

Last week, we finished our two-part series on the Bible concept of worship, spirit, and truth. I tied it all into the other six things that you lose when you give up your Bible. You should now have a complete understanding of not only what happens when you give up the Word of God and the things that you lose, but it really is an insight into where we are at in America today and where we are headed in America today, unfortunately.

I have always tried to give you an understanding of how important history is with your Bible. Most of God's people do not see the relevance between the two. Unfortunately, most of them do not even get into the Bible that much. But if you are ever going to get a complete understanding of God and what He is doing, you are going to have to get a handle on not only your Bible, but the hand of God down through the history of the world.

Next year, hopefully in Bible Institute, I am finishing up the last three books this year. Hopefully, I will get those done. We are just about finished with Hebrews, and then we will move on through the other two books. But next year, Lord willing, the last year of Institute, maybe the last five years of Institute, I am going to do a complete in-depth study of church history. I am going to start with Hebrew history and lay that out to bring it into perspective. Then we are going to get into New Testament church history. Then, obviously, we will finish it up where it hits home the most, and that is American history. All history works together with the Bible to bring about God's one day that the whole Bible is built around, and that will be the Day of the Lord.

I gave you just a glimpse of how God's hand and God had a plan for America. I showed you many, many times that we have talked about the parallels between God's nation of Israel in the Old Testament and God wanting America to do for Him in the New Testament. They both go through the six same aspects. They both go through a formulation where God starts them. They both have the Word of God together when that formulation begins. They are both called out. They are both established. They both have their greatest apex of their time in history. Then they both follow a downhill demise. Then, unfortunately, they both go into captivity: Israel in 606 B.C. and us today.

God's plan for America, there is no question about it when you put it all together, was to have America be the nation that carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth. There are only two nations. I am not saying that I know that the nation of Israel was God's nation in particular. I am not telling you that America was God's nation in the same aspect that Israel was. Israel was under the physical kingdom of God. We are under the spiritual kingdom of heaven. But God gave us a nation that through it, the men and women who were spiritually born again would have everything that they need to carry the Gospel to the end of the world.

I. America's Founding On Biblical Principles

It was always interesting to me that at the end of World War II, this is so vital that you learn this. You will learn it from history, and it is a great lesson for us today in our own life with all that we go through. Every time there is a gigantic upheaval in the world, every time there is some

catastrophe that rocks everybody, the world then becomes ripe, or that particular region becomes ripe for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a thing where God uses things like that. Most people do not see that. Most of God's people are so timid and afraid of having their comfort zone disrupted that they never see that the great movement of God comes out of catastrophes.

You have heard me talk about the Titanic before. The Titanic sank in 1912. America at that point was in the midst of the industrial age. There was nothing that was being made around the world. Shipbuilding was at its zenith, there is no question about it. So they put forth the Titanic, and the Titanic was billed as the ship that even God Himself could not sink. We saw how that went on April 12th, 1912. That rocked the world so much that it opened up a great revival where people got saved.

At the end of World War II, we had defeated Japan. General Douglas MacArthur became the provincial governor of Japan. His goal was to rebuild Japan and make it into a democracy because they had worshipped the emperor and all the crazy stuff that was going on there. He was actually given the task to rebuild it the right way, based on America's model. I do not know if that was good or not, but that was the thing. They asked him what he needed. Do you know what he told them? MacArthur, as far as I know, was not even saved. I do not think for anything I really ever was. But it goes to show you where men's minds were back then, even the unsaved mind, versus where they are at today.

They asked General MacArthur what he needed to do the job. Do you know what he told them? He said, "Send me 10,000 missionaries." That is what an unsaved man's perspective was on what he needed to build a country the right way. Unfortunately, America was pretty well spiraling at that point and had been almost 50 years dumping the Bible. So instead of sending him 10,000 missionaries, we sent him Benny Goodman. We sent him baseball, hot dogs. We sent him all the things that we had instead of the thing that they really needed that probably would have made a difference. That country was ready for change.

It is an incredible study. It is so clear to see in our history that our own founding fathers, and this is all lost today, saw and understood how important the hand of God was in this country. I do not believe, from what I read and what I have come through in thousands of materials, I do not believe, maybe there was somebody out there that did, but I have never seen the evidence that they actually understood the parallels between Israel and where they are. I do not see that. Maybe they did, but I do not see that.

