

# John 3:22-30; Ephesians 2:19-22; Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 22:1-10; 1 Kings 10:1-13      Sunday 3/28/2021

Last week we saw how God viewed us as His children. It was a very good practical lesson. We are going to find some practical things in John, and John is just such an incredible book with so many things in it. We looked at how we should view Him. I told you last week that this is the number one problem God's people have: they do not know how God looks at them, and they do not know how they are to look at God. When a person solves that dilemma in their life, that is when the relationship really takes off.

We saw that fundamentally, we have spiritually two different families. We have the children of light, the Bible talks about, and the children of darkness. I talked about John 8:44 last week where it says that for an unsaved person:

*John 8:44*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

So we know that there is a spiritual side of that. Yet we also know that those of us from the Gospel of John chapter 1 that are born of God, born again, we know that now we are in God's family.

I have never understood, well, I guess I do. I was preaching years and years and years ago in a church someplace, I do not remember where it was, and I was talking about this very thing. I made a point, because it was a salvation message, and I made a point to tell them that if they are here this morning and they are unsaved, that their family name spiritually is Lucifer, the devil. I used John 8:44. After the sermon, a little lady came up to me and she was a little upset. She said, "I want you to know that I took great offense at what you said this morning about if you are unsaved, that your family's name is the devil."

I said, "Well, ma'am, I totally understand that, and I can sympathize with you. I heard that same thing about 15 years ago, and it really upset me. I would suggest to you to do what I did: I changed families. That is all you have to do."

It is a thing where those of us who are born of God, you are now a new creature in Christ Jesus. Then I showed you how years ago, we have been talking a lot about character studies, and I showed you how in my own life years ago, I studied the Apostle John. I realized how important his writings were, but how important he was. Then I showed you that he is the greatest type of us as a Christian in the New Testament. Fundamentally, I know you have a lot of guys and women who are great pictures of, and I am not taking that away, but if you want the two that have the most information of where it is at, one in the Old Testament will be Abraham, and the other one will be John in the New Testament. They are two complete pictures of the Christian life, and I might add, the Christian walk.

Then I showed you, we talked about the five wisdom books that John writes in the New Testament, and how they will match the five wisdom books in the Old Testament, and how John has a complete perspective of the Old Testament and the New Testament, just as we should. Here is an incredible study. Then I showed you the great study all the way through the Bible versus light versus darkness, and how it was man who ruined God's plan by his own choosing, his free will.

## I. The Heresy of Calvinism and Free Will

There is a heresy out there today that many, many people get caught up in, and it is called Calvinism, or sometimes it is called Reformation theology. Basically, it is a bunch of people who do not know anything about the Bible that believe that God chose some people to be saved, hence predestined them to be saved. Long before Genesis 1, God sat down and said, "Okay, you go to heaven, you go to hell, you go to heaven, you go to hell, you two go to heaven," and that is what it is. They believe that everything in your life is predestined by the sovereignty of God, and that God is sovereign, and therefore He has pre-decreed everything that is going to happen to you.

I was out walking with a predestinator one time, and we were talking. It was wintertime, and we were walking down a steep area, and he slipped on ice and fell right on his back. He got up and he said, "Wow, I am glad that is over." He thought he was predestined to slip on the ice.

Nothing like a good pandemic to find out where a person is really at with what they say they believe. We have seen it in our own church. Those who claim they love the Bible could not trust the promises when the pandemic hit. They are off in the woods someplace. But the Calvinists, it is really funny with them. If you really believe that you are predestined to get it, you are going to get it. Wearing a mask is not going to change a thing. If you are not predestined to get it, then you are not going to get it. But they go through the same, "Oh, there are some that will not leave their house." There are some that just, it just shows you how stupid your theology is. If you really believe predestination and everything is by the sovereignty of God, then if you are going to get it, you are going to get it. If you are not, you are not. You do not have to even mess with a mask or wherever you want to go, do whatever you want to do. It is sovereign in God's hand.

Heresy will always expose itself when real truth of the Word of God based on the promises show up. Without even getting into it with any kind of depth, you will find it talking about free will. You will find free will mentioned 17 times in the Bible. Predestination, you only find four times, and not in one of those four is it even remotely connected with somebody's salvation.

So it was free will that threw man into the mess. He chose what he wanted to do over what God had for him, like we all do today. Man chose to disobey God, and through that, the whole world got thrown into darkness. Light versus darkness. Then God, through His love, what did He do? He turned the lights back on. God is light, and the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. When He came back down here and died on the cross, then He turned the lights on, and now we know that whosoever will can be saved. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I had a college guy one time years ago, I used to go into colleges and I would do presentations on God or the stars and gospel and the stars and all that stuff. We would get into some really good discussions. A lady asked me a question about salvation, and she had set me up. She is one of those ladies that was saved, and she just wanted to use me to get it out, which I really appreciate. The college professor was sitting over here, and he said, "Well, let me ask you a question." I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "So you are telling me that sin came into the world, and God allowed that sin to come into the world. He could have stopped it, but He allowed it to come into the world. Is that correct?"

I knew where he was going. That is college professor stupidity 101. But I will play along because I am going to lead with this one, and I am going to knock you out with this one. So I said, "Yes, sir. That is exactly right. You are very good. That is very perceptive." You feed his ego a little bit. He said, "Well," he says, "if that is true," he says, "then if God allowed sin to come into the world, then sin is here because God put it here. How does God ever judge a man and send him to this place you call hell?" If you are listening to this now, tune in next week because somebody will send you a letter from hell, and you can figure it out yourself. He says, "How can God really send anybody, judge them and send them to hell if He is responsible for allowing sin to come into the world in the first place? How does He do that?" He thought that was something very profound to say.

