

Proverbs 30

Sunday 3/8/2020

The sermon begins with a reference to Zechariah 6 and Proverbs 30. Last week, we started Proverbs 30, which contains the words of Agur. This whole chapter is closely tied together, flowing through a common teaching or thought that he is trying to get across.

Last week, we saw Agur ask for just two things before he died. I think they are probably two of the greatest and most important things a man or a woman could ever ask for from God. Yet, most of God's people today will be born, live their lives, raise a family, get old, and die without ever coming close to getting these two things in their life. It is a real tragedy, and it is so simple.

The book of Proverbs is about a wise man and a foolish man. The wise man is someone who finds these things and, through it, gets understanding. Agur's true request really set up a good study for us. If we take it to heart and apply it, it will help us to get to where God wants us to be.

The bottom line for you and me with God is simply the word "understanding." God wants us to understand Him, why He does what He does, who He is, and why He has a relationship or even wants a relationship with us. All that is found in that one key word: understanding.

➤ The Truth of God

The first thing Agur wants is the truth of God. He says, "I want vanity and lies removed far from me." Here is a man who has seen all the things the world has to offer. He has been told all the lies that people, society, and everything that goes on gives to us. He has come to the conclusion that he wants all that removed from him. All he wants is the truth of God.

If every child of God would just follow that pursuit and want the truth of God more than anything else in life, it would change every aspect of our lives.

One time, in the Gospel of John 18, Jesus went before Pontius Pilate. Pilate was the head Roman official over Jerusalem. Right before Jesus was crucified, Pilate wanted to find out who this Jesus was. He had heard many things about Him, but now he wanted a firsthand understanding. So he brings Him in and starts to question Him.

Jesus makes one of the greatest statements to him. He does not give him a lot of answers. It is noteworthy in the Bible sometimes who Jesus refuses to speak to; it will give you great insight into some things.

He says to Pilate in John 18:37:

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Pilate's answer is one of the classic answers not only in the Bible but in history and life itself. He looks back and says, "What is truth?"

When I read that years ago, I thought to myself, "He is the head of the political system over Jerusalem at that point in time. He is the highest man in the chain of the Roman Empire. He has been sent there to dictate Roman policy and enforce it." Here is a man who sits at the top of everything, running everything, and yet he has no clue what truth is.

I thought to myself, "If that is not the political system that we are all victims of, if that is not the religious system that we are all victims of..."

I remember one time years ago, I would send discipleship teams out. Some of you were part of those teams back in the day. We would send them to churches and teach them how to disciple people. We went down to Springfield to the big church down there that was connected with High Street Baptist, which was connected with Baptist Bible College back in the day, and still is.

We were laying it out to them, and one of my guys was talking about, and they would give it to the pastors first, how one of the things we will do with discipleship is to establish people into the truth—one of the goals. A pastor in that church looked at him and said, "What is truth?"

I thought to myself, "That is exactly where not only the political world is, the unsaved world, but that is where Christianity is today." Not only did the leaders of the day politically not know what truth is, but the scribes and the Pharisees did not know it either.

I want to tell you something else: not only does Washington D.C. and the rest of the leadership around this country not know what truth is, but most of the leaders in Christianity do not either. It is an incredible thing. Without a doubt, these two questions will be the most important thing a man could ask from God. Yet, it is that system that I told you about that is just broken down.

➤ A Balance in that Truth

The second thing Agur asked for is a balance in that truth. In Proverbs 30:9, he gives us two extremes of being out of balance.

One, he says, "There is a guy who says, 'I am full; I have everything I want,' and he denies God." Then he says, "Who is the Lord?" That is so true of people who get so full of the world and have everything they want. They come to the place that they forget not only everything that God did for them, but they forget the God who gave it to them.

Then the other extreme was, "I am poor, and I have to steal." When I do that, I take the name of the Lord in vain, because that is one of the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not steal."

It shows that he wants to be in the middle. He does not want everything that the world has to offer or he can have, because he knows it will pull him away from God. He does not want to be busted and broke down poor, because he knows that will lead down another road. He wants to be in the middle. That is so true of what God does.

