

# Proverbs 28:5

Sunday 9/8/2019

Last week, we began Proverbs chapter 28, and we saw God's mindset, His idea of what a government should truly be. Today, we are going to expand that just a little bit.

You will remember I told you that most people do not have a clue about this, but the Bible, first and foremost, is a political book. It is not written for the Democrats nor the Republicans; I cannot claim that. But it has a theme as a kingdom, and it has with it a King and a throne. When God comes back, He establishes a government. I showed you that in Isaiah 9:6-7, which is truly one of the most telling, most powerful verses anywhere in the Bible on the first coming and the second coming of Christ. His government will be established, we know, when He comes back at the Second Coming. There are all kinds of references to it. The Book of Revelation from chapter 5 on deals with it four different ways. Revelation 2:27 tells us that He will rule all nations with a rod of iron. That is an incredible study in itself.

You will find that, as I have already told you in Matthew 5-7, He lays out what the constitutional structure will be of that kingdom. We call it the Sermon on the Mount. In Ezekiel 40-48, you see the establishment of the kingdom. Then there are many places in the Bible; the first one that comes to mind would be Zechariah 14, which shows you the kingdom now in place and how it basically, fundamentally operates.

I showed you how all governments today are basically counterfeits to God's government. We saw that from the Book of Ecclesiastes, where Solomon, who was the wisest man that ever lived, goes through every government form, as he does every philosophy that man comes up with. He comes to the conclusion that they are all vanity when it comes to God and the things of God, and everything that God wants us to know.

I showed you that in history, modern history anyhow, the closest to God's government that ever came was the United States of America, from about 1700 up to about maybe 1880, somewhere in there. I showed you how this country was built on the Word of God. When I say the Word of God, I am talking about a King James 1611 Authorized Version. It was built on that book. I showed you last week, no question about it, it did not leave anything to the imagination how our Founding Fathers framed this country on the Word of God and formed a republic.

I told you the difference between a democracy and a republic. Democracy is basically the majority rule, whereas a republic is established on a rule of law. For our Founding Fathers, that rule of law was the Bible. I showed you the great book, Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, which was the standard commentary for law in America up to about 1920, and it actually states those facts. God established America for a purpose, no question about that. Anybody who can understand a little bit of history and God and the Bible can see God's hand on America for a special purpose. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from things like this. It truly becomes a great format for learning on so many different levels. God established America for a purpose; we will talk about that here in a little bit.

## I. The Role of Preachers in America's Founding

The thing that I want you to see for a moment as an introduction is that God used basically two men to form the foundation of our government based on the Word of God. They were probably two of the greatest preachers that ever preached, and certainly the two greatest preachers probably in America in the early part of America. These two men set America on a right course. There is a really important principle here that you have to get, and this is very important.

I talk about all the time that we like to blame the problems in America on the Democrats and the Republicans, and Trump and Obama, and the Clintons and the Bushes, and everybody out there. But the truth of the matter is, the problem in America is not the politicians. The problem in America are the preachers and the churches, and yes, the Christians. Liberal preachers only exist because liberal Christians support them and go to hear them.

When you begin to look at the beginning of America, you see two things: you see the power of preaching the Word of God, and you see the power in the pulpit in preaching the Word of God. We talked last week about our Founding Fathers and how they wanted God in every aspect of this country when it began. This happened because of the preaching of just two men: Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. Those names are basically just lost with any real understanding in most Christians today. I would dare say that if you got the next hundred Christians out of the next hundred churches and asked them who Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield were, they might think that they were some late-night talk show hosts. But they would never equate it back to the two greatest preachers in this country that put this country on the course. Through the preaching of the Word of God, again with the King James 1611 Authorized Version, that is what influenced the Founding Fathers to keep God in government.

## II. The Cycle of History and America's Purpose

Everything in history goes through a cycle, and you will find that that cycle follows a predictable path. It starts with a man, then it moves to a movement, then it moves to a machine, and then it finally ends up as a monument. As long as it starts with a man and stays with a movement, you are fine. But when you start getting real slick and real professional, and everything gets into a machine mode where everything becomes automatic and God is put out of it, it is headed to be a monument.

The greatest example of that would be the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army was started by a man, William Booth. It moved into a movement, the Salvation Army, which in its early days, and probably up to the turn of the century, maybe even beyond, was one of the most powerful soul-winning people, places, organizations on the planet. Today, they have gone into the machine mode, and now they are a monument. There is no real salvation. Their Salvation Army now is saving people in floods and disasters, which I am all for. But I must ask the legitimate question: what good is it if you save someone's body from a flood, but if you allow their soul to go to hell? There is a balance between the two, but they have lost that. If William Booth would come back and walk through the first Salvation Army church in Kansas City, he would have a heart attack before he got past the first ashtray. It has completely gone into a monument mindset. That is the way all history goes.

What God did down through the history of America—and I do not have time to get into this today—but what God did in the history of America, He brought about what we know in history as seven great awakenings. Seven times in America's history from the beginning, God injected Himself into this country through the preaching of the Word of God and men to rock and awake this country out of the sleep and the lethargic mindset that it had slipped into. What God did with Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards is He brought about the First Great Awakening. This Great Awakening was a great thing for this country. This country had just come out of a war. There were obviously factions within the country that were disagreeing. What God brought together through these men was a great awakening, a spiritual revival of what this country was all about. Later on, when this country began to fall back into that mode, God gave a Second Great Awakening, and then later on, a third, and a fourth, and a fifth. The last Great Awakening in this country happened around 1950.