I said, "Well, that is very good. Here is the answer to that. You are right. God did allow sin to come into the world because He wanted to give man a free choice. But the same God that let sin come into the world is the same God Himself that came down and paid the price on Calvary's cross to take sin out, therefore completely eradicating Himself of any responsibility." Then I looked at him and said, "You are moved, Doc." He did not have anything to say. Free will, free will, free will.

When man turned the lights out, God Himself came down, turned the lights back on. Now if you want to stay in a dark room and not move into the room of light, that is your decision. But do not go around saying, "Well, I am in darkness because God put me in darkness or allowed the darkness, and there is no light." No, no, no. He was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

## II. The Importance of Reproof and Doing Truth

Last week we saw again, and you want to catalog these and you want to build these. We saw keywords for all of us last week. The keyword that was really important last week was the word reproof.

*2 Timothy 3:16*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Correction and instruction in righteousness. When a man rejects reproof, saved or lost, he can never be corrected nor can he be instructed. He has got problems. I have told it to you many,

many times when I quote that verse, the four keys to it. It says that all scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable:

1. Doctrine, that is what is right.
2. Reproof, that is what is wrong.
3. Correction, that is how to fix what is wrong.
4. Righteousness, that is how to keep it fixed.

Without the first two, we saw last week, you are not going anywhere. But it all started by somebody looking at themselves and getting honest and then accepting the reproof through the truth. Then allowing reproof to correct it, and then for us to instruct you and to help you keep it the way God wants it to be. That the man of God may be perfect, truly furnished, unto all good work. The perfect there is not sinless perfection. If you read the verse, it is perfect unto all good works. In other words, God will use these things to perfect you for the work of God. That is the key.

All this will only come into our lives by the two great words that we saw last week that we ended with that I think are really great words: the two words, "doeth truth." It is not about, as I said last week, us having truth, not about us even claiming we believe the truth. It has nothing to do with us clamoring around talking about how much we love the truth. The real question is, do you do the truth without picking and choosing what you want to believe? God's people are famous for that. Not just having it or believing it, but doing what the Book says in all areas, and not just the ones we like.

### III. Keys to Understanding the Bible

Today, as I said, we are going to go back down again. So you are going to get some things about your Bible and the book of John. As we walk through this, there is no other way around it. I want to lay out one of the great keys to understanding your Bible when you read it. You say, "Well, you say that almost every time." That is because how many, it may be one or two of you, but how many people here have a key ring with just one key on it? I know some of you are going to say, "I got one." Well, get out of here then. I do not want to talk to you. I know my key ring over here. Look at this one. See? Oh, there are some keys. Of course, I graduated from Yale. How many got that? A few of you. Yale makes locks and keys, by the way. But I got a bunch of them. Those keys open up a bunch of things in my world. There is not just one key to your Bible. There is a bunch of keys.

I guess I would be very embarrassed if I were any Christian today that held up your spiritual key ring and only had one key on it. You ought to make that key ring look like nothing. You ought to have hundreds of keys on it because that is what it takes to unlock the Bible. When you get all those keys down, it is just like, sadly, I do not know what all those keys are for because people that left the church turned their keys in. I appreciate that, but I did not write down what they were. But I know on my key ring here, this one here, I know what everything is for. I know where every key locks. I just look at it, "Yeah, that is that key." That is the way it has to come with your Bible. You have to get enough keys about your Bible, and then you need to understand

how each key unlocks another. Once you get all worked out, then with the Bible, it all opens itself up. So you hear me say, "This is one of the great keys." Some of you skeptics out there say, "Well, he always says that. This is another key." You are right. If you are a real Bible student, you are going to wind up with probably 100 keys on your key ring. In time, you should know what every which key opens up.

Today we are going to do that. I am going to show you one of the key understanding aspects of the Word of God. I am going to show you today, and again, I am not just interested in throwing it out to you. I want to show you how you make it work for you. We are going to look at how we use keywords to define a context. Then we are going to look at one of the great ways of opening up your Bible is by association. You are going to learn some great keys today. When you put this key on your key ring down the line someplace, you are going to have a bunch of them. When it comes down to you studying the Bible, teaching the Bible, or just learning it yourself, you are going to know whatever key is. Some of you got those little keys. I think that might even went on here. I do not know. Some of you got those little keys. Oh, yeah. See this one here. See how you can buy these at the key place to put a little plastic blue thing on, and they make them different colors. That is just to help you know what key it is for. I bought a bunch of those and put them on my keys. But then at my age, I could not remember what color represented anything. So I just had a pretty little key ring. I took it all off because it kind of looked like a rainbow. I did not want to be associated with that. Go someplace and a guy goes, "Hi, that is a nice key ring." "Yes, it is. I would like to be slapped across the face with it."

So you are going to learn some stuff today. Let us read our text today, John 3:22-30.

