

## I. Review of Proverbs 11:28 and the Four Aspects of Christ

The last time we were together, which was the week before last, we went through a tremendous in-depth study of Proverbs 11:28. I think it is one of the richest passages in all of the Bible. I understand it was a little deep, and I always look for the conjunction of using Sunday morning and Thursday night together. If there is ever anything that I lay out on Sunday morning that you do not totally grasp, because we are limited a little bit here with time, just write it down and bring it to Thursday night. That is our time where we can really look at and open up anything that you are not sure of or I did not make clear. But those kinds of things stretch you. You do not always want to just be in the mode where all you get is the basic surface stuff from the Bible. You want to be able to stretch yourself and get a little deep into the Word of God and help you develop your skills.

I showed you in Proverbs 11:28 that we looked at Christ as the branch, and how that if you and I want to flourish in our Christianity, then we need to make this study an absolute priority in our life and a necessity, really grasping and understanding it. I told you how that branch is defined in the Old Testament four different ways, and I gave you the references.

1. I showed you in Jeremiah 23:5 where the branch is likened to the king.
2. I showed you in Zechariah 3:8 where that branch is likened to the servant.
3. Then I took you to Zechariah 6:12 and showed you the branch that the Bible says is likened to the man.
4. And then Isaiah 4:2, the branch that is the Lord.

The great study in that and the great majesty of that passage is how that the Holy Spirit of God laid that out in the Old Testament, but all four of those branches represent Christ. And yet when you study the New Testament, you will find that there are four accounts of the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know Him as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John really give us some insight into Christ's first coming.

I showed you how that each one of these line up to one of the Gospels. In Matthew, Christ is portrayed as the king. In Mark, Christ is portrayed as a servant. In Luke, He is portrayed as the Son of Man. In John, He is portrayed as the Son of God.

I showed you how that it lays itself out not only to Christ, but it shows us the four aspects of our Christianity that we should have. We know that someday we are going to reign with Christ. We are going to be a king with Him. We know that right now we are to be a servant and we are to serve people, give them what they need, and be there for them as a servant much as Christ does for when He was on this earth. We also realize that we are human. We have a human side to us that we have to deal with, but then we also realize that we have a glorious side to us, those that are saved, that is Christ in you, the hope of glory. And He lives inside us today. So we see these four aspects. Not only do we develop them historically as we see Christ, but we can take each of those and develop them in our own lives.

## II. God's Systematic Theology: Sevens and Mysteries

In your Bible, the Bible is built around a series of sevens. I call them God's systematic theology. You are going to find that seven in the Bible is a perfect number. So when God orchestrated the Bible through the Holy Spirit of God, He set down the understanding of the Bible in a series of different studies that fall into a pattern of sevens. And they are very easy to follow. We have talked about them many, many times.

One of the studies is the fact that the Bible talks about given to the church that there are seven mysteries. When you understand those mysteries and you see them, you realize that two of those mysteries have to do with what we are talking about right here.

5. One of those mysteries has to do with God's dealing with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. That is a mystery. It is a mystery that the world cannot see. That is why the world is against the nation of Israel today. Unfortunately, many Christians in many churches are against them too because they do not follow the Bible. But when you believe the Bible and you follow the Bible, you realize that given to the church is a set of mysteries. One of those mysteries is the nation of Israel and how God used them down through the Old Testament and how God is preparing to use them again.
6. The other mystery in the Bible is the mystery of the church. That is the New Testament. And again, there are a lot of people today that are all messed up on the mystery of the church. And that mystery lays out where the church comes in. We talked about that a couple of weeks ago and I laid all that out. And these two really form the balance of the Bible.

Also in your Bible, Paul talks about, and Peter says it one time, Paul talks about it six times, Peter talks about it once, seven things that a Christian should not be ignorant of. And he goes through systematically and he says, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning this or concerning that." I have found over the years that most of God's people, even though we are told not to be ignorant of those things, you find the average child of God today, he has no idea what these seven things are. We have taught him in the church. They are on our website back there. We have laid them out many, many times because again, the Bible says that a pastor should be a steward of the mysteries of God. My job is to teach them to you, help you understand them so you can develop yourself with the Bible. But these seven things that we are not to be ignorant of, here again, one of them is the church, the other one is the nation of Israel. And as I said, these form the foundation of the balance.

Last time we were together, I showed you that Christ in Romans chapter 11 was the olive tree. And how that the nation of Israel, the Bible says in Romans 11, were the natural branches that were on that tree. And then I showed you how that God broke off those natural branches. And then he took a wild olive tree and grafted it in. And that was a picture of you and me as the Gentiles getting into Christ. And I laid all that out for you. And it completely shows you how God throughout history is building the Old Testament around the nation of Israel and the New Testament around the Gentiles and the church.

I also showed you, and I have made reference to this many, many, many times, the absolute importance of understanding the importance of the book of Romans. The book of Romans is a key book to lay out for you and me, the church, what we are to believe, how we are to believe it, and how God has laid out the New Testament. And I gave you then, if you remember, two examples of that branch.

7. One of them was in John chapter 15, which was the nation of Israel.
8. The other one was Romans chapter 11, which was a picture of the church.

These are two great examples of rightly dividing the word of truth and putting it all together.

### III. Proverbs 11:29 - Historical and Practical Context

Now today, with that little reminder being off a week from it, we will move on to the next verse. First off, I want to say that this in an immediate historical context is very important. And probably most of you will not have this in your Bible, so you may want to jot it down and put it in there. But I want to show you the historical context first, and then I will come back and I will show you the practical aspect, so you can see how they both work out.

