Thursday blends into Sunday. In the passage, the Holy Spirit goes into great detail to show us the picture of the encounter here that takes place, the seduction that takes place, the sin that is involved, and the death of the victim—the spiritual death, like we talked about last week.

If you also notice, this one is different from the one we have looked at before. The last time we saw this, it was a picture of Israel as God's wife stepping out on her Husband to commit adultery, her Husband being God in a spiritual sense, and then being seduced and taken away from God as His wife. But this one is different. In this one, we see Israel as God's son and what happened that caused him to fall as God's son. You can bet there will be some great things here for you and I as children of God and sons of God.

As I said, we are going to go deep. So get a good breath of air because we are going down here where the whales are. We may even see a hundred-foot squid down here; we are going to be so deep. Look at Proverbs 7:6: "At the window of my house I looked through my casement." That is a picture of God looking down on the things that men do on planet Earth. We saw this several times in the Bible.

Psalms 11:4-7

*The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

*The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*

*Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.*

*For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*

It says there that the Lord is in heaven, and His eyes behold, His eyelids try the children of men. God is always looking down and seeing what man is doing. This is why most sin gets taken care of at night. This is why most crimes take place at night. This is when most things that people want to do that are wrong, they will wait until night because they think that if it is dark, God cannot see what goes on. The Bible says that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. But what they forget is that God has that X-ray vision that cuts right through the darkness.

In Genesis 6:5, when the whole world turned to wickedness, the Bible says that God looked down and saw the wickedness of man. A little bit later on in Genesis 11, when man had turned back to the way of this evil woman and this strange man, and they built the Tower of Babel, the Bible says that God looked over from the banisters of heaven and saw what men were doing and came down to take a look at it. In Genesis 18 and 19, with Sodom and Gomorrah, God Himself saw the wickedness of Sodom, and He came down to see what they were doing.

Hebrews 4:13

*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

God looks down and sees what man is doing.

Historically, this picture here is obviously Solomon. Solomon is looking from his porch out the window, or at least through a lattice, watching this event unfold with this young man and this harlot of the night. He is watching this thing unfold. But in typology, in truth, in doctrine, it is God looking through the windows of heaven, watching what man is doing.

There is absolutely so much here. One of the greatest studies you are ever going to take out of the Bible is a study of the windows in heaven. You will find that in Genesis 8:2, which is the first time you find it.

Genesis 8:2

*The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;*

I have had people over the years say, "Ah, windows in heaven." In 2 Kings 7:19, God told some people that He was going to open up some windows in heaven, and that there were windows in heaven, and one guy scoffed at it. When God finally opened up those windows and brought down what He brought down, He killed that guy. He killed that guy for laughing about windows in heaven.

2 Kings 7:19

*And the captain answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.*

Einstein's theory of relativity believed in them. Last Thursday night, we talked about black holes out of the book of Jude. I showed you how that the wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever, showed you how everything up there in outer space is a picture of something in your Bible. Einstein came up with a theory called wormholes. Wormholes are corridors through time by which you pass from one dimension to another. He could never prove it. Nobody has ever proven it. But the theory is that there are windows up there in heaven, or corridors, that if a man got in, he could go through one dimension to another. Einstein just did not have a Bible to put the whole thing together. He did not figure it out. He was deluded. He had an IQ of 228 and could not figure out how to use a pay toilet. He was so inept when it comes to the things of the scriptures.

In the Song of Solomon, you want to turn over to this one. In Song of Solomon 2, you have one of the greatest pictures anywhere in the Bible of the rapture of the church. The whole book of Song of Solomon is built around Christ looking at you right now. He tells you exactly. Somebody has said to me over the years many times, "How do I love God?" The book of Song of Solomon tells you how to do that. I have had people ask me, "How does God look at me?" Song of Solomon tells you that. Song of Solomon is broken down into two formats. The first format shows you how God is looking at you right now, thinking about you right now, and wants to be with you right now. The second part of that book is that you ought to feel the same way toward Him. One of the most tragic things of life for a Christian is Christ looking down, wanting to be with us every second of the day, loving us, cannot wait to be with us, and we care nothing about being with Him.

Look at Song of Solomon 2.