Not only did our Founding Fathers—and we talked about this last week—not only did they want God in the documents that we had, but we told them last week, hundreds and hundreds of Bible verses were inscribed on the federal buildings, the courthouses, almost in every federal public building in Washington. Somewhere across the top, in the lobby, any place, there would be multiple verses out of a King James 1611 Authorized Version. They wanted never to forget what God had done for this country.

These two men, Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield in particular, through their preaching, shaped and kept America, God, at the forefront of our government. Jonathan Edwards was a pastor. He will always be known for one sermon that he preached, and he preached many, many sermons. But the one sermon that he is famous for was the sermon that he preached in his own church, which was titled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." I actually stood in his church in that same pulpit a number of years ago. We were up there; I preached in New England for many, many years on a yearly, couple of times a year basis. I always wanted to go to his church, and I went to his church and stood there in the very pulpit, in the very church where he preached that message back in the 1700s.

It was a pulpit that I looked down underneath, and this was on like a Thursday or Monday or Tuesday, I forget, and this pastor who is preaching there now had laid his sermon underneath there when he was done. So I said, "Oh, I have to see this." It was one of the most god-awful, liberal mindset pieces of puke you ever saw in your life. I was walking around, and the pastor actually showed up. I introduced myself, and he would probably come back for his message, which I had stolen by that time. Not that. I talked to him, and I told him where I was from, and I said, "I just wanted to really come and see the church where Jonathan Edwards preached and his church that he pastored." Do you know what he said to me? Now, this guy is probably lost as a goose and on his way to hell. He said to me, "Yes, Jonathan Edwards. It is a shame that he is only remembered for that one message that he preached that is so out of touch and out of date today: 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.'" He actually said that to me. That said it all.

George Whitefield was more of an evangelist type, and he preached in open-air meetings. They called them Brush Arbor meetings. After the workday was done in the big open fields of New England, hundreds would gather, thousands would gather, and George Whitefield would preach

to them. On the Boston Commons, which is a big park like Central Park in New York, there is a plaque in the ground. It took me four or five years to find it, but I asked everybody; nobody knew where it was. Finally, I found it. There is a little brass plaque right there in the grass, about that big. It simply says, "On this date in 1777 or 1778, George Whitefield preached, and 30,000 converts came to Christ." I just sat there in that spot, and I tried to imagine back 200 and some years what it was like for 30,000 people to come to hear one man preach. This country understood who God was and how God used these men.

George Whitefield is called the Prince of Preachers. Ben Franklin said he was one of the greatest orators that he ever heard. He said he had a command of the language that was unsurpassed by anybody. He said the power of his voice was unbelievable. Ben Franklin said one night, you know how sound travels at night, "One night when he was preaching, I backed off from the field almost a half a mile, and I could still hear every word of his message clearly." It is hard to imagine, is it not? Ben Franklin was an unsaved man. He never trusted Christ as his own personal Savior. He was everything but a Christian. But I try to show you how the power of the Word of God in the preaching even so influenced the unsaved people to the point that I would make the statement all the time that most unsaved people back then had more reverence for God and more love for the Word of God than saved people do today. It is incredible. It is hard to imagine. He did not have sound engineers, he did not have somebody on the soundboard working the mics. He was not preceded by a praise band or world worship singers. There was no light show other than the stars and the full moon. There was no smoke. There were no theatrics. It was just a man standing with the power of the Word of God in his life, preaching to a nation that loved God and loved the Word of God, and God used that Great Awakening.

### III. Understanding History Through God's Perspective

America is one of the strangest nations in the history of the world. God, no question about it, had a plan for America, much like He had a plan for the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. I am not a very smart individual. I am certainly no Bible scholar by any stretch of the imagination. I am not the brightest guy on the planet with most things. There are a lot of things that I have to rely on other people to do because I do not know how to do it. I could not figure out what happens. My computer is demon-possessed. I will wake up some morning, and it will suddenly decide to lock me out. I told it what password I wanted. Maybe it is because it is connected to the Bible, and the demons in there do not like that. I do not know. I am always calling Woody or Danny or somebody to unlock the computer because it just wakes up one morning and says, "We are not going to use that password anymore." I do not understand things like that. I really do not.

I am not a very good mechanic. That is an understatement; I am a terrible mechanic. I could not fix my car if it broke. I am like the lady that took her car in, and the guy says, "Well, ma'am, it has got a short circuit." She says, "Well, how much to make it longer?" I have always envied you guys who can start a car with a screwdriver. Some dear, sweet lady is stuck along the freeway. You are driving down in your big hog truck, cowboy hat on, .30-30 in the back window. You see this little filly down there stranded on the road, and because you are the man you are, and you are the hero of the day, you are going to help her out. So that big old F-250 pulls down there with

your dual wheels on, and your, what is that thing they put in the back to carry them big old horse trailers? Some big old things that horse trailers get pulled by. You get out there, and you say, with your hat on, "How are you doing, ma'am? What seems to be the problem?" She says, "My car will not start." "Well, I will have a look at it, darling." He opens that hood. Now, when I would open the hood, I would say, "Ma'am, there is the problem: an engine." Not him. He lays around that thing, and this is where I love it. He says, "You got a screwdriver?" "Yes, I do. Thank you, ma'am." "Go ahead there, little filly, and get in that car. When I tell you to fire it up, you fire it up." He takes that screwdriver, sticks it down in that car someplace along the engine, and says, "Try it now, honey." Bump! It goes. He puts the hood down. She says, "My, my, my, you are my hero!" "No problem, ma'am. No problem." I tried that once with my screwdriver. I burnt the end right off that sucker. It just melted it. I have always loved guys like that. That is a man. I think God will take you to heaven if you do not get saved, just because you know how to start a car with a screwdriver. I do not know anything about things like that. I run my lawnmower until it quits running, and it is usually out of oil or out of gas, and then I figure it out from there.

