

I. The Garments of Salvation and Righteousness

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn back to Proverbs chapter 31. We are going to continue on today. As I look at all this display and camp coming up and building your wall, and I saw all the tools over here and all these things, just so you know, my message will be on the level this morning. Most Baptist preachers, back in my day anyhow, you could always tell when their preaching was on the level, because they always had the bubble in the middle. I'll have to use that for now.

Last week, we were in Proverbs chapter 31, verses 19 and 20. We have been adding week by week very important principles, and I hope that you are marking them in your Bible or at least putting them in a notebook as we come down through them. This has been an amazing chapter. We saw and defined, I think last week, we got down to the bottom line of the real work that all of us should be doing. Very simply, it comes down to making garments, making clothes, and how we, through the ministry, help people in basically two ways within the garment industry, spiritually speaking.

First off, the Bible talks about the garments of salvation.

Isaiah 61:10

> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

When a man or a woman is unsaved, they stand naked with their sin. Adam and Eve, back in Genesis 3, when they sinned, they realized that they were naked. They tried to make aprons from leaves off of a fig tree to cover their nakedness because now they knew that they were. God said, "That's not going to work for you." So the Bible says that God took those from them and made them garments of salvation, killed an innocent animal, bet on it was a lamb, and covered their nakedness. So the first garments that we have to offer for anybody who needs that covering will be the garment of salvation.

The second one will be after you are saved. We should help people make the robe of righteousness through the things of the Bible, helping people learn, grow, and be everything that God wants them to be, getting to the place where, at the judgment seat of Christ, we have a robe of righteousness, white fine linen, which the Bible says is the righteousness of the saints. One will cover the nakedness of your sin before you are saved. The other one, after salvation, will cover the works of the flesh that will keep you from being clothed at the judgment seat of Christ.

A couple of weeks ago, or maybe a month ago on a Thursday night, somebody asked a question along those lines, and we laid it out of 1 Corinthians 3 and 2 Corinthians 5. We talked about how some people will actually show up at the judgment seat of Christ who never, never, never took

seriously Proverbs chapter 31. We are going to see it today a little bit farther in, a little deeper in, and will wind up naked at the judgment seat of Christ.

As we continue this week, as I said, we are going to develop the idea of a garment, the idea of your ability to make clothes or be a sewing person, a seamstress as they say, making clothes. We are going to look at it a little bit deeper. Last week and this week will go together. So what I want to do is I want to start, I want to read what I did last week, the two verses, and then I want to add to it this week's verse, and then we can kind of put them all together.

Last week, verses 19 and 20 said:

Proverbs 31:19-20

- > *She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.*
- > *She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*

This will be for today:

Proverbs 31:21-22

- > *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*
- > *She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*

II. Understanding the "Snow" and "Winter" Metaphor

Now look at verse 21 today, and we are going to start with this. It says:

Proverbs 31:21

- > *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

Now this verse will be one of the most profound verses that you are going to find out of Proverbs chapter 31. It is right alongside verse 16 where we talk about considering a field and buying it. This is an incredible verse. This is what I call in Bible study or preaching a sleeper verse. It does not really look like much until you begin to open it up and look at the pieces, and it gets legs and a life of its own, and it gets down pretty deep with some great principles.

Let us define first of all some of the components of this verse so we can better get an understanding how we are going to put it together. First of all, it says she is not afraid of the snow. In the Bible, snow will always be associated with obviously wintertime, and it is a thing, but also will be a time in the winter of not bearing fruit. Apple trees do not put apples out in February. It will always be associated many times with the tough times that we go through in our life.

The Bible talks about the four seasons of life. When you are first born, it is the springtime of your life. You grow up through that point of time, and then you get into summer, which is the real active time of your life. Then you get into your 40s and your 50s, and then you move into the fall. When you get into older age, in the 70s and the 80s and the 90s, then you are in the

wintertime of your life. The winter itself is given the affectionate term "Old Man Winter" because of the fact that it is associated with somebody who gets to that point in their life where they are old by age and do not have a long time to live.

Psalms 1:1-3

> *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

> *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

> *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

It talks about his delight being the law of the Lord, and then it says he shall bear fruit in his season. In your life and my life, there is a season to our fruit bearing. Obviously, when you are in the springtime of your life, you do not bear a lot of fruit because you are young and you are growing and you are learning. But when you get into the summertime and even into the fall and even into the early part of winter, that should be your fruit bearing season.

Most of God's people do not see that, do not care about that, do not even think about that. I am here to tell you this morning, there is an end to your fruit bearing season sooner or later. You will see this again in a great message that I want to preach to you at some point that I think is probably of all the messages that I have heard in my life and have preached in my life, this probably is my favorite message that I could listen to probably every day and I could probably preach it every day. I do not think I have ever preached it here, maybe I did, I do not know, but it was a long time ago if I did, but I preached it before, and it is certainly one of my favorites. It is in 2 Timothy chapter 4, verse 21, where Paul tells young Timothy, and this goes right along with us, he says:

2 Timothy 4:21

> *Do thy diligence to come before winter.*

Paul was in the wintertime of his life. He is killed shortly after this. Young Timothy obviously was coming to see him, and he said, "Do your diligence to get here before winter." I know that he is probably talking about wintertime and it is hard to travel, but I am telling you also Paul understood that he was in the wintertime in his life. It is a thing where there are some things we all better do before wintertime gets here.

Snow now will always be associated with wintertime.

Job 38:22

> *Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?*

That is kind of our little favorite verse in the wintertime when we have Bible study and it is really bad out and it is 10 inches of snow and it is blowing out there, and most people cannot come to church that do not want to take the chance to church. I just say we do not cancel it for

anything. Maybe on a Thursday night Bible study or a Saturday morning, we will get maybe 10, 15, 20, 30 people here out of the 150 that is normally here on Thursday night, and God always gives us something. It is kind of like a joke with us because I did it years ago and done it ever since where I talk about, "You are here tonight, you made the effort here tonight. Now God says in Job 38:22, 'Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?' Let us see what God has for us tonight." He always gives us something great.