Here is our verse today, Proverbs chapter 11 verse 29:

*Proverbs 11:29*

*He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart.*

Let us pray. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus, and we do love you today. We thank you for the folks that have come out. We thank you for it being Mother's Day, a day that we have set aside to honor our moms. And Father, we just pray that they will have a blessed day and that everything that is said and done today in the families will honor them. We love you. We thank you, Father, for all that you have given us in our church, for the great people, for their giving heart, for their spirit of ministry, for their ability to be flexible and to go and do whatever, however, whatever needs to be done. Lord, we just thank you for that. And we just praise you now in Jesus' name, for a sake we ask it. Amen.

This is a great verse, as I said, in its historical context as it is in its spiritual and inspirational application. There are two great lessons here, and we want to focus on these today.

The context here of Proverbs, and we have known this for a long time as we have been coming through it, the context of Proverbs is about a wise man and about a foolish man. And we know that a wise man is someone who does what God has said, the foolish man is someone who does not. And in the context of chapter 11 when it says, "he that troubleth his own house," I wanted to define this for you historically because this is very important. In the context of chapter 11, this house here historically will be the whole house of Israel. I want you to understand that.

In the Bible, the idea of Israel being a house is based on the Bible doctrine that all salvation is found within Israel. John 4:22 says that salvation is of the Jews. The Bible teaches us that God's building, God's temple was with the nation of Israel. The Bible talks about in Hebrews 7, 8, and

9, spiritual Mount Zion, where God's spiritual temple is. And when it talks about the house, it is talking about the house of Israel from which God gave salvation to everybody on this planet. I do not care if you are before the law, during the law, in the New Testament, in the tribulation period, in the millennium, or wherever you are at, salvation is going to come through the nation of Israel. And the Bible says that the house that was built was Israel, but in the building of that house, the chief cornerstone of that house is the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is how it lays out.

#### IV. Understanding Dispensations and the Household of God

A couple of months ago, well really it was last year, I think, as I think about it, I brought you through a couple of Thursday nights and we talked about the dispensations. In fact, we have got it in a book back there. And I showed you that from Genesis to Revelation, you have 11 or 12, depending on how you count them, dispensations that span the Bible as far as God dealing with men in different ways.

The Bible, as you look at it, looks like an intimidating book. I do not know how many people over the years of my life, and even myself when I was young, I looked at that Bible and I thought to myself, "Wow, how are you ever going to learn all of that Bible? There is so much in it. There is so much that it talks about. There are so many people. There are so many events. There are so many places. How in the world am I ever going to learn it?" Well then one day I found out that what God did when He did His Bible and laid it out is He broke it down into sections. Those sections become in time to be known as dispensations.

I told you when we had our study that a dispensation was a period of time. It is a period of time when God deals with man this way, and then another dispensation starts when God deals with man another way. For instance, before Moses, God was dealing with man on the basis of His conscience. That is a dispensation. Once Moses came on the scene, God gives him the Ten Commandments. Now Moses and the children of Israel are in the dispensation of the law. As Christ comes, the law is done away with, now we are moving into the church age, that is another dispensation.

Dispensations are different sections of the Bible. You want to learn the Bible? Simply break it down into these dispensations. Take number one, look at it, study it, put it over here. Get number two, look at it, study it, put it over here. Get number three, look at it, understand it, put it here. Right down the line. Once you understand them all, then you go back with your little spiritual drill gun and you just bolt them back together. Hence the whole Bible is laid out for you in that simple format. That is what they call dispensations.

Clarence Larkin, we have this book in our bookstore back around the turn of the century. He wrote probably the book that did more for laying the foundation of the Bible in the early part of the 20th century than any other writer when he wrote his series of books. The one book that he wrote, which I think is his best book, is the book called \*Dispensational Truth\*, where he actually breaks it down. It is an incredible book. I might also tell you that most people today, churches, do not believe in dispensations anymore. I have had pastors, people who study the Bible think that dispensations do not exist, yet you find the word dispensation several times in

the Bible so it must exist somewhere. But it is a thing where when you really want to understand the Bible, this is what you have. A dispensation is God dealing with man in different ways that requires him to do different things, that he finds his relationship with God.

In the Bible, this body of people from Genesis to Revelation is called the household of God. It is called the family of God. We always think our church is the family of God, and that would be true in a local sense. But on a Bible sense, spanning the whole Bible, this family of God encompasses everybody in those dispensations from Genesis to Revelation.

Let me show you a verse here in Ephesians 2 that kind of gives you a little further light on it.

*Ephesians 2:18-21*

*For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

Now you see what he just said? He just said that all of this family of God, every dispensation, every group of people that moved, that come down through the Bible, when they find God and they get in, whether before the law, during the law, after the law, whenever, they are now part of the household of God, the family of God. The Bible says that every part of that house is fitly joined together, and the chief cornerstone of that house is the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that house fundamentally, where salvation is found. Salvation is of the Jew. We know it as the house of Israel, and that is very important for you to understand.

This house, as I said, is based on Israel. In the Old Testament, everybody looked to the Old Testament to find God. You could not find God once the law came into effect. You could not find God outside of the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, it is the church. You cannot find God outside the church. I have told you before, Proverbs 22 and Proverbs 23 talks about the two landmarks by which you can gauge and find yourself any place in history, two focal points, the two landmarks that you fit your position in time.