The common man, to whom He gives a common Bible, will produce common sense. Boy, was that ever missing today.

Then I gave you ten or fifteen key balances in the Bible. I tried to show you the importance of balance in everything in our lives. When we get out of balance, this is where the problem comes in.

I would say, if a guy or a gal is truly saved and has the Lord in their life, when they get out of fellowship or they head down a wrong road, and we all do from time to time, some to greater degrees than others, the number one issue that causes that is getting out of balance.

God is a perfect balance. He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Within those three titles, you have the complete balance of God.

When God created everything in Genesis 1 and 2, it was a perfect balance. Absolutely perfect. Perfect weather, perfect everything. Then when man in Genesis 3 threw the world into sin, he not only just threw it into sin, he threw the world out of balance. Now everything is out of balance.

Now we have to have the four seasons. I am not talking about the musical group; I am talking about around us. We have to have spring, summer, fall, and winter. We have to have a cycle now. We did not have that back in Genesis. It was before the fall. It was perfect weather all the time. No hurricanes, no floods, no natural disasters, no thunderstorms. It was perfect. It was an absolute perfect environment.

Today you can have a cat or you can have a dog. Back then you could have had a pet lion. You could have had a pet tiger. You could have had a pet rhinoceros if that is what you wanted. I guess the animals were tame because everything was a perfect balance. But man will always upset the balance.

In your life and my life, when He gave us the Bible, He says, "You want a balance in the Bible?" Okay. It is doctrinally, historically, and inspirationally. That is the balance. In your life and my life, for the Christian life, balance is absolutely imperative.

The Bible calls it moderation. In Philippians 4:5, it says:

Philippians 4:5

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Moderation is balance. Then 1 Corinthians 6:12 says that in that balance:

1 Corinthians 6:12

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

You can do whatever you want to do, but you have to stay within balance so that you are not brought under the power of any.

If I can help you this morning, let me melt this down, bring this down to a thing where you can actually smoke it if you want to get that far. The Christian balance is just five things.

Think of the guy out there in the carnival who juggles five balls and keeps them going all the time. He just keeps it going. Then he gets real creative, and he is really good now. Then he closes his eyes and does it. Then he goes up from his leg and he does it. That is good balance.

Every Christian has to be about, and I saw a guy one time, I do not know how he had sticks up with plates on it, and he kept the plates spinning. He would just keep them going, and they would spin in perfect balance. That is what the Christian life is in five areas, five fundamental areas of balance in your life and my life.

- Balance with the Bible
- Ministry
- Your Marriage
- Your Family
- Your Job

Every one of those is an individual balance. Here is where it gets interesting. Every one of those that is an individual balance, when you put them in your whole life, when you get a balance in your life, the next thing you have to do is balance the balance.

These things always have to be kept in perspective. It is one of those things that is so key when you get into your own Christian life. You have to have these things moving in the right direction and keep the balance in them.

A balance, obviously, will be the most important aspect of our relationship with God and the Word of God. At the same time, when we start to get out of balance in one of these things, it will always affect the rest.

You cannot get out of balance with the Bible and still have an effective ministry. You cannot get out of balance with the Bible and ministry, which is your relationship with God, and have a good balance in your family, or your job, or your marriage, or whatever. When you get one of them out, it always affects the rest of them.

Out of balance, and maybe you have to get a little years of experience of seeing it, but out of balance is so easy to see in a person's life. It is just obvious.

Years ago, I learned a lot of lessons in life the hard way. My mom and dad died when I was 21, and my mom remarried after that, and I was pretty much on my own, which was fine. But I had never had to wash my own clothes before. I had never dealt with a stopped-up sewer, which we had problems with all the time. It was a new experience for me.

I remember I paid \$30, which was a lot of money back in that day. This would have been back in the late 60s, early 70s. I spent \$30 one time because I went down to wash the clothes, and I put the clothes in it, put the soap in it, and pushed the buttons, and nothing would happen.