That snow there and the treasures is in the tribulation period. The book of Job chapter 38, it is right there when God turned the captivity of Job, so it fits into that. But inspirationally, I mean, I just took that and made that work for our Bible studies because I saw it and God blessed it. But bottom line, inspirationally, that verse, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?" That is the treasures that a man has stored up in his life all those years. Some guys walk with God 50, 60, 70, 80, maybe 90 years, and stored up all that time all the knowledge and the understanding of God and the Word of God and how invaluable he is. To somebody like us or you, his expertise and experiences that he had would be invaluable in life through the Bible. Well, there are treasures in the winter, in the snow, in that sense. So a couple of different ways that you want to look at it.

III. Preparing for the Evil Day

Now in the context here, it will represent a time in our children's lives when they now have to face, we talked about this last week, for churches in Revelation 3:10, the hour of temptation. There will be an hour of temptation that will come not only in your life as an individual, but as you have children, those children grow up, there will come a time in their life when they are faced with some things, and it will be the day in their life when the world wants to take away their fruit bearing season. The world wants to destroy everything that God wants to do with them.

In Ephesians chapter 6, verse 13, we talked about Ephesians last week. It talks about that there is an evil day coming that we are supposed to stand. If you look at the context of chapter 6, I know we always use it for the armor of God, and I get that, but if you go back in chapter 6, verses 1, 2, 3, and 4 and 5, you will see the real context about this is your children. Because there is an evil day coming in your child's life, and that is what Proverbs chapter 31 is preparing us for and allowing us to look on the inside and see that.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

> Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

I preached a couple of years ago at camp about the evil day, and I am telling you, Proverbs chapter 31 is all about at this point preparing your children for that evil day, the wintertime that is going to come into their life.

The example in the Bible in the Old Testament would be Daniel chapter 1, or really the whole book of Daniel, but in particular Daniel chapter 1. Daniel was just a young guy, just like most of

our young people, and he had a family that was a godly family who taught him from Daniel chapter 1. The Bible very clearly states that they did. Yet Daniel is a young man along with his little companions that are in the part of the king's seed. They are in the line of Christ, and the devil knows that Christ is going to come through that line and that seed. So the devil is running the world at this point through Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon come down and take the nation of Israel into captivity, and Daniel goes into that captivity. What follows there is an incredible picture of that evil day that is going to come into your child's life that Proverbs chapter 31 is so adamant about, and you understand how this will work.

Babylon represents the world system. Nebuchadnezzar represents the devil or the antichrist. What he wants to do, he takes these kids who are the king's seed, and then the Bible says in Daniel chapter 1 that he gives them a daily portion of the filth of Babylon. He tries to change who they are. He tries to change their names. He tries to do everything he can because his agenda is at the end of three years time, he wants these kids, who are a picture of our kids, who are the king's seed, who the future of God's kingdom rests with, will stand before Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and all the ungodliness of that system instead of standing for God.

That is what the evil day is all about. We go to camp this year, we are going to talk about building the wall. There could be no greater theme. When I saw that, I mean, I did not know what the theme was, and the moment I walked in and you guys put that up there and I saw building the wall, I had my old five lessons all done out, knew what I needed to do, and it is a thing where it is a great, great, great theme. I am telling you, you are either going to come to the place where you are either going to grow up and you are going to stand before God or you are going to stand before the world.

It has always been interesting to me that it took three years to do that. That is how long it took Christ to get his disciples and get everybody ready to take over after he left, three years. If you give your kids to the world for three years, by the time that three years is up, you will probably most likely never get them back. If you give your kids to God for three years and put everything in their life, and you give me your world for three years and let me put the people, the things in your life, I promise you when it comes to the world, you will never look back. This is where you want your children to be. This is why Proverbs chapter 31 is absolutely so incredibly important.

Because when Daniel went through this and faced his evil day, when he was taken from his parents where nobody would know what he did right or wrong, and he could have justified it and rationalized it and said whatever he wanted to say because of the situation it is, in Daniel chapter 1, verse 8, it said:

Daniel 1:8

> But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Our verse says that she is not afraid of the snow. She is not afraid of winter. She is not afraid of the snow. This woman of Proverbs 31, she is not afraid when the winter times comes and the

snow come for her household. As I said, this will be a time in their lives when you can no longer protect them. You can no longer guard everything that they see and every person that they are around. This will be the time in their life when the cold blast of winter will hit them right in the face from the world.

This is where they are going to be faced with what science says could happen if we ever had a nuclear holocaust across this world, and it would black out the sun for a hundred years, and all life would die, and only people that could live in the caves underground would survive. It is called a nuclear winter. I want to tell you something, when that nuclear winter and that evil day hits your kid face square on, many of them will never see the Son of Jesus Christ ever again. It is a time when the outside influences that you have no control over, you sent them out to school, they start to go out on their own, or they are eight or nine or they are ten, and they start to go this, and some teacher now has them all day long where you were the teacher that had him up to a certain point in their life. Now the outside influences that you have no control over will now bring its icy wind into their life to take from them the warmth and the safety and the security of God's home and God's life and your home and your love and introduce them to the frozen cold of the nuclear winter of this world. Wintertime is coming.

This household that we keep seeing pop up here, we saw in Proverbs 31:15 where she, this virtuous woman, rose up in the night, early church age, and she gave meat, Bible doctrine, to her household first. It is a picture of the early years of those her kids' lives. She saw her family, Proverbs 31:16, as her field, and she bought it. She knew the truth of what she had, Proverbs 31:15, food from afar, and that it was good, Proverbs 31:18. She went to work making their clothes. That is what the chapter is all about. It is not her, it is simply about a woman, and it is a picture of you and me, but in the context, it is dealing with your household. She is just sitting at that spindle making clothes for her children. Why? Because she knows winter is coming, and she went to work making those clothes so that the winter wind would not affect her family, her household. She understands a great Bible truth concerning the evil day, winter, and children.