9. One of them is the nation of Israel.

10. The other one is the New Testament local church.

When you lay this out, and I do not want to get deep this morning, nor do I intend to confuse you. I am just kind of giving you the basics. When you lay this out, talking about the household of God, this house here that we are talking about in Proverbs, you will find that from Genesis to Revelation, there are basically seven basic families, groups of people that make up this house of God. And I do not have time to go into all of that this morning. That would be a great Thursday night question. These will be the seven people groups that will make up the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, which form the dispensation that I talked about. They form the family of God, the

household of God. And they all reside under the umbrella of salvation, which comes from the Jew, the nation of Israel, the father's house. Salvation is based on it.

In the Bible, in its most basic form, in the Old Testament, they get in through a nation. And that nation is the nation of Israel. And in the New Testament, we got our salvation through the nation of Israel, through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was a Jew. In fact, when you go all the way back to the early part of Genesis, you will find that every aspect of salvation, whether it is in the Old Testament or New Testament, wherever you are at, goes back to that Jew. God told Abraham in Genesis 18:18 that all nations, future reference, all nations would have their blessings in the nation of Israel. He told him, Abraham in Genesis 12:3, that all the families of the earth would find God through the nation of Israel.

The word "house" in your Bible is a key word in your Bible. And we find it in Proverbs chapter 11. When you see it, you want to immediately check the context. Sometimes, many times, it will be talking about just a literal house, like Zacchaeus, "Make haste, come down, for to day I must abide at thy house." That is a literal house. And sometimes you will find it is a reference to something that deals with God's house, the nation of Israel.

## V. John 14 and the Father's House

Let me give you a good example of this. Turn over to John chapter 14. I want to show you a great defining verse in the Bible. I am going to show you how you take your Bible here and take a passage, which for the most part is pretty much taught wrong today. And I want to show you how just using your Bible, you can figure out exactly what it is saying based on what I have already given you.

*John 14:1-3*

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

If I had a dollar for every time I have heard that sermon over the last 40 plus years of my life that was talking about somebody putting in the context of New Testament Christianity, I would be a rich man. I do not know how many times I have heard it somebody saying that is talking about you, talking about me, going to heaven, the mansion I am going to have up there. Well, even sing songs about it. "I got a mansion just over the hilltop," you know, and I like the song. I understand all that. I am not fighting anybody. I am here to show you what the Bible says and how to rightly divide it. I told you before when it comes to the Bible, you have to be exact. I know there is some latitude and if somebody wanted to get up and I have no problem with that at all, as long as I understand what it is fundamentally saying. Every sermon for a funeral that I have ever heard for the most part, the guy takes John chapter 14. And I know what he is trying to do. I understand he is talking about the fact that in my father's house, that is heaven or many mansions, that is heaven

and you are going to have a mansion up there. But you know what? If you know your Bible and you understand your Bible, you know the job that God has for you and for me in a glorified body after Christ comes back and in eternity has a lot more to do than just sitting in a mansion watching ESPN or whatever they do up there. You know there is a lot more to it than that.

Let me show you some things here. John chapter 14, first of all, has nothing to do with New Testament Christianity. You say, why is that? Well, first of all, in John chapter 14, there is no church. Holy Spirit of God has not come yet. Holy Spirit of God did not come until Acts chapter 2. When John chapter 14, the event that he is writing here and he is talking about this, speaking to them, he is not talking to the church, he is talking to a bunch of Old Testament Jewish people who are still fundamentally under the law. If you know your Bible, you know you say, "Well, it is in your New Testament books in the Bible." I understand that. But if you know your Bible, Hebrews tells you that the New Testament did not go into effect until the death of the testator. That is Christ. So, technically speaking, John 14 is still in the Old Testament. There are no Christians here. He is not speaking to the church. He is speaking to a bunch of Jews in an Old Testament scenario.

Then he says, "In my Father's house there are many mansions." Now, we understand fundamentally, we have looked at Ephesians 2 and Ephesians 3 and 2 Timothy 2 and some of those places. We now know that this is dealing with something larger. It is dealing with the nation of Israel, the whole concept of the house of Israel, the household of God.

Verse 3 he says, "And I go to prepare a place for you." Now, I have heard preachers say this, and I do not fight it. I enjoy it. I listen to it, amen it. You know, they will say, I have heard preachers get up and preach on heaven and they say, "You know what? That Bible says that he has prepared a place for us. He has been preparing that place for 2,000 years. What a great place heaven must be because he has been building and preparing it for 2,000 years." You know how long it took God to create the universe, the heavens, the stars, the galaxies, and the planets? Just that much time. Psalm says, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." He spoke and it was done, he commanded and it stood still. It was not like God said, "Okay, man, we are going to create the universe today. Boy, what are we going to do now? Let us get this thing cranked up here. You get this going, you get this going, man, we have been 10,000 years into this thing. We have got to get it done. Now, Adam and Eve are going to be down in the garden here in another 2,000 or 5,000 years. We have got to get moving." No, he spoke them into existence. It is not the fact that he has been up in heaven for 2,000 years preparing a place for you. That place is already prepared. See, when you know your Bible, when you see something like that, you have got to get a little deeper with it. You have got to understand.

He is not preparing heaven. I mean, if your loved ones go right now and they die, what do they go into a construction zone? Golden streets, you walk down, but there is a sign you cannot enter in here. You know, there is a construction at work. God is preparing something. Of course not. Now, let me take the Bible and show you from the Bible what this place he is preparing is. Keep in mind, it has nothing to do with the church. This will be a little key, but it has everything to do with the nation of Israel.

- When you go over to Jeremiah 33:10, you will find that that place there is laid out several times. It is Jerusalem.
- When you go to Hosea 5:15, you again find the place is referenced as Jerusalem.
- When you go to Hebrews 11:16, you will find that that place there he is talking about being prepared is Jerusalem.