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

*The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.*

*My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.*

*My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

*For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

*The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;*

*The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

You know what He is telling you there? He is telling you right now, as we are sitting here this afternoon, whatever you do tomorrow morning, wherever you go, wherever you go to the rapture of the church, the Son of God, your Bridegroom, who loves you and me, the bride, so much that He wants to be with us, so much that right now He cannot wait to be with us. He is looking through that window, watching you and me, wanting to be with us. You know, in marriage, it is the common thing that the bridegroom is not supposed to see the bride on the wedding day. That does not work much anymore, of course, nothing works much anymore with weddings like they used to be. But it is a truth. That concept came out of the Bible. That day that you get married is supposed to represent Christ and the church, and Christ does not see the church. But the anticipation of that, the first time that that guy is supposed to see the woman, is when she walks down that aisle. That woman is coming down the aisle to the bridegroom. That represents in type or a picture of the rapture of the church, the day that you and I are going to go to our Bridegroom. How excited He is right now! He is looking through the windows. We are not looking for Him. It reminds me of an old country western song: "I was looking back to see if you were looking back at me, if you were looking back at me and looking back to see." He is watching us right now. The key is we are supposed to be looking back with the same love and the same wanting to be with Him. He says down there in Song of Solomon 2:10, "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." Oh, that is the day I am looking for right there. That is the day that my Lord cannot wait any longer, and He finally comes back and He says to all of us, if you are saved today, "Rise up, my fair one, my love, and come away." That is the rapture of the church.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

*For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

*The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;*

What is the old saying? "April showers bring what?" It says it right there: "The winter's past. There goes the winter. The rain is over." There are the April showers. "The flowers." It is May. I do not know the day of the rapture, the time of the rapture, but based on that, I can almost guarantee you, when we hear that trumpet sound and He says, "Rise up and come away," it is only either May or June. You know, it is a strange thing. Do you know when most marriages every year take place? May and June. A June bride.

Song of Solomon 2:13

*The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

That is a picture of the day He comes back for me and you. I am telling you, He is looking at you right now through those windows. Oh, there are windows up there.

Look at Proverbs 7:7: "And I beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youth, A young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house." When God looks down at men on this planet Earth, we know that He has windows. When it comes to religion, politics, and all the issues of life, He sees this guy right here. In 40-plus years of ministry, I have seen a thousand like him.

There are a couple of things about this guy. First of all, he is void of understanding. He is a simple one, literally and spiritually. He is a young man who obviously forsook the instructions of his father. Now he is out on his own, about to make a real mess out of his life. Have you ever seen anybody in life like that? If the Bible were a book that had fill-in-the-blanks on this particular issue, I could put out 10,000 names in it over 40-some years.

The real concept here is that this young man has no understanding. You will remember the definition of understanding: how God fits into any situation. But there are three aspects to understanding:

1. Perception: Your ability to see something and not miss it. We go through life and miss a thousand things a day that God would like us to see, but because we do not have any perception, we never see them.
2. Discernment: Once you see it, then you have the ability to discern what God is doing in that particular situation.
3. Discretion: Once you have perception, once you have discernment, then you have discretion. That is, how am I going to get involved in this? Am I going to get involved in this, or am I going to stay away from this?

That is understanding. The real bottom line will be what God is doing in this, or through this, or with this. In dealing with people, it is the ability to see their problems as they really are, not as they appear. You see it all the time. People who get mad and leave churches, 98% of the time, the reason they tell you they are leaving is not the reason they are leaving. People will tell you what you want to hear. Deception is the order of the day. But discernment, perception, and discretion always let you see what the real thing is. For you and for me, it is to be able to view any situation or circumstance, any relationship that comes our way, comes into my life, and be able to rate it on a spiritual value scale, zero to ten. Of course, you make your association with it based on that.

This guy does not have any of that. Yet historically, as Solomon's son, he really does not have an excuse, does he? Wisdom was all around him. His daddy was the wisest man in the world. Like so many of us today, we have all the wisdom around us in the Word of God, in the church that you go to, the Holy Spirit of God living inside you. Just like there is no excuse for this young man, there is absolutely no excuse for us. Do you know what his problem was? He made the wrong choice. Do you know what gets us into trouble every time? When we make the wrong

choices. When we forsake the wisdom of our father and then launch out, as this young man does here, and he is on his own.