Parents make a terrible mistake when it comes to their children. I have seen this almost all of my ministry, and they get the idea that the way to make sure that their children are going to survive the world is to completely isolate their kids from the world. That will work for a short period of time, but then when you lose control of that and they go out and face it, they are totally unprepared. It is like taking some kid who just got out of high school and dumping him in the battlefield in Vietnam or putting him ashore on D-Day and see how long he survives. He has not been trained to deal with those circumstances. The key is not isolation. The key is insulation, getting into their world and training them and preparing them just like you would do some young soldier that is going to face the rigors of war and combat. Of course, they do this because there will come a day that all that will keep your child safe and warm from that winter is what you prepared them for and isolated them. Again, that is Daniel. Daniel is very clear that somebody spent a lot of time insulating him before he ever got taken captivity. Now when he faced that, somebody had done the work in his life, and this will be the clothes that we make with the work of your hands through God's Word.

Honestly, when I look at kids, moms and dads, families, parenting, and all that stuff, I think hands down the most tragic thing, and I know a lot of tragic things happen, but I hear again, rolling it down to the lowest common denominator, I think the most tragic, catastrophic thing that could ever happen in any family is for a mom and dad to lose the influence with your household that somebody else has more influence in their life now than you do. That some gym teacher has more influence, some teacher at school, some track coach, some football coach, some whatever, now takes the place and their influence, or maybe just the friends they are hanging out with, they now become more influential in their life than you do.

But our dear woman here, bless her heart, that virtuous woman at Proverbs chapter 31, she is not afraid. You know why she is not afraid? Jump down to Proverbs 31:27.

Proverbs 31:27

> She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

I have looked at that verse so many times over the years, and I understand what it is talking about. She looketh to the ways of her household, I get that. But the other thing, the bread of idleness. I mean, I thought about that. Maybe I do not think I ever did think about that till this week, and it just hit me, the bread of idleness. We know bread is the Word of God, but this woman is not messing with the Word of God in idleness. You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of so many moms and dads that go to church every Sunday, carry their Bibles, take all kinds of notes for the sermon, do all kinds of studies, but never take any study or anything or any time to take the bread and give it to their meat to their household. When it comes to your family, the bread that you spend so much time getting for yourself is idleness because the first thing that you feel you should buy is your household.

I am telling you, when I saw that this week, I thought, "Man, maybe I will just stop right there and give the invitation," because that is a powerful thing. Because we think because we go to church and because we have a Bible and the right Bible and put all the notes in your Bible and how those things that come to Bible study, that that is going to be an assurance. No, it is not. In many cases, if you are not fixing meat for your household, whatever you are doing in the Bible, the bread is idleness because the first ministry you have is your household.

She is like Samuel in 1 Samuel chapter 3. I love this verse where it just simply says in Samuel that none of his words fall to the ground.

1 Samuel 3:19

> And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

When it comes to your family, first your household, that none of the words fall to the ground.

IV. Clothed in Scarlet: The Rahab Illustration

Now, it says, moving right on here, the reason she is not afraid, she is not afraid of the winter, she is not afraid of the snow, is because the verse says that her household is now clothed in

scarlet. Let us develop this truth for a few minutes. I do not know what you know about the Bible. I do not know the depth that you are associated with the Bible, but let me say this to you: everything in the New Testament, if it is from a doctrinal pouring out of truth, but the New Testament by itself, as good as it is, God never intended that to be all you had. So what he did was, he gave us the Old Testament that in the Old Testament, through the types and the pictures and the stories, the New Testament doctrines become revealed and clearer.

Now you take this thing about her household now clothed with scarlet. There is a story in the Old Testament that exactly explains what he is saying here, and this is a great story, a great study in the Bible that will illustrate this truth found in Proverbs chapter 31, verse 21. It is found in the book of Joshua chapter 2, verses 1 through 24. I want to read that chapter to you, so just turn on back there and follow along, then we will show you how this thing works.

Joshua 2:1-24

> And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

> And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.

> And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

> And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:

> And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

> But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

> And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

> And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

> And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

> And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

- > *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:*
- > *And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have; and deliver our lives from death.*
- > *And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.*
- > *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.*
- > *And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.*
- > *And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.*
- > *Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.*
- > *And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.*
- > *And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.*
- > *And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.*
- > *And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not.*
- > *So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them;*
- > *And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.*

Now this is an absolutely incredible story in the Bible, and this is a story from the Bible historically as what leads to the Battle of Jericho a little later on in chapter 6 and chapter 7. Last Thursday night, a couple of Thursday nights ago, somebody asked me a question. I think it was Rachel asked me the question of Acts chapter 7, verse 45, why when they get over there and Stephen is doing his preaching, he changes the name Joshua to Jesus. I told you that night that the scholarship will tell you that that is a mistranslation, but then we all know that scholarship is a mistranslation. We know that there is a reason for that, and I told you whenever you find that in the Bible, it is going to be a great picture of something. Now here today, Rachel, you are going to

get to see an example of it, and you will better understand it. It is a great key because the book of Joshua will be a picture of the second coming of Christ, and Joshua will be a stand-in in these stories of these great battles of the second coming of Christ as Jesus. So the Holy Spirit of God had the translators put the word Joshua in for Jesus or Jesus for Joshua to draw your attention that the whole book of Joshua is a picture. In fact, the Battle of Jericho is an incredible picture of the Battle of Armageddon, the second coming of Christ against Babylon, and it is an incredible picture.

Inspirationally, you will see this is a great picture of how you and I got saved and how it fits right into our study today in Proverbs chapter 31, verses 21 and 22, and how that all of her household is clothed in scarlet. Why? Because of that, she does not fear the winter. She is not afraid of the snow. When you see this unfold right before your eyes, then you will better have an understanding of where it is at.