What I do see is that they had come out of an oppressive Europe where they were persecuted beyond belief, and they wanted a place to teach the Bible under no precedence of being put up, locked up, shot, killed, or tortured because of the Bible that they wanted to use, which was a King James 1611 Authorized Version. Our founding fathers, it is clear what they did see. They did see that if a country was going to succeed, it would never succeed without God as its founder and foundation.

So what they did was, and I do not want to turn this into a civic lesson, but you have to see some of this to understand it. They set it up as a republic instead of a democracy. When you say the Pledge of Allegiance, I have not heard it said for a long time. I do not know. They have changed

so much now, but it used to go, "into the republic for which it stands." Nobody knows what a republic is today. We have lost all of that.

A democracy is simply a format where the majority rules. You have 100 people, 51 percent, and you get to do whatever you want to do. But a republic is not based on that. A republic is a rule of a nation by established officials who follow an unchanging law in 90 percent of what they have in their government. In our case with the country, it was the Bible. In a republic, these are the things that the Bible has legislated and established. It is clear that there is no voting to change those things like same-sex marriages. They knew that Adam and Eve was the first marriage in the Bible. They knew the Bible says, I do not know how many times, that it is a man and a woman. There was no confusion from Adam and Eve to Adam and Steve. There was not any real breakdown in those things. They followed the established, legislated principles that are found in the Word of God.

In a republic, they are free. If you want to raise the price of corn or change the price of gas or change the price of goods, if you want to take and make Levi jeans \$35 apiece, and when you put holes in them, \$80 apiece, then you are free to do that in a republic. But a republic does not change the things that are legislated by the format that you are holding it to. In our case, in the beginning, it was the Word of God.

Noah Webster, we have his 1828 dictionary in the back. The 1828 dictionary, I think, is... Noah Webster was an educator. He was one of the founding fathers who set up the modern school system and put the curriculum together. He wrote the dictionary of that time. The 1828 edition is based on a King James 1611 Authorized Version. A lot of the definitions of words you will find in there, he will give you the reference in the Bible for it. He was a saved man. He said, "In a republic, the Bible has to be its foundation." It is just that simple. In a republic, they cannot change those things that are legislated by God in the Word of God.

When we broke from England through the Revolutionary War, overnight, we were a country now without any government. All we had were the founding fathers that wanted to break from King George V. But it was iffy because it looked like we might lose that Revolutionary War. But when we won and we broke with England, overnight, we now were faced with a country that had no government. So each state began to draft its own state constitution to form up the government. Delaware did it in 1776. Vermont also did it in 1776. Kentucky did it in 1796. New Hampshire did it in 1776. North Carolina did it also in 1776. All of these state constitutions had within their constitution that for public office in these states, you had to believe:

1. The Bible was the Word of God.
2. There was an impending judgment for men who violated God's principles.

Vermont! Are you kidding me? Vermont! Look at Vermont today. We got Bernie Sanders out of Vermont. Delaware! We got Joe Biden out of Delaware. These states at one time laid the foundation and said, "You cannot hold public office without believing the King James Bible is the Word of God, and there is a coming judgment." Do you know why? Because they knew that the Bible was an absolute line of reasoning that you needed to follow. If you are going to be in public office, not only do you have to follow the Bible, but you have to follow it right because

you have to agree there is a coming judgment for you if you do not do what is right. Lost today. Where is it today?

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

That is where they were. That is where they were. It is just incredible. John Locke, to show you the mindset back then from where we are at today. John Locke was one of the founding fathers, and he said this. He says, "We are talking about good government and having a good government." He said this, "If you have good laws, you are going to have good government."

William Penn, another founding father, the state of Pennsylvania is named after him. William Penn said, "No, the key to good government is not good laws, but rather good men, saved men." He said, "Governments are like clocks that are set in motion by men." Boy, is that so true. He went on to say that good laws do good, but good men do better because good laws may lack good men, but good men will never lack good laws nor pass bad ones. What an incredible insight into building a government. This is what we had back in the day. Our founding fathers wanted this country founded on God's principles. It is just that simple.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams wrote the draft of the first Declaration of Independence. When they brought it back to the founding fathers, they only had one reference to God in it. The founding fathers said, "Hey, that is not going to work for us because we can never forget the hand of God in our country." So they sent it back and they rewrote the thing, and they came back and added three more, which gives us in our Declaration of Independence four references to God Almighty. What the four references were is exactly what this country needs today, which we have forgotten.