So I called the washer repair guy, and he came out, and I am standing down there, and he says, "Well, everything looks okay. You have the clothes in it. You have the soap in it." Then he closed the lid and pushed the button, and it started right off. I paid \$30 to find out you have to close the lid on your washing machine before you can wash the clothes.

I have had to learn a lot of things the hard way. I was famous for locking my keys in my car. Sometimes we do not like to be rebuked. None of us like to be told we are stupid. But we are stupid sometimes, you do know that. Sometimes somebody telling us we are stupid, even though we do not like it, really helps us out.

One time I locked my keys in my car. So you call the guy that comes out, and in ten seconds, he opens it, pops my thing down there, pops it right back up, and it is \$30, \$35. I mean, that is immoral. I am just telling it right now.

Two weeks later, I did the exact same thing. I kicked myself. I called the guy, and he came back out. He did the same thing. This time, it was only \$30. I asked him, "I am glad, but last time it was \$35. This time it was \$30. I am just wondering." He says, joking now, "Oh, we give a bonus for being stupid." Well, I did not need to hear that.

You wonder what is wrong with me. It is things like that that worked me and made me the way I am today.

I remember the first time I washed clothes and got it going. I did not know anything about balancing out a washing machine. I did not know anything about keeping the blacks and whites separate when you wash them. The world was segregated even back then.

So I am loading up. I thought, "Hey, this is the man's way of thinking: you have a washing machine. You would think that when you have a lot of clothes, the more clothes you could get in, the cleaner they would get, and the more you could get done." That is the way a guy thinks. That is why women, in most cases, instead of the rare cases, will allow the husband to change diapers, because he sees the diapers on the box that it is for 15 to 20 pounds. He thinks that is how much it holds.

So I put the clothes in there, put the soap in, closed the lid, learned that lesson. I have not locked the keys in my car since that time. So I pushed the button, and I went upstairs, and I am thinking to myself, "That was pretty easy."

All of a sudden, I hear this "boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom." I am thinking, "What is that?" Obviously, I think somebody has broken into the downstairs. So I grabbed my trusty .45 ACP and snuck down the steps like that.

I looked over, and the washing machine is spewing stuff out the lid. It is honestly going "boom, boom." It just sounded like it was doing a rumble, "boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom." It is just going crazy down there. I am thinking, "What is going on?"

The washing machine is out of balance. I called my mom, and she says, "Well, how many clothes did you put in it?" I said, "Well, I filled it up to the top." She says, "You cannot do that." She says, "Stop it, take some of the clothes out, and just do not put as much." And it was fine.

I have thought about that. Years later, when you are dealing with people and Christians, I watch a lot of God's people do the rumble because you are out of balance. When you are out of balance, it shows, and everybody else is standing there saying, "How great that you are boom, boom,

boom, boom, boom, boom," that you are doing your own version of the worldly rumble because you are out of balance, and balance will get us every time.

Getting a child of God out of balance in the Bible, the ministry, the marriage, the family, or the job will produce the problems that we have. The hardest thing you are ever going to have to do as a Christian is get that balance. The second hardest thing is, when you get that balance, you have to balance that balance. That is what we talked about last week. You are going to see how this all connects together.

I. The Accuser and the Accused Generation

Today, this section will be about Proverbs 30:10-14. We will get a lot of information out of these verses. Let me read it.

Proverbs 30:10-14

Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

➤ The Practical Application of Accusation

Let us look at the practical application here so we can see it. This is a man obviously trying to gain favor with a master, and it may be another slave or whatever, but he is trying to gain favor with a master by ratting on somebody and trying to tell the master, "This guy did something wrong," thinking that the master will reward him or he will get on the inside with him because he is tattletailing on the other servant that is not doing what is right.

The comparative passage on this will be over in Proverbs 7:21. You want to probably put those two together.

You saw a picture of this in 2 Samuel 1, when Absalom had been killed. David is grieving over Saul, excuse me, grieving over it, and then an Amalekite guy comes in and tells David that he is dead and "I killed him," thinking that he is going to get some kind of favor with David.