Let us follow the storyline here for a moment and let us get our cast of characters going here.

1. First of all, you have two men who are spies. They are sent into the land to spy out the land from a man named Joshua, who we now know is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. These two men will represent for us, me and you, as New Testament Christians. We are in this old world, we may be in this world, but this old world is not our home. We are here to spy out the land, and God, when we spy out the land, God is going to put circumstances in our life, people.
2. That will bring us up to our second person, that is Rahab. Where these two spies are pictures of you and me who have the authority from Joshua, Jesus, to make deals with somebody about their salvation. Rahab is a sinner. Bible says she is a harlot, Rahab the harlot. She is much like the woman at the well in John chapter 6.
3. Then you have the king of Jericho. Now that will be the devil and doctrine of the antichrist, but in an inspirational sense, it will be the world system under the devil. Rahab lives within this system, so it is a picture of a woman who is a sinner who is caught up in all of the ungodliness of the world, Jericho, who two men come in and God's Holy Spirit puts them together.

Let us just walk through it here together.

- In Joshua 2:1, Joshua sends out the spies.
- Rahab, in Joshua 2:1-2, she knows who they are, and she takes them in.
- In Joshua 2:2-3, the king of Jericho gets word, and somebody said, "Hey, we just saw two guys go into the hooker's house over there, and you better check it out because they were not from around here. I think they might be Hebrews." So the king of Jericho gets word, and he says to her, "I want those two guys that showed up into your house."
- In Joshua 2:4-5, she hides them and says, "They went this way, and I do not know. They came in, I would not let them in, and they are gone. They took off, they went that way, and if you guys go quickly, you can still catch them." All the time she is hid them up on the roof, covering them up in flax. Proverbs 31, she is hiding them up there, and they are under there, and she is dead.

- A little while before it is time to go to bed, she goes up and she talks to these guys. This will be Joshua 2:8-11. She says, "Hey, I want you to know, I have heard what your God can do. I hid you guys because I do not want to be part of this anymore. We have heard when you came across the Red Sea, again, open up the Red Sea, and Pharaoh was trying to get you, and God delivered you and brought you through the dry ground. Then we heard that when Pharaoh came after you, he closed up the sea and killed him all. Your God is the powerful God, guys. We heard that when you got on the side of Jordan, those two kings wanted to stop you, and how you utterly destroyed them. We know you got a great God you serve. You know he is all powerful, and we also know his judgment is going to fall on Jericho. I am telling you what, I do not care how big and tough you think everybody is and how the king of Jericho beats his chest and says this, they are trembling in their boots. That is your approach to Jericho now, boys. I am asking for mercy here. I am asking you to show, I have showed you kindness. I could have turned you over, but I do not want to do that. I know I do not have a Bible yet, and I know that I do not have Genesis written yet because Moses has not got around to it, but I think it is going to say something like, 'I will bless those that bless thee and curse those that curse thee.' I blessed you, now you need to bless me. I am asking, guys, that when God's judgment falls on Jericho, you give me a true token, not a bus token, not a streetcar token, you give me a true token."
- In Joshua 2:12-13, she asked for mercy for her and her household, and she wants a true token of the promise that she and her family will be saved from God's coming judgment. The true token that she gets is a scarlet thread in the window of her house that as long as her household is under the promise of the scarlet thread, when God's judgment comes, her household will be saved.
- The two spies are back off the headquarters after a couple of days, and they give their report.

In our story, the scarlet thread will be the binding power, listen to me carefully now, in our study, in our story, the scarlet thread will be the binding power of the Word of God in our lives as to the promises of God's salvation to you and to me and your household.

Titus 1:2

> *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

Romans 10:13

> *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

You have through the Word of God the binding power of a scarlet thread that binds you to the promises of God and your household. As long as your household, as long as all the households stayed in that house under the scarlet thread, they were saved. It is when they would allow them to go out on the street and be part of the world system of Jericho that they are no longer under that. I am just telling you now, all this is a picture of the binding and the loosing of the sins that in Matthew chapter 18, verse 18, that it tells us that you and I have the power to do that through the Word of God.

Matthew 18:18

> Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

That is the greatest verse in the Bible that shows you and me have the power to meet up with a Rahab who is lost but wants God's mercy, and to on the authority of the Word of God, showing her the true token, the scarlet thread of Jesus Christ. By the way, you do know that when Jesus Christ went to the cross in Matthew chapter 27, verse 28, to die and pay the price for your sins and my sins, they took his robe off and put on a scarlet robe. That scarlet robe, that scarlet thread, her clothes, her kids, her household clothed in scarlet, is a picture of God's salvation in your life and the promises that he gave you with it, the true token.

You and I have the power to meet a Rahab the harlot and to sit down with them and open up the Word of God and show them the true token of Jesus Christ. Show them the promise of the scarlet thread. Show them that on the cross he wore that scarlet robe to pay for your sins and my sins, and then show them how they can be set free from their sins through the true token. If you are saved here this morning and you have been set free from your sins, you know why you have been? Because somebody sat down and put a scarlet thread in the window of your house, and when God's judgment passes over, he will pass over you.

Yet at the same time, you can sit down with that same Rahab the harlot, or it does not have to be a Rahab, it can be a man, it could be Rick the homo, it does not matter. You walk them through the Bible and you show them the principles and the promises, and they say, "No thanks, I like my life the way it is." You know what you do then? Through the power that you have with the Word of God or the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, if that person gets saved, you loose them. If that person says, "No thanks," then through the Word of God, God using you, then you bind them to their sins. That is a picture of the power of our salvation through Jesus, Joshua, through the scarlet thread.

V. Parental Responsibility: The First Line of Defense

These two men, she gets salvation from two guys that have the authority from Joshua, Jesus, to make a deal with her salvation because of a scarlet thread. Did you see that? That is you and me. That is you and me having the power because you are saved in the authority of the Word of God to change people's lives, to loose them from their sins or bind them to their sins. That is you and me as his witnesses today.