*John 3:22-30*

*After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judæa; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.*

*And John also was baptizing in Ænon near Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.*

*For John was not yet cast into prison.*

*Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.*

*And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.*

*John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

*Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.*

*He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

That pretty much ends the debate about sprinkling, does it not? You are going to tell me that there were not canteens of water, bottled water in the grocery store that he could have got. Why is he baptizing there? Much water. You know why? Because baptism is by immersion. Little things like that.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus today. We ask You to walk us through this great passage today. We love You. Thank You for all that You do for us. We just pray now, Father, that in everything that we endeavor to do, that You take the honor and the glory and the praise. We love You. We thank You, Father, for everything that You have given us here. We thank You for the ones, Father, that You have brought into our church. We thank You for the ones that You have taken out of our church. We just pray, Father, that You will always keep us as close to the Book as we can and keep those people here that love the Book and simply want to do the truth. We will be careful to give You all the honor and the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

A couple of things here. Just so you get the story here, both Jesus and John are baptizing. But I want you to know Jesus Himself never personally baptized anybody. You get that from John 4:2. His disciples are baptizing for Him. Verse 24 tells us that John is not in jail yet. We know that a period of time in the future he ticks off Herod, and then he gets his head cut off. In verses 26 and 27, a question comes up on why both Jesus and John are baptizing, and obviously separately. In verses 27 and 28, John tells them that he is not the Christ, that Christ is who He says He is, and he is a witness for Him, but it is not him, he is just working and doing his work. Then in verse 29 he says, "Who am I?" Here is what we are going to start with today. He says, "I am the friend of the bridegroom." Then he says, "And so are you." Then a great verse in verse 30 which you ought to take to heart: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

## IV. The Household and Family of God

I want to talk to you today and lay out a major unknown piece of your Bible. We are going to put on your key ring today seven new keys. Maybe more than that, probably more than that, but seven major ones, seven big ones, and then some of them little ones like I got over here. When I grew up in the 60s and the 70s and got into the church and got into the ministry, what I am about to give you was standard operational procedure being taught in Bible-believing churches. It is all lost today. It is all gone with doctrine today and the loss of doctrine. The rise of the Laodicean church has buried so much truth with God's people.

Our subject matter today out of our text will be developing an understanding of two concepts in the Bible. Same concept, two different names. One place is called the household of God. The other place is called the family of God. I want to walk you through the Bible today for you to learn by association some major divisions in your Bible that we are going to see by just using keywords.

This study is a lot like the one that I gave a couple of weeks ago on 2 John, the two John 3:16s in the Bible. I told you then that everybody had the idea and knew the first John 3:16. Nobody knew anything about the second one. This is a lot like that today because all of God's people

think and know that we all are, because of the blood of Christ, that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. That is true. If you are saved here today, in a spiritual sense, if you are a man, you are my brother in Christ. If you are a woman or a lady, you are my sister in Christ. That is why Paul looked at Timothy and said that he is my son, not biologically, but in the faith. Because it is a truth deal when we get saved, we become part of the church which is Christ's body, and in a spiritual sense, we are part of that body, and we are brothers and sisters in Christ because we are in that family of God.

You are going to find, and the quicker you learn this the better off you are going to be, that in the world that we live in there is what we call political correctness. Things you say and things you do not say anymore. Things that you can do and things that you cannot do anymore. The whole world and now America is being reshaped into a very small diagonal of political correctness. There are things now that you cannot say, do, places that you cannot frequent, people that you cannot be associated with, or you get labeled by the thing.

I want to tell you something. Do not ever think for a moment that in Christianity there is not a spiritual correctness in a political sense that is just as screwy as the one in the world. God's people are forever just trying to ratchet down people to the place where they squeeze you into the little bubble of what they think and what they believe. Many pastors, and I am not fighting this, many pastors, and I know guys that I am friends with that do this, in their church when they had a church, most of them lose it after a while, but in their church when they look at their guys and their gals that went there, it is all brother and sister. Now they see you, they will say, "Hey, brother, how you doing?" They will say, "Hey, sister, how you doing?" "This is brother so-and-so, and this is sister so-and-so." They will get up and say, "Well, brother so-and-so did a really good job down there preaching last week. Sister so-and-so really did a great job down there dealing with the kids." I am okay with that. But I understand why those guys do that.

Most Baptist preachers want to keep a little distance between them and you. You will not find very many churches, Baptist churches or even evangelical churches where you can go to that you could ever call the pastor by his first name. He would never call you by your, you would be brother or sister. I understand that, and I do not have a problem with that. Now some people like to call me Pastor Bob, and I do not have a problem with that, but I have to be honest with you, when you say pastor, I look behind me to see who just showed up. But I understand that, and I do not have a problem with that at all. I do not. But I know most Baptist preachers want to keep a little distance between their people. You would never be able to get most Baptist pastors' cell phone number. You have to go through his personal secondary, much like when Adolf Hitler was in power. He had Martin Bormann, and if you wanted to see the Führer, you had to go through Martin Bormann, making Martin Bormann the guy who kept access or no access to the Führer, which made him the most powerful man in the Third Reich. There is power now when you have a woman or a man who has control of who gets to see your pastor, that you cannot just pick up your phone and call him, because that is inappropriate. Or you cannot call the pastor. You just cannot call the pastor.

One of the Bracken girls used to work at the Scooters. I like Scooters coffee. I go there, just scoot through Scooters and get you some coffee. Lauren worked there. She would work there,

and I would go through, and we would talk, and I would say, "I will see you tonight." And she would say, "Hi, Bob." And I would say, "Hi, Lauren." She told me afterwards, or maybe her mom did, that those girls were just flabbergasted that you could call your pastor by his first name. That he would even talk to you, because this is the world that you live in, in Christianity. Wherever pastors got the idea that because they have a title or because they are some status that that makes them more spiritual than you, that is just not true. You do not get respect by putting a title on your name. Of course, this is the way it works today. So it is, "Hello, brother. Hello, sister. Hello, mother. Hello, father. Here we are at Camp Shenandoah." It is just the political correctness of it. I am one who I do not look at myself any better than you. I am Bob. You are whoever you are. I cannot be responsible that God made me better looking than He did you. Do not even go there. But it is a thing where we are one in this. I do not think that diminishes my respect because you call me or you can call me on my cell phone. That is what my job is.