3. God is eternal as a lawgiver.
4. God was the Creator.
5. God was the Supreme Judge.
6. God was the only real Protector that this country needed.

My goodness. Just happens to be the four missing elements today in America. It is incredible. It is just absolutely incredible.

Ben Franklin, who was an unsaved man, by the way. George Washington, who was an unsaved man, by the way, he was a deist. He did not believe that Jesus Christ was God. James Monroe. They wrote what was called the Northwest Ordinance. The Northwest Ordinance was a decree for setting up the public schools in America that were started way back in the day. The Northwest Ordinance, one of the things that it stated, was that every school had to teach the Bible as part of their curriculum. This was done up to about 1940.

I was born in 1950. When I went to school in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade, when Easter came up, it was about the resurrection of Christ. They did not sidestep the religious side and just say,

"We are going to have a spring holiday" or "a spring whatever," "a spring break." No, no, no. It was Easter. I remember clearly they brought in a preacher who preached to all of the kids about Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. Try that today. I remember that over the loudspeaker or the teacher, they prayed in schools. You started the day in school with prayer. That has all changed now.

In 1893, the Supreme Court voted nine to zero—there were nine justices on it then—that America was a Christian nation. But in 1962, that same Supreme Court banned prayer in schools. It goes to show you where America once had her greatness from God. But then, just as Israel, some 70 years later, look where we are at.

Patrick Henry, we all know him, learned about him in school. "Give me liberty or give me death." That is what he is noted for. That is what you are taught in school if you are ever taught that anymore. But that is the way it is. That is not what I remember him for. The great orator, Patrick Henry, said, "It can never be emphasized enough that this great nation was founded not by religion, but by Christianity." It was not founded on a religion, but on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is our founding fathers.

II. The Degeneracy Of Modern Christianity

Today, for all of us, we experience Haggai 2:3, which I talked about several weeks ago, that the problem with Israel is the problem with Christianity today, especially this young generation, and maybe your generation of moms and dads. Some of your grandmas and grandpas could probably identify with it as I can. That is the fact that there is no comparison. We look around us and we see Christianity at its worst, and we think that is the way it always was. We think that is the way it should be because we do not have any real comparison of what was real.

Haggai 2:3

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

We dumped the Word of God in 1888 in America, in Sarasota, Florida, with the Southern Baptist Convention officially dumping the King James Bible and taking the RSV of 1888. From that point on, America began to spiral to where she is today.

My job? I know I wear a lot of hats. I deal with a lot of different scenarios and issues. But my job is to make sure you always have a comparison. My job is to make sure that, that is why I believe I was born in 1950. It is just that clear to me. I am the original middleman. I was there to see the end of it, and I was there to see the demise of it. I can stand before you today and I can tell you what you have today is not what it really is. You have been lied to. You have been deceived. We talk about the government deceiving us and lying to us, and I understand that totally completely. But I want to tell you something. The government and all of its falsehood and disinformation and whatever it will put out that is not true pales in comparison to what Christianity has done to God's people.

They have taken your Bible. They have taken your worship. They took the six things from you that I talked about last week, and the salt that was the preserving of this world. God's people have lost its savor. Now this is what we have. You say the country is degenerate. The country is degenerate because Christianity is degenerate. There is the problem.

I like to watch people who come to our church and hang out for a little bit, a couple of weeks, a month maybe, and then they move on someplace else. I like to observe things. Most of them are good people. They really are. They are nice people. Most of them are good men and women who I believe are saved. I believe they really are. But in a lot of ways, this church will scare the fire out of you. Because this church will not let you stick your head in the sand and pretend everything is okay. This church will tell you the truth about what is going on and what is happening and back it up with everything that you need to know so that you know that it is true.

Some people, all of their lives, and they are good people, but all of their lives, they have just existed. They have never done anything for God. They never got involved in anything. They are Christians without any real purpose. Yet they are nice people. They are some of the nicest people you ever met. But along with the nicest people they are, they are also the most worthless people you ever met. All their lives, they have taken everything God had for them. We talked about it last week, and they never gave one thing back.