Of course, David asked him, going back to the Bible as David always did, "Did you feel okay with stretching out your hand against the Lord's anointed?" And he killed the guy. It did not work for him. That is really the basis of the verse here. Obviously, this guy is lying about the servant, or he would not be found guilty in his accusation, and it was not true. That is the inspirational thing we can all relate to.

➤ The Doctrinal Application: The Devil as the Accuser

Let us get to the meat of it, the doctrinal thing here. There is something else here, and I want you to be able to get this down. Doctrinally, the accuser here within the book of Proverbs, and how we are coming through and what we know it to be, will be the devil, who in Revelation 12:10 is called the accuser of the brethren.

The picture here will be found in two places in your Bible: Job 1:6 and Job 2:1.

Job 1:6-12

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

In the first place here, we see where the devil is accusing Job before God. God brought his name up and said, "Have you considered my servant Job?" The devil says, "Yeah, he ain't much." Then he goes to work on discrediting and accusing Job before God. God gives him permission: "Okay, you can take all that he has, but you cannot touch him," and off he goes.

Now he comes back again in Job 2.

Job 2:1-6

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him to destroy him without cause.

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

We know what happens to the rest of this place here. Job goes through seven days of terrible anguish before God relieved him.

There are a couple of things I want you to see here. We know from our past studies that Job and the book of Job is a type of the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. We know that. We have been through it many, many times, and I will not belabor the point, but there are always new people, so I will just kind of give you a brief thing.

Job, the name Job, means "one persecuted." Job is in the land of Uz. That is exactly where the Jew is going to be during the tribulation period. Job is on the ground seven days being persecuted by the devil himself, where the nation of Israel goes through it for seven years being persecuted by the devil.

Job loses all that he has, so does the nation of Israel. There is a resurrection at the end of the book, which matches in Job 42:13, which is the type of the resurrection at the end of the tribulation period. Job gets back double at the end of the book, everything that he has, and the Bible says in Isaiah 61:7 and again in Deuteronomy 21:17 that Israel at the end gets back double everything that she had lost.

The 42 chapters in the book of Job match up to the 42 months into the great tribulation period. Here you will find in the Bible two great chapters on the devil. In the New Testament, it will be Revelation 12 and 13, and in the Old Testament, it will be Job 40 and 41, and the two are connected together.

The thing that I want you to see here, a couple of things, is that we all, and I get it, I understand, we all think that there are times when the devil is out to get us. Obviously, conceptually, the devil is out to get us. But I do not want you to get confused here.

Do you think that the devil gets up in the morning and has you in mind that he is going to destroy you? He does not have to do that way because he knows that he just needs to sprinkle some things on your cupcakes, and you will destroy yourself. He does not really have to send somebody down, or him come down himself. This is a great misconception today.

From the book of Job and other places, Revelation 12 and 13, it is very clear that the devil's main attack and main concern will be against the nation of Israel, typified by Job.

When you get over to James 5, which is another great book written to the nation of Israel, James 1:1 to the twelve tribes scattered abroad, you will find that in that great passage of chapter five, down through there, I think it is in verse 11, that he actually uses Job as a reference to the Jew and the tribulation by saying that you need to have the patience of Job. It is all tribulation.

The first thing I want you to know and understand is that you do not, I mean, I am not saying that you just need to know that the devil is not, when somebody says, "Well, the devil really is after me." That is a conceptual thing. Obviously, he has unclean spirits that do his work, but the devil himself, the Bible says that he likes the uppermost seats of the synagogue.

If somebody wanted to really pinpoint whether the devil was moving back and forth, and notice he is coming back and forth in New York, that is another thing you want to see, walking up and down in it. If you wanted to pinpoint him today, I would suggest that you look over there in the European side of things, somewhere around maybe Rome, and how it is connected with everything throughout the world. That is where I would look, and specifically against the nation of Israel.