In other words, what he is saying here is to the Jew. And he is saying to the nation of Israel, "Let not your heart be troubled. If you believe in me, believe in God in my Father's house, the house of Israel, all of the household of God or many mansions." He says, "I go to prepare a place for you." We think it is heaven. No, he wrote that right before he goes back to heaven. And for the last 2,000 years, he has been preparing the place Jerusalem for the Jews to get back in the land and have that place. And when you go to the Old Testament passages, he is talking about preparing Jerusalem. You know your history at all. You know that the Zionist movement at the end of the 18th century was God's final preparation. You know that World War I changed the land space of Europe. And now the Jew gets back in the land after World War II. And that land now is you can see the actual preparation for what God is going to do.

Now here is the killer, as far as I am concerned, verse 4: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself." It cannot be the rapture. There is only one thing "I will come again" can be, has to be the second coming of Christ. He has never come in a rapture for the church the first time to say, "I will come back again." But he came to Israel the first time and he is going to come back to them again. Second coming of Christ, the nation of Israel.

Now here is the other one: "That where I am, there ye may be also." Now that is impossible for a Christian. You know why? Because wherever God is, I am. He is in me. He cannot come to me. I cannot come to him. He is in me. He lives inside me. He cannot say to me, "Bob, I am going to come to get you to where I am. You will be there with me." I say, "Lord, that will not work." "Why is that Bob?" "Because I am already in you." But Israel is not. They are not born again. They are not in the body of Christ. He will come and bring them to where he is. So you get a better understanding of what this house is. When you see how that works. It is to the Jew who is the house of God, the house of Israel.

## VI. Troubling the House: Historical and Practical Examples

Now our verse says with that little bit of understanding, and I did not want to get real deep on it, that verse says, "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind." Now let me explain this. Here he is making reference to the people who trouble the house of Israel, God's house. This historically, this is where we are at right now, will be the spiritual leaders that God gave them that left the word of God. I will show you.

Turn over to 1 Kings chapter 18. Let me give you a great example of this. When he says in Proverbs chapter 11 there, verse 29, "He that troubleth his house," he is talking historically the house of Israel and the leaders of Israel, the scribes, the kings, and they trouble the house of Israel. I am going to show you a great example. Now there are many examples in the Old

Testament, but let us look at this one right here. This is about Ahab. Ahab is the king and he is a bad king that leads Israel away from God.

*1 Kings 18:17-18*

*And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

*And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

Now you see that? Ahab troubled the house of Israel by taking them into Baal worship and away from God's commandments. And Ahab is just one of the bad leaders that trouble this house. You have Jeroboam, Rehoboam, you have Saul, you have Jehoiakim, you have Jehoram, you have Jehoash, you have Jeroboam II, you have Coniah. In fact, between Israel and Judah, there are some 40 plus kings that lead them as leadership. And I say that 98% of them wind up troubling the house of Israel. Israel's leaders have always been the source of their problem. And I must say, much like the church today, when there is trouble in the house, whether it be the house of Israel in the Old Testament or the house of God in the New Testament, it will always be the leaders that lead people astray. And you will find that, as I say many, many times, and it is the truest statement that I probably ever say, everything in life rises and falls on leadership. And when you find trouble in a church, just like you find the trouble in the nation of Israel, it all started with the leaders. When the leadership is corrupt, when the leadership leaves God, then it is going to lead the people wrong. And when the leadership dumps the word of God and leaves the word of God, then they are going to lead the people down the wrong path. That is just the way it works.

Now, let me show you something. I want to just take a few minutes and just look at three or four basic verses that show you this and show you the state of Israel's leadership after David goes. And I must say that David was the greatest leader that Israel ever had, but it began to go downhill from there.

Look over at Hosea 4:18. Just take time and look over there for a minute. Let me show you these. Now, these are three or four verses on the corruption of the leadership of the nation of Israel that troubled the house that Proverbs is talking about.

*Hosea 4:18*

*Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.*

*The wind has bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices. Now, there is the leadership of Israel. There are the kings and the priests and the leaders that God gave to Israel to keep them straight, but they are leading them astray. And when they lead them astray, they trouble the house of Israel. First thing he says here is their drink is sour. The message is sour. No sweetness to it. It is all sour grapes. It is all sour stuff, stuff that you cannot enjoy. Maybe it is because they are corrupt. He says down here that there should be a shame because of their sacrifices. They are making the wrong sacrifices. God had some absolute*

*standards for those sacrifices in the Old Testament. And Israel got farther away from God, and the leadership got them farther away from God. You know what happened? They forsook the exactness of those sacrifices, and they got to the place in their life where they now are completely out of fellowship with God and doing whatever they want to do, adding to the law, taking from the law.*

*When Jesus Christ shows up the first time, He is up against two groups. One of them is the Sadducees, one of them is the Pharisees. They give Him problems all the time. You know who they are? They are the leaders of Israel at the first coming of Christ. But you know what? You could not find them in the Bible in the Old Testament anywhere because there were no Sadducees or Pharisees ever ordained by God to do anything. It was the priests, the Levites. There are no Sadducees. There are no Pharisees. Well, how in the world did they get in charge of the nation of Israel when Christ shows up the first time? I will tell you how, because the leadership was corrupt. They did not follow the Bible, and they started adding a lot of things that just was not in the Word of God. And every word out of their mouths, the leaders, the leaders of Israel, every word out of their mouth is, "Give ye." Wait a minute. I got in the wrong dispensation. I was talking about Israel. But that is the same thing the churches say today. Is it not amazing how the parallels between the leadership of Israel did not care about the real sacrifice, did not care about the right sacrifice, all they wanted was to get up there and say, "Give ye"? That is exactly where the church is at today, exactly where it is at today.*