It is a fact that you come to church when it is convenient for you. You will do for God when you are in a jam someplace. I said it last week, God's people, and I put myself into this, we are horrific when it comes to how we abuse God. There is a list on the computer you can go and find pedophiles that have abused women, abused children, and abused women too. But abused children, the pedophile list, there ought to be a list for God's people who abuse God because we do. He takes everything. He did everything for us. He died on the cross. He paid the extreme price. The Bible makes it so clear. Yet we could care less. This is why America is in the mess that she is in today.

My job is to give you a comparison. My job, until God calls me home, and we are all called out of here, is to stand in this pulpit and tell you the truth of the way it really is and the way it really was. To point out, not in the government what is wrong, who cares about that? But in Christianity what is wrong. To show you the guys you need to be careful of, the guys that will lie to you. I do not care about what the government does. I expect them to do whatever they are going to do, but God's people should be different. The greatest proof that what I am saying is true is God's people today. You will hear a message like this, you will walk out that door, and you will stick your head right back in the sand again and pretend you never heard it. That is just the way it is.

III. The Nobleman's Son: A Doctrinal And Inspirational Study

Today, we are going to finish out John chapter 4. We will again look at some key places in this text today. We are going to see both some things that are doctrinal and some things that are inspirational. You are going to see some things that again will help you put your Bible together

through a trained eye. But you are also going to see some practical applications of why things are the way that they are. In fact, as we read down through here, when I begin to work through this thing, you might as well know I have five things that I want to talk about in our text today.

Let us begin reading here in John 4:43, and we will come down to the end of the chapter.

John 4:43-54

Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

So Jesus came again unto Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

I always looked at that and I thought to myself, I guess that is the true test of this guy, that he was really who he said he was. Sometimes God will test our love for Him or our belief in the Word of God by something that is very precious in our life. This guy obviously loved his son. He went all the way he did and found Jesus, and his son was ready to die. This guy must have had tremendous faith in what Jesus said because when Jesus did not go down and heal his son like He did many times, He just said, "Go thy way, thy son liveth." And the guy believed Him.

How many times have we been in a jam and God has told us what He was going to do for us, and we cannot believe it? How many times has God done things in your life and my life that are incredible things, and we were up against something or we needed something, and God in His Word and His principle said, "My God shall supply all your need," and we cannot rest in that? This guy, with his very child that he loved, was able to rest.

It is one of the blessings back in the day that you did not have cell phones. You did not have internet. He could not call back home and say, "Is he healed yet?" He had to simply believe what the Son of God told him, that he was healed, and he went on his way and went back home. How many of us could have done that? Probably me. I would have followed around and said, "Excuse me, I just got to ask, are you sure you got the right kid? I do not want to go home and find him dead. I believe who you are and I believe what you said, but you are a busy man and all kinds of people out there are sick and you are healing everybody. Did you get the right address?" "Yeah, I got the right address." "Oh, good. Praise the Lord." We start second-guessing. We all do. The next thing I would do is go over to one of the disciples and say, "I do not want to bother him again, but do you think he really got my kid before I go home? I just want to make sure this thing is okay." That is where we are. This guy came up and said, "My son is at the point of death." Jesus said, "Go home. He is healed." "Yes, sir." Let us believe in what the Word of God says. Why can we not do that?

John 4:50

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

He believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him. Why can we not? And he went his way. As he was going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Thy son liveth." Then he inquired of them the hour in which he began to amend. They said unto him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at the same time in which Jesus had said unto him, "Thy son liveth," and he himself believed and his whole house. This is again the second miracle that Jesus did when He was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

I do not know anything about this guy, but I like him because after he got back, he was not just satisfied with the fact that his son was healed. He wanted to find out exactly when it took place. I am telling you, you need to keep a journal of the things, the miracles that God does in your life. You need to write them down. Do not be satisfied that He just did it. You need to inquire and look and see why He did what He did when He did. It is much more than that.

IV. Unlocking Scripture: Five Principles For A Trained Eye

We have talked about a trained eye. A trained eye is key to unlocking the Scriptures. I try to give you the things that do so. As we come down through this today, I am going to play your role. I am going to play that I am you reading through this text. I am going to show you what you ought to look for, what I would look for that would unlock all of this. Because there are five great principles here. There are at least five things that we can learn about this.

- 1.) The "After Two Days" Pattern
- 2.) Encounters With Jesus As Pictures Of Israel's Condition
- 3.) The Seventh Hour And "Whole House"

- 4.) Signs And Wonders Are For Jews
- 5.) A Prophet Has No Honor In His Own Country