That is the first thing I want you to understand. As I said, I want you to know that Satan travels back and forth from the earth up before the throne of God. But what I want you to know is he is not accusing you and me up there. That would never, he would never do that because he knows the Bible better than we do, and he knows that would be a wasted time. He can get away with Israel, but he could not get away with you and me.

Do you know why? Because the moment the devil stands up, remember now, Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father. The moment that the devil goes up to the throne and he says, "Hey, I want to talk to you about Bob Alexander, and I want to tell you what a rotten scoundrel he is. He did this, this, this, this, this, this, this," and before he even got the first three words out of his mouth, Jesus Christ would stand up and say, "Father, he is in me and I am in him, and it is all covered by the blood. He got saved at this particular point," and God would say, "Caius the smith, get out of here."

See, that is the difference. Israel was not in Christ. They are not covered by the blood. Those are little things you need to understand.

I want you to see this: if the devil would attack you and me, and we do it by our own flesh, and I am not saying that the forces of evil do not give us problems and tempt us and all those things, but I want you to see that when the devil does attack, in this case Israel, what he attacks, and he will always do this, he will attack before God the motive by which what we do.

Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that the job and seat of Christ, the number one thing that we are going to have to give an account for, is why we did what we did, the motive behind it.

As I showed you many times, Revelation 12 and 13 is in great detail how the devil hates the nation of Israel. The reason for his hatred to such an incredible degree is because at one time in Genesis 1:1-2, the devil had everything. He was Lucifer then, and he had control over everything. He was the anointed cherub that covered the throne of God. He was over everything that God did.

When he lost that, then God takes all of that and gives it to the nation of Israel. We know that from Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, that before Genesis 1:2, anyhow, someplace in there, that there was an Eden, a garden of God, and the devil obviously had his throne there, that he ran it all from there.

When he lost that, then God gives that land grant to Abraham and to the Jew. The nation of Israel in time is going to get everything that the devil once had, but lost, and he wants it back. That is the attack. That is why he hates them. It is clearly laid out for you in Revelation 12 and 13.

The Bible calls him in Revelation 12:9-10 the accuser of our brethren. The brethren will be the nation of Israel, typified, as I said, by Job.

Revelation 12:9-10

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

If you do not have that marked in your Bible, "his Christ," you need to mark that because it will show you, and there are a couple of other places too, it will show you that there are two Christs. The devil is a Christ; the word "Christ" means "anointed one." You have another place that is called, He is called the Lord's Christ, Jesus is. Here it is called "his Christ," God's Christ.

When the devil shows up, he is called the what? Antichrist. Two Christs. You have to make sure you are following which one you are following.

The accusations there, as I said, are typified by the book of Job, and it is the devil going after the nation of Israel, accusing them.

II. Characteristics of "This Generation"

Now, look at Proverbs 30:11, 12, 13, and 14. We are not going to teach 14 today because that goes along with what I want to say next week. But we are going to look at 11, 12, and 13. Here is what you have now, and this is where it gets good. It is only going to get better as we go on.

He talks about a generation. We need to identify that generation today, which we will. Then he gives us four things about that generation that we will need to see. When we look at those four things, we will get to three of them today. When we look at these four things, then we are going to tie them in to why Christianity and the world that we live in is in the sorry, sad state that it is. It is a real key, a real eye-opener.

Doctrinally here, all this will be about God and the nation of Israel and God restoring them. We are living in the day today where we are right on the verge of one of the greatest events in the history of the world: the second coming of Christ and the restoration of the nation of Israel.

I do not know what you know about newspapers or newspaper publishers. They may have changed this by now, I do not know. But back in the day, in the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, and maybe even today, they had different type for front-page news. The bigger the type, the bigger the story, obviously.

Do you know the biggest type that they would use in a newspaper, front-page headline news? Do you know what they called that headline type? It was called "second coming type." It was what they were going to use if the Lord came back and they got to print about it. That is kind of an

amazing thing. It shows you that back then, I do not care what the world was like, they still had a fundamental understanding of the Bible and God and knew that God was coming. It is incredible.