I am a student of the Bible and history. I am not an expert on it; I do not claim to be. There is nobody that is. But all my life, I have spent my whole life looking at the Bible, looking at history, cataloging and connecting the events of history to find the footsteps of God through history. It was very early in my life when I realized that the Bible was the most important thing that God ever gave man. I realized that the God of the Bible is also the God of history. The God of the Bible, who is the God of history, is also the God of the future.

I learned in the Bible very early that certain numbers mean certain things in the Bible. The number three in the Bible is the number of completion. Nothing in life will be complete without the third part. The answer to any problem is two and two; you have to have the third part. A husband and wife get married, but they are not a family until they have the third one, the child. Everything follows that line of completion. If I had a blackboard up here, I could put a line on that blackboard with a magic marker. You see the line, but actually that line has three parts to it: it has a length, it has a width, and it also has a depth to it. The amazing thing is that I cannot remove any one part of that line and still keep the line. If I take away one part and leave the other two, the line goes.

I realized that simple little formula was the key to God in history, because if you take God out of any part of history, you lose all your perspective of it. I find people all the time who are Christians who have no idea of their church history, their background, their roots, where they have come from. And yet they want to pretend that they know where they are going. I will just say this to you, three being the number of completion: if you do not know where you come from and where you have been, you certainly do not know where you are going. If you do not know where you come from and where you are going, you certainly are not sure where you are at today. That is the state of Christianity.

I spent my whole life looking at history, looking at the Bible, correlating those three aspects, realizing that history was filled with the footsteps of God, the fingerprints of God, and God's hand in everything, not only in America but around the world. Once you begin to get the Bible as the foundation for that, then every form of history, whether it is European history, whether it is

English history, whether it is French history, whether it is German history, whether it is Russian history, whether it is South America, Central America, or North America, begins to come into perspective for you.

## IV. Parallels Between Israel and America

I began to look at the parallels between the nation of Israel and the United States of America, because it became clear to me that studying the Old Testament, God had a plan for the nation of Israel. In my own world, in today's history, it is so obvious that God had a plan for the United States. The parallels between those two countries are an incredible thing to study. In fact, I listed in my Bible years and years ago seven great truths about Israel and America as God's tool to win the world: one through a spiritual kingdom, the other one through a physical kingdom.

1. Both nations start their beginning with the Word of God as the center of their government. There is no other nation on the planet that did that other than America. England did not do it. England started out from the Germanic tribes that came in, and you know how that goes, all that stuff. They did not start with a book. They had the book for a while, but they did not start that way. You take Germany, they did not start that way. Luther turned it around in the Reformation, but they were not before him. You go back through history; I do not care where you go, you will find in modern-day history only one nation in the history of the world that when it started its government, when it formed its government, it started around the Word of God, a King James 1611 Authorized Version. The only other nation that did that in the Old Testament was the nation of Israel, that did it with the law that God gave them and the commandments God gave them and the Word of God that He gave them at that particular time in life. It is an incredible, incredible thing.
2. It is so clear that in both cases, God had a plan to reach the world through them. We know in the Old Testament that God told them that through Abraham and the establishment, you can go right through that thing. But then in the New Testament, how do you miss the establishment of the United States of America? When you look at European history during the Reformation, I know the Reformation was a great thing, but it did not really fix the problem because Europe, as I have said many times, was a landlocked country. The Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church and all the church states set up over there persecuted the Bible believers. When your Pilgrim Fathers came over and landed at Plymouth, they did not come over because they wanted to start the New York Yankees and the Kansas City Chiefs and get a... they came over for religious freedom, that they could teach their people the Bible, King James 1611 Authorized Version, train their kids up in the Word of God without somebody in the middle of the night knocking and breaking down their door and putting them in prison. That is why they came. Incredible. America's natural resources are better than any nation on this planet. Unbelievable. You say, "Well, the Saudi Arabians, they have all the oil." Yeah, but we have Burger King, McDonald's, and Church's Chicken. We have everything in this country to be used to reach the world for Christ. There would be no limit to what this nation could have done. No limit at all. We started with the Bible. We started with men who believed it. Our Founding Fathers lived on it. They put it into our government, into

the buildings. We had some of the greatest preachers the world has ever seen in this country. We had seven great awakenings that God shook this country back to Him.