Along with this, Proverbs says about this guy, and it is hard to feel sorry for him. It is hard to look at him as a victim. I have found in life that people all the time want to play the victim. You will find people will tell you their side of the story and pad it their way so you will think they are the victim. I have no respect for victims whatsoever. I just do not. You are either going to be a victim of life or you are going to be victorious in life. But you get to choose. You get to choose. You go around in your life and you tell your sad story: "Well, this guy did this to me," or "this gal did this to me," and "I am a victim," and "I am this and I am that," or "this circumstance was here." This guy had no way he could go through life claiming victim status. Do you know why? Because it was his choice to go down through her neighborhood. He had obviously been around there before because he knows where her house is. He made some choices in life.

He is on a mission, Proverbs 7:8 says. He is headed to the very neighborhood that she hangs out at. As far as the areas of life, in a spiritual sense now, there are some neighborhoods you ought to stay out of. You know that? You know that 33rd and Troost is not a good place to be at two o'clock in the morning. You know that Van Brunt and Independence Avenue is not a good choice at 12:00 or 1:30 in the morning.

I told you a couple of weeks ago the story of Samson in Judges 13-16. He is a perfect picture of this. We talked about it. He was a Nazarite. He had a vow from God. He was going to do something for God, like so many of God's people. But he one day is going to see his woman, and he wants to take a shortcut. As a Nazarite, there were some things that he could not do. He could not have anything to do with anything off a vine tree. He could not touch a dead animal or a dead body. There were some things that he could not do. So he is going down the road to see his woman, and obviously he is excited to see her. He was more excited to see her than he was to see God, which is most of our problems today. So instead of going down the road, he decides to take a shortcut. The shortcut he took was through a vineyard, which he is supposed to stay out of—wrong neighborhood. Lo and behold, when he goes through this vineyard, what does he find? He finds a lion.

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

He went in the wrong neighborhood where he should not have been, and there was the devil waiting for him. He kills the lion, mighty Samson. The next day he takes a shortcut back through. There is that carcass of that lion. During that period of time, some bees had come in, and now there is a honeycomb in there. Oh, Samson loves honey. He loves a lot of honeys; that is his problem. He loves the honey. Now there is a great principle: he is not supposed to touch a dead animal. When he touched a dead animal to get the honey, he broke the Nazarite vow. Let me give you the principle on that: there is nothing wrong with him having honey, but look where the devil put it. There are a lot of things in life that are okay for you, but you have to watch where the devil puts it. The whole situation of this young man is he is in the wrong place that he

should not be, and he makes his own choices. That is why there is no victim status in life for him, in most cases.

#### SEC: The Harlot and the Church Age

Now look at Proverbs 7:9-10: "In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart." We are going to go boldly where wimpy preachers dare not go today. We are going to look at this thing and go down into it. From that verse, it is obvious that this lady works best at night.

The first lesson here, I think, is important for all of us to see: this woman, we know now from Revelation 17:1-5, is the harlot of Babylon mystery, religion, the mother of harlots. She represents Rome.

#### 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 represents Baal worship in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, she represents Romanism, and that is the false religions of the New Testament today. All other denominations, we showed you this the other Thursday night, come from her. From Revelation 17:5, she is the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth.

Now watch this. The Bible says in Proverbs 7:9 that she operates best at night. I do not know what you know about the Bible, but in the Bible, nighttime is always a reference to the church age. This is a picture of this harlot doing her work during the church period of time. Take your Bible and turn over to Daniel 7. I want to show you something here.

#### Daniel 7:1-7

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.*

*Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

*And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.*

*The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

*And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

*After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.*

We know from our study on Thursday night, when we come through the dispensations in the seven pillars, that Daniel is about our sixth dispensation, the times of the Gentiles. In Daniel 2, Daniel's image, we know now, is a picture of the Gentile nations by which the devil will ride through history. We know that. I gave them to you up through the Old Testament from Daniel 2: Babylon (606 BC), Darius Persia (536 BC), Greece (330 BC), and Rome (100 BC). These nations are the nations by which the devil will establish his world empire of religion and politics, and it will bring us right up to the New Testament.

For years and years, there was a break that nobody understood Daniel 7. Then about 200 years ago or so, some guys got the light on it and began to see, and I think a lot of things in the Bible just have to move with time and get pieces of history, and then it makes everything fall into place. They saw in Daniel 7 how it shows you the last three Gentile nations in the New Testament that are going to bring about the coming man of sin.