The restoration of the nation of Israel is something that is the greatest event that we get to see, because that is what ushers in everything that God is doing. People look at the five o'clock news and the Middle East and what is going on with Russia and all this stuff and the Muslims and the Jews and everything that is happening over there. It is very complicated, sometimes very hard to figure out what in the world is going on.

Yet it is really not if you just stay simplistic with the Bible. What you are seeing, not only around the world with the United Nations all standing against Israel, with every country on this planet standing against Israel except America and England, what you are seeing is all the preparation for God restoring the nation of Israel and bringing about the events of the second coming of Christ.

This generation, Matthew 24. In Bible Institute, not this last week, it was people ministry, but the week before, in Bible Institute, we were going through dispensations, and we went through the tribulation period. I showed them that Matthew 24, in fact, we laid the whole chapter out in incredible detail. Matthew 24 is the greatest chapter in the Bible defining the tribulation period.

It is a chapter that is built around two questions that the apostles come and ask the Lord. Matthew 24:1-3, they are in the Mount of Olives. By the way, that is exactly where the Lord comes back at the second coming. They ask Him two questions. Fundamentally, they say, "What is going to be the sign of thy coming?" and "When will the end of the world come?" Those are the two questions that they ask.

When I showed the people in Bible Institute, because they are there to learn the Bible, I showed you how the rest of that chapter, and I split it up for them, shows you exactly how He answers each question. It all comes down to the sign of His coming and the end of the world.

He tells us in Matthew 24:32, after He goes through all the things that are going to happen to the nation of Israel in the tribulation period, after all those things take place, He says in Matthew 24:32 that the key that you want to look for is the budding of the fig tree.

Without getting into a long dissertation on that, the budding of the fig tree, Israel will be the fig tree. The budding of the fig tree will be the day, the time, and the year that Israel becomes a nation again, because she is a barren fig tree.

In Matthew 24:32, it says that she puts forth her first leaves. That will be in history for us, that will be in May of 1948, May the 15th of 1948, when the nation of Israel, something happened, that is one of the most unknown times in history for anybody who is looking at history. Yet it is the time where everything in the world changed. Nobody saw it, because that was the beginning of the end. It was the beginning of everything moving toward the second coming of Christ.

For almost 3,000 years, Israel had been without a homeland, no nation. Yet over and over and over again, through the prophets in the Old Testament, God told us that He was going to regather

Israel and bring them back. The greatest way to lay that out systematically would be Ezekiel 35, 36, up to chapter 40. It shows you chapter by chapter how those things work out.

So what happens is, in 1948, Israel becomes a nation. He says, and here is your generation. He says, "That generation, 1948, will not pass before all these things come to pass that He has been talking about," and there are things in the tribulation period.

So what He is basically saying, and this is the generation that we are going to look at, we are going to see four things about it that will show you exactly what I am telling you is true. You are going to see now these four concepts about this generation starts with the budding of the fig tree. From this point on, He is saying, whoever is born in 1948, that generation from 1948, when the last person that is born in that year will die, that brings an end to that generation.

The generation of World War I vets has ceased to exist. Do you know why? Five or six years ago, the last World War I vet died. I remember back in the sixties when the last Civil War guy died, believe it or not. It is a thing where the generation will end.

Here is your problem, not a problem, but you do not know for sure what a generation is, because there are four or five or six of them in the Bible, and there may be even one that we never found.

- 40 years is the generation
- 42 years is the generation
- 70 years is the generation
- 100 years is the generation
- 33 years is the generation
- 120 years is the generation

There may be one out there that we never found. So we do not know the time, but what we do know is this: that generation in 1948 will not come to an end before the Lord comes back and everything is going to take place.

I do not really know what you know about the Bible. I really do not care. I do not care what you believe today, what church you are part of, what religion you are part of. I am just telling you this: you better understand that when He said, "When you see the budding of the fig tree, you know it is even at the door." So you better find out wherever your religious ticket is around your neck, you better make sure that your soul is covered by the blood of Christ because He is coming. It is just that simple.