3. You will notice the third thing that is interesting: both the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and America in the New Testament, they both go through a civil war, North versus the South. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, split the kingdom, Israel North, Judah South, and then we get into a civil war, North and South, just like they did. Incredible.
4. Both are used for a period of time by God to reach the world. Solomon, when he is on the throne, his kingdom is reaching all over the world. I know you do not get that in school, but I am telling you, it is everywhere. Of course, the great missionaries of this country in the early years were unparalleled. I do not even have time this morning to talk about the incredible blessings between both nations. The nation of Israel had her particular blessings with the kingdom of God, but America had her particular blessing with the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, with the kingdom of God.
5. Both held the absolute perfect Word of God in their hands, and preached it, and they believed it. God blessed both nations like no other nations in the history of the world. You travel to Europe, you travel to Russia, you travel to South America, you travel anywhere in this world in the last hundred years, you will never find a country like America that has the blessings of God on it.
6. Yet, both failed in their missions. I have told you before how you scale the nation of Israel like on a pyramid going up, and at the top you have David and Solomon, and that is their rise to the highest point. Then the demise starts, which leads them to their captivity when they reject everything that God has given them. America goes the same way. America rises to a great point, and then the devil does in America what he did with Israel, and they dump the Word of God around the 1880s. We see the neo-orthodox, the neo-evangelicals, and the charismatic movement coming in and just taking it and everything. Both fail in their mission, and both reject the Word of God. The Old Testament nation of Israel did it through Baal worship, and the New Testament did it through the giving up of the Word of God, through the Roman Catholic City, the Alexandrian, Vaticanus, and Sinaiticus manuscripts, and they both go into apostasy.
7. They were well on their way by 1945. World War II was the last great war that we ever won. I do not know if you have studied history from that aspect, and we almost did not win it. If we would not have had the atomic bomb, we would have had our hands full with Japan. But you begin to see how it was the last war that we won, but it became clear that every war from that point on was not going to be won on the battlefield, but won with the politics involved. We won World War I with Germany, we won World War II with Germany, World War II with Japan, but we have never won a war since. Most people do not see that. We got into Korea in 1951. We did not win Korea. Technically, Korea is still at war with us. It is split there at the 39th parallel, and they are still in an act of war; it is just called a ceasefire. We certainly did not win Vietnam. We got out of Vietnam as a disgraced nation. The tragedy is, we were in Vietnam for, I do not know, 10, 12, 13, 14 years, lost 25,000 young men, our precious young men in our country, all because of politics.

General Douglas MacArthur one time was a general in Korea, and the Communists were over on the other side of the Yalu River in China. They were playing footloose and fancy-free, flying

their MiGs over, bringing their troops over, shooting up all our guys, and then running back over. The politics would not let us go across the Yalu River. There was a bridge there that they were coming across, and General Douglas MacArthur gave the orders to bomb that bridge. Do you know what Washington said? "You can only bomb half the bridge on the side of our side. You cannot bomb the bridge on their side." General Douglas MacArthur said, "I have been in the military 50 years, and never in all my battles and all my wars did I ever learn how to bomb only half a bridge." In Vietnam, you had to call for permission before you could return fire. You might lose five or six guys before somebody got around to putting their pizza slice down and saying, "Yeah, you can return fire." I know it is that way over there in the Middle East now. These guys are afraid to do anything because if you shoot the wrong person, you go to Leavenworth. It is all politics today, and we did not win Korea. We did not win Vietnam, and we have not won in the Middle East, nor will we. It is an absolute mess.

At the end of World War II, General Douglas MacArthur, and he was not a saved man, Harry Truman asked him what he needed because General Douglas MacArthur became the guy who ran and rebuilt Japan after the war for a number of years before Korea started. President Truman asked him, "What did he need?" Do you know what an unsaved man said to the President of the United States when he was asked what he needed to rebuild Japan? He said, "Send me 10,000 missionaries." Do you know what we sent him instead? Benny Goodman. Hot dogs, baseball. We sent all the stuff that America had that we thought was the most important thing to build a democracy, and we failed to give them what they needed: 10,000 missionaries. It is incredible. Absolutely incredible.

The seventh thing is that both nations in time—Israel already was, but we are coming on it—will get destroyed. God will use, mark it down, God will use other nations to chastise those who ultimately rejected His Word and will destroy them. That is number seven today. That truly sets the theme for our message today from Proverbs 28:5.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

## V. The Importance of Understanding God's Judgment

This verse goes along with last week, and I told you that I separated it out. But in the Bible and history, and certainly with God, the one key word that you have to get down someplace in your life is the word that He talks about here in this verse, and Proverbs has been filled with it. In fact, we have defined that in Proverbs: it will be the word "understanding." You have knowledge; an unsaved man can have knowledge. You have facts; an unsaved man can have facts. Facts are knowledge applied. But what an unsaved man cannot have is understanding, because understanding will always be how God fits in the equation. When you study history, you can have knowledge of history; you can have the facts of history, but you will never understand history until you put God in history through the Word of God. As I said, it is defined in Proverbs. Understanding will be us seeing God's hand, His footsteps, His fingerprints, His DNA, if you want to use that modern term, in life, history, and the future.

The Bible is about God laying out the foundation and then the formulation of His government, both in the Old Testament and now as we see it in the New Testament. God had a plan, and in the Old Testament, He wanted to use the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, in the final phase of that plan, once the Word of God got established, He used England for a short time, but England could never have gotten the job done completely. So He switched it to America, who had every resource to get the job done.

Back in Genesis 1, and most people never see this, never follow this, could not do it if they tried to, Genesis 1:2 says that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. That is the Holy Spirit. That is the first time you find the Holy Spirit of God in the Bible, and it moves. If you are any kind of Bible student, you know that the Holy Spirit of God never stops. God filed a flight plan of the Holy Spirit of God of where He was going in Genesis 1:2, and you can trace that flight plan of God all through the Bible, certainly all through the Old Testament, and certainly all through the New Testament, right up to where we are at today.

One of the great truths of life, and I have said this many, many times to you, especially in America, will be the only thing that men never learn from history is the fact that men never learn anything from history. Therefore, they repeat over and over again the same mistakes of history. History will repeat itself. The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that history runs through a cycle.