*The first one in Daniel 7:4 is the lion. We all go through Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. Rome stays in power. Then the next world power that comes on the scene, found in Daniel 7:4, is the lion. That will be England from about the time of the Reformation up to about 1900. England was the world power. The phrase was that the sun never set on English soil. She had provinces and places all over the Earth.*

*The second one is found in Daniel 7:5. It is the bear. What happened? October 1917, the Russian Revolution. Now Russia becomes the world power. Russia becomes the world power through communism. Look what it says in Daniel 7:5 about this bear: "Arise, devour much flesh." After World War II, from 1946 to 1990, we entered into the Cold War. Do you know what it means there when it says about this bear who has flesh in his teeth, "Arise, devour much flesh"? I will tell you what it means: it means when Russia comes to world power, she does exactly that. Because in 1946 to 1990, in the Cold War, three-quarters of the world falls to communism. Russia falls. Ukraine falls. Kiev falls. Czechoslovakia falls. Romania falls. Hungary falls. China falls. North Korea falls. Vietnam falls. Cuba falls. South America falls. Latin America falls. East Berlin falls. Laos falls. Albania falls. Bulgaria falls. Cambodia falls. Yugoslavia falls. The Congo falls. Ethiopia falls. Mongolia falls. Somalia falls. South Yemen falls. "Devour much flesh." That is exactly what she does.*

*Then in 1991, do you know what happens? God's people today, for the most part, are completely void of any understanding of the world that we live in. I do not know if you even know the singular event that forged everything that we are living in today and set up the whole system has its anniversary this month. June the 28th. Can anybody tell me what happened on June 28th, 1914? On June 28th, 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Bosnia. Can you even find Bosnia on a map? Do you even know where it is? Nobody knows where it is. They ask kids on a map in school today to find Somalia. That is south of Kansas as far as they are concerned. How*

*about Albania? Could you find it on a map? Most people today who go to school and get an education have no clue. They think Manuel Labor is the president of Mexico. Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company. On June 28th, 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Bosnia, and it launched World War I. World War I was the war to end all wars, and all it did was precipitate the next war of World War II. It was the entry level to it, but it set the stage for the nation of Israel to get back in the land, and it set the stage for the Antichrist, who is right on schedule. Do you know what happened in 1991? The Soviet Union collapsed. Do you remember Ronald Reagan? How many know if you do not know who the guy that sang "Delilah" and the Andrews Sisters with "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" is, you will never know who Ronald Reagan is. He was a president. What were his famous words? "Tear down that wall." Do you know what wall that was? The Berlin Wall. In 1991, Russia collapsed. She collapsed. She lost everything. She went bankrupt. England went bankrupt. Russia went bankrupt.*

*Then the next nation that comes on is the leopard. That is the good old United States of America. She takes the stage as the world leader and world power that leads right to the Antichrist. Notice the leopard is a complete nation that has been completely integrated. America is called the great melting pot of nationalities. We go back to Genesis and we find that Noah's three boys, Ham, Shem, and Japheth, procure the races on planet Earth. Japheth represents the white European. Shem represents the Oriental. Ham represents the black man. Here we have in America the melting pot. So the animal that represents the United States is a leopard. It has a yellow body of Shem. It has the white body of Japheth. And it has the black spots of Ham. A completely integrated melting pot of the nations already on the rise to power for the Antichrist to take off, and off he goes. Right now, America is the world power.*

All these nations are in decline. America is in decline. I told you last week, no country on the face of this planet ever survived 200 years past dumping the Word of God. America is what, 126 years past dumping it? So you are seeing in America the collapse from when she became the world power. All of us are collapsing right now because there is going to be the next kingdom where the Antichrist is going to step in and bring it all right back together. You are living in some pretty good times, do you know that? I am reminded many, many times of that movie \*Deep Impact\* where that meteor was coming to hit the Earth, and he sent Bruce Willis's drill team up there to break it up and put bombs in it. Remember that movie? That one goofy guy, he was all excited, but he was all excited because he got a front row to the end of the world. Everybody is looking at him like, "We want to go back." "Oh no, me man, we got a front row to the end of the world." That is how I feel. We have a front row seat to the end of this planet and man's domination of it, and the Lord coming back and taking it up. That may not do much for you. That kind of excites me. I am not really excited yet.