In our text today, our virtuous woman, she is not afraid of the winter because her children are all clothed in scarlet. Her household saved. She has made for them at the spindle from the early years of their life. She has made for them, fitted to them, clothed them with the garments of salvation. You know why she is not afraid? Because they are all saved. They are all under the scarlet thread. The clothes she makes are the same, any other same material that the robe that he wore to the cross was scarlet.

You see another great principle here: parents and everything in their child's life that goes on should be, will be, or should be, they should be the first line of defense for their own children. I do not want to lessen the importance of myself because then I will have a bad day thinking I am

not any good, and I do not want to lessen the importance of God's structure, the church, but I want to tell you something, me, this church, or anybody in it, is a failed second attempt over you being the first line of defense in your children's life. We have to do it sometimes. I have to do it sometime, but I just assume not do it because it is your job, not mine.

Proverbs 31, she does her work. She does her work early in the morning. She rises while it is still night in the springtime of their life, and she makes them garments of salvation. She makes them clothes of scarlet that will carry them through when winter comes, and winter will come. I told you before, my main concern is all you young couples that have young kids. I know that I work with many, many of the older parents who their kid, when they came to church, their kids were already in their teens. Some of them are already having issues, I get it, and I do not blame you for that, or there is a plan that we can do. I understand that.

I am going to tell you something, there are two things that will define us as parents.

4. One of the things that will define us is how we prepare the clothes in the spring times of their life to get them through that winter.
5. The second thing will define you and me as parents is once you lose those kids, once the world sucks them up and takes them in, the prodigal son syndrome, then you watch what that parent does to get them back.

There are five things you do not to lose them, and then there are five things you do when you keep them back, want to get them back. Those two things on either side of parenting will define what a parent really is in their relationship with God. I am telling you, it is a lot easier to do the first five than it is to try to regain the ground in the second five, but it can be done. But that is where you have to make the hard line choices. That is where you have to take a hard line stand. We call that the prodigal son syndrome, and I guarantee you the prodigal son would have never come back if mom and dad were uber-uber fooding to him and wiring him money so he did not have to eat the pig husk and did not have to live in the mud. He never would have come back. But you see many parents, they just cannot go that route, and then they wonder why nothing ever changes.

As moms and dads, you young couples, you have to do the work. You have to provide the meat for your household in the early years of their life before the evil day comes because there will come a time, Ecclesiastes chapter 12, verse 1, where they will look you in the face with tears running down your cheeks and say, "Mom and Dad, I do not have any pleasure in God anymore. I do not have any pleasure in spiritual things. I am sorry, you want to go to church for you, it is okay. I got big plans for myself." It is coming.

VI. The Parent's Own Spiritual Walk

Then Proverbs 31:22, I would like to say, "Let us move on to a lighter thought," but it will not be.

Proverbs 31:22

> *She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*

Here is another great truth for us as moms and dads and parents in dealing with our household, and that is the context of this is we have to keep ourselves right with God and invested in growing in the Word of God to keep our household growing.

I got out in the world, and this is not really a criticism, but I got out in the world probably when I was junior high age, and I have never forgotten this. I was out in the world for quite a while until I got out of the army and all the things I told you how that all went down. But I have looked back on it, and this is not a criticism to my mom or my dad, but it is just the truth. I look at things in reality. I do not make judgments on things whether I like this person or that based on that. I just look at the reality of life.

My mom and dad were charter members of the Canton Baptist Temple when Dr. Harold Henniger came out of J. Frank Norris's group and started that church about 1948. My mom and dad were all from Maryland, the state of Maryland, and were coal miners from our heritage. My grandpa was a coal miner, all my uncles and them were coal miners from West Virginia and Maryland. During the war, there were no jobs in Maryland, so Canton, Ohio, was the center of the steel industry, and they were going to town for the war effort. So my mom and dad moved, I was just before I was born, my mom and dad moved up here, and he went to work at the Republic Steel. My mom went to work at Timken's. She made bullets, and he made whatever he made, steel for whatever they were going to build with him. They come up to get a job, and jobs were good and jobs were good and plentiful. So God used that to get the rest of my dad's side family almost up here, not all of them, some of them, but certainly all of my mom's family moved up, her mom and dad and the brothers and the sisters all migrated up here to Canton, Ohio. Because that is where the jobs were.

About that time, about 1948 or something like that, Harold Henniger started a Canton Baptist Temple, which was right across the street from my house, 1451 Alton Avenue. You can Google it sometime, look it up, that house right there, it has got that big fix your face on the roof of it, you cannot miss it. The church is still there. My mom and dad got saved in that church. The associate pastor's name was Ronnie Cannon, who later, another one of Norris's boys, who later started the Lima, Ohio, Baptist Temple, and he won my mom and dad to Christ. My mom and dad went to that church. They were charter members in that church, and they went there for probably till I was eight or nine years old. Then something happened. I do not know for sure what happened, but my mom and dad got an attitude about the church. My dad was involved in the sound thing. He worked the sound thing. He was good electronics. I do not know what happened. I got an idea what happened, but I am not sure, but it happened. Anyway, something happened, and my mom and dad got mad, never went back to church for a long time. The next time my dad went back to church was his funeral, and my mom the next time she went back to church was right after my dad died. God uses things like that. That is when I went back to church.

Anyway, I can remember this as clear as anything. I got out of fellowship, but I was in junior high, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, somewhere in there. I will tell you why I did. My mom and dad got mad at the preacher, quit going to church, and I can remember every Sunday morning my mom would dress me, give me a hug, fix me breakfast, put my best clothes on, and send me out the door to go across the street to go to church. But you see, that was not enough because I did

not need my mom and dad to send me to church. I needed my mom and dad to take me to church. I needed my mom and dad to do the things in my life that mom and dad needed to do, and they did not do it, and I got out of fellowship. I am not blaming them. I am not sitting here blaming my problems on them. Hey, I am just telling you, I am just telling you the facts because once I lost that influence, there were kids in Sunday school that had a wrong influence that I went to school with, and that is the way that I went.