*Look at the next one, Micah chapter 2 verse 11. Now, here is a good one.*

*Micah 2:11*

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

*Now, there is a preacher, there is a prophet, there is a guy, a leader in the Old Testament, who very clearly, the Bible says in the back of chapter 2 verse 15, that it is wrong to give your neighbor drink. That Deuteronomy chapter 32 is very clear on anybody drinking wine or strong drink. Matthew 26:26-29 is very clear on it. Genesis chapter 40 is very clear on it. Deuteronomy 29:6 is very clear on it. But in the Old Testament, here is somebody saying, "It is okay for you to drink." And they are the ones in the people to say, "That is the prophet I am talking about." Now, what are you going to do with that? What are you going to do in the 20th and 21st century with preachers who stand in the pulpit? Now, that you have this word, now, there is an easy, there is an easy way around this. Let us call it an X-Acto. That is one of those little razor blade cutters. Just cut it out of your Bible. But once I gave it to you, once I read it to you, it shows you that the leadership of the nation of Israel were going against the clear teachings of the Old Testament about wine and strong drink. And then telling the people it was okay to do it. They want to do it. So they buy into it. And the Bible tells you that that man is walking in the spirit of falsehood. Now put that into your New Testament pastor and smoke it. I mean, what are you going to do with that? A man today gets up in a pulpit and says, "It is okay to social drink. It is okay to do this. It is okay to do that. As long as you are doing set." I will tell you right now, not from Bible Alexander, but from the Bible, he is walking in the spirit of falsehood.*

*Look at Malachi chapter 1, verse 7 and 8. I will move on. That is a rough one for you. Rose, I expect by next week you to run over to the book supply place and get about eight or nine X-Acto cutters.*

*Malachi 1:7-8*

*Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*

*And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*

*You know what he is saying? He is saying, "You have got polluted bread on my table of fellowship." Let me break it down for you. You have got an NIV, an ASV, or a New King James Bible, and it has made the table of the Lord contemptible. And he says, "You offer the blind for a sacrifice." That was against the law. The sacrifice had to be animal, had to be perfect. It had to be spotless. It could not be blind. It could not have any defects. It had to be absolutely the best. That is a picture of the nation of Israel taking the very best for themselves and giving the leftover goofy stuff to God. Brother, that is exactly what we do. And you do not believe that. You know why he used the word blind? I will tell you why, because Revelation 3:17 talked about the church of Laodicea, the church that we live in, and it says that it is blind. We are making the wrong sacrifices today. Churches are making the wrong sacrifices, just like Israel did. Israel was coming to God, laying blemish sacrifices on the table and polluting the bread. And then when God would not accept it, they get mad at God and says, "What do you mean it is polluted?" That is what happens when you lose your Bible. That is what happens when you lose the truth. You are left to yourself and you start, human nature starts to kick in and you start to give God what is left out of your life and you keep the very best for yourself. That is exactly where we are at today. A contemptible, fleshy, rationalization of the things of God. Giving God what is left in your life, not what is right in your life.*

*Then look at the last one, 2 Chronicles chapter 15. Boy, here is a good one. This is Israel. This is Israel when they have started to leave God and they are troubling their house. And it all comes back to the leaders. It will always come back to the leaders. That is why in this church, my job is to train leaders. I look for every person on this planet in this room who can find your way to the men's room. I want to make you a leader. I am going to find, to comb this place to find everybody who can even find anything that can lead a mule of water. And I want to try to train you and make you and develop you to be a leader because leadership is where it is at, but leadership comes with a price.*

*Now what has happened here, Israel has allowed contemptible leaders to come in. They have taken the people away.*

*2 Chronicles 15:3*

*Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.*

*And here is the whole concept, brother. Nobody is teaching about the true God and his true word. It has been a long time. You see, the true God tells you there are some standards of holiness. The true God tells you that marriage is a man and a woman. The true God tells you there are some things that God's people do not do because they are found in the true book. But when you get out of the book and you get a God, but it is not a true God like Israel had, you start adding all kinds of things into it. And you come away saying, "Oh, we got church this morning. We got a God." God, yeah, but it is not the true God. It is the God of your imagination to rationalize what you want to do.*

*Now I will tell you why there is no true God. And it is the second thing he says in there because there is no teaching priest. When the priest got corrupted and they quit teaching the Bible, they lost the concept of the true God. And a teaching priest come up with no law. So for a long time, the nation of Israel has been without a true God, a teaching priest, and without the law. Now historically, that is the house of Israel being troubled by the leaders. But bringing over into a practical side, that is the church today that is being troubled by the leadership because of the fact of those three things. And there was a whole list of verses I gave you.*

*Somebody said one time, because of the stand I take on the Bible and the way I pastor a church and the way I still believe that God means what he says when he said it. I do not make any apology for it. But I still believe that there are guidelines of holiness that you have to stay within. And the fact that everybody else out there wants to do their own thing and go the way of the world, that is their deal. I understand that there is a true God. I understand that my job is to be a teaching priest and I understand that I have an absolute standard. Guy told me one time, he says, "You know, your style of ministry in your church compared to Christianity today is in the minority." He says, "You know, you are just a, you cannot be right. You are just a small speck. The whole Christian world is going this way. And you are over here in your little corner doing your own thing. Do not you see that you are just a minority?" I said, "You do not know your Bible very well." I said, "You know, in Noah's day, there were six billion people on this planet and only eight of them got on the ark. I am in that minority." The majority means nothing. If a hundred million people believe a stupid thing, they will sell a stupid thing. That is the leadership of the house of Israel that leads them into sin, the trouble God's house.*