SEC: The Four Watches of the Night

Let me show you another one. What I am about to show you is one of the most amazing things. He said in Daniel 7:2, when he laid out these three beasts there, "I saw in my vision by night," which is the church age. He said in Daniel 7:7, "After this I saw in the night visions."

1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

*For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

*But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

You see that? The Lord comes as a thief in the night. The church age is likened to the night in the Bible. Daniel just showed you the three nations that are going to be in this time period in the night. This woman, the harlot, who seduces men with her ways, her religion, she operates best in the night. That is what you have. Right now, the world is in darkness and asleep, but we are children of the light. We have the Book. We have the truth of God. We saw it last week in Jeremiah 23. We consider it in the latter days perfectly. We should know what is going on and what is happening around us.

Let me show you one more. What I am about to show you is one of the most amazing things you will ever see. Turn to Mark 13. Pick it up in Mark 13:32. This is the depth of Proverbs. This is what you get into in Proverbs. Proverbs is about the issues of life. Oh yeah, but that evil man and that strange woman and all the things that are going on, you are seeing the depth of it today.

Mark 13:32-37

*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*

*Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

*For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.*

*Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

*Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.*

*And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

What you have here in these four watches of the night is the church age.

Isaiah 21:11-12

*The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?*

*The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.*

1 Thessalonians 5:6 says, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." It is real simple. The church age runs approximately 2,000 years. He breaks that 2,000 years down into four watches. 2,000 divided by four is 500 years for each watch. In your Bible, in Mark 13, if you do not have it, or maybe you want to do it on a piece of paper so you do not mess it up, you want to write this chart out as I have it up here. You want to put it at some point by Mark 13. These four watches of the night that the harlot operates best by, and she is telling this young man, "Come on, let us take our fill of love in the night because the goodman of the house is gone, and he will not return until the morning." Now we get over here to Mark 13, it says about the Lord coming back. He tells you there are four watches. Let us see how it works. We divided it up.

4. Even: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (33 A.D. to 500 A.D.)
5. Midnight: 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. (500 A.D. to 1000 A.D.)
6. Cock Crowing: 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. (1000 A.D. to 1500 A.D.)
7. Morning: 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. (1500 A.D. to Christ's Return)

The darkest part of the night is from midnight till 3 a.m. After that, you start to see a little light on the horizon, but the darkest part of the night is right there. Somebody says, "Why did you put a red line up there?" Because this matches up with history. The darkest part of the night in the four watches, the darkest part of this in history, will be what is commonly called the Dark Ages. Right on the money. In your Bible, the night will always be a reference to the church age and tribulation with the coming of Christ, the morning sun coming up.

Malachi 4:1-2

*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.*

*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

That is the second coming of Christ. Notice how it is spelled: "Sun of righteousness." It is not spelled S-O-N as we would think it. It is spelled S-U-N, "Sun of righteousness." He is showing you when that sun comes up with that fourth watch, He is coming back. He is coming back. He is coming back.

I am going to tell you something: that harlot who seduces young men with her adulterous ways has been at work for almost 6,000 years. She is good at what she does, and just like any harlot, she thrives best at night, which is a picture of the church age. I do not know if you have it figured

out today, but right here in Old Path Baptist Church in 2014, on this day in June, I do not know if you know it yet or not, you are right here. You are right at the end of that fourth watch. You are right at the end. This is why you are seeing what goes on around you in the world today. This is why the world is in such turmoil. This is why America is in such turmoil. This is why it does not matter who becomes president, it does not matter who does what, it does not matter what the UN does or what Russia does or what anybody does, it is over. This world is in such a messed-up state; it will never get pulled out by anybody on this planet. The nations that were once the great nations have gone the way America has fallen down. She is drunken. She is completely inept at doing anything. What we are waiting for now is the one Man who, as I speak this morning, is waiting in the wings to step on the scene and solve all of the Earth's problems.

#### SEC: Our Mission in the Fourth Watch

Let me show you one more thing. Go to Mark 6. Let me show you what your job and my job is. I am going to do a little preaching now. I am sorry, the rest of it was just pent-up frustration. Mark 6 has always been a favorite passage of mine. Maybe after today, it will be a favorite passage of yours. It is tough not to get discouraged in life today as Christians. So many people fall, fail, so many things do not work out, so many churches are just ridiculously stupid. So many things go on that never should go on; it is absolutely incredible. It is hard not to lose your focus. It really is. Mark 6:45-48 has always been my point of reference to bring me back. It always puts it for me in a capsule form where I need to be. Let me read it for you, and then I am going to try to explain it to you as best I can.