I am telling you, that verse says she maketh herself coverings of tapestry, her clothing is silk and purple. You have to make sure as moms and dads that you are right on, right on cue with the Word of God where you need to be, and it is just that simple. We have to keep ourselves right with God, keep ourselves involved in growing and keeping our household going. No matter where your kids are at, whatever they do, your children, my children, spiritually will totally depend on where we are at with the Lord. It is just that simple. Our household will be our reflection in the mirror of where we are really at with the Lord. I mean, it is just that simple.

I have seen so many pastors. I have seen so many Christians that they get on this bandwagon about soul winning. They get on this bandwagon of serving God. I have seen them. I have heard them preach, and they are up there, and they are going on and on and on and on. I know human nature 101, and they are up there talking about soul winning, serving God, doing all this thing, and winning people to Christ, and preachers preaching soul winning conferences. You know what? They cannot even get their kids to come to church. You know why they do things like that? To kind of erode the feelings that they failed back here instead of just dealing with it and doing what the Bible says you ought to do. That is the way human nature is. We all do not like to face our real issues. It is much easier for me as it is for you, if I have a problem in my life, it is much easier for me to focus on some other area that I do not have a problem in so I do not have to deal with what I do have.

I am just telling you, when you clothe your children, your household in scarlet, when you get them saved, and you know that is what most parents live for. I know I talked to them all the time for almost 50 years. They do everything they can. This is where you have got to be careful. They do everything they can because they want that kid saved, and who does not? But many times they make the mistake that when the kid is too young, they jump at it because without giving it a chance to work itself out, because I get it, and we went through the same thing with my two. I mean, we did. I remember they, you know, they got to be, how old were you when you got saved? Nine. Jamie, how old were you? Jamie is at the Methodist church today, she is not here. Okay, how old was she? Nine. What did you guys conspire against this? But I remember many times you came to us and wanted to get saved. What did we tell you? No, not like that, but we told you no.

It was a thing where, you know, they may have started coming when they were five, six, or seven, and I will tell you, they go to church, they hear it all the time, they see people getting saved, and they want to get saved, which is a good thing. But Paul says in Romans chapter 7, sin better become exceedingly sinful.

Romans 7:13

> Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

You better understand you are not getting saved because everybody else is. You are not getting saved because so and so did or your friends did. You are getting saved because you have a personal sin debt that needs to be taken care of personally. Now how old can you be to understand that? I do not know, but you better figure it out before you take them through the threshold of salvation.

Every parent, that is what they want, and they say, "Oh, I cannot, oh, little Johnny got saved. Oh, little Mary, Marie, she got saved last week," and we are all happy about it. But the bottom line is, you think it is all over now when in reality, they are getting saved and getting the scarlet thread in their life may have made it okay for eternity, but they have got to live the rest of their life down here. Honestly, truthfully, when they get saved, it is a great thing, and praise the Lord, but I want to tell you something, being on the level, I want to tell you something, it is only the beginning. Most of God's people, they think that is it, they got saved, praise the Lord, all right, let us just forget all about it. No, there is an evil day coming, and you better wrap them up and make them some clothes. Okay, praise the Lord, you get the scarlet clothes to keep them garments of salvation. Now you better get the one that is going to keep them from being naked at the judgment seat.

I have said it all my ministry, all my life, and it is a dying truth: children never cause issues in the household, but rather they just expose the issues that are already there. In this chapter, you have got to see it in this chapter, the word household just keeps popping up, and that is because God's plan for redeeming the world was the families, family units ministering the Word of God together, not under the handicap of just doing it myself, but building in your household a team that all your, all your household is clothed in scarlet. Now you recognize that everything rises and falls on leadership, and now is when your job really begins.

Throughout this chapter, we have been seen by example this woman full of God's virtue, and we have seen a pattern develop. This is why I am asking you week by week to keep these things cataloged. We are seeing a pattern for all of us develop. We see her filled with the virtue of God, and we understand what that is now. Then we see her seeking wool and flax. She is going out after it, and she is willing, works willingly with her hands. She understands that her food comes from a far country, and she knows what she had is good. She sees her household as her first field that she has to buy, and she buys it totally and completely. Then as Proverbs 31:22 says today, she sees herself and she girds her loins with truth that strengthens her hands to the work, and she makes sure that she stays where she needs to be with God because she has to be there for the leadership of her household because the household will depend on mom and dad, not like my mom and dad, but the mom and dad that stays together in the Word of God and carries through in the Word of God, that understand that there is an evil day coming. There is a wintertime. There is a snowfall going to hit your household at some point, and right now you better be making the clothes. She makes sure that her candle did not ever go out, and with that candle she rises while it is yet night, while it is still early in those kids' lives, and she gives meat to her household and

but a portion to others. We talked about that. Through this biblical process, her children, her household gets saved, and now she has the ability to get them ready for winter, for she knows winter is coming. She knows that she has only got what, five or six years maybe before that child steps out in kindergarten or day school or some other place where now somebody else is going to be infusing ideas in their minds. But she is not afraid. She is not afraid, you know why? Because of the true token, that scarlet thread in her window, that as long as your household stays in that scarlet, under that scarlet thread, the winter will not ever hurt them.

VII. Old Testament Pictures and New Testament Doctrine

All through this chapter, you will see over and over and over again the very intimate details of ministry. This is what I want you to see as we come through this, how the Old Testament works with the New Testament. All that we are looking at here is much like the crucifixion. I have told you this before, in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, this is where most of God's people, if not all of God's people, hang their hat for going back and looking at Christ dying on the cross. What a shame and a waste of time that is. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the skeleton details, but to really see what God went through on that cross, you have got to get in his mind. You have got to get the very thoughts that when he from six o'clock in the morning when he stood before Pilate till six o'clock at night when he gave up the ghost, what he felt, what he thought, and what he was feeling.