#### *The Parable of the Vineyard and Troubled Leadership*

*Now let me show it to you in a broader sense. This is a great passage. Come over to Matthew chapter 21. Probably one of the single greatest places in the Bible that shows you the whole historical perspective of Israel at one glance.*

*Matthew 21:33-40*

*Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:*

*And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.*

*And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.*

*Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.*

*But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.*

*But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.*

*And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.*

*When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?*

*Now, I do not know if you know it or not, but that is a picture of the whole concept of the nation of Israel. Let me give you a breakdown from the Bible here.*

*You have a householder, verse 33, that will be God according to Ephesians 2:19.*

*You have a vineyard here. That will be Israel according to Isaiah 5:7, Isaiah 27:1-6 and Psalms 80:8.*

*It says here that he planted a vineyard and hedged it round about and digged the winepress in it. That would be the Bible after the establishment of the nation of Israel, God bringing him up through Joshua and up through Judges, protecting them.*

*And then it says that he let it out to be husbandmen. That would be the leaders of Israel. That would be the kings. That would be 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles.*

*And he goes into a far country. That is where he turns the leadership of Israel over to these husbandmen, the kings of Israel.*

*Verse 34 says, "When the time of the fruit drew near," you will find that time in 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Kings, and 2 Chronicles. Galatians 4:4 talks about this time. The prophets came in, the Old Testament man who preached God's word, said to the leaders of Israel, "You are here to bear fruit. Where is the fruit that you are supposed to be building for God?"*

*And the Bible says the husbandmen, the leaders, down there in verse 35, "And the husbandmen took his servants," Old Testament prophets, "and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another."*

*If you do not have it in the Bible, the one that got beaten was in 1 Kings 22:14.*

*The one that was killed was Jeremiah 26:23.*

*And the one that got stoned, that would be with rocks. You have got to be careful how you preach today. 2 Chronicles 24:21.*

*"Again, he sent other servants more than the first." That would be your minor prophets, the rest of the Old Testament prophets. And they did unto them just like they did to the other ones.*

*Then here, verse 37, "But last of all, he sent unto them his son." There comes the Lord Jesus Christ, the first coming of Christ. "They will reverence my son."*

*"And when the husbandmen, the leaders of Israel saw the son, the Lord Jesus Christ, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on him the heritage."*

*"And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard," Jerusalem, "and slew him."*

*"When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?"  
Second coming of Christ.*

*Now that passage is an overview of the nation of Israel and their departing from God that caused the trouble in the house by the leadership, by the husbandmen, the Old Testament leaders. Now here is how it worked. You have the kings and the priests, and of course you have a high priest. And they are the leaders of Israel once the kingdom gets established. Then you have the prophets. Now the prophets, you remember, there is no Bible back here. They have the first five books of the Bible of Moses, but that is all they have got. So they do not have a Bible to look into book chapter verse. So when God wants to give them a message or keep them online, he gives his word from God to the prophet, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, all of those guys. And they will go into the leaders of Israel and they always start out by saying this, "Thus saith the Lord," and they give them the message. A great example of it in a good sense is David with Nathan. David is in sin, Nathan goes in, says, "Thou art the man," brings him to his knees. Elijah is a bad king, or Ahab has a bad king. Elijah goes in, he tells him what God does, they try to kill him. And it was because of this trouble in the house that Israel inherited the wind.*

#### *Inheriting the Wind: Consequences of Foolishness*

*That verse says, "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart." Now this inheriting the wind, historically will be as we know it, the captivity coming down was Sennacherib from the north and Babylon from the east in 606 and 587, a little bit later on around Christ after Christ's death, 70 AD. But doctrinally, it will be a picture of the second coming of Christ.*

*Now, there is a practical side to this. And this is what you want to see. You see an example of the trouble in the house in the Old Testament in the house of Abraham. Remember? Remember his wife, Sarah, could not give child and gave him Hagar. So he has a baby with Hagar, Ishmael, and a little bit later on he gets the promise seed Isaac. You know what it caused in his house? Trouble in the house. A little bit later on you got Jacob and Esau. You know what that caused? Trouble in the house. A little bit later on you had David who got messed up and had Absalom, his son. You know what that had in his trouble in his house? Not following the Bible, whether it is in the Old Testament, in a historical application, or a New Testament practical application will always bring a storm into your house.*

*Before I get to the last part of this verse, let me make just a quick few practical application remarks. Dad, I know it is not Father's Day, but here is an early present. This is probably a good gift for your wife because she can beat you up with it all day today. Do you know why you will have trouble in your own house with your kids, with your family, with your wife? It is because*

*you as the leader of your family, just like the leaders of Israel, have not led them right. Now I am not going to beat up on this today. We have talked about it many, many times, but that is why you have trouble in your house. You caused it, everything rises and falls on leadership. You will not fix it the way the Bible says to fix it. And now here it is, your kids are 20, 30 years old and you have got a storm constantly brewing in your house.*

*I do not know if you caught it or not. In Matthew chapter 21 that I just read over there, in 33 through verse 40, did you see that when how God fixed the trouble in his house? He comes back to the second coming of Christ and he has got trouble in the house of Israel. Well, the first thing he did, he cleans house. And you know, sometimes ladies, you know, this is true. You let your house go, your home, just get cluttered up with dirt and dust, throw your clothes everywhere, leave coats hanging here on the floor, everything over here. Do not ever do any work. Just let it go. Dust builds up, dirt builds up, dog hair everywhere. I mean, after a while, you know what? You have got trouble in the house. You know what you have got to do? Every woman does this. Every woman will have one bad day, probably every other week that you better just move out, stay away, because it is the day she looks at you and says, "I have got to clean this house today. It is a mess." Of course, the reason it is a mess, guys, is us. Let us face it. But you know, in your spiritual home, with your kids and your wife, there are times you have got to clean house. There are times you have got to do business. And when the Lord comes back at the second coming of Christ, Israel has brought trouble in the house. The first thing he does is clean house. You know, the second thing he does, he sets his house in order. He says, "All right, boys, millennium is here. I am on the throne. Here is how it is going to run. Stay, leave, do whatever you want to do. Here is how it is going to run." Puts it in order. That is a good model.*