Psalms 49:20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

That is an incredible, powerful statement. We see it in government, no understanding. We see it in every aspect of our society. We see it in churches, pastors who have no clue of what they are doing with the Word of God or what God is doing. I told you, 120 years ago, the world is truly in a mess. It is an absolute disaster waiting for it to unfold, and it is unfolding in places. One of these days the whole thing is going to unfold. But America is in a terrible mess. America is, the best way I could associate America, I would define it as, America is like an insane asylum; it is run by the inmates. It is absolutely off its course.

Yet, the idea that history repeating itself and men never learning the lessons of history, just 120 years ago, 200 years ago, when our country was founded, and for 50, 60, 80, 100 years after that, this country believed everything that we are preaching and teaching in this church today. Something happened between then and now that the majority of Christianity has rejected God, they rejected the Bible, and the very things that you believe and the very things that God has taught you through the Bible, they reject today. I talked about it a couple of Thursday nights ago, the seven things that you lose when you lose your Bible.

A great example of that, and I am not fighting anybody, I am just a student of history. I told you, I am not a real smart guy, but I am reasonably intelligent. I always bill myself as, "I am the fastest guy in the slow class." It is a thing where I can read and I can see things. A great example of this is the slogan that we see today and hear about all the time about wanting to "Make America Great Again." Nobody wants to make America great again more than I do. To me, America being great would be right now you pay \$1.80 for a pack of Twinkies. Back when America was great, it was 25 cents. That is America being great for me. Gas was 25 cents a

gallon. That would make America great. You could go get a hot rod Z28 all hopped up, the fastest car on the planet, you could buy it with all the options for \$1,900. Try that today.

But it will never be great again because we and our government have no clue. We have no understanding of whatever made America great. What made America great in the first place was the Word of God that she had and God's blessings on her. We think it is trade deals. We think it is getting good trade deals or closing the borders, keeping all the aliens out. We think that it is getting jobs, the economy, or military might, or getting health care for everybody, or keeping China and Mexico at bay by tariffs and bringing all the things. That is what we think will make America great again. That is not going to make America great again. The only thing that is going to make America great again is what made America great in the first place, and that is getting back to God and getting back to the Word of God and letting the Word of God do what it is supposed to do for us.

Men will never grasp the doctrine. I read a book one time that a guy gave me on the mighty Navy of the British Empire. From about 1800 up until World War I, maybe even beyond, the British fleet was the greatest, most powerful navy in the world. Every nation cringed at the thought of that long, for 50 miles, that long line of white warships heading their way. The guy in the book says what made England so great and powerful was her navy. I read that, and I thought to myself, "There is a classic example of some writer of history not having any understanding." The thing that made England great was not her navy. It was the book that she had for 400 years and the God that she served. Those warships that stretched out in a line for 50 miles, those big, they painted them all white, do you know what they were called? They were called Dreadnoughts. Nobody ever took the time to find out that the word "Dreadnought" was just a nickname for it, but the title was "Dreadnought, for God is With Us." That is where the name came from. They were great the same way we were great, because of the book that God gave us.

## VI. God's Judgments Throughout History

So men will never grasp the doctrine of God's judgment. In the Bible, we studied it in an institute, you have God's systematic theology of, we call it, the seven series, God's way of laying out and rightly dividing the Bible. It breaks down into a seven series. It is really an endless series, but we do not go through them all, but we go through maybe: the seven mysteries, the seven resurrections, the seven baptisms. There are seven marriages in the Bible. There are seven suicides in the Bible. There are seven barren women in the Bible who cannot have children. There are seven stages of your spiritual growth. Paul talks about the seven things that you are not to be ignorant of as a New Testament Christian. Lo and behold, those are the exact seven things that all God's people are ignorant of. There are seven things that changed about you the day you got saved. There are seven aspects to the Word of God, how it impacts your life. There are seven things that God loves, and there are seven things that God hates. It is an endless study, but the one that we need to talk about for a few moments today is that in the Bible, there are seven judgments of God. The wicked do not understand God's judgment. An understanding of God will begin an understanding of God's judgment in the Word of God and how it lays out.

For you and for me, there are the three basic judgments: sinner, son, and servant. We have talked about it many times. In that understanding of those three judgments, you will completely get a grasp of your eternal security, and you will never, never, one time, think you could ever lose it. You are judged as a sinner at Calvary's cross. When you get saved, God no longer judges you as a sinner. Now the judgment comes in, you are God's child, so He judges you as a son. A little bit later on, when the Lord comes back and we all stand in the judgment seat of Christ, you are not going to be judged as a sinner. You are not going to be judged as a son. He takes care of that down here. Now you are going to be judged as a servant: what you did with God, for God, after you got saved. When you put those three together, it is incredible.

Then the fourth one is the judgment of the nation of Israel. That will be the Tribulation Period. You want to understand what God is doing through history with the nation of Israel? There is the one you want.

Then the fifth one is the judgment of the nations, found in Matthew 26. We talked about the dividing of the sheep and the goats. You want to understand how God will deal with nations? That is where you go.

In 1 Corinthians 6:3, the sixth one is the judgment of angels. You want to figure out what God is doing in Genesis 6, and 1 and 2 Peter, and the Book of Jude, and make fools out of 99% of the theologians and the pastors? That one little verse right there will do it: judgment of angels.