Mark 6:45-48

*And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.*

*And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*

*And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.*

*And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*

The stuff I am about to show you here is what makes your Bible come alive. I apologize for most being a pastor, a preacher. That is my profession. Many times I apologize for my compatriots in arms in preaching for how shallow and how worthless they are when it comes to teaching you Bible truth. To not teach you the depth of the Word of God. To not give you and challenge you. The last church you ever want to go to is the church that you go and you feel good about yourself when you leave. You may want to go there, but that is the worst thing for you to do. Teaching is great; it gives out knowledge, but preaching makes you look inside yourself. All of us, every day and everything we do, never want to get complacent. I know you do not like it. I do not like it. You are lucky; you get to hear this sermon one time. I had to go through it 40 times this week. I still do not like it, but I need it because we as God's people can never get complacent.

When you go back to Mark 6:43-44, do you know why He sent those disciples into that boat, into that sea? Because they had gotten complacent. Just like you and me, they had come to the place in their life where they were with Jesus. He was taking bread and feeding 5,000 and fishing, making great baskets of it. He was doing miracles. He was healing people with leprosy, raising dead people. Can you imagine being associated with that all the time, the indifference that set in? They really thought they were something special. That is how we get sometimes. We have a church where we have the Bible, and you get all you want and everything you need, and what you do not need sometimes. You just have it at your fingertips. I want to tell you, you can get so much. There is a great balance. I will be honest, I have never found that balance. I am just like a fire hydrant; I just dump it out. But there is a balance that has to be of how much you get before, if you do not do something with it, you just forget, like the apostles.

Do you know what God does then? He puts you in that little boat, sends you out in that sea in the middle of the night with the wind that is contrary and the waves coming over the sides of the boat. Then Jesus is nowhere to be found. Do you know what He said? "I constrained them into a ship." He sent them out in that little sea. Right there, that little sea is about three and a half miles at its widest point. They were three and a half miles into it, in the dark black of the night, without any light, with the waves and the wind contrary and blowing over the sides of that boat. They were scared to death. Yet the Bible says that when He sent them into that ship, He went into a mountain to pray. That is a picture of my Father sitting at the right hand of God the Father, Romans 8, making intercession for me while I am on the Sea of Life. It is a picture of our life, the church age. It is a picture of where we are at. It is a picture: the ship and the mission of the sea, the sea of life, the raging sea in the middle of the night. Nothing could be more terrifying. Yet the Bible says, even though we are in the dark black part of the night where nobody can see the hand in front of their face, and He is on a mountain praying, the Bible says He saw them. I do not care what you go through in life. I do not care how black you think it gets. I do not care how dark, how raging the sea, how boisterous the waves and the wind, He is looking through the window at you and me. Praise God, glory to God for that.

The Bible says the wind was contrary to them. The wind of this world is always going to be contrary to us. He says that we are in darkness. This world is always going to be darkness to you and me. The sea was raging. The sea of life will always be raging. I take comfort in that passage because it tells me what I should be doing in the midst of this storm for the work that God has given me to do. He put me in that boat. He sent me out into that sea, and He is on the mountaintop praying for me right now. My job is not to worry about the waves. My job is not to worry about the wind. My job is not to worry about the sea and the darkness. My job and your job is to row the boat. We row the boat. Stay the course. Do not get sidetracked on all the things. Here He comes, the fourth watch of the night. Oh, how joyous they must have been when they saw Him coming for them. We talked about in our Thursday night class, the Great Deep. That is a picture of the Lord and the rapture of the church coming down.

SEC: The Light Breaking in the Eastern Sky

Let me tell you something. The book of Proverbs is showing you and me how this evil, strange woman, who is connected to an evil man, has worked all down through history. She seduces the

simple ones. She takes the young men and young women that are void of understanding. She takes the ones that could not see God and what is going on around them. She takes the ones who will naturally grow into her neighborhood, make the bad choices, get into bad circumstances, get into bad relationships. She knows it only takes just a snap of the fingers for you to lose what you have with God in your fellowship. Every day, all week long, all year long, she will bring the things into our lives that will give us the opportunity to make the wrong choices.