Sharon Gowins asked me last week about the Old Testament, how to lay out the timeline because I have told you many before, the Old Testament records almost hour by hour that day of crucifixion. She said, "Could you lay that out for me?" And I told you I would, and so I am going to do it right now for you, just for you, because you are a crafty woman. The price that was paid almost hour by hour, the sacrifice. You know why you and I will not become a living sacrifice? Because you do not understand really the sacrifice that he was for you. It is just that simple. Oh, I know you love God, you love the Bible, and you come to church. Hey, A plus. But at the end of the day, there will always be something that will keep you going that extra mile, and it is the fact that we are saved. We love God, we love the book, but we put limits, and all that we have ever done is went through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and looked at the crucifixion and never, never, never, never really got inside his mind to understand what he was thinking while he was paying the price for you and me to have the true token, the very thoughts of Christ and the cross. The real reason we do not serve him.

You go to Isaiah chapter 53 and Isaiah chapter 50, verse 6, and you will begin to see where he is before Pilate around 6 a.m. in the morning, and he is there for a couple of hours, and what they do to him and question him. Then they take him on the way to the cross along that long road, and this is where Simon the Cyrenian is thrown into the mix because he is already so weak from the beatings and the whippings and the things that they did to him. Now we start that long journey to the cross, and that will be Job chapter 16, verses 19 through 22.

Job 16:19-22

> Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.

- > *My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.*
- > *Oh that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!*
- > *When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.*

Then they finally get to that place called Golgotha, Gordon's Calvary, outside the city, and they lay the cross on the ground, and they lay him on it, and they put the nails in his hands and nails in his feet, and then they pick up that cross, and there is a hole there about four or five feet deep, and they begin to line that cross with a hole, nail to that cross, and begin to work it up. He finds in that chapter in Job chapter 30 what he is feeling. He talks about the young men that are moving his feet and his hands. He talks about being lifted up and catching the wind in his face. How refreshing that little wind must have been after what he had been through in that morning. I do not know about you, but I have read that passage many, many times as I thought of what he paid for me, and I stopped at that point and just thank God that he set that little bit of breeze for him, just that little cool breeze for what was coming, for what he had already been through. Yet most of God's people do not even know where Job chapter 30 is in their Bible, let alone trying to see how it fits into the timeline.

Then you have from the sixth and the ninth hour, probably the most difficult time for me anyhow to wrap my head around because it is from the sixth and the ninth hour where he actually pays the sin debt for every man, woman, and child that would spend an eternity in the lake of fire. In those three hours time, he pays that price for everybody, and this is where he cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" This is where, as many preachers teach wrongly, Christ did not go to hell, but the devil brought hell to him on a cross. This is where he says, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" That is what a man in hell says. This is where he says, "I thirst." Luke chapter 16, that is what a man in hell says. This is where the Bible says that his bones are burnt black with heat. This is where the Bible says that his bowels actually boil. This is where he hangs on that cross, every bone is pulled out of joint from the weight of the cross, and this will be the sixth and the ninth hour, and this will be Psalms 22.

Then I guess the greatest unknown part of this, my true token, my scarlet thread, is found in Isaiah chapter 50, verse 7 and 8, when you see the real bottom line. You see, most people that read the crucifixion, preach on the crucifixion, or talk about the crucifixion, they think that was a bunch of half-crazed, demon-possessed scribes and Pharisees and a bunch of Roman soldiers beating and taking the life of a man named Jesus. But we see it as our salvation. I want you to know if that is all the farther you ever get in the Bible, you ought to be ashamed of yourself because Isaiah chapter 50, verses 7 and 8, shows you the real meaning behind that day.

Isaiah 50:7-8

- > *For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*
- > *He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.*

Because there in the midst of the slapping and the beating and the whipping and all of the screaming and the crowds and the "Crucify him! Crucify him!" two minds met at Calvary, and the devil was the mind of the devil, and Jesus said unto him, Isaiah chapter 50, verse 7 and 8, "Whom is mine adversary? Let him come unto me." Boy, he did. Out of that, to the ninth hour, we find at six o'clock in the evening he gives up the ghost, and he says, "It is finished." It is finished. The true token is now ready to be delivered to you and me.

You see the same thing in Song of Solomon. 1 John chapter 1, verse 7, says:

1 John 1:7

> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

That is a great book on fellowship, but if you really want fellowship and understand fellowship, it is Song of Solomon, just spending the time to go back through there and see actually his heart and mind and thought when he looks at you, and then he tells you what your hearts and mind and thoughts should be when you think about him. How many of God's people ever do that?

Ministry is the same way, Proverbs chapter 31. Paul's writings will give you the overview of the work of the ministry. It will give you the history, the development, give you the time frame. It will tell you where the work starts. It will tell us that he hath begun a good work in us and will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ. He shows us why God does of reaching the world the way that he does it, through the family. You get all that from Paul's writings. But for an inside look at our mindset, us understanding the mind of God, the work that he started, the work that he started in you the day you got the scarlet thread, the true token for you and me to carry on the work, you have got to go to places like Proverbs chapter 31. That is what we are seeing, every piece of how we should understand not just what we do, but understand the mind of the minister, the motivation behind it, seeing that it does not start with just you getting saved and serving God, seeing that God's whole work is based on your family, your household, your responsibilities, my responsibilities. This will form for us the attitude of heart as a child of God, the set in motion the action of doing the work that God has saved us for. This will save us from the idle bread that we are also famous for filling our covers with. Wrong attitude will produce the wrong action that will produce the wrong work, not getting God's mind in ministry because we never get his mindset when he provided for us the true token of the scarlet thread.