The seventh one is the judgment of the unsaved dead. That is the Great White Throne Judgment. That is the final judgment where every man and every woman, whoever walked the face of this planet, that rejected God's plan, either in the Old Testament or the New Testament, will wind up for the final judgment. How can you miss that? How can you miss that in the Bible?

How could you miss this? Coming through the Bible itself, you will see God judging men and nations all through history. It is just over and over and over again. In Genesis 6, you have the flood. God wiped out the whole world. The Bible says that every imagination of man was only wicked, and God came down and wiped them out. He drowned every man, every woman, every baby, every child, everybody. Only eight people got on that ark. Do you know what happens to that? The wicked understand not judgment. So all the unsaved scientists and all, they spend their whole lives proving there was no flood, or if it was a flood, it was just a local flood, because they cannot understand the judgment.

How do you get past Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18-19? Here you had really five cities, but only two talked about, Sodom and Gomorrah. God filled up with gays and homosexuals, and God came down and wiped the whole place out. It was God's judgment on that mindset of sin. Yet, how do you miss that? I will tell you how you miss it: wicked men understand not judgment. So they will tell you today—I have heard it, I have got books, you will hear it in pulpits all over the place—"God did not come down and judge Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality. God came down and judged Sodom and Gomorrah because of inhospitality." Now, you keep Genesis 6 and Sodom and Gomorrah in mind, because we are going to come back to that in just a little bit.

The third one, all through the Bible in the Old Testament, He judges man by disease. Have you ever noticed that? He gives them boils. He gives them leprosy. He gives them fiery serpents. In 1 Samuel 5:9, He gives them emerods in their secret parts. That is a good word study for you. Once you start getting a hold of that one, you will want to find out what the golden mice are all about. God brought sickness and disease. I do not care what anybody says. When you get into the Bible, AIDS today is a judgment on a sin that is unparalleled. Do you know what? People are going to be like, people forget because they do not learn the lessons of history. Syphilis was a terrible disease. You do not hear from it anymore because they got it under control now, penicillin. But for years and years and years, if you got syphilis, it was a death sentence. Most people, you do not hear about that anymore. They do not know where syphilis ever came from. Syphilis is like AIDS. Syphilis was not a natural disease, like AIDS is not a natural disease. Syphilis started with the Roman Empire, where the gravity of sin was such a debauchery and such a mess that they were actually having sex with animals, in particular sheep. Syphilis jumped the strain from humans and animals having sex together, and then came about with the disease that was no cure for. I do not even have time to tell you this morning where AIDS and how AIDS started, but it was the same deal. This was not sheep. Nobody wants to hear that today. You get up and you talk about the gays and God's judgment on America and on that, and you will get run out of town on a rail. Why is that? Evil men understand not God's judgment. That is why.

He will judge them through pestilence. Flies, frogs, hail, locusts, fire, lice, fiery serpents. In Revelation 9:1, you want a return to the walking dead? They are coming out of the pit of hell. The Bible says that men try to die and cannot. He judges them with pestilence.

All through the Old Testament, He will judge them through natural disasters: earthquakes. Go back and see how many times God opened up the earth and swallowed up about 50,000 people. Fires, volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods. Even your insurance company has more sense than most of God's pastors do. They will call it an act of God, so you cannot collect on it. They are smarter than most of the pastors.

Lastly, all through the Old Testament, He will judge His people by other nations.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

The Bible says a man cannot understand these things, but we who seek the Lord understand all things.

## VII. The Current State of Apostasy and Coming Judgment

Understanding the cycle of history repeating itself. I told you to keep in mind Noah's flood, Genesis 6, and Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 18-19. The Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell." The reason why I told you that is because there is a perfect example of why things are the way they are today. In Noah's day, the whole world was wicked. The whole world wanted nothing to do with God's truth, and the whole wicked did not understand God's judgment. Noah was a man who preached for 120 years that God was going to come down and judge that world, and nobody believed him.

Then you go to Genesis 18-19 with the Sodomites, and you have a whole five cities there that have absolutely gone off the chart with their depravity, and all of that running rampant, and all of that taking place, and they did not want to hear anything about God's judgment. When Lot went in there and tried to tell his own kids about God's coming judgment, just like some parents today will try to tell their kids that they did not do what they needed to do, that God's judgment. When Lot said that, they laughed at him and scorned him; they did not believe him.

Yet the Bible says about Noah's flood, Matthew 24:37:

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

You want to know why homosexuality and lesbianism are on the rise today, and it is all accepted everywhere, that we have presidents that give pride week and will turn the White House into rainbow colors? You want to know why the whole world goes that way? I will tell you why, because Luke 17:28 says:

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

History repeats itself. Just as God judged those nations back in those days, you can write it down: God is going to judge this nation in our day. God's judgment was so clear in those days; it is so clear that it is coming in our day. How do you miss that?

Back in the Old Testament, when Israel got into apostasy and lost God's favor and God's truth and followed the corrupt way of Baal, every time God used another nation to chastise them. How do you miss that? Look at the Book of Judges. The whole theme of the Book of Judges is, "There is no king in Israel." They have come to the forefront of the world, and they have completely rejected every aspect of God.

In Judges 3:5, do you know what He does? He sends Cushan, king of Mesopotamia, and He whips them. Do you know what He does in Judges 3:12? He sends Moab down, and Moab whips them. Do you know what He does in Judges 4:1? He sends the Canaanites down, and they beat them up. Do you know what He does in Judges 6:1? He sends the Midianites down, and they clobber them. Do you know what He does in Judges 13:1? Finally, He sends the Philistines down, and they mess them up over and over and over again. God will use other nations to judge His people.