#### *The Fool Shall Be Servant to the Wise in Heart*

*Now look at the last part of verse 29: "And the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart." If there was ever any one principle that we all need to learn, kids, I am going to tell you, it is this one right here. This ought to be your favorite verse. Because what he is saying is so simple. He is simply saying, and we will never get it. We will never be honest with it. We will never, we will never see it. We will never get it. But boy, it is so true. And life would be so much easier if we did. He is simply saying, when it comes to Israel and getting out of fellowship, or where it comes to you and me getting out of fellowship and going your own way, you are never going to win. You are never going to get out from behind the eight ball. Israel could not do it. You and I will not do it.*

*One of my favorite verses in the Bible, and I have given it to you many, many times in Job 9:4. My, my, what a verse.*

*Job 9:4*

*He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?*

*And the answer, my dear friend, is nobody. Israel could not do it. And neither will you, neither will I, nor your son or your daughter or your mom or your dad. You will become a servant to the*

*wise in heart all of your life and go nowhere. Because we are such a fool, to think that as a child of God, like the nation of Israel, we can leave God and leave his word and go do our own thing and not have any trouble in our house. Listen, God will always keep you behind that proverbial eight ball. There will always be somebody out there smarter, wiser, stronger that will make you their servant.*

*All down through history, the nation of Israel, when Christ was on that cross and they had a chance to get right, God displayed, I know he died for me on the cross. I understand that. But God displayed on that cross before the nation of Israel, the scribes, the Pharisees, the leaders, everybody was seeing him on that cross, laid out naked as the Son of God. At that point, they had the chance to say, "He is our king." But you know what they said? Two great, great, great statements that have haunted them for the next 2,600 years. "Let his blood be upon us and our people." And "We have no king but Caesar." And so foolishly they thought that they could prosper in that statement. And when they said we will have no king but Caesar, God says, "Write that down." And for the next 2,600 years, God's people were the servants. The fools were servants to those that were wiser. Rome, Spain, all of Europe, France, all down through the next 2,600 years. And boy, I will tell you what, "His blood be upon us and our people." We are going to do our own thing. We are going to get around without God, without the Bible. We are going to do what we want to do. Sound familiar, kids? But boy, when they got into death camps of the Nazis in 1939 to 1945, the Holocaust, you see, the Holocaust, you see how that choice of life did not work out very well for them. And it will never work out for you either. Because as the Bible says, "The fool shall be servant to the wise in heart."*

*You will start doing drugs and you will get hooked on drugs. And you know what? You will become a servant to the drug dealer. He will not ever take them. He just takes your money and you become a servant to him. You get hooked on booze. And now you are servant to the liquor store. You are servant to the bartender. You are servant to the very people who they will never be an alcoholic, but you are so caught in because they are smarter than you. They are wiser than you. And you become a servant to them. Oh, you will never get away.*

*When Israel went into captivity in 606 BC, they were captive of the world. And when you and I as a Christian leave God and you say, you are going to do your own thing. Same thing happened, brother. You become a servant to this world. I mean, there is nothing you can do about it. Israel wanted to go their own way to do their own thing, to be their own nation. But now we see today that their survival totally depends on other nations to give them what they need to survive. They become servants to the Gentile nations. If it was not for United States, I know she is a nation today, but if it was not for the USA and England, she had been wiped off the map a long time ago. She now is totally dependent because she was foolish. And I know God is going to restore and God is going to bring her back. But right now she is under the iron heel of the Gentiles and she is a servant to those that were smarter.*

*Now, let me tell you kids something. You get messed up and get into the world, get into drugs, get into sin, get into booze, get into the world and become worthless. Now, you still forsake God, you still forsake church, you still go your own way and blame others for it and your parents too. You will always be dependent on somebody else because you are a fool. You will not have any food,*

*so the government will have to give you food stamps. You will not have any medical care, so when you are sick, the government has to pay for it. You will always be going back to your friends or your mom or your dad or your parents, the very ones who you would not listen to, the very ones who tried to warn you about your lifestyle and where you were going, but oh no, you knew more about it than they did. You wanted your own life just like Israel. You wanted to do your own thing just like Israel.*

*I bumped into a little gal here a couple of months ago, long time ago, used to come to our church. Sweet kid, I love her to death. But she never wanted to do what the Bible said, and she was a nice little gal. I really liked her a lot. I wish she would have made it, but she got hooked up with the wrong crowd. She got back out in the world. She wanted to do her own thing, quit coming to church, got out of her Bible, started running with this crowd, and so it has been about three or four years since I seen her and I bumped into her a couple of weeks ago or a month ago, whenever it was, and here is a gal that when she went out, she was going to do her own thing, and here she is two or three years later. She has got three kids, all by three different fathers, and no father is anywhere to be seen. She is working two jobs. She has no time for herself. The day I saw her, she was so absolutely sick. She was absolutely had the flu or the sick, and yet she could not even take the time off to go home to be sick because she has to work, because she has three kids with no support, no father is giving her a dime, and she made that, and she thought when she went out, my life is going to be my own. Now she is a servant.*