Most people do not care or believe what the Bible says. This little song came out, oh, I do not know, 30, 40 years ago. It went like this: "God said it, I believe it. That settles it for me."

The truth of the matter is: God said it, that settles it. He does not care whether you believe it or not. It is settled, He is coming back. You can pretend He is not, you can pretend, "I do not believe it." It does not matter. He told you that that generation, now let me show you that generation.

This generation now we know runs from 1948 up through the time that we are living in 2020. You would think that Christian eyesight would be 20/20 when it comes, but it is not. Up to the rapture of the church, and that ends this generation.

Within this, we know from our chart over there, the church age that we are living in, the Laodicean church, we know all about that, right smack dab in the middle of this thing. A lot of things changed in 1948. I do not have time to get into it today. I would say that it was probably the final transition into the Laodicean church age.

The first UFO showed up in the world in 1947, out Mount Rainier, Washington. There had not been a reported case of UFOs of any imaginable thing all down through history. Things happened. But from 1947 up to the time that we live in now, there have been over 800,000 sightings.

Do you know what took place in 1947, right before they became a nation? Roswell, New Mexico. There is a reason for that. I do not have time to get into the sons of God this morning and show you all that stuff, but you should have 20/20. You should have understanding and understand these things.

I will tell you something else, from that point on, the whole movie industry was just inundated with science fiction movies about life from outer space. You had *The Brain from Planet Arous*. You had *The Thing That Ate New York* and got a thank you note from President Kennedy. Every one of those said that there was life in outer space and got this whole world thinking that there are aliens out there that are some superior intellect that are going to come down.

The paramount was what, 20, 25 years ago, with a little movie *E.T.* On the marquee, it is so subtle in this generation, on the marquee, it was the picture of Michelangelo where in the Sistine Chapel, it has the finger of God touching the finger of man, Adam, but in the movie, it was the finger of God touching the finger of E.T., and nobody even caught it.

E.T. came down here, and he gets adopted by a family. Do you know what the wife's name was of the family that adopted him? Yes, it was Mary. Do you know that E.T. resurrects and comes back to life? E.T. heals, he does all those things, and when he is in the hospital and he is dying, if you look up in the clock, it is at the exact same time Christ was dying on the cross. I do not know what you watch.

This whole world was getting you ready that someday when a man of sin comes down, he is going to come down just like they did in Genesis 6.

If God was driving along, going to heaven in the second coming of Christ in His Corvette, down there in the first, second, and third century, He was in first gear and He was doing the wrong. He has a supercharger on it, and He has got out there at about, oh, I do not know, 900, 800, He shifted into second gear, He is moving along now, He is heading for heaven, but He wants to get there, and He is really going at it now.

At about 1900, He flipped it into third gear and stepped on the gas, and then in 1948, He flipped on the supercharger, put it down in fifth gear, and stomped on it and is on His way back. It is

here. I will show it to you. What are you looking at me for? Nothing wrong with me, it is wrong with you. I am fine, I am okay. Ooh, that hurt.

I am going to show you this generation. This will be the answer to so many questions. Along with all this material, you will want to understand this generation. There are two more places we have to kind of give you here. One of them is in Matthew 24:37, and the other one is Luke 17:28.

Matthew 24:37

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

In other words, what was going on in Noah's time is going to be right before the Lord comes back. Hello, sons of God.

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;

Hello, Bruce Jenner. Bruceine. This is why, this is the why, this will answer why we are faced with the things that we are faced with. In 1947, 1947, if you were gay, you were in the closet. From that point, when they all started to move, "Hello, my name is Ellen DeGeneres." And off you go. In the world and in Christianity.

Now we are going to talk about three aspects of the four of this generation. Each one will show you right where we are at today in respect to the two questions that they ask Him on the Mount of Olives: "Sign of thy coming," and "the end of the world."