In Christianity today, this idea about the family of God that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, that is really all the farther it ever goes because that is where they are deaf. But from the Bible's standpoint, there is much more to it than that.

Now I need to say this and allow me to be clear. What I am about to lay out for you from Scripture will be totally rejected by modern-day Christianity today. To them, this is all heresy because they do not have a Bible. They do not believe the Bible. They are just a long list of truth that 100 years ago everybody believed and taught, but nobody even knows anything about today. I was talking to a pastor this week, and he was amazed at how these churches, the guys that once were solid guys and claimed to believe the Book, and now they are into some of those ungodly mess stuff in their churches that mirror the world if you ever saw. He actually, and he is a good guy, he actually was scratching his head and saying, "I just do not know how that can happen." To me, that is the most simplest answer on the planet. I told him, "You know what happens? When you lose God's mind, you lose your mind. Then you do all kinds of crazy stuff." How hard is that?

Baptists and the Neo guys, they will reject any of this because that is just where they are at today. But you have to keep in mind that these are the same guys that threw out the Bible a long time ago, and they do not believe the Bible you have on your lap is any good either. I would say after almost 50 years of dealing with them and talking with them and seeing them and all the goofy stuff they do, I would say that they, and I would tell them that they are faced. They all have one thing in common, and that is the fact that they all embraced stupidity like it was some kind of virtue because the truth is truth. As most truth today, it is only heresy until you sit down with them, which will never happen, and open up the Bible and shed some light on the subject. But that is never going to happen. They threw out the Bible a long time ago.

First off, I want you to look at a couple of places. The family of God in a real biblical sense. Turn to Ephesians 2:19-22.

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

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

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

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

*In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

He just told you there that the family of God runs from Genesis with the prophets and the apostles. That is all before the church age. Then he tells you that Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone in verse 20 of this house of God, this building. Through this building, the house of God, it becomes fitly framed. What does? All the members of it. Then in verse 22, he says, "In whom ye also," you see, "are builded together with them."

Now look at Ephesians 3:14-15. You will see another verse.

*Ephesians 3:14-15*

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

That verse says that some of the family are already up in heaven, and some of them are still on earth. The other verse told you that it started with the foundation, started with the apostles and the prophets, and then Jesus Christ, when He showed up, He became the chief cornerstone, and then in whom all the buildings fitly framed together, make a temple of the Lord, and then you and I are also part of it.

This is the house, just to make things clear for you, this is the house that Jesus was referring to in John 14:1-3.

*John 14:1-3*

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

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

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

Commonly taught, you have a mansion in heaven, folks. Commonly taught that when God went back to heaven, He went back specifically to build your mansion. I heard a preacher say one time, "You know what, God has been building my mansion for over 2,000 years, what a place that must be." He said that like he had just said something, to which I would say you do not have any mansion, you do not need a mansion if you understood the Bible and God's plan for you, the church. The last thing you want to be doing is hanging out in a mansion like you have to. You do not need a mansion. God has got something better than that for you. But that is where it is at.

Traditionally, and we have been to funerals before where I did not do the funeral or none of us did it, and some guy did it up there, and this will be a standard funeral text. It is a standard

funeral text that you know that God is going to come back and all this stuff. I just sit there. John 14 has absolutely nothing to do remotely with the church, the body of Christ of the church age. The key verses on this passage would be Hosea 5:15, Jeremiah 33:10, Hebrews 11:16, John 14:16-19, and other places in there which I am not going to take time to get into, but if you would study it out, you would see that unfortunately John 14, when he wrote this, there was no church in effect for him to write it to. There was not one New Testament Christian anywhere within a hundred million light years of it, and it is not to us, but it is a great passage showing you God's plan when God's house and who God's house is. Of course, you read Revelation 21, Isaiah 9:6-7, and Ezekiel 42, chapter 48, and you will see how there is nothing here in John 14 that could be remotely connected to the church. But there is a house here that we want to look at. There is a household of God, there is a family of God we want to talk about.

## V. The Wedding of the Lamb and Its Attendees

Let us lay this out for you and get ready here. We are going to start with what we have already learned, and then we are going to build on it, and I have told you before this is what we do here. I have taught you already that there are two key days that the Bible is built around. One of them is the Day of the Lord, that is when the second coming of Christ when God comes back and restores His wife Israel, and I have laid this out and you should have had all this material down now, it should be in your Bible. This is what Isaiah 28:13 talks about how you teach people doctrine, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little. You build a systematic study of the material you get, and then Thursday night, here a little, institute, here a little, there a little, and you build it that way. Building line upon line and precept upon precept.

The second day will be the Day of Jesus Christ. Of course, we know this to be the rapture of the church, two days. One of them is God's day, and one of them is Christ's day. This will be a reference to Christ getting His bride, the church, and the marriage that will take place, and we have laid all this out, and then the marriage supper that will follow that we have laid all this out for you, and you should have all that stuff now. So this ought to make what I am giving you a lot easier. The reason why some of you will still go out here scratching your head is because you do not get down what you need to get. You should have those in your Bible, and it should be easier for you today because we are just building on what we have already laid down.