*Your parents try to tell you what is right, try to keep you on the right path and get you to do what is right. Oh no, no, you know what you are doing. You have got more brains than they have got. You are not going to listen to anybody, but boy, when you get out of that world system, boy, and it rejects you, and you get busted up, and you get broken, and you go nowhere, you go right back to the very ones who warned you the consequences, and you say, "Dad, I need money. I do not have a place to stay. I do not have this. I do not have that." You become a servant to the wise who knew better.*

*And I will tell you why that is if you want to know. And he asked if you are not aware of it yet. I am preaching now. I will tell you why that is because the devil will do a lot of things for you, but he will not ever feed you. He will never clothe you. He will never give you a warm bed at night. He will never provide for you a good job or give you a car. He will never pay the bills. He will never fix your marriage. He will just destroy everything in your life. That is what he will do for you.*

*Years ago, I had a guy that had a kid, and his kid was worthless. Well, he was. I do not know what to tell you. Out in the world, would not listen to anybody. He had lost his job. He had no place to stay. He had no food. He had not had a bath in three or four weeks. I mean, he was a mess. And his dad says, "He wants to meet with me tonight. I just want you to be there so you understand. I do not want you to do anything or say anything unless you want to. But I want you there as my witness of what I am doing is biblical." And I said, "Okay," so we met someplace and this kid. He looked terrible. He was in the booze. He was in there. I mean, the world had left its tire tracks on his face. And he is saying to his dad, "Dad, I do not have this. I do not have that. I do not have this. I do not have any money. I am hungry. I have not eaten for two days. Dad, I*

*need you to do this for me and do this for me." Never one time did he want to come back to God. Never one time was he wrong. It was like the guy up here preaching. "Just give me." His dad said one of the most amazing things I ever heard a man say to his own kid, and I have never forgotten it. He must have let that kid go on and on and on for a long time. And when that kid was all done with his little thing, and I am sure it tore his heart out. And dad looked at him. He says, "Son, I am paying for dinner. You see this money? God gave me that money." And then, "I am going to go get in my car. That is my car out there, son. God gave me that car." Amen. He says, "And I am going to go home. And I am going to be with my wife, and I am going to be with my other kids, and God gave me that family." And he says, "You see these clothes I have got on? God gave me these clothes." He said, "I just got one question for you. What in the world has the devil done for you that makes you serve him like you do? What has he given you?"*

*"And the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart." The very system they rejected, the very ones who told them of the consequences of their sin. And they hated it when you told them. They knew their own way. They knew their own thing. Now, when you reap the wind, that is the whirlwind. You are a fool, Proverbs 11:29, because you just wind up being a servant to somebody who does it right or that is smarter than you are who stays out of those things. Listen, when Israel left God, they went into the captivity of this world. And when you and I as a Christian leave God, we too wind up a captive of this world. And brother, that is a tough taskmaster. The only freedom you have is the freedom of a flourishing relationship with God as the righteous branch.*

*That is why a good preacher, he preaches. And when he preaches, he keeps the trouble out of his house. A good father cleans house and then he sets an order. And then he sets an order. A good preacher cleans house and sets an order because it is the truth that sets you free. And believe me, 40 plus years of preaching, this whole book has taught me a few things about people and human nature. And I will tell you something, nothing, and I mean nothing will clean the rats out of the house of God quicker than good, hard, old fashioned preaching that will clean out the house and keep people from trouble in it. Oh, they will blame you. They will blame the church. They will blame the preacher. They will blame everybody, but that is okay. You do not get it. That is okay. As long as you keep your trouble out of my house. Remember, Jesus will do two things when he comes back. He will clean house and he will set all things in order.*

*Now the Bible talks about the washing of water by the word. That is why preaching is so important. When somebody teaches you, it is kind of like a sponge bath. It is nice. It is refreshing, but it really does not get behind your ears. And you know it is true when you wash your clothes. You get your jeans dirty, your shirt dirty, and you take them home and you put them in a washing machine and water in the Bible is likened to the word of God. You put them in there, put your soap in there, and you just do not walk away and come back and pick your clothes out and they are clean. There is a cycle that it goes through and that cycle is on your washing machine. And in your Christian life, there is a cycle of getting clean. Do you know that? You have got to have the place where you are at. That would be your washing machine. You have got to have the water. That would be the word of God. But you know what gets your clothes clean? It is a little item in that washing machine called an agitator. That would be me. And that agitator just beats your clothes six ways from Sunday. It just rips them and beats them back and*

*forth till they cannot stand it. The reason why your machine makes so much noise is to drown out the screams of your clothes as they are being thrashed back and forth. And then they are clean. And sometimes when it does not get clean, you have got to wash them again. But this time you have got to get that little bottle and you have got to shout it out. You have got to keep the house clean for "he that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise in heart." What a great proverb that is for life.*

*You know, not only does it shed light on the two main components of the Bible, the church and the nation of Israel as part of God's house, but it shows us the practical application for us or our family or our church of why preaching the word of God is so important. Now when Israel lost the true God, they lost it because they lost the teaching priest. And they lost the teaching priest because he lost the law, the truth of God. And those are three things that no church can ever lose. You always have got to have an absolute standard that God set down. We do. You have got to have a teaching priest. You do. And you have got to have a true God. We do. Because you have got to be exact with what God wants you to be. Or you wind up making the wrong sacrifices. No blind sacrifices, no imperfect sacrifices. You saw yesterday for those that you went and those that prayed. That was a concise, perfect sacrifice that somebody, a bunch of people make right on the money. No blind spots, no imperfections. I mean, it was textbook. That is what it needs to be.*