But those who have the light, thank God that He did not give me some translation that I have to rely on man's ability to give me the words of God. Thank God I have the very pure words of God. The light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. The Book that gives me perception. The Book that gives us discernment and discretion. We who are in the midst of the sea, in the midst of the storm, in the black of the night. I love that passage because no matter where I am, I know that Day Star. I know my history. I know how it relates to the Bible. I know the blackness of those four watches. I know the darkest part of the night. I know right now in America and around the world, people look at it, and we look at it, and we look at the darkness, and we look at the blackness, and the things scare us, and the things make us afraid. But I want to tell you on the authority of the Word of God, do not be afraid, because I am telling you this morning, I see the light breaking in the eastern sky. Amen. He is coming back. He is coming back. That old harlot and that old evil man will get their due.

Most people do not know. Some of you do. Some of you have a pretty good handle on church history. I know John Christiansen does. Many of you do. This is not something that we just found out last week. What I am preaching to you has gone down through the centuries. You do not hear about it much because the job of the evil woman and the strange woman and the man of sin is to cover it all up. A hundred years ago, everybody who was saved believed what we believe today about the Bible and God's coming. It is assured. A hundred years from now, we will be on the outside looking in. Nobody believes it anymore. Nobody believes the Bible is the Word of God. Nobody believes He is really coming back. Everybody just scoffs at it and does not care. Well, I am telling you, I still believe He is coming back because I have a Book that tells me He is. Heaven and Earth may pass away, but His Word will never pass away. I am telling you, all down through history, we lose sight of the fact. We lose our perspective. We lose our discernment. We lose our discretion. We see that these Bible-believing groups all down through Europe believed exactly what we believe.

In Herne, Germany, from 1500 to the early part of the 1900s, right before World War I, they had a night watchman that went through the city. A night watchman's job was to cry out every hour, the time. They did not have alarm clocks like we have where you can look over and see it on your illuminated dial or look at your watch with all of its little diamonds in there to sparkle or hit the little light button that comes on. They did not have that. They had a guy that walked through the city, and he would walk through and he would say, "One o'clock, and all is well. Two o'clock, and all is well." You would kind of stir out of your sleep, but you knew it was two o'clock in the morning, and all was well. In Herne, Germany, right up to about the beginning of World War I, it had been a tradition for almost 400 years that these men who cried, these town criers, the night

watchmen, they cried out what I am about to give you. It is based on a King James, 1611, Authorized Version, and it has every doctrine in it that I gave you:

At midnight, ye brethren, hear the midnight clock is humming.

At midnight, our Bridegroom will be coming.

At one o'clock in the morning, past one, the day breaks out of darkness.

Morning star will appear and surely break our hardness.

Two o'clock, 'tis two on Jesus waiting the silent season.

Yea, no two, so near related as our will and reason.

At three o'clock, the clock is three. The blessed three doth merit,

The best of praise from body, soul, and spirit.

At four, 'tis four o'clock when these make supplication,

The Lord will be the fourth on that grand occasion.

Five is the clock, five versions were discarded.

When five with wedding garments, they were rewarded.

The clock is now six. I go off my station.

Look, my dear friend, now for your own salvation.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

See what Proverbs is? It is an amazing book. These men down through the 1500s and the 1400s, they knew exactly what I am talking about today. That old town crier knew more Bible doctrine than any theologian you could find today. He probably did not have a third-grade education, but he had his Bible, and he knew that at six o'clock on God's clock, on His morning, we are going home. So do not worry about the waves. Do not worry about the storm. Do not worry about the darkness. God put us in a boat together at Old Path Baptist Church. There is room for more.

There are more oars. But our job as this church in these last days is to stay focused, not on the storm, not on the rain, not on the wind, but stay focused on staying the course and rowing the boat. He will come to us. In the fourth watch, I can tell you right now, I see the light breaking through on the east. He is coming.

You have been out there hunting. A lot of you go turkey hunting, deer hunting. The best thing is to get out in that stand or get out there before the sun comes up. You have to fumble your way down through the woods to get where you are. You sit down there for about an hour, and it looks like it is never going to get light. Suddenly, over the east, you see that first crack of light coming up. It gets a little brighter. It gets a little brighter. By the time that sun gets over the trees and gets up a little higher, everything that was darkness around you is gone. I want to tell you this

morning, the sun is coming up. The Day Star will arise in our hearts. The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings. When He comes, the darkness will flee.