When Israel completely rejected everything God had done for them over and over, and God tried, He sent them the prophets. He sent them everybody to try to get them back online. Finally, God had enough. In 2 Kings 17:18, He sends King Sennacherib of Assyria down, and he takes the whole northern tribes into captivity, never to be a nation again, and to be destroyed. A little time later, in 2 Chronicles 36, He sends Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, down. He takes the southern tribes, and the nation of Israel ceases to exist.

Do you know what the Bible says? God says about Nebuchadnezzar in Jeremiah 43:10:

Jeremiah 43:10 And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them.

Nebuchadnezzar, a wicked pagan king, who if you look at him in the first part of Daniel, is one of the most wicked, godless men you ever saw in your life. Do you know what God said about him in Jeremiah 43:10? He says, "Nebuchadnezzar, my servant." Do you know how he was God's servant? God used that wicked king to chastise His people. Then when He was done using him to chastise them, He destroyed the nation to chastise them. God using pagan, godless, Gentile nations to chastise His people.

He said in Romans 9:17, talking about Pharaoh:

Romans 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

And He destroyed Israel with him. Do you know what Romans 11:21 says to the church? He talks about Israel being the natural branches that got broken off, and you and I being the wild olive tree that got grafted in after God destroyed the nation of Israel through the other nation. Do you know what He says to you and me? He says:

Romans 11:21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

God will whip this country just like He whipped the nation of Israel. He will take any country that He gave the Word of God to, the blessings to, and then in turn, against Him, God's judgment is coming. Today, because men have no understanding, they cannot see the coming disaster. America, like Israel, has left God and His Word and fallen into apostasy. Like Israel, back in the Book of Judges, there is no king. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 8, "where the word of a king is, there is power." That is why America has no power.

Back in Hosea 4:1, it talks about God's great controversy with the people within His nations. He says, "Do you know what it is?" There were three of them. He says, first of all, the fact that there is no truth. Second of all, the fact that there is no mercy. And the third thing is that there is no knowledge of God in the land. They have completely forgotten Him, and so have we.

Like Israel in the Book of Judges, Amos 8:11 says that there is coming a famine in the land:

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

Hosea 8:12 says that the great things that God gave us have now become the strange things to us.

Hosea 8:12 I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.

And Isaiah 5:20 says:

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Boy, that is America. That is where we are at. That is Israel right before their final destruction. In just a little over 243 years, America has gone from a nation that held God's Word and believed it, built the country on its principles, and wrote those verses and principles all over their buildings and their federal buildings in Washington, D.C., so they would never forget. From then to now, America has become a broken, pagan, apostate nation that has completely rejected, like Israel, God and His Word, and lost any resemblance of what God was doing with them. I may quote a famous preacher: "Let us pause for just a moment and allow silence to speak." Because it is a mess. It is a mess.

Yet in churches today, just like Israel at the first coming of Christ, all across this city, all across this state, all across this country, it is business as usual. I am telling you, just like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, it all goes back to your pastor and churches and Christians who are exactly what Proverbs 28:5 is talking about.

You, the apostate pastor who stands in your pulpit and rejects the very truth that God has given you. You, who make fun of the King James Bible, God's truth that this country was built on, that held this country up, that they wrote those verses in every one of their buildings, put it into their Constitution, and you make fun of it, and anybody who still believes it. You, who have no clue who God is or what He demands of us. You, who have led your people back to the world and out of His Word. You blind guide, Matthew 23. You whited sepulchre. You are like the cup that He talks about with the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees. You are white on the outside, but brother, you are filthy on the inside. You are like the whited sepulchre that you are beautiful on the outside, your big churches and how wonderful they are, but you are full of dead men's bones on the inside. You Christian celebrity who loves the uppermost seats, who loves to have the preeminence of man, and have lost the power of God. You, who in your churches, 2 Timothy 3:5, have a form of godliness, but you deny the very power thereof.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The Bible says:

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

Where once just two men with a King James Bible turned a whole country to God, you by the thousands, every Sunday morning, turn God's people away from the absolute perfect truth of God. I want to tell you something, God's judgment is coming. 9/11, terrorist attacks, terrible school shootings, almost every week another disaster, hurricanes, forest fires, tornadoes, tsunamis, great earthquakes, and you have not seen nothing yet. When a preacher would get up and suggest that one of these things is God's judgment on a nation, I cannot tell you how much hatred goes toward that kind of preaching. Because this country is full of wicked people who do not understand the judgment of God. They cannot look back and see that God has judged His people all through history with other nations. God will use the very nations that hate Him, the

Muslims, to judge His people who have rejected His truth. Then at the Second Coming of Christ, just like He did with Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, He will wipe them all out. The lessons of history, the lessons of history always repeating itself.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

## VIII. The Remnant and Future Hope

I will tell you what I understand. At the first coming of Christ, the nation of Israel was in deep apostasy. The key religious leaders, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the fabricated Bible leaders of Israel that were never sanctioned by God other than the scribes, they had led God's people into a dark hole of rejecting the light of God's Word. But there was a remnant of God's people who would not give up the truth of His Word. When the leaders of their day missed the first coming of Christ, missed the Messiah, missed Him completely, they are the ones that got Him. They are like the wise men who came from the East in Matthew 2, who obviously from the East where Daniel wrote the book of Daniel. Obviously they were reading the book of Daniel because they knew exactly the time He would be born, the time of the year He would be born, where to look to find Him to be born. All that is in the Book of Daniel. Because they held truth in the Word of God, they found the first coming of Christ, the Messiah. It was the great religious leaders that could not find it and could not see it.