➤ Cursing Parents (Proverbs 30:11)

Look at Proverbs 30:11:

Proverbs 30:11

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Who could not see that today in the world and in Christianity in our generations? Children defying their parents. Children disrespecting their parents. Not just the world, God's people. Half my life is dealing with kids who totally disregard their parents and disrespect them, give them all kinds of problems. It is unbelievable.

There are more killings and murderers today in shootings. Joe Christensen was talking to me the other night, Thursday night Bible study, that just this last week in Independence, they had 13 shootings. You go down, the guy in Raytown, it was just the older guy a couple years ago, jogging in the morning, and somebody came by and shot him.

There is absolutely in the youth today no quality of life. They have been playing video games that mom and dad let them, letting them kill everything and everybody. Pretty soon it is not enough. They get in with the wrong crowd, and the wrong crowd says, "You want to be part of this gang, you have to snuff somebody, you have to kill them."

The quality of life is so low with our kids today because they have been exposed to everything. It is an absolute disaster. Children defying their parents, disrespecting their parents, cursing their parents, and being totally rebellious within the family.

I am telling you right now, this all goes back to the fact that we have lost in this country any moral fiber that holds the quality of life in any way situation back to the Bible. We are living in the most jungle, barbaric times in the history of the world where an educated, sophisticated society produces children that think so little of human life and disregard any authority. That is this generation.

Let me just say this because there are a lot of young families here, and I need to tell you this, most of you already know this: for a child, his first line of defense against this generation will be his parents. The parents will build and instill into that child the importance of obeying and respect for authority, never allowing the seeds of rebellion to get into that child's head. If it does, you remove it through the seat of his pants.

A parent will build respect and obedience in the child in three fundamental basic areas. If you are here this morning and you say, "Well, I did not have that when I was growing up, and my kids this or my kids that," I have a plan for you. I will help you. But I am talking about you young people in here who now are having families or having kids and raising a family. You as a parent need to build respect and obedience in the child in three fundamental areas.

- The family structure with mom and dad. Ephesians 6:1-3 talks about obeying your parents. Colossians 3:20:Colossians 3:20
Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. You have to begin there.
- God and the ultimate authority, the structure of the New Testament church. You have to use those two together. You have to build it on your own, but you need the reinforcement of God's structure. While you are building the fundamental respect for authority in the family, you are building it toward a relationship with God.
- The authority figures, Romans 13, them that have rule over you. Respect our police, respect the people who are over you. They are not always right, and sometimes they are dead wrong, but you are not always right, and sometimes we are dead wrong. But you have to understand that that is the structure that God gave us. When it is not right, or it is some injustice, God will straighten it out at some point. It is just that simple.

When you do not have these three things, you have what we have in America: anarchy. Kids will disrespect mom and dad. They will curse them out. They will do what they want to do. They will fight you at every turn. Because when that breaks down, you will have at some point a state of rebellion on your hands.

1 Samuel 15:22 says:

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

I am telling you, now I am going to give you a little secret here. You better get this. We all know that Israel got into a mess back there with all the other gods and everything, and you can trace it through 1 Chronicles. It is a mess, I get it. But I want to tell you something, and the quicker you see this, the better off you are going to be.

In the Old Testament, do you know when Israel completely went to pieces? When they hit the point of no return? It was a prophecy in Isaiah 3:4 and Ecclesiastes 10:16. Do you know what it was? It is when the children began to reign on the throne of Israel, and the men no longer reigned.

Do you know when your family is headed for trouble? When your kids run your family instead of you running it. When they tell you instead of you telling them. When they get so much power in their world, you gave it to them, that now they can hold your grandkids from you. They can hold everything from you if you do not give them what they want.

I am telling you, Israel went to pieces when the children began to reign over the kingdom that God gave it to the kings of Israel, like David and Solomon. You are just getting to see it when they start reigning, when they are eight years old, they are 13 years old, or 15 years old.

I have seen many a family where mom and dad stood on the wayside, had no control over their kids, and the kids ran everything. Mom and dad's idea of fixing it was just give them more stuff, appease it. The answer is a ball bat.

You have to begin. The Bible says in 1 Peter 4:17:

1 Peter 4:17

For