So we look at the crucifixion as a blasé blow through it. We look at our relationship with God, "Yeah, I have kicked my Bible, read, pray, do all those things," and we never, never really get God's mind on the real issues of what price was paid and why, what fellowship really is and why we need it, and in understanding the ministry, sitting at that spindle making clothes, clothes for those unsaved who cannot clothe themselves, garments of salvation, clothes for men and women after they are saved, starting with your household, not bring them to the point that at the judgment seat of Christ they are clothed in robes of righteousness.

What I am about to give you is completely lost today, and I make no apologies for it because I really do not care. This is how the Old Testament and New Testament will go together for you. It

is the key to learning your Bible, really one of the keys. The Old Testament and the New Testament are two completely different dispensations, but they fit together perfectly in the Bible, laying itself out. The New Testament will have all the doctrinal details of everything we should believe and do. It starts with Romans after the book of Acts, goes into First and Second Corinthians, goes into Colossians, Ephesians, and Galatians, and all of those, and then it moves into the personal thing with the books that Paul writes to New Testament Christians, First and Second Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. So the New Testament will have all the doctrinal details of what we believe and why we ought to believe them. It sets a pattern. But the Old Testament will have all the inner details of the doctrines of the New Testament that are expressed, and we learn it through the types and the pictures, just like we saw the scarlet thread in Proverbs 31 and the scarlet in Joshua chapter 2. Just like you go back to Exodus chapter 16 and you see the manna from heaven, and then you really understand what the Word of God is. Just as you go back to those places where you see Christ's thoughts on the cross for you and for me, then you understand what the crucifixion really is. Just like you go back and you can read about the relationship of God, but till you go to Song of Solomon and see the pictures.

I have told you many, many times that the Bible is just a picture book for Christians, for you and for me. It is like those children's Bibles that you start your kid out with. They have large print, and they go story by story. You will start out with the story of creation, and you will go a couple of pages, and then there will be a picture of God's creation. The picture helps illustrate for a little kid what you just read. Then you will go through Adam and Eve story, and then you will go through that, and then there will be a picture of Adam and Eve standing there, holding an apple with a snake wrapped around a tree. That picture helps the kid understand what you just read because kids, children, need a picture. Then you get into Noah's flood, and you get Noah, read about that, then there will be a big picture of the ark and all the animals going in and Noah standing there. It is the pictures that illustrate the truths.

God told us that except you come with me as a little child, you have no part of me. If you are educated today when it comes to the Bible, you have a PhD or a doctor's degree or whatever you got, you are in trouble because all that biblical higher education does is destroy your faith of being a little child. God does not want you smarter every day when it comes to the Bible. He wants you dumber every day when you come to the Bible because he wants you to have that childlike faith that whatever he tells you, you will believe. He wants to tell you that 2,000 years ago a dead Jew hanging on a tree had enough power in his blood to be the true token for your salvation, and you will believe that. Amen. Then he wants to tell you that he preserved a book down through history and gave you a perfect rendition of his Word that you can be the true token of what he did for you.

You see the educated world, they will get the first one, but they will lose the second one. They cannot see the fact that the same God who brought Jesus through a human woman into a human family and kept him sinless could not bring the written Word of God through the hands of centuries of men and keep it perfect. But we can because we are stupid. Gary Potter says, "You cannot fix stupid." I do not want to fix stupid. I look very well stupid. Somebody say to me, "Bob, what is that look on your face?" "Stupid." "How do you feel today, Bob?" "Stupid." "What

are you going to do today, Bob?" "Stay stupid." I just want to believe whatever God tells me. I do not want any outside influence coming in and saying, "Well, this is not what it should be."

The Bible is a picture book, and all through that Bible, when you read the Old Testament and the New Testament, you see thousands of pictures. You will see the doctrine in the New Testament, and you will understand it by the pictures in the Old Testament, like Joshua chapter 2. The Bible is like walking through an art gallery at midnight with the lights off, and on the wall are all these pictures. You know you are in an art gallery, and you know you are walking through the halls, but you are not sure what section of the art gallery until you turn on the flashlight and look at the pictures on the wall, and then you say, "Oh, I am in the Renaissance period. Oh, I am in the early period. Oh, I am in the later period." For you and for me, the Word of God, we walk through, it is the pictures that tell us where we are at, but it needs the illumination of the Holy Spirit of God, your flashlight, to show you the pictures, and when he does, then you see it clearly.

New Testament doctrine is defined through the Old Testament pictures. The New Testament and its principles and its doctrines will be revealed to you through the pictures in the Old Testament. Now watch this: you have an Old Testament. The word "Old" has three letters. The word "Testament" has nine letters. So you have in the Old Testament 39 books in the Old Testament. Now if the New Testament reveals the Old Testament, then we should find it. If the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament pictures and revealed through it, and there are 39 books in the Old Testament, then we ought to find the New Testament books in there. So when we take the 39 books of the Old Testament and take the three and the nine and multiply three times nine, we come up with 27, which is the exact number of the books in the New Testament. Your New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and where Paul will give you the doctrinal material and the truth of it on the surface, you have got to go back and let the Old Testament reveal for you through the pictures of what the New Testament really is saying, whether it be Christ's death on the cross, whether it be the Word of God from Exodus chapter, go on all day long, your own relationship with God, Song of Solomon, your salvation of the true token, Joshua chapter 2. It is filled with a thousand pictures that will illustrate, and my job here, what we do when people minister, we are doing Bible institute, what we do on Thursday night, what we do on Sunday morning right now, my job is to lay out and show you how the two work together.

I know as well as I am standing here, many of you will never get it, and the only reason you will never get it, not because you are having an inability to get it, you will get it because you do not want to get it. But if just one of you, if just one or two of you pick that up, that it is worth however many years I have spent trying to get you to see it, because you will never understand your household, you will never understand your relationship, you will never understand you and I being a living sacrifice till you get past the New Testament and get it all revealed from the Old Testament and let God show you through the pictures the real price that was paid and why we should finish the work that he started. Proverbs chapter 31 is an incredible chapter. It is a chapter that shows you and me the mindset that we should have based on the true token that God gave us.