For God and His Son, the main event will be this wedding of His Son. The whole Bible is built around these two days, and in these two days, as Christ comes back, He gets His wife, restored Israel. Christ gets the church, His bride, and then there is a wedding. Everything in that Bible points toward that wedding. If you look at the book of Song of Solomon, it is filled with it. Matthew 25:1-10 we will look at in a little bit, all through there. Revelation 19:1-9 we will get there in a little bit. Matthew 22 we will get there in a little bit. Luke 12:36, those are the references you want to look up to study this thing, but I already gave them to you.

At this wedding, at this wedding will be the household and the family of God. This wedding for His Son is just like any wedding that you have ever been to. In fact, most weddings today that you go to, weddings have changed a lot. Funerals have changed a lot. Coronavirus put a change in the damper on all this thing, and then just to break down a society. Weddings for many, many,

many years were very symbolic of Christianity. Of course, you know this, that what makes you married is not a marriage ceremony. That has nothing to do with it. You have to have that ceremony because the state says you have to have that. But somebody a long time ago, and I know where weddings come in and wedding rings and all that stuff comes in with Constantine, I get that, 300 AD. Somewhere along the line, God's people knew they had to fulfill the state requirement. So, "Hey, I think it is a good idea." They wanted to make it a picture for witnessing to people when they got married. I like that. So they got married in the church.

Now if you did not get married in the church, it does not matter. I knew a couple that were marine biologists, they got married in a swamp. Mosquitoes were a little thick, but it was okay. But I am just saying this is the typical thing. You get married in the church. The bride, she always wore white because in a biblical sense she is to be a virgin, and that symbolized her purity. Revelation 19:7-8. You had a bridegroom, and he would represent Christ. If you know, you cannot always do this, but in many churches this is the standard way it is supposed to go. All kinds of variations. He would come down, he would have all the men at the party and all the people in the party and then all the guests. He would stand down there, and he was not supposed to see, this is old time stuff, he was not supposed to see his bride the day of the wedding. Look how you see all you older folks. You young folks do not care. You are about playing miniature golf two minutes before you get married. But in the old days, traditional marriages, they did not see each other. That is because that represented the church age. He is a picture of Christ. She is a picture of the church, and in the church age, He does not see her.

When they get down there, and standing down the front, and then somebody started playing on the organ, "Here comes the bride," and she enters in the back door with her big flowing gown on with her attendants, and everybody comes down, and then lastly she comes down, and they start playing "Here Comes the Bride." He is standing there, and this is the first time he sees her, and she comes to him. That is a picture, whoever put this together. That is a picture of the church coming to Christ. Then afterwards, you all go out and get drunk and have chicken, and the whole thing falls to pieces. But that is the way it is supposed to go. You have a best man, you have attendants at the wedding, and I get it. Then afterwards, you have a wedding supper or whatever, just like the Bible. Whoever put that together wanted it to picture something out of Ephesians to give some kind of testimony to the world, and I get that.

At God's wedding for His Son, there will be people in attendance just like any wedding you ever went to. Everybody that has been saved from Genesis all the way up to the millennium will be at that wedding. In this wedding, there will be seven distinct people groups that come to this wedding, and they represent the Bible from Genesis through a dispensation up to the book of Revelation into the millennium. People, when you read your Bible, you banged into these places and read it and did not even know for sure what you were reading. Places like Song of Solomon 6:8-10 talks about the wedding. But if you did not know what I am saying, you may not pick up on it. Psalms 45, oh, there is a great one. But if you did not know what I am giving you, you would not figure that out. Matthew 25 we will get there in a little bit. Revelation 14, Revelation 19, they are all places that show you that. These seven family members will fit into the different dispensations that run, and we know there are approximately 11 dispensations from Genesis right

up into eternity. When the wedding takes place, this is the household of God. This is the family of God, not just me and you. We are a very small part of that. In fact, you are the bride.

I am going to walk you through this. I am going to lay this out for you and walk you back through the scriptures to show you how these things work. If you pay attention today, you are going to get through association and keywords, one of the greatest keys of understanding the overall Bible and how it goes into place that you can fit in someplace else.

All right, let us talk quickly first about the bridegroom. I am going to tell you who that is in each one of these, and I am going to go back and show you. We know the bridegroom is Christ. Revelation 19:7 says that this is the marriage of the Lamb. We just saw it in John with John the Baptist that said that Christ was the bridegroom. Over in 2 Corinthians 11:2, Paul says, talking to you and me, the church:

*2 Corinthians 11:2*

*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

If you do not have that marked, the word "chaste virgin," mark it in yellow in your Bible right now. You will want to do that. We will come back. In the book of Ephesians, the great chapter that everybody when they get married, the pastor, well he used to read out of, now they make up little goofy stuff, but it used to be Ephesians 5:22-33, the greatest passage in the New Testament on marriage showing you that an earthly marriage between men and women is a picture of the heavenly marriage between Christ and His church. Verse 25, he says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church." Then he says in verse 32, "This marriage is a great mystery," all the things that he talked about, "but I speak concerning Christ and His church." Clearly telling us that not only is our earthly marriage based on, should be based on the heavenly one, but that Christ is the bridegroom.

In the Bible, you will find that there are seven mysteries to the church. Twelve to Israel, seven to the church, and one of them is this mystery right here. We are told in 1 Corinthians 4:1 that we are to be stewards of these mysteries, and we should be teaching our people these very same things that I am giving you today. We know the bridegroom is Christ.

Now let us look at the bride. The bride will be every one of you here today who is saved, the church, the body of Christ, you and me. We have already seen Ephesians 5:22-33, so we do not have to go back there again, it puts it all together. But look over at 2 Corinthians 11:1-3.