I am going to tell you something, history always repeats itself. I will tell you what I have learned. I have learned that the very people who claim to be the Bible scholars today, the fabricated Bible scholars, the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees of our day, they will miss the Second Coming of Christ just like their brethren missed the first coming of Christ. But it will be the remnant. It will be the men and women like you who love the Book, love God, believe that Book, know its power, know its truth. Because the Bible says, "they that seek the Lord understand all things." It is a great study in the Bible. They will completely miss the Second Coming just as they missed the first coming. Losing sight of history will always take away and destroy your perspective of all things.

Here where we are at, there is no turning it around. The course has been set. There is a time when anybody gets into sin that you can obviously reverse the process, but there is also, listen to me carefully, there is also a time when you pass the point of no return. There is also a time that it is so complicated, it is so connected, it is so overwhelming, it is so ingrained in you that you will never, never, never be able to turn the corner back to where it needs to be. It is not a question of God not forgiving you. It is a question that sin never leaves a man any better than it finds him. I am telling you, you put tons and tons of sin in your life, and then try to get back to God, you cannot do it.

## IX. Rebuilding the Temple: A Call to Personal and National Revival

The Book of Haggai is one of those books that were written after they go back, after the 70 years captivity. It goes along with the Book of Ezra and Nehemiah, and they go back and they start to try to rebuild Jerusalem. But when Haggai writes, he writes to really give them a tough time because it has been almost 20 years now. He goes back and looks at it, and everything has stopped. They never saw the temple as their future. They never saw and understood that it could never have a future with God without the building of that temple. Now, they are not building it anymore. They quit doing all this stuff. They are actually taking the materials that were designed to build God's temple, and they are building their own houses with them.

I look back in the Old Testament and I see the nation of Israel has completely lost their perspective. They do not understand the value of them rebuilding that temple because everything that God is going to do with them at the first coming of Christ is going to come back to that temple. I will make the parallel to you right across the plate: in the New Testament, we have forgotten and given up building our temple, your body, for the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We have quit building our own spiritual body, just like they quit building the temple back there. Just as that temple was the key to the relationship with God, your temple this morning and how you build it is the key to your future with God. American Christianity has forsaken it.

He says in Haggai 2:7:

Haggai 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

What a great verse on God's coming judgment at the Second Coming of Christ. That verse was so powerful that back in the day in Europe when they still believed the Bible, Johann Sebastian Bach, who wrote many, many great things, he wrote "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring," and he wrote that based on that verse right there. Charles Wesley, who wrote many, many songs and Christmas carols, he wrote "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The second or the third part of that stanza is built right on Haggai 2:7: "Jesus, the desire of all nations."

People are so stupid today. We want to dump God's Word because we do not think it has the power to be God's Word. We come up with the NIV or the New English, whatever, and all this stuff. Yet when it comes to things that really matter spiritually to us, we never think. Could you imagine Handel's Messiah substituting the verses from a King James Bible to an NIV? Can you really? "And He shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings, Lord of Lords." Handel knew who He was. We have lost sight of all that today. We sing those songs because they are Christmas songs. They mean something to us only for the warmth of a fire, the Christmas tree, and family. We have lost completely the fact that He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. That He is, was, is, and always shall be the desire of all nations.

You see, that is where America has failed. He is no longer the desire of this country. But that is where Christianity has failed, because just as Jesus is not the desire of all nations, Jesus is not the

desire in the hearts of God's people. Because if it was, they would not live their lives the way they do. What happened to them has happened to us.

Haggai 2:3 says this:

Haggai 2:3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

Do you know what he said? He said, "Do you know why you guys cannot keep on track? Because you do not remember what the glory was when Solomon was here. You have lost your perspective. You have lost your way. You have allowed too many things to come in. Now instead of building the glory of Israel, you are taking that glory of Israel and building your own homes." It is the same way with you and me. We have no comparison of what a real Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, Bible-teaching Christianity should be. We have got an amalgamated mess of a lot of sissy preachers that get up and just tell whatever you want to hear. There is no comparison today of what it once was and what it is today. Because of that, Israel lost the desire of their nation, and God's people have lost the desire of their heart, the Lord Jesus Christ.

120 years ago, all of Christianity believed that the Bible was the Word of God. They believed in all of the key doctrines. They believed in everything. They knew the seven series of the Bible the church held to. Here we are 120, 130 years later. We have lost the desire. God's people do not know anything about the Bible. They do not want to know anything about the Bible. They read the Bible, and it is so confusing. They get four or five versions, and it even gets more confusing. We have lost the standard for everything in our country, but also in our Christianity. Here we are today, completely, completely broken down.

I say it again: "The wicked understand not God's judgment. But to him that seeketh the Lord, he understandeth all things." You want a perspective of life. You want a perspective of history. You want a perspective of what God is doing. Get the Book. Let this church help you become everything God wants you to be. Learn everything you can. Get it all down. Begin to understand. Begin to see God's fingerprint. Begin to see God's flight plan through history. Watch where that Holy Spirit of God goes. It is so easy to follow it through if you just pay attention to it.

We will hold up there. Thank you for being here today. Let us have a word of prayer.