*2 Corinthians 11:1-3*

*Would to God ye could bear with me in my folly: and indeed bear with me.*

*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

That in itself is an incredible passage, but I want you to note the keyword there, and this is the first word, and most of you, I know you already know this, is the word "virgin." Wherever you find the word "virgin" singular in your Bible, watch it very carefully. Almost without exception, every time you are going to find it being a reference to the church. It may be in a story about a woman that is a virgin, then you want to look at that story because she probably represents a picture of the church. The church is likened to a chaste virgin singular.

This showed you the connection last week of Adam and Christ and Eve in the church. Adam is a type of Christ, Eve is a type of the church. The devil showed up when Eve was not there, a picture of the church age, he corrupted her from the simplicity, and we laid that all out. I want you to see here that the thing that the devil does to the church today is he corrupts the church from the simplicity that is in Christ. This is why most churches want to make the Bible hard, Christianity hard, and that is why they get out of the Bible because they want to control you through it instead of letting the Bible control you, and the bottom line is it is the simplicity of Christ.

Then look at Revelation 19:7-9.

*Revelation 19:7-9*

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

*And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

*And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

We see here very clearly that you and I, the church, is the bride. With that, the book of Song of Solomon, it is just an incredible deal. So we now know that our first two members of the family which are going to show up at the wedding, part of the household of God, the family of God, is the bridegroom. We now know him as Christ, and the bride. That is you and me, the church.

Now look at the last part of Revelation 19:9. "And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." We are going to look at the next people groups who are called to this marriage. We are going to look now at the guest list. We have identified the first two, the bride and the bridegroom. Now let us start to look at this.

Let us go back to John 3:29, and we will start there and work our way back or up or down or inside out. I do not care. But we will start there. We got the first two clearly defined. The next one here will be John 3:29, and John calls himself the friend of the bridegroom. Do not make him the best man at this wedding. He says not only me but everybody who is hearing what he says. So that would put it in a larger framework than just John the Baptist. John the Baptist is going to represent for us a dispensation of people that are going to show up at this wedding under the title of the friend of the bridegroom.

Now let us see who they are. We all know that John is the pivot point for this. Let us see what the Bible says about this. Now let me show you how the Bible interprets itself. You do not have to make anything up. You just stick with the Book. I want to show you how you see John, the friend of the bridegroom, will represent a dispensation of people. I will go ahead and tell you right now the friend of the bridegroom group will start with Moses and run all the way up to John the Baptist. Everybody under the law will be the part of the family that goes to the wedding under the title of the friend of the bridegroom.

You say, "Where do you get that? It is a conspiracy. They hide things like this in the Bible." Turn over to Luke 16:16. This is how you learn. Watch how the Bible interprets itself. We just saw where John was called the friend of the bridegroom, and he said, "It is not just me, it is everybody who has heard him." Now watch how the Bible defines who this dispensation of people are.

*Luke 16:16*

*The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.*

You see that? If John is a friend of the bridegroom and the people hearing his voice are in that part of that family, then you just were told that the law and the prophets end with John, that he represents that, so these people here will be in the family of God, the friends of the bridegroom. Now look what he says. "For the law and the prophets were until John: since that time," the time of John representing the under the law, "the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Now look at the church age which comes into effect after John and the law. The law is represented by Moses, the prophets is represented by the Old Testament, and John is the end of the law, so he represents that dispensation under Moses up to John which we now know is the friend of the bridegroom, and they will show up at the wedding. So the friend of the bridegroom will be the people from Moses up to John. See how easy that was? That was not complicated at all. You get one little piece here, and then you get the keys, and then you turn the lock, it opens up, you go to Luke 16:16, voila.

Now let us look at the fourth group that is going to be here. For this one, we are going to turn to Matthew 25. I know this is more of a good, it is a Bible study today more than it is, but wait until next week. You say, "Well, you did not preach today." That is because I was saving it all up to dump it on you next week for Easter Day. So you want to get your Easter bonnet with all your frills of bonnet and bring your Easter to the Easter service next week with Sunrise service at 10:30.

Our fourth here will be virgins plural. That is the word virgin with an S on the end. Where virgin singular is one, virgins plural is more than one. I know you knew that. First law of public speaking is never speak down to your audience. Some of you do not understand that so I am going to help you here. Virgins. Now let us read it and I will walk through this here. Matthew 25:1-13.

*Matthew 25:1-13*

*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

*And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

*They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*

*But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*

*And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*

*Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*

*And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*

*But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*

*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

*Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

*But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*

*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

Traditionally, by idiots who know nothing about the Bible, this passage is used to prove you can lose your salvation. These ten virgins, five wise, five foolish, are a picture of ten people who lost the oil, oil being the type of the Holy Spirit of God. So oil, this is a proof place where you can lose your salvation. Let me show you how every word of the Bible is important. The word "virgin" singly will always reference the church. The words "virgins" plurally will always represent the tribulation Jews. This is a tribulation passage. It has nothing to do with the church. Look down at the last verse. "Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." The Son of Man is never used in reference to the church, only Israel. If you are paying attention.

Matthew 25 is one of the most mistaught places in all the Bible. Typically taught that as I said you can lose your salvation. Nothing to do with the church age. This is a tribulation passage aimed at the Jews in the tribulation, and the keyword in verse 1 if you are reading it would immediately set the context would be "virgins" plural. Anytime you find it anywhere in the Bible, it will be a reference to the tribulation Jews in the tribulation period. Virgin singular is the church. Virgins plural is the tribulation Jews. You miss that one and you will probably wind up in the lake of fire. If that was not enough, verse 10 says that they go to get oil, the Holy Spirit of God, buy it. Somebody says, "Well, how do you buy the Holy Spirit of God?" Oh, it is found in Isaiah 55:1, but you do not know anything about the Bible. It says there were ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish. We just studied the book of Proverbs that was about a wise man and a foolish man. Verse 10 says, "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came." I showed

you in John 14, he says, "I will come again." And coming and those that are ready go to the wedding with him, but there is no mention of them ever marrying him. They go to meet him and they go with him to the marriage, but they do not marry him because they are part of the family of God, the household that is going to head to this wedding of the bride and the bridegroom. Along with them are going to be the friends of the bridegroom, and now we have the bridegroom. The bridegroom is a very good group of virgins.

Now let us look at our next group. These groups, these people will be called guests. These will be Gentiles who get saved in the tribulation period. For this, we want to go to Matthew 22:1-10.

*Matthew 22:1-10*

*And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,*

*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*

*And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*

*Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*

*But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*

*And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.*

*But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

*Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*

*Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.*

*So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

Now, put your yellow pencil down and get your red one out. Let me break this passage down before I really get into it here, but I will just give you this, it is free today. Take your red pen, your red grease pen, do not use a regular pen, your grease pen, and draw a line between verse 3 and verse 4. Just a straight line across that. Then take your red pen and draw another line between verse 7 and verse 8. Now what you have here, and the reason why I divided them out is because he is splitting this up showing you what has happened here. He is showing you the whole breakdown.

Verses 1, 2, and 3 will be the Old Testament. We know them as friend of the bridegroom, except during the law. Verse 4, so you want to put a split there, 4, 5, 6, and 7 will represent the time when Christ shows up at the first coming of Christ. Then you want to put a red line between 7 and 8, and in verse 8 he says, "Then saith he to his servants," he jumps right into the tribulation period. Never deals with the church age because it is not prevalent. So the first three verses deal

with the Old Testament before Christ shows up, 4, 5, and 6 deal with it after he shows up, and then verse 8 deals with it in the tribulation period.

He says that now he is going to send out people who are going to gather the Gentiles in, and they are going to make up the guests. If you know anything about your Bible, you know, in the last three and a half years of the tribulation period, Moses and Elijah show up. Moses and Elijah lead a great evangelistic crusade found in Revelation 7 and Revelation 14 where 144,000 Jewish virgins proselytize the Gentiles. This is what he is saying in Matthew 22:8-10. Everybody before that, the other families, they rejected it. But now in the tribulation, it is furnished with guests. These were the tribulation Gentiles that the Jewish evangelists, 144,000, 12,000 from each tribe, will go into and evangelize and fill this wedding with guests which are now Gentile tribulation saints. It is going to be quite a wedding. At the second coming of Christ down through there, he says, "So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good, and the wedding was furnished with guests." These will be the tribulation Gentiles which are brought in by the tribulation Jews who are the virgins, two distinct groups. But they both show up at the wedding.

Now our sixth one, and you can get down, you can see where we are just going through the process of elimination here. It is going to be about association and how that thing works. The sixth one will be what we call concubines. The concubines will represent the people from Adam up to Moses before the law. When you understand and you search it through the scriptures, you will find that a concubine was a secondary wife. She was there to provide children if the wife was barren or in some cases if they needed more kids or whatever for whatever purpose. You are going to find that it is most common before Moses and the law. You do not find it a lot after Moses and the law, though it is more prevalent up in the early men or patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in that time period. You do not see it much after the law comes in. Some of the kings like David and Solomon, they use that right and take that. But you do not see it common like you did before the law. So this group of people will fit into our household from Adam to Moses before the law. You are going to note now that God allowed it because God allowed it, but He never sanctioned it. It is one of the allowances that He gave under the Old Testament, strictness of the law, but it was never sanctioned as far as in almost every case where it happened, it did not turn out very well. You will find this back in Song of Solomon where it lists the concubines and it lists all these groups. You will find it in Psalm 45. All these places that you read through when you are reading your Bible, but you scratch your head and say, "I wonder what this is?" Well, now you should know. These are part of the household, the family of God that represent the dispensations or the different dispensations from Genesis to Revelation. So now we have the concubines. We got that group covered.

Now there is only one group left, and this will be the Queens, and you will find this in places in the Bible. The place that we want to look at this is found in 1 Kings 10.

*1 Kings 10:1-13*

*And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.*

*And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.*

*And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.*

*And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.*

*And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.*

*Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.*

*Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.*

*Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighteth in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.*

*And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.*

*And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.*

*And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.*

*And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her country, and her servants.*

The Queens will represent the millennial saints, the people in the millennium that are made up of all the nations that are left that you will find in Zechariah 14 and in many other places. They are called the Queens. This is based on the association and the name that you find in the story of 1 Kings 10 when the Queen of Sheba comes to Solomon on the throne.

What you have here is a picture of the millennial reign of Christ. If you know anything about your Bible, you know that David and Solomon are at the apex of the nation of Israel at the height of their glory. Two different men accomplish two different things. The reason why David was never allowed to build the temple is because David is a type of Christ at the second coming of

Christ, and he has to wipe out all the enemies like Christ will do with the second coming. David reigns for 40 years, and in that 40-year time period, he wipes out every last nation that is an enemy of the nation of Israel. As a type of Christ, David is a type of Christ at the second coming who takes out the opposition. Once he is off the throne, Solomon comes in, he reigns for 40 years, and Solomon is a type of Christ in the millennium after David wipes out the enemies, and for 40 years you have peace in the land, and the queens and the kings of all the earth are coming into Jerusalem to see the glory of God through Solomon and his kingdom and the nation of Israel.

The Queen of Sheba coming in is a picture of this group of people in the millennium who are going to come in. Zechariah 14 tells that the nations are going to go into Jerusalem just like she did, that kings and queens and potentates are going to go in every year. Isaiah 60:3 says during the millennium:

*Isaiah 60:3*

*And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

Revelation 21:24 says:

*Revelation 21:24*

*And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

This group is the millennial saints of the nations that are in the millennium after the second coming of Christ, and they are represented by the Queen of Sheba in the story of association that pictures the Gentile kings coming in under Solomon, a picture of the millennial reign under Christ to see all the glory of God's kingdom.

This great wedding that God has built the Bible around, this great wedding is going to be for the whole family of God, the whole household of God. It is not going to be just me and you because we are the bride, but in that wedding when you go back to Psalm 45 and you go back to the Song of Solomon and you go back to the other places in the Bible, you see all these people groups at this wedding. This is the great wedding that is illustrated in the Bible that will be Christ getting His bride and everybody from Genesis up to the millennium being part in attendance of that wedding.

I gave you today the guest list, but I want you to know today that the invitations are still being sent out because God still wants to have you be part of His body and become part of His bride. In the tribulation period, He is going to reach those tribulation saints, the virgins, and He is going to reach the Gentiles, the guests, and in the millennium He is going to reach that crowd. So it is an ongoing thing, but it is all based about, as I have showed you many, many times, a certain king made a wedding for his son, and you are the bride. He is the bridegroom. Now you have the complete keys from Genesis to Revelation about every dispensational people group. Now when you read the Friend of the Bridegroom or the Queens or the Concubines or the guests, now you will know what those words mean in the Bible.

In Genesis 24, there is a great story, an incredible picture. When the old pathways sing up here, I always give them static because I always want them to sing "The Camel Train." "The Camel Train" is probably my favorite song. I heard it years and years and years ago, Harold Massey and Darlene and all those, and Charlie Van Zant. That is where I first heard it. I just fell in love with it. When I am dead and gone, I want you guys to sing "The Camel Train." I will not be able to hear it, but I just want you to do it anyhow. That is my favorite song. I give those guys grief all the time. I know they like to sing different songs. As far as I am concerned, you just sing that one. We got three songs. "Okay, Goyds, what is it?" "Well, the first one is 'The Camel Train.' Amen. What is the second one? 'Camel Train.' Amen. What is the third one? 'Camel Train.' I am in, boys. Let us go." I love that song.

Because in that story in Genesis 24, here is what you got. You got Abraham, who is a type of God the Father. Then you have his chief servant, whose name is Eliezer. He is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. You will find him defined in Genesis 15:2. Then you have Isaac, that is his son, who is a type of Christ. What Abraham, a type of God the Father, does is he calls Eliezer, type of the Holy Spirit. He says, "Go get my son, Isaac, a type of Christ. Find him a bride." You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of right now. Holy Spirit of God, Eliezer searching out you to be part of the bride of Christ.

In that story, it is a great story. We break it down because in an inspirational aspect, there are 19 principles there of finding the right husband or wife. This is where you want to go. You do not want to go to [christiansingledingle.com](http://christiansingledingle.com) or [thechristianmeatmarket.com](http://thechristianmeatmarket.com). You want to get into Genesis 24. It lists out 19 absolute things you want to look for in a husband and in a wife. It is an incredible thing. I think there is a book on it back there. We have done it many, many times.

Rebecca is the bride that they find for Isaac. Lo and behold, Rebecca is not a Jew. Rebecca is a Gentile. That whole story is a beautiful picture of how you came to Christ. How we came to Christ as Gentiles. Now because Eliezer the Holy Spirit brought us to Christ, one of these days we are going to be married to Him. Like every fairy tale that is nothing more than a fairy tale, the truest story in the Bible is, yes, we will live happily ever after. It is a great story. It really is. It is the importance. I love it. "Oh, get ready. The evening shadows fall. Can't you hear Eliezer's call? There is going to be a wedding. My joy will soon be full in the evening when the camel train comes in." There is coming a day when that camel train is going to come in. We are all going to go home to be with Him. We are going to a wedding. We got the best part because we are going to get married to Him. Everybody else is going to be in attendance at the wedding and glorifying it. But it is you and me to get to be part of that wedding.

Now you learn all this today and understand the importance of keeping keywords exact. There is not. This is why the most Baptist and the neo-evangelical crowd and just about everybody else out there could never, ever figure this out. You know why? Because their Bibles destroy all those words. Those Bibles are corrupt. They do not take into account that God wrote the Book just the way He wanted it, preserved it for you for over 400 years. It does not need to be changed one spot. Because when you do, you lose everything out of it. No other Bible could lay it all out because they change all of the verses. They change the words. There is no chain of evidence or references that you can follow through everything. This is why all I did today in giving you the

seven, I never went to the Greek one time and never went to Hebrew one time. All I did was just take the simple little words out of the Bible because remember, that is what the devil wants to do. He wants to destroy in Christianity, the simplicity that is in Christ. So he gives them a Bible that takes out all the keywords. Now you have to be super spiritual. You have to run to the Greek or the Hebrew. You have to get a college degree in Bible. You have to go to theology school. You have to do this. You have to do that. All you have to do is just to believe the Book that God gave you in fourth grade English. You will get everything you need. We will hold up there next